

NEWS RELEASE

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Improvements coming to Westwood Lake Park

Phase one of improvements starting this year

Summary

Westwood Lake Park, one of the busiest and most popular places to visit in Nanaimo, is about to undergo a variety of improvements. Phase 1 will begin this year and includes improvements to the park entrance, including:

- enhanced natural green spaces
- improved parking (moving some current spots to lessen environmental impact, using permeable and impermeable surfacing and adding 36 additional spots and 4 additional accessible parking stalls)
- better parking lot circulation flow and safety features
- planting of additional native trees and shrubs
- integration of stormwater management areas and rain gardens to capture and filter rainwater
- mobility improvements along Westwood Road for both pedestrians and cyclists

Through a variety of public engagement opportunities in 2020 and 2021, including the ReImagine Nanaimo process, it was evident that the public is wanting improvements to Westwood Lake Park to better meet the needs of the community. It is a prime destination for swimming, walking, running, paddling, biking, fishing, nature appreciation and public events.

For details about the Westwood Lake improvements concept, visit <https://www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/>

Strategic Link: Providing enhancements to our parks and open spaces supports a livable community.

Key Points

- Westwood Lake Park is popular for diverse uses including swimming, walking, running, paddling, biking, fishing, nature appreciation and special events.
- Phase 1 of the improvements to Westwood Lake Park will improve the park entrance and is based on public input received through 2020 and 2021.
- Phase 1 improvements are expected to start in early fall with completion by the end of 2022.

Quotes

"In recent years, Westwood Lake Park has seen increased use by diverse user groups and special events. During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for outdoor recreational activities has also increased significantly. These improvements will help to meet the community desire for enhanced outdoor recreational areas by improving access, safety and green space at the park."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Improvements coming to Westwood Lake Park

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