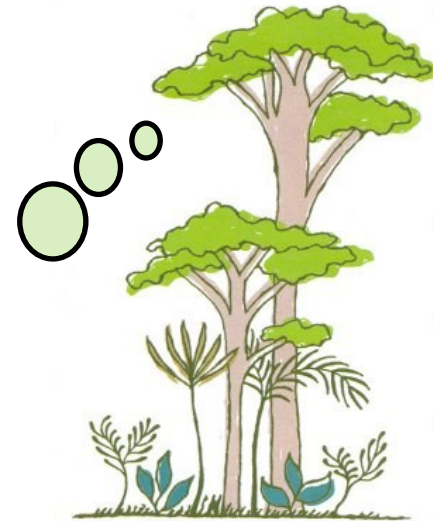


Winter 2017-18

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

The **Beaufort Park Neighbourhood** is looking forward to a new Food Forest planned for the Beaufort Park near the Community Gardens. **Come join us Friday December 15th from 2-4:30 pm** to begin the planting of fruit trees & understory plants for this project. Thank you to MyCDC, Discover Montessori School & our City Staff for all the hard work that has gone into this project. Thank you also to BC Hydro who has provided funding for the trees.



Christmas BIRD COUNT for Kids

Join us and **Nanaimo NatureKids** on **Thursday December 28th from 10-1:30 pm** for this **FREE** family-friendly bird watching event. Young birders will learn how to spot and identify birds with binoculars, learning about the most common local species found in our area. After the count, teams will gather at the Miner's Cottage off Jingle Pot Road to warm up, share results and enjoy a treat. Kids will go home with their own hand built pinecone feeder to attract birds to their own backyard! For more info or to register visit ireg.nanaimo.ca or call 250-756-5200 using barcode [161425](#)



LOOKING BACK...

The **Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society's (NS3)** fifth annual **Spooktacular Science Challenge** took place October 29 in Bowen Park. Families traveled through the park completing hands-on science challenges. The event finished off with the launching of paint balloons & an explosive science demo. A great family event filled with learning and exploration of Bowen Park.

Winter 2017-18 p.2

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR PARKS?

New Covered Sports Complex!

The City is now working to complete a multi-purpose covered space and community gathering place at Harewood Centennial Park that will be almost 24,000 square feet in size. This facility will be used by many sports and also serve as a gym and meeting space. We are looking forward to a grand opening in the new year, I hope you can join us .



Covered Picnic Shelter being built at Colliery Dam Park

A small picnic shelter is being installed near the Lower Dam off Wakesiah Rd and will be open for use and community gatherings early in the new year. Other shelters in the parks system are a Bowen Park (upper and lower shelters) and in Maffeo Sutton Park.



The New Turf Field at NDSS is nearing completion. It was opened for limited use in November as construction continues on the perimeter of the field. The new field is an exciting addition to Nanaimo, as it is sized for two sizes of football and rugby play, making it the largest artificial turf field in Nanaimo. It is also a great example of the City of Nanaimo and School District 68 working together in partnership.

Winter 2017-18 p.3

VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK

On Sunday, September 24th, over thirty TD staff, family and members of the City of Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Department took part in the **TD Tree Days** planting at Merle Logan Field. Close to 200 trees and shrubs revitalized an area that was overrun by invasive plants. The newly planted trees and shrubs will provide a much needed canopy and habitat for various forms of wildlife and enhance the scenic value of the Merle Logan Field and Stevie Smith Bike Park.



Despite very wet fall weather, one annual work party of 8 local volunteers, saw the clearing of green space and removal of invasive plants - English ivy and spurge laurel (daphne) at Smugglers Park on Protection Island. Another annual work party by Nob Hill Community Association and other community volunteers, saw the removal of garbage at Barsby Park & along the Millstone.



Another annual work party by Nob Hill Community Association and other community volunteers, saw the removal of garbage at Barsby Park & along the Millstone.

If your group has been hard at work in our parks or would like to get involved, we'd like to hear from you. Drop us a note at parksandrecreation@nanaimo.ca

STREAMSIDE STEWARDSHIP WORK



On October 26th, members of the Island Waters Fly Fishers, Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association, and the land owner met on the Millstone near the Biggs Road Bridge to do some stream bank restoration. The idea was to weave a “wattle fence” using all natural materials. Fairly heavy red osier stakes were used inter woven with long slender red osier limbs, then back filled with short branches and clods of earth. A final covering of wire was used to prevent the beavers from eating it,

as they are particularly fond of red osier. The idea is that the red osier would sprout in the spring sending down roots which will in turn stabilize the bank. The following day, students from the local Montessori School planted spruce seedlings (donated by Island Timberlands) to help stabilize the bank.



Although rain and gusty winds were forecast for the day on November 18th, the conditions were good for invasive plant removal and the planting of 150 native species on the banks of the lower Walley Creek. Riparian vegetation helps stabilize the creek bank and improve water quality.

Thank you to the Walley Creek and Departure Creek Streamkeepers, the Island Waters Fly Fishers and Dover Bay Eco Club students. A huge thank you also to the RDN, NALT and Streamside Native Plants for all their help and support in this project.



DID YOU KNOW?

Willow Stake Project along the Millstone River,

Members of the NDSS Eco Club have been working with our city staff harvesting Willow Stakes from Third Street Park, to replant along the Millstone River in Bowen Park. These Willow Stakes will mature, creating stability for this bank and shade along the river to hopefully shade out the growth of the reed canary grass, an invasive plant in this area, as well as providing a cooler more ideal habitat for our local spawners.



Knot On My Property Program completes a successful second year!

Japanese Knotweed ranks up there on a global scale as one of the most invasive plants world-wide and in the top-10 invasive species for control in BC. These persistent plants can cause a great deal of harm to our environment but also to our properties. To help raise awareness and help control this plant in our City, Nanaimo has joined with Parksville, Qualicum Beach and the regional district to set up the “Knot on my Property” Program (KOMP).

This program involves raising awareness about the impact of knotweed on local biodiversity as well as its potential damage to homes and community infrastructure. Technical experts are available for homeowners looking for advice, and then help with any professional treatment of the knotweed by the Coastal Invasive Species Committee’s certified invasive plant technicians.



City of Nanaimo (44 new sites and 39 retreats) 83 Total sites	
Type	Complete
New sites treated	43
New sites not treated	1
Retreated sites treated	26
Retreated sites not treated	1
Sites Eradicated	12

Now heading into its third year in Nanaimo, re-treated sites within the City of Nanaimo have shown significant die-off, with 12 sites in total showing no regrowth this year. For more information about KOMP, please go to www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives.

“A huge thank you to all our volunteers involved in work parties in our parks. We appreciate all your hard work and time. Thank you”