

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed November 18, 2016

Funding approved for Community Bike Park

Park honours late Nanaimo-area cyclist

Summary

At Monday night's Committee of the Whole meeting, Council approved up to \$200,000 in funding for the Stevie Smith Community Bike Park. Located in Beban Park, this project will be an addition to the existing BMX park and will include a dirt jump and return trail, pump track and skills park.

The park will be named after Stevie Smith, a professional cyclist from the Nanaimo area, tragically lost his life in May of this year.

The cost for this project is estimated at \$412,619. A number of community partnerships are contributing financially and in-kind to the park including Gyro Club of Nanaimo and the Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation. To date, a total of \$233,407 in-kind and cash contributions have been received.

Strategic Link: This project supports an Active Lifestyle in Nanaimo.

Key Points

- Construction of the Stevie Smith Community Bike Park has started and is expected to be complete in 2017.
- The \$200,000 allocated for the Stevie Smith Community Bike Park will come from the Community Works Fund.
- The Community Bike Park was included in the recent update of the Beban Master Plan.
- A full listing of in-kind contributions can be found in the attached information package on the website version of this news release.

Quotes

"I am so excited about moving this project forward as part of the Beban Park master plan. I believe it will touch the lives of kids and families in our community in a profoundly positive way for years to come."

Wendy Pratt
Councillor
City of Nanaimo

"I am extremely pleased that the City has agreed to funding in support of the Stevie Smith Community Bike Park. I congratulate the Gyro Club of Nanaimo and the Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation, who have worked hard to get the project to this point. It will be a tremendous addition to Beban Park facilities, and a real benefit to our community."

Ian Thorpe
Councillor
City of Nanaimo

"The Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation is proud to be a partner in the 'Stevie Smith Bike Park' working with the City and Gyro on this project has given the citizens of Nanaimo, British Columbia, and the World an opportunity to honour one of our own. The Stevie Smith bike park will enable youth of all ages to enjoy our beautiful city through cycling."

Dr. Michelle Corfield
Director
Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation

"This park is a wonderful example of community partnerships. Everyone involved worked very well together and contributed to making this park a reality in many different ways. With the support of the Gyro Club, Dana Butcher of Nanaimo BMX and I were able to get the project started and it really gained traction with the addition of the Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation. Naming the park after Stevie is fitting as his philosophy was to encourage and train young riders to be their best, this fits with the Gyro Club's mission since 1929 to build facilities to empower youth. We look forward to seeing the results of these efforts."

Jim Thompson
Project Facilitator
Gyro Club of Nanaimo

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Contact:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation
City of Nanaimo
250-755-7516

Al Britton
Manager, Parks Operations
City of Nanaimo
250-755-7505



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