

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed September 16, 2026

City of Nanaimo expands Westwood Lake Park with new land acquisition

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is pleased to announce the purchase of 2367 Arbot Road, adding 2.85 acres (1.15 hectares) of land to Westwood Lake Park and creating new opportunities for recreation, public access and future community amenities.

The property directly adjoins Westwood Lake Park in Nanaimo's South Jingle Pot area. The site is fronted by the popular Westwood Lake Loop Trail providing easy access to the lake, swimming areas, local trail systems and the broader Mount Benson trail network. The acquisition represents a significant investment in one of Nanaimo's most well-loved park destinations and supports future opportunities to enhance recreational experiences for residents and visitors alike.

The property was the location of the Westwood Lake Tennis Club. The Club will cease operations on Nov. 1, 2026 after which the tennis bubble will be removed. The City will assume ownership of the property on Dec. 18 and anticipates opening the site to the public shortly thereafter. The City will not operate the space as a tennis club. Once opened, it is anticipated that the outdoor tennis courts will be open for public use.

The site currently features landscaped grounds, outdoor tennis courts, walkways and gravel parking areas. It also features buildings that have the potential to be re-purposed for community use. As part of the park expansion, the City sees opportunities to improve access to Westwood Lake park while providing additional active and passive recreation amenities, bookable community gathering space, recreation programming opportunities and expanded parking.

In the near term, the City plans to make several immediate improvements, including new signage, enhanced entrance features and access upgrades. Longer term, a comprehensive planning process will be undertaken to determine how the site can best be integrated into Westwood Lake Park and serve the needs of the community. Community engagement will be a key component of the planning process helping to shape future uses of the property and explore opportunities for community access to existing facilities.

Strategic Link: Improving and increasing access to waterfront areas is a community priority identified in Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plans and is supported by several goals within City Plan, including "A Green Nanaimo: Resilient and Regenerative Ecosystems", "Connected Nanaimo: Equitable Access and Mobility", "Health Nanaimo: Community Well-Being and Livability", "Empowered Nanaimo: Reconciliation, Representation and Inclusion".

Key Points

- The City of Nanaimo will take ownership of 2367 Arbot Road on Dec. 18, 2026 as additional parkland for Westwood Lake Park. The Westwood Racquet Club will cease operations on Nov. 1, 2026.
- The size of the land purchased is 2.85 acres (1.15 hectares), and the purchase price was \$2.88 million.
- A comprehensive planning process will be undertaken to determine how the site can best be integrated into Westwood Lake Park and serve the needs of the community.

Quotes

"This is an exciting opportunity to build on recent improvements to the area and the recreational and natural assets that make Westwood Lake Park such a valued destination. We look forward to working with the community to help shape the future of this popular park in beautiful Nanaimo."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- Westwood Lake Parks is one of Nanaimo's most popular parks and underwent significant improvements in 2025, including a washroom building, public art, enhanced trails, expanded beach area and increased accessibility.
- Current amenities include walking and mountain biking trails, a swimming area, a dog off-leash section, an accessible fishing float and a children's playground.

-30-

Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact:
Communications
City of Nanaimo
media.requests@nanaimo.ca
250-754-4251



View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR260916CityOfNanaimoExpandsWestwoodLakeParkWithNewLandAcquisition.html>