



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY



BUSINESS PLAN 2026

Parks, Recreation and Culture
COMMUNITY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) enhances our community providing facilities and venues, parkland, trails, programs and events and supporting and enabling community organizations to deliver opportunities for recreation and cultural experiences in Nanaimo, all while preserving our natural surroundings.

Though they operate in distinct specialized sections, Recreation and Culture and Parks and Facilities are involved in nurturing strong community partnerships to provide further opportunities for active public participation and engagement through a range of diverse programs, services, and events.

Recreation and Culture focuses on individual and community wellness through program service delivery, program development, community special event implementation and the provision of recreation and culture facilities and amenities.

The Recreation section manages multiple recreation facilities across the city, and works with a variety of organizations to provide recreation opportunities for drop-in, registered programs, facility rental, and amenities for sport, activity and health organizations, and community events. This section also oversees all park use permits and sports field bookings. Many community groups have connections with Recreation Services through various agreements, leases, and licenses.

The work of the Culture section focuses on building community through arts, culture, and events. This section supports and recognizes that Nanaimo's arts and culture community consists of active, independent non-profits, collectives, and individuals working in various disciplines.

The Culture team coordinates the public art inventory and maintenance programs, oversees \$663,768 in project, operating and downtown event revitalization grant funding, maintains co-management agreements with large community arts and culture facilities such as The Port Theatre, the Nanaimo Art Gallery, the Nanaimo Museum and the Vancouver Island Military Museum. Provides staff support to the Nanaimo Performing Arts



Guild Advisory Committee (NPAGAC) and collaborates on bid submissions for regional, provincial, and national level sporting events as well as supporting large-scale community events throughout the year.

There is commitment in Recreation and Culture to work together and to collaborate across City departments applying a recreation and cultural lens to community planning, infrastructure projects, and other initiatives, in line with the City's strategic priorities and City Plan. PRC also works collaboratively across the division with integrated services, including administration, clerical support, custodial services and the marketing section for promotion and communication.

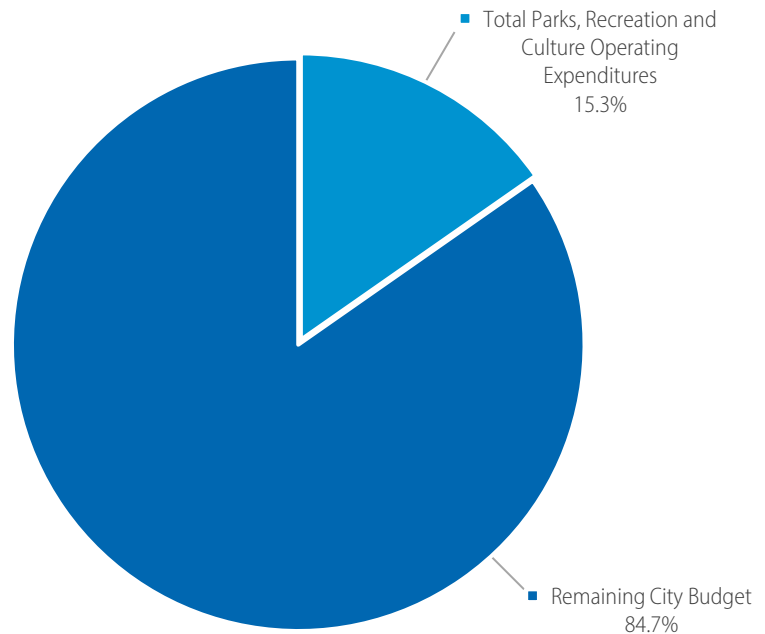
Parks Operations oversees the care and maintenance of all City-owned parkland, multi-use trail systems, and outdoor activity venues. This section also shares responsibilities for maintaining Nanaimo's urban forest and natural areas, as well as controlling the spread of invasive plant species.

Facility Operations oversees the overall care and maintenance of many of the City-owned facilities including civic facilities and recreation facilities, as well as the custodial services for all. This section is also responsible to deliver comprehensive asset management plans, condition assessments, project planning, and preventative maintenance plans in concert with the Facility Asset Management Section within Engineering and Public Works.

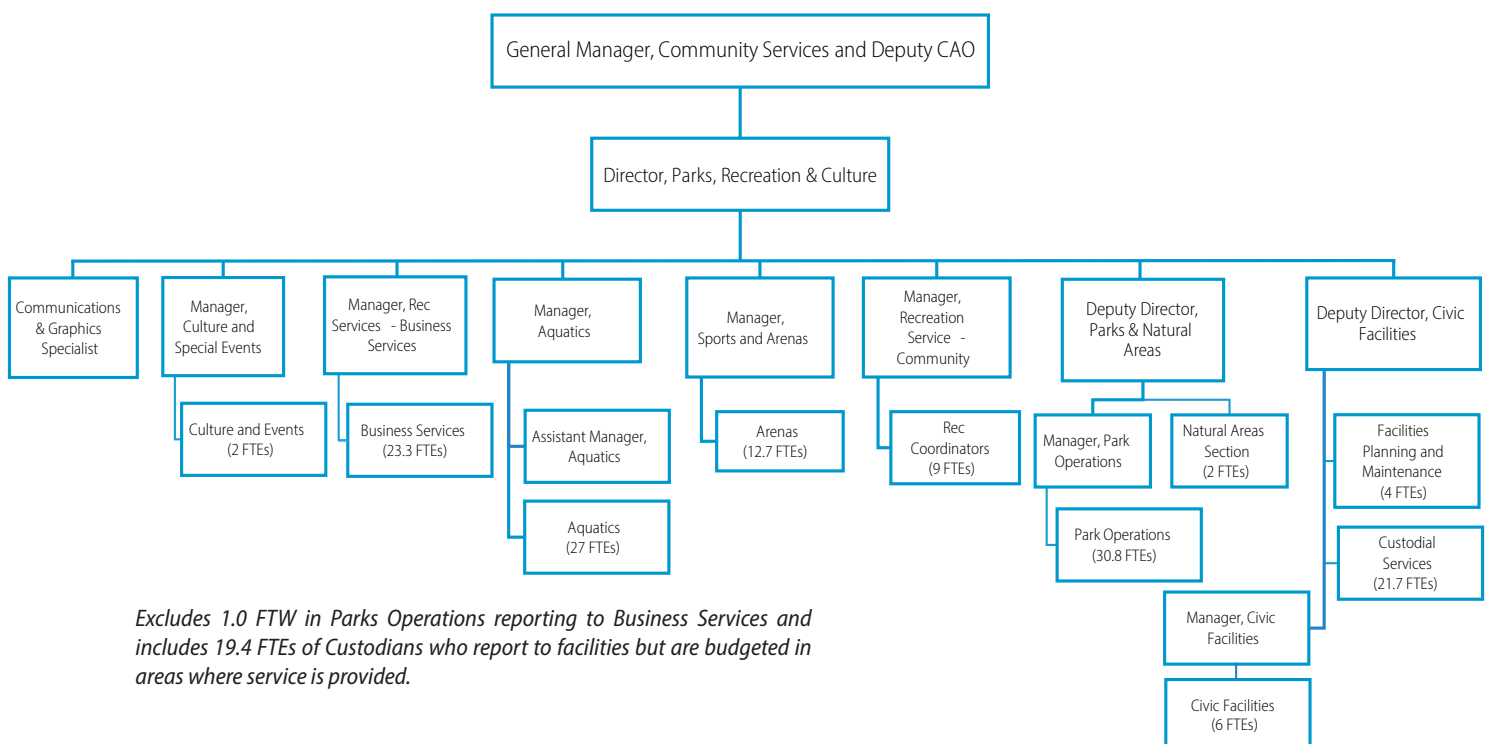
Both Parks Operations and Facility Operations are responsible for the implementation of the Capital Plan with many staff working in both operational (maintenance) and capital project spheres.

PRC strives to work collaboratively with an integrated service approach including administration, clerical support, custodial services and the marketing section for advertising, promotions and communication.

Department's Share of the Budget



Operating Expenditure Budget: \$34,756,463



LEVEL OF SERVICE

Recreation and Culture

The Recreation and Culture section includes: Aquatics, Arenas, Business Services (administration), Community Recreation, and Culture and Events. These sections manage, plan, and implement programs, events and services. They oversee operations of the following:

- Five major recreation centres including: Beban Park (Social Centre, Beban Pool, Frank Crane Arena, Cliff McNabb Arena), Bowen Complex, NAC, NIC and OWCC.
- Three activity centres including Kin Hut, Rotary Fieldhouse and Centennial Building.
- Included in these facilities are: two indoor swimming pools, one outdoor pool, one lifeguarded lakefront, four sheets of ice, two fitness centres, two gymnasiums, one covered multi-sport court, three outdoor lacrosse boxes, two picnic shelters and many other multi-use programming spaces.
- Facilitates allocation of over 30 sports fields and nearly 40 sports field user groups throughout the City each year.
- Oversees the coordination of the expansion and operation of three major facilities (Serauxmen Stadium, q'unq'inuqwstuxw Field and Rotary Bowl) within the Stadium District that are home to Nanaimo United FC, the Nanaimo Night Owls, the VI Raiders and the Nanaimo Track & Field Club.
- Allocation of rentable programming space for community groups, government agencies, local organizations, families and individuals within indoor facilities, sports fields, and outdoor amenities.
- Supports and assists community driven events and festival organizing committees, enabling them to offer community events in City facilities, parks and outdoor venues in a safe, effective and efficient manner.
- Works inter-departmentally to provide guidance, support and collaboration of public art, community events and achievements and other community-based initiatives.
- Administers co-management agreements and provides support to the partners who operate City-owned cultural facilities, including the Nanaimo Museum, The Port Theatre, Nanaimo Art Gallery, the OV Arts Centre, and the Vancouver Island Military Museum.



- Administers a variety of co-management agreements, licenses and leases at City-owned sport and recreational facilities such as Kin Pool, Nanaimo United Football Club, Nanaimo Minor Hockey, Nanaimo Curling Club, Rotary Bowl, Nanaimo BMX, VIE, Island Health (at NAC), facility concessions and vending, and more.
- Coordinates an administration hub that includes all accounting services as well as overseeing a centralized switchboard for PRC, and front desk services for all facilities which provide program registration, drop-in admissions, membership sales, customer care/inquiries and administers the Leisure Economic Access Program (LEAP).
- Coordinates inclusive programs, workshops and citywide events for all ages in community parks and facilities.
- Coordinates a variety of summer camp opportunities for children throughout the city venues.
- Offers a number of free and accessible summer playground programs.
- Develops, delivers and maintains the City's public art programs.
- Provides in-house graphic design, communications, promotions and marketing for all of PRC's programs and services.

- Hosts local, provincial, national and international events, competitions and tournaments.
- Links with various organizations that access City funds and administers six grant streams, including; Cultural Operating, Cultural Project, Downtown Event Revitalization Fund, Travel Assistance, Sport Tournament and Community Program Development grants.
- Supervises and provides public safety measures through lifeguards, the Water Safety Education Team, attendants at gymnasiums and weight rooms and skate patrol at arenas.
- Provides staff support to the Council appointed Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) and staff support to the newly formed Nanaimo Performing Arts Guild Advisory Committee (NPAGAC).
- Collaborates with Tourism Nanaimo and local government agencies to produce bid packages for large-scale regional, provincial and national events.
- Coordinates annual community achievement awards such as the Culture Awards and Civic Merit Awards.

Parks Operations

- Acquires, maintains, develops and conserves over 1,125 hectares of parkland and environmentally protected areas, divided into:
 - 13 City destination parks and over 90 neighbourhood parks, including 843 hectares of natural area, of which 270 hectares are designated environmentally sensitive.
 - 32 sports fields, including five artificial turf fields.
 - 74 playgrounds.
 - Three waterparks and one spray park.
 - Three youth/skateboard parks.
 - Over 181 kilometres of multi-purpose trails.
 - 12 dog off-leash parks.
 - Mountain bike facilities including skills parks, pump tracks and single track trails.
 - Sport and activity venues including, but not limited to, box lacrosse, tennis, pickle ball, disc golf, basketball, and sand volleyball.
 - Space for community groups including community gardens, greenhouses, lawn bowling, disc golf course and others.
- Maintains horticulture areas, including planting beds, planters, hanging baskets, trees, and naturalized areas.



- Urban forest management (all publicly owned trees including street trees) ensuring the health of Nanaimo's urban forest and responding as trees are affected by disease, droughts, and climate change.
- Invasive plant and natural area management to protect ecosystems, including working with volunteer groups to steward parks, control invasive plant species, and restore ecological diversity.
- Maintains paved and hard surface trails, bridges, stairs, and boardwalks, as well as beach access points.
- Provides and oversees landscape maintenance of civic and recreation facilities, cemeteries, medians, and public boulevards.
- Conducts facility maintenance to all park outbuildings, picnic shelters, and amenities.
- Maintains all city-owned irrigation systems in parks, boulevards, and medians.
- Works with a wide range of citizen organizations, land agencies, and individuals in the management of parks, and leased properties.

- Provides and oversees snow and ice removal at civic and recreation facilities, sidewalks bordering city-owned properties, and all bike / multi-use trails.
- Works alongside Bylaw Services to ensure appropriate bylaw enforcement in all parks and trails, ensuring the safety of park users and park neighbours.
- Develops parks and open space plans, with consultation from parks users and the community.
- Reviews development applications and land acquisition opportunities and requests for park, natural areas, and trail dedications to meet future community needs.
- Communicates topical parks issues and promotes opportunities for residents to engage with their parks.

Facilities Operations – Civic and Recreation

- Assists in the creation of asset management plans for all City-owned facilities.
- Facilitates condition assessments for City-owned facilities and building components, such as building envelope, electrical systems, mechanical systems (including plumbing and HVAC), as well as structural and seismic reviews.
- Manages consultant studies and designs identified from completed condition assessments.

- Project planning, defining project requirements, budget planning, and preventative maintenance plans for civic facilities.
- Operations, maintenance, and repairs for a wide range of City-owned recreation facilities. Such as NAC, Nanaimo Ice Centre (NIC), Beban Park facilities, OWCC and Bowen Complex.
- Operations, maintenance, and repairs for a wide range of City-owned facilities. Some of these facilities include the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC), Nanaimo District Museum, The Port Theatre, the Vancouver Island Military Museum, and all fire halls.
- Provides custodial services to all recreation and civic facilities with the exception of arenas.
- Provides project management and project support, overseeing the tender process and budget planning for several City departments, including, Parks, Recreation and Culture; Bylaw; Nanaimo Fire Rescue; Public Works; Police Services and other civic facilities as resources allow.

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

Aquatics

- Received two Affiliate Awards from the Lifesaving Society of BC: Bronze Programs – Most Courses Delivered and National Lifeguard Program – Most Courses Delivered.
- Continued to build the Nanaimo Area Drowning Prevention Coalition to assist in the delivery of awareness, education, interventions, skills and research. This multi-sectoral coalition brings together organizations, stakeholders and supporters in the drowning prevention effort. The group attended three community events in 2025 and received grant funding to further support community engagement.
- The Water Safety Education Team returned in 2025, providing information on water safety at eight community events

throughout the summer and visiting PRC summer camps.

- 6,764 children and adults participated in Swim for Life and swimming lesson programs.
- 308 participants took part in 28 advanced aquatic courses that were completed including Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, National Lifeguard Award, Lifesaving Instructor, National Lifeguard Waterfront and Swimming Instructor.
- Collaborated with Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) to offer advanced aquatic training for Lifesaving Bronze Medallion to twelve successful participants in Grades eight and nine.
- Swim to Survive program offered drowning prevention training to 2,369 grade three and grade seven NLPS students.

- Partnered with Canucks Autism Network (CAN) to provide swimming lessons at Beban Pool during winter / spring / fall programming for 30 participants per session.
- Continued to implement the Aquatics Growth and Development Plan by hosting a staff professional development day. Topics included: City Plan, current opportunities and challenges, and connecting with the Community Safety Officer (CSO) team to foster cross-departmental collaboration and to learn about the Respectful Spaces Bylaw.
- Hosted 13 special events at NAC in 2025, including three provincial meets (two for artistic swimming and one for speed swimming). The Masters Provincial Meet resulted in 12 new Canadian records and a world record being set at NAC.
- Aquatics hosted 11 sessions of Lions' Free Swims with 2,230 participants.
- First Beach at Westwood Lake had lifeguards on site from noon - 5:30 PM seven days a week in July and August (including stat Holidays).
- Aquatics team participated in our first episode of "The Sweet Layered Podcast".
- Weekly aquatic summer camps offered services for 57 children, 8 to 15 years old, in 2025. Merfolk, and Summer Survivor Skills Challenge Camp, Junior Lifeguard Club Camp with 55 participants and Lifesaving.
- Sport Camp with 44 participants.
- AquaFit program continues to build with the addition of AquaYoga, and new pre-registered classes on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. In 2025, Aquatics offered 19 classes per week. Shallow-water, deep-water and AquaYoga hosted 510 registered swimmers with 24 on a waitlist.
- Hosted Swim Instructor training courses in partnership with the Lifesaving Society, and two staff completed this advanced certification program.
- Partnership with the Nanaimo Diamonds was successful in offering Intro to Synchro and AquaGo programs to 73 swimmers.
- Wave mechanism was replaced at NAC and lifeguards participated in specific training for rescues in moving water.

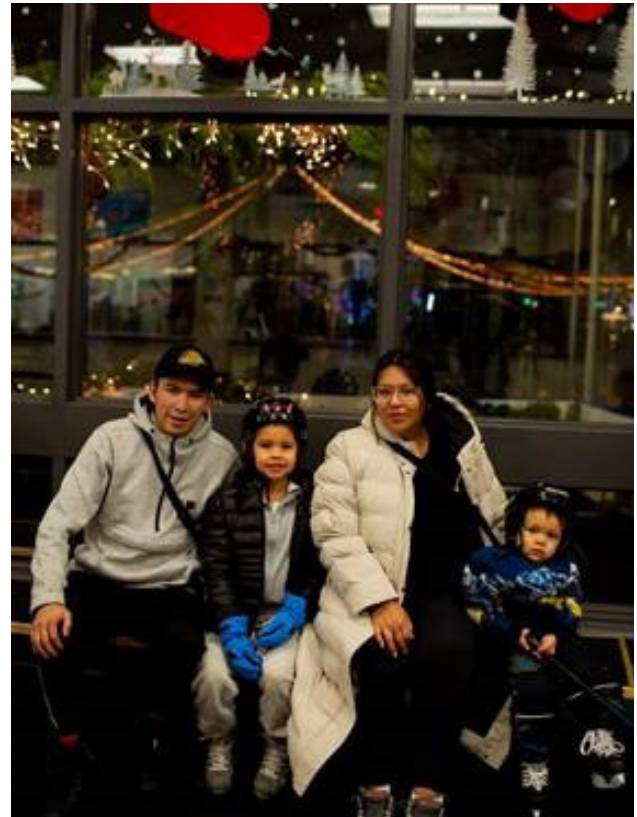


Arenas

- Winter Wonderland event at Frank Crane Arena offered a total of 30 free public sessions. An anticipated attendance of over 7,900 participants, supported by over 25 local community sponsors.
- Arenas hosted 29 sessions of Lions' Free Skates with 6,303 participants.
- 504 students attended school skating lessons for winter 2025 (Jan - Mar), and approximately 350 students participated in the fall (Sept-Dec).
- RecSkate saw a total of 3,835 participants registered in 2025.
- Arena summer camps ran at 94% capacity throughout July and August.
- City arenas hosted 18 hockey and lacrosse tournaments, and the Nanaimo Figure Skating Club Ice Show.
- Dry floor season saw another year of growth with eight different lacrosse user groups, including the newly formed Senior C team, The Snuneymuxw Sun Devils, and two ball hockey leagues (adult and youth). Nanaimo Minor Hockey also made use of the dry floor season to run shooting clinics and floor hockey sessions.
- Nanaimo Arenas hosted the Under 15 Tier 2 Hockey Provincial Championships in March and the Female Minor Box Provincial Championships with 35 teams in attendance.
- Facilitated the annual ice users and dry floor users meetings.
- Partnered with Canucks Autism Network (CAN) for ongoing on-ice fall / winter programming.

Business Services / Facility Allocations

- Completed the negotiation for renewal of the District 68 Field and Recreation Services Agreement.
- Continued implementation of LEAP review recommendations by creating processes for community adjudicators and agency referrals.
- Collaborated with The Port Theatre to offer free tickets for LEAP clients to attend the performance of "A Simple Space" as a pilot through their "Theatre Angels" program. 74 free tickets were issued for LEAP clients.
- Continued partnership with BC Transit and Regional District of Nanaimo on the sales of the new BC Transit fare service "UMO" and expanded HandiDart sales at all five recreation centres.
- Facilitated Recreation operating grants for McGirr Sports Society, Kin Pool, VIEX, and Pacific Sport.
- Utilized new advertising and marketing opportunities for PRC programs and services such as advertising in movie theatres, monthly neighborhood magazines (The Jingle Pot and The Hammond Bay) and increasing online (web) advertising with purchases through Nanaimo News Now and Nanaimo News Bulletin.
- Increased online social presence through boosting many of our social media posts to reach larger audiences, both on Facebook and Instagram.
- Continued to work with potential clientele to share information about our services such as Service Canada, The Newcomers Club and the CVIMS (Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society).
- Participated in the Provincial Colloquy series focusing on: Climate Change, Truth and Reconciliation, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and Physical Activity through BCRPA.
- The City celebrated and recognized National AccessAbility Week, May 26 – 31, 2025.
- Membership marketing and retention strategy implemented fall 2025 for Active Passes including a new partnership with VIU (Vancouver Island University) residences, and retention initiatives for current members.
- Front desk staff participated in a Social Prescribing awareness campaign to share information about the program and how the primary health care referrals work by wearing buttons



that said, "Ask Me About Social Prescribing".

- Hammond Bay School multi-purpose space agreement was firmed up and allocations team has brought this facility into their portfolio for facility rentals.
- Ongoing collaboration with governing bodies such as the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) and Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC).
- Installed Assistive Hearing Devices at the front counters in all community recreation centres funded the SPARC BC grant.
- Worked with Nanaimo Division of Family Practice to expand the Group Medical Visits into OWCC.
- Managed multiple licenses, leases, co-management agreements for facilities and organizations such as Kin Pool, Curling Club, BMX, Nanaimo Equestrian Association, Nanaimo Minor Hockey, Judo Club, VIEX, Rotary Bowl and several sport facility use agreements such as Nanaimo White Rapids, Nanaimo Night Owls Baseball, Nanaimo Clippers, Nanaimo Buccaneers, Nanaimo Timbermen, Nanaimo Raiders Football etc.

- Provided staff liaisons to various committees such as ACAI, Tourism and Sport Tourism Meetings, Special Event Advisory Committee, Youth Advocates Committee, Nanaimo Early Years Partnership, Nanaimo Youth Resiliency Strategy Steering Committee and more.
- Continued to represent PRC on the steering committee for Social Prescribing to help isolated seniors access recreation and culture services in the City through primary healthcare referrals.

Facility Allocations

- Allocations Clerks liaised with community members and organizations to coordinate facility rentals for a variety of events and tournaments including:
 - Seven major events over 5,000 people (Silly Boat, Pride Festival, Thursday Night Market, Marine Festival, VegFest, Canada Day, and VIEX).
 - 57 major events of 1,000-5,000 people (National Indigenous People's Day, Love Your City, Picnic in the Plaza, Marine Festival, Canada Day, Blues Festival, Food Truck Fridays, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) and more.
 - 342 other large events including craft fairs, the circus, performing arts, ticketed sports events (i.e.: Jr. A Timbermen Lacrosse games, home shows, blood donor clinics, dances and receptions).
 - 654 birthday parties.
 - 33 weddings.
 - 21 celebrations of life.
 - 51 tournaments (hockey, lacrosse, ringette, figure skating show, soccer, badminton, pickle ball, softball, baseball and aquatic sports).
 - 11 production rentals at The OV Arts Centre.

Community Recreation

- Planned and implemented Activate 2025! an event planned to make New Years' resolutions easy and fun! The event hosted 730 people at Beban Park with an action packed family fun event.
- Family Day events were held at OWCC, NAC and NIC, which saw approximately 2,900 attending the activities offered including swimming, skating, and family-focused games and arts/crafts. New activities included activations by community partners Nanaimo Science and Nanaimo Foodshare.



- Hosted 2025 Canada Day Celebrations at Maffeo Sutton Park, which saw estimated 18,000 people in attendance over the course of the day. A Canadian Heritage Grant of \$13,000 supported this event.
- The five-day Healthamongus event continued in 2025 and was held at the Harewood Centennial Turf Fields. This long-standing partnership with NLPS, along with generous sponsorship from Country Grocer, welcomed a total of 3,300 students from Kindergarten to Grade five who participated in a variety of fun and physically engaging games. To support the event, 35 staff members were recruited to oversee and facilitate the activities.
- Collaborated with NLPS and PacificCARE to offer multiple Ready, Set, Learn events at various elementary schools throughout the City, at no cost.
- Continued to offer free low barrier Youth Lounge program to run on Friday nights during critical hours for youth at risk to provide youth safe spaces under the Nanaimo Youth Resiliency Strategy, funded by the Building Safer Communities Grant. Tripled program hours and welcomed 160 youth to the program.
- Celebrated Youth Week (May 1 - 7, 2025) which featured 20 free or low cost activities for youth in Nanaimo. Events included free activities including drop-in sports, youth lounge, pizza nights, and pool party with a DJ.
- Expanded partnership with NLPS for the Youth Spare Blox Program offered free drop-in sports programs after school hours at Park Avenue Elementary School, Fairview Community School, Uplands Elementary School, OWCC, John Barsby Community School, and Chase River School throughout the school year.

- Continued support and built awareness for the Social Club, a free program for adults with diverse abilities that meet once a week for different social activities and outings.
- PRC staff hosted an interactive booth at 11 Thursday Night Markets on Commercial Street. Each week staff hosting the booth had a different theme and activity to engage market attendees.
- OWCC, Arenas, and Beban Social Centre provided Pro-D Days, Winter Break and Spring Break Camps. These camps saw over 1,700 children participate. New this year we are offering an outdoor-themed camp at Hammond Bay School.
- Continued the collaborative partnership with VIU, NLPS and PRC to create a reimagined Recreation Prescription project to promote health and wellbeing to Grades five and six students. Recreation Prescription is continuing in the 2025/2026 year and runs through fall and winter at three identified schools in the NLPS district focusing on mental health, social connectedness and physical literacy, targeting youth at risk as identified in the Nanaimo Youth Resiliency Strategy. The research from the project will be used to help expand the program to more sites and communities in the future – positively impacting as many youth as possible
- OWCC broadened its drop-in programming, enhancing the number of drop-in sessions per week to 20 for pickle ball, badminton, and youth drop-in volleyball and basketball.
- PRC was awarded \$14,616 in funding through the Canada Summer Jobs Program, which was dedicated to support six full-time summer leader positions.
- Recruited and trained 60 summer leaders to lead day camps and programs over the summer.
- Revamped free playground program that offered a location at Departure Bay playground fulltime, and an additional roving playground program, which visited more than a dozen parks and open spaces in various neighborhoods throughout the summer.
- Three new day camps were offered in 2025, Adventure Seekers, Soccer Stars, and Multisport camps.
- 11 summer day camps were offered in various locations throughout the City for children and youth aged 3-14 years of age including; Tree Frog Camp, Girls Get Active, Smash & Splash, Camp Wild, Camp Holiday, Jr LIT (Leaders in Training) Camp, Bowen Explorers, Basketball Camp, Soccer Camp, Multi Sport Camp and Centennial Sports Camp.
- A total of 10,123 day camp spaces were made available, with 8,733 filled, representing 86% capacity.
- Camp Sunation continued in 2025, running for five weeks and welcoming 61 children with diverse abilities at Hammond Bay School. An additional 51 children were successfully integrated into mainstream summer camp programs with a one-to-one leader ratio. Camp Sunation and Integration was possible in partnership and funded by \$206,000 through the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- LIT and Quest, running at 100% capacity, included a collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) welcoming five youth into the LIT program. The combined volunteers totaled 105 youth completing 11,000 hours of volunteer time.
- Q2, the extension of the Quest program, launched with six youth applying to join the transformative leadership program where they took various certification courses, leadership development, and lead a Swap n' Shop event organized and planned by themselves in September.
- Over 1,760 Harbour City Seniors memberships purchased in 2025.
- Promoted health and activity to school-aged children through the Active Pass program. Distributing Active Passes to 796 Grade Five and Grade Six students. The passes have been scanned to access activities such as; swimming, skating and drop in sports 3,500 times.
- Environmental stewardship volunteer programs continued to thrive in Nanaimo with 84 work parties happening in community parks supported by 1,319 volunteers. There was also increased interest from local schools in organizing their own work parties.
- A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held in October at Bowen Complex to recognize the valuable contributions of both environmental stewardship volunteers and those who support our seniors' programs. Together, they help build a connected and vibrant community through their dedication to the environment and recreation.
- Organized the Civic Merit Awards to honor gold medal recipients at the Provincial, National, Western Canadian, and International championship levels in sports or culture for the year 2024.

- Successfully completed the renovations of Room 6 at Beban Park Social Centre in partnership with 7 Potatoes thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Japanese Canadian Legacy Society. This newly renovated space will support Japanese cultural programming and many other program programs and rentals.
- Introduced programming at Hammond Bay Activity Centre. Programs included fitness and yoga classes as well as Pro-D Day camps.
- The new spin room at NAC has been a success with more than 300 participants taking park in classes over the past year.
- Introduced the FAME program, which focuses on fitness and mobility exercises, is specifically designed for individuals recovering from a stroke. It has been proven to enhance fitness, mobility, and strength. This initiative is a collaboration with UBC.

Culture

- Supported the Nanaimo Art Gallery Working Group in the site selection process and proceeding with a business plan in support of a new Nanaimo Art Gallery.
- Assisted in the establishment and support of the NPAGAC, a community recommended and Council approved long-term operating model set in place for the operation, programming, promotion, and maintenance of the OV Arts Centre.
- Worked with the Vancouver Island Military Museum to realign the operating model, including assisting in the advertisement and interviewing of a Contract General Manager in support of the transition to a sustainable business model and successful ongoing operations.
- Administered \$663,768 in grants to 43 community organizations. Grants included the Downtown Event Revitalization Fund, Culture Operating Grants and Culture Project Grants. Recipients include the Crimson Coast Dance Society, Reconciliation Theatre, L'Association des Francophones de Nanaimo, The Nanaimo African Heritage Society and many more.
- Facilitated the 2025 Culture Awards at the Port Theatre to honour recipients for Excellence in Culture, Honour in Culture (two recipients) and Honour in Heritage. This event displayed a range of local talent for an audience of more than 400 people.



- Selected two new Temporary Public Art projects for 2025 – Histogram Histories by Kiranjot Kaur and Lost Intersections by Jackie Wong. Installed both projects in summer / fall 2025.
- Facilitated numerous Urban Design Roster public art projects including the Harewood Turf Fields wall murals by Kristen Elkow, a feature art installation at Westwood Lake by David Martinello, multiple public art projects in collaboration with Pride Nanaimo, many utility kiosk art wraps, a vinyl City of Nanaimo PRC sticker by Stephanie Teichman, and more.
- Worked collaboratively with engineering staff in the commissioning of multiple public art projects to enhance the urban design of Commercial Street as part of the “Design Commercial” project.
- Supported the Poet Laureate, Neil Surkan, through a series of free public lectures, readings and classes for the community in service of raising the profile for the literary arts. This included the Poetry in the Harbour series of events, the Arts & Humanities Colloquium, the Read, Reflect, and Write workshops, and the installation of Concrete Poetry in Maffeo Sutton Park during the Luminous Paths: Nanaimo’s 150 & Beyond event.
- Worked with Youth Poet Laureate, Paige Pierce on steering the annual Youth Poetry Contest in collaboration with the Vancouver Island Regional Library. The Youth Poet Laureate also read poems at a City Council meeting, at cultural and community events, and at the Canada Day festivities.
- In consultation with the Art in Public Spaces Working Group, selected the 2025 Street Banners design by Aiym Samay-Sampson. The 2025 theme is “Metamorphosis & Change”.

- Attended the 2025 Creative Cities Summit in Vancouver, BC, and presented on urban design in public art programming, highlighting the City's Urban Design Roster program.
- Curated, budgeted, and organized Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond, a nationally recognized winter art festival that is a celebration of light, art, land, and community to mark 150 years of incorporation. From January 22 until February 17, 2025 in Maffeo Sutton Park, temporary art installations illuminated public space, transforming a once familiar environment into something new, a place-making experience that ignited imagination, inspiring hope and excitement for the future of our community. Opening and closing events brought together community, showcasing music, performance, art, food, children's activities, and more.

Events

- Continued to support and help facilitate large-scale community-led events (5,000-10,000+ attendance) such as Silly Boat Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, VIE X, Blues Festival, Marine Festival and the Commercial Street Night Market.
- Supported over 400 community events in 2025. These ranged in scale and scope and included Pride, the National Day of Awareness to Honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+, BC Bike Race, Joy fest, triathlons, fun runs, block parties, Canada Day and much more.
- Supported a number of new events in Nanaimo such as the LEAF Festival Society's Quantum Conversation II, a digital guided dance walk and event through Bowen Park.
- Curated and presented the 2025 Concerts in the Park series, supporting 11 concerts featuring 13 acts of various genres performing at nine different City parks from late May to late August. 2025 continued to see a large influx in artist applications with staff reviewing 111 submissions.
- Collaborated with cultural and community partners such as Tourism Nanaimo and the Port Theatre to submit bids for large-scale sport and culture events (i.e.: BC Live Performance Network's 2026 Pacific Contact conference).
- Collaborated with the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society to organize and present the annual Newcomers Welcome Event at the VICC.
- Helped organize and facilitate the Westwood Lake opening event in collaboration with the Child Development Centre and in complement to the Outdoor Play Day event, highlighting outdoor inclusion for children and youth with disabilities.
- Supported a community event for Health and Reconciliation at OWCC, NIC and NAC for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. With a focus on meaningful action and education, plans were designed to honour survivors of residential schools, addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Continued to support the Commercial Street Night Market by providing \$26,250 in grant funding, logistical support from the Special Event Coordinator and collaborative liaison work across City departments.
- Collaboratively facilitating the Canadian Forces Snowbirds two-day events, in partnership Nanaimo Port Authority, Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation, and Nanaimo Airport.
- Continued to offer active transportation options for events through the use of Bike Valets and a perpetual agreement with RDN for transit shuttle service for Canada Day.
- Continued to develop and enhance relationships with VIU through presentations to Event Planning students, connections with the Visual Art and Writing departments and sharing volunteer opportunities.
- With both financial and in-kind support from City Council, as well as a staff liaison to the board, the Nanaimo 2025 55+ BC Games Society successfully hosted the Province's largest annual multi-sport event from September 9-13, 2025. The event saw 20 sports, activities and community events in more 15 City of Nanaimo venues, with 2600 participants and nearly 1000 volunteers.
- Helped organize and facilitate the opening event of Phase 1 of the "Design Commercial" streetscape upgrades.
- Supported a community event for Health and Reconciliation at OWCC, NIC and NAC for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. With a focus on meaningful action and education, plans were designed to honour survivors of residential schools, addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Continued to support the Commercial Street Night Market by providing \$26,250 in grant funding, logistical support from the Special Event Coordinator and collaborative liaison work across City departments.
- Collaboratively facilitating the Canadian Forces Snowbirds two-day event, in partnership with Nanaimo Port Authority, Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation, and Nanaimo Airport.

- Helped organize and facilitate the opening event of Phase 1 of the “Design Commercial” streetscape upgrades.
- Continued to offer active transportation options for events through the use of Bike Valets and a perpetual agreement with RDN for transit shuttle service for Canada Day.
- Continued to develop and enhance relationships with VIU through presentations to Event Planning students, connections with the Visual Art and Writing departments and sharing volunteer opportunities.
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Parks Operations

Park Amenity Capital Projects

- Formal opening of the rebuilt BMX track at Beban Park, which now meets international standards.
- Completion of Westwood Lake Phase 2 improvements at First Beach including beach expansion and universal access upgrades.
- Continued development of the Harewood Centennial Artificial Turf Fields including grandstands and spectator access.
- Continued improvements to the Stadium District including paving of Serauxmen Stadium parking lot and permanent bleachers for the Q Field.
- Continued work at Rotary Bowl for sporting improvements within high jump amenities.
- Early design work of the improved multi-use washroom facilities at Maffeo Sutton Park, with consideration of Lions’ Pavilion green room and event storage needs.
- Continued condition assessments of aging park and trail assets and amenities.
- Planted trees donated by the community at Beaufort Park.
- Updated and created user group agreements with community partners.
- The reopening of Beaufort Sports court to include high school format Basketball and multi-use sport court.



- Development of high level design and Class D cost estimation of “Stadium District Centre”, a future facility for the Stadium District to consist of change rooms, washrooms, fitness and conditioning areas, multi-use activity space and event making elements.
- The design and procurement of the Beban Outdoor Learning Garden project with construction to being in the fall.

Trail Amenity Capital Projects

- Improvements to the trails, signage and fencing at Lotus Pinnatus Park to protect sensitive ecosystems.
- Resurfaced trails throughout Beaufort Park.
- Additional trails in North Nanaimo as part of development of the Brannen Lake Penitentiary, Metral Drive Phase 2.
- Extension to E&N trail with a new soft surface trail between Hecate and Columbia Streets, with a second phase between Columbia and Seventh Streets planned for construction in the fall.

Park Planning

- Collaborative planning with the 7 Potatoes (Central Vancouver Island Japanese Canadian Cultural Society) and Japanese Canadian Legacies Society regarding funding and design of a Japanese Canadian Heritage site.
- Planning improvement of Deverill Square Park sport court.
- The design of Phase 3 improvements at Westwood Lake Park's First and Second Beach including more lakeshore, recreational amenities and enhanced accessibility.
- Implementing the Beban Park Master Plan and planning for future infrastructure needs at the Beban Park central facility development area including new design and Class D cost estimation of improvements.
- Implementation of the West Marsh / Buttertubs Marsh Management plans with priority project actions. Planning and renovation of renamed Bill Merilees Viewing Tower with donations from Nature's Trust of BC and the community.
- Continued planning for a paddling and rowing facility and park improvements at Loudon Park.
- Administered \$20,000 of Community Watershed Grants, allocated to groups for projects based in City parks.
- Community engagement and subsequent capital improvement planning around hard surface outdoor sport courts.
- Community engagement around playground renewals at Barney Moriez, Daynes, Railway, Thunderbird and Westhaven Parks.
- Acquisition of new public properties including ongoing development planning review with a lens for new park and trail acquisitions through development, and collaboration to develop Land Acquisition Strategy including key parks and trails purchases.
- Collaboration with planning teams to complete communities' plan for Woodgrove Mall area and Woodgrove Area Plan.
- Collaboration with Development Cost Charge Bylaw updates.
- Staff training and accreditation under the Rick Hansen Accessibility Certification Program for enhanced design review and internal ability to perform accessibility audits.

Natural Area Management

- Major Natural Area restoration project at Neck Point Park.
- Underbrush clearing and fire prevention at Bowen Park.

Partners In Parks (PIP) Natural Area

- Meadow and wildflower signage and restoration projects at Bowen, Lotus Pinnatus, and Linley Valley Cottle Lake Parks in partnership with NALT and other partners.
- Facilitation of beach cleanup work parties with community partners and the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.
- Removal of broom throughout City in partnership with Broombusters.
- Invasive plant removal at many park sites in partnership with the Wellington Action Committee, BC Ferries, John Barsby Community School, Nanaimo Christian School, Departure Bay School, Youthcan 2020 and other community partners.

Partners In Parks (PIP) Amenity Projects

- Collaborating with local groups to provide future recreational neighbourhood park amenity improvements.
- Continued creation of an outdoor learning area with Departure Bay Elementary School at Wardropper Park.

Civic Facilities Operations

- Curling Club repairs and maintenance including replacing two ductless splits and electrical breakers.
- Added storefront enclosures at the Port Theatre – North and South alcoves and completed exterior and roof improvements.
- Installed new windows at Track and Field office at Rotary Field.
- Replace glass doors and modernize both freight elevators at the VICC.
- Completed PIA's (Privacy Impact Assessments) for parkade CCTV project.
- Completed CCTV installment in Harbourfront Parkade and Port of Nanaimo Centre Parkade.
- Added CCTV monitoring for the Parks Yard and Parks Annex.

- Complete kitchen millwork, electrical breakers and repair fire damage done to overhead door at Fire Hall #3.
- Completed lighting upgrades at Nanaimo's Bastion.
- Several upgrades or maintenance repairs at City Hall/SARC including: replacing outdated digital controls, installing new glass wall and security entrance to Legislative Services, security improvements at City Hall lobby, staff room renovation and adding storage space for electric e-bikes in the SARC parkade.
- Completed design for additional storage building for Purchasing.
- Completed maintenance and replacement projects at 25 Victoria Road (OV Arts Centre).
- Replaced the generator at the Police Operations Building.
- Added public WIFI to the Bastion Area, through Nanaimo & District Museum.
- Completed, inclusive of dog kennel enhancements, improved animal care and staff safety, at the Animal Shelter services.
- Continue to complete yearly cross-connection program.
- Completed RFP for contracted services for elevators, plumbing services, CCTV security services, fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance, suppression, alarms, emergency lighting and sprinkler systems and direct digital controls services.

Recreation Facilities

- Upgraded interior lights and completed installation of sound system at OWCC to LED.
- Completed security camera upgrade at NAC and Serauxmen Stadium.
- Continued to work with Cartigraph to implement the new Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) system.
- Finalized training program for frontline staff in Aquatics, Ice Facilities and Custodial as well as training programs for staff in Aquatics and Custodial operations.
- Continue to implement new Operations and Maintenance Plans.
- Assisted in creating a comprehensive asset list for City-owned facilities and amenities and apply a lifecycle plan to monitor and replace asset components as required to support the implementation of the CMMS.



- Rick Hansen accessibility audit for OWCC, NIC, Serauxmen Stadium, and Westwood Lake.
- Facility upgrades at NAC such as automated chemical controllers, grout work, rebuild of sauna and café renovation, creating more functional space for staff.
- Completed RFP for CCTV service contract for NAC CCTV project.
- New WAPOTEC system installed at Beban Park and NAC to ensure water chemistry is consistent for safe and efficient operation.
- Installed LED lights in the Beban Park Complex parking lot.
- Replaced domestic hot water tank at Beban Fieldhouse.
- Replaced Bowen Park Tennis Courts electrical kiosk.

2026 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Recreation and Culture

- Utilize City Plan to guide programs and services and follow-through on Council endorsed Integrated Action Plans (IAP)'s.
- Continue to seek solutions to staffing shortages in all areas, while building successful initiatives developed in 2024 such as NLPS Advanced Aquatic Training Program.
- Proceed with Capital Development Plan for South End Community Centre including schematic designs, financial analysis and Class "C" cost estimate, further public engagement, risk management planning, delivery method assessment, transportation impact analysis, and zoning analysis.
- Establish a municipally significant event criteria and application process for large-scale community events.
- Continue to work with user groups to maximize allocation of pool space and expand programming (aquafit/school lessons)
- Commission a piece of public art for the NAC natatorium.
- Increase community awareness of PRC programs and services through the newly re-branded PRC Promotions Team, a staff team designed to identify creative marketing and promotional strategies.
- Develop a plan for implementing the Beban Park Master Plan while incorporating Capital expenditures and community driven development opportunities.
- Continue working with community partners including Island Health, NDFP, and VIU to implement a Social Prescribing program for Nanaimo residents.
- Support the advancement of the NDFP Group Medical Visits in community centres.
- Continue to enhance the success of Camp Sunsation by advocating for increased funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to expand the program to nine weeks with a goal to accommodate twice as many children through both Camp Sunsation and the integrated summer camp program.
- Continue to work with a wide variety of community agents on developing and extending recreation and culture programming for diverse abilities
- Continue to engage with user groups and members of the public to meet the demand for drop-in sports. New delivery methods will include indoor court rentals and group rental rates.
- Update the Youth Active Pass by removing barriers associated with the application process. Use the LEAP pass model with the goal to rapidly grow pass usage, leading to more youth in our facilities.
- Diversify community recreation and culture programming by offering programs outside of our core facilities such as school gyms, parks and the VICC. This aligns with City Plan urban nodes / neighborhood pockets.
- Continue to expand programming at Ecole Hammond Bay School via the Shared Use Agreement for PRC alongside community access to multipurpose rooms during non-school hours.
- Collaborate with the 7 Potatoes to offer Japanese cultural programming to community in newly renovated performing arts cultural space at Beban Park Social Centre Room 6.
- Offering 55+ free information / education seminars for seniors on a variety of topics including health, technology and estate planning.
- Enhance community engagement through pop-up programs and events. Pop-ups will include sports sessions, holiday celebrations and fitness classes.
- Continue to grow the Stadium District as a premier special event location. Build relationships through organization of a Stadium District Working Group with representation from all parties.
- Implementation of the Sponsorship Policy into identified facilities and programs.
- Continue the implementation of the Building Safer Communities initiatives, Recreation Prescription and Youth Lounge through Youth Resiliency grants.

- Continue to partner with the Nanaimo Art Gallery Working Group in support of the creation of a future new Nanaimo Art Gallery.
- Continue to facilitate the Concerts in the Park summer concert series to support local artists, encourage wellness and quality of life and highlight Nanaimo's many picturesque parks.
- Continue to collaborate with the CVIMS to grow and improve the annual Newcomers' Event.
- Support the development and delivery of new event initiatives to attract residents and visitors, in promotion of building vitality, stimulating business activity, and enhancing Nanaimo's profile as a destination of choice.
- Continue to work cooperatively with the NPAGAC towards maintaining the OV Arts Centre and providing advisory support.
- Continue to implement ACAI recommendations in efforts to make public art programming, and cultural events and initiatives more accessible and inclusive.
- Implement the second annual Luminous Paths festival, a winter art festival that is a celebration of light, art, land, and community. Luminous Paths amplifies awareness of Nanaimo's arts, culture and heritage community, attracting visitors from Vancouver Island and the Mainland.
- Culture staff will implement a communications strategy that brings better awareness to how culture grants support events, programs, and organizations throughout Nanaimo.
- Culture and Active Transportation staff will be working together in partnership with neighbourhood associations to explore the development and installation of decorative asphalt art in select intersections, promoting safety, beautifying public space, and bringing communities together.
- Continue to evaluate and look at ways to provide an easy and efficient experience for customers to register for programs and services following the Activity Guide release.
- Work with SFN to support youth sport and recreation program opportunities offered in the Nation's facilities.
- Continue working with SFN to find ways to share cultural skills and knowledge with Nanaimo residents.
- Staff will continue to participate as a Knowledge Partner on Te'tuxwtun Project, specifically focusing on the gathering space and outside active spaces.



- Continue partnering with local organizations to support the LEAP program as designated referral/adjudicator agencies.
- The Activity Guide will see the addition of videos of our programs and services into our online Activity Guide (software upgrades happening should allow this to happen). These may also be shown on screens in our facilities with the planned upgrade of higher quality lobby screens (smart TVs) in community recreation centres.

Parks Operations and Park Amenity Planning

- Continue to assess and update existing amenities based on condition assessments, evolving community needs, accessibility improvements, and sport user group input.
- Continue conversion of inventories and work orders into Cartographic and CAMS systems.
- Development of tennis facilities and additional pickle ball courts at Beban Park in collaboration with community partners.
- Continue improvements to the Stadium and Third Street Sports Zone including parking and spectator improvements.
- Move ahead with the construction of the Beban Outdoor Learning Centre.
- Increased equipment and staff training to maintain growing demands and needs for artificial turf fields and high levels of maintenance for artificial turf fields.
- Continued planning of improvements at Westwood Lake including accessible swimming dock and connections to Second Beach.
- Continue to work with neighbourhoods and recreational groups under the Partners in Parks Program.

- Update and create user group agreements with community partners.
- Collaborative planning of public realm, street trees, and parks/plazas through the Design Commercial and Terminal Ave Improvement Projects.

Trail Planning and Trail Amenities

- Implementing the Beban Park Master Plan and expanding the perimeter trail in conjunction with stormwater management projects and Nanaimo Operations Centre project.
- Continuing to develop connection trails that link existing trail systems into loops. Open space accessibility improvements.
- Continued restoration and safety work at Linley Valley, Cottle Lake Park and Linley Point Park.
- Signage streamlining and updating including inclusive and interpretive signage at key parks and trailheads with Westwood Lake Park trails as a pilot/priority site.
- Continued paving of key connector trails and parking lots to increase universal access and reduce recurring maintenance issues.

Park Planning

- Continue to expand the park and trail system to provide recreational opportunities and protect natural areas for future generations. New park acquisitions, assets, and park development will be balanced with service and resource demands.
- Drafting of a new bylaw concerning the banning of the sale of invasive species and associated collaboration with vendors and the community.
- Compilation and engagement for the Park and Environmental Management Plan at Linley Valley Park and Nanaimo Lakes Road Park.
- Continuing to plan for implementation of key park plans including 933 Park Avenue and East Wellington.
- Ongoing work to manage invasive plants and their impacts on natural park assets including development of a toolkit for best practices around invasive removal and what to do with the plant material after removal.
- Begin review of natural asset management and urban tree canopies, linked with City Plan.
- Continue to work with community and provincial groups under the Partners in Parks Program to grow food on public land, improve ecosystems, and provide meaningful park amenities.



- Creating education campaigns around vernal pools and seasonal wetlands at Lotus Pinnatus Park with local and provincial partners.
- Improve marketing and wayfinding materials to better communicate and showcase the park and trail systems with innovative and accessible signage and web-based tools.
- Continue to implement the Beban Park Master Plan with increased trail connections, integrated comforts and seating, shade trees, artwork and site servicing to allow for future development of the central heart of the park.
- Continue to provide public access to water with improvement planning for Maffeo Sutton Park, Westwood Lake Park, Diver Lake Park and Lakeview Park.
- Continued efforts toward reconciliation including connections to key sites including Satsutshun, appropriate knowledge sharing and appropriate restoration.
- Complete planning of capital projects such as the Beban Park Nekkei Legacy Project and Westwood Lake Park Phase 3.

Natural Area Management

- Ecosystem restoration project work at key nature parks including Pipers Lagoon, Westwood Lake Park, Linley Point Park, and East Wellington Park.
- Ongoing work with partners to maintain, enhance, showcase and research the Buttertubs and Third Street Marsh areas.
- Ecological assessments and environmental management planning on key nature parks. Continuing to restore Garry Oak ecosystems and monitor restoration at key sites including Piper's Lagoon Park.

Partners in Parks (PIP) Natural Areas

- Working with partners to create new programs such as Butterfly Rangers, Free the Tree.
- Ongoing partnerships with diverse community groups and external funders to remove invasive plants, restore natural areas, and plant trees in the extensive natural park system that makes up 70% of Nanaimo's parks.
- Continued implementation of community driven projects under the Community Watershed Restoration grant program.
- Consideration of pilot pollinator gardens and boulevards on City property with partners.

Partners in Parks (PIP) Amenity Projects

- Continued collaborative projects with recreational groups such as the Nanaimo Disc Golf, Sand Volleyball, and Nanaimo Mountain Biking Clubs.
- Continued collaboration with the 7 Potatoes and community partners to create heritage sites and interpretive materials that recognize past history and Japanese Canadian community in Nanaimo.
- Meeting neighborhood needs as they evolve for local level amenities such as playgrounds, seating and food gardens.

Civic Facilities

- Add additional CCTV cameras in the Harbourfront and Port of Nanaimo Centre Parkades as well as the Bastion Street Parkade.
- Upgrade Port of Nanaimo Centre Parkade and Harbourfront Parkade fire alarm panels.
- Complete SARC / City Hall Interior painting (over three years).
- Provide required replacement of assets in civic facilities such as replacing walk-in coolers at the VICC commercial kitchen, the roof on Miners Cottage, and the domestic hot water tank at the RCMP facility.
- Continue to work with stakeholders in civic facilities to create relationships and ensure facility maintenance is kept at a high standard.

Recreation Facilities

- Install phase 1 of the NAC water feature.
- Install variable feed drive system at Beban Pool.



- Continue to work with Asset Management Team to replace HVAC mechanical at the NAC. Work with Aquatic staff to ensure minimal disruption to service.
- Work on further implementation of Beban Park Master Plan. Replace sound systems at Bowen Park, Beban Park and Beban Pool.
- Work with Asset Management to begin repairs to Sarnafil roof at Frank Crane Arena.
- Complete NAC lobby renovations and renovate café into more functional space.
- Advance NAC play structure renewal project.
- Follow the NAC fitness equipment replacement plan and replace the ARC trainer, treadmill, hip abduction machine, Scifit upper body exerciser and seated leg curl in 2026.

2026 KEY INITIATIVES

Strategic Priority: Implementing City Plan

IAP Priority Action #1 – Retrofit City facilities in order to increase efficiency and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

IAP Priority Action #1 – Develop a consumption-based emissions inventory for the City and use it to customize an ecological and carbon footprint calculator that allow Nanaimo residents to measure the impact of their lifestyle choices.

IAP Priority Action #1 – Addition of new chemical systems at the aquatic facilities as well as changes to power consumption to create a safe facility that is energy efficient.

IAP Priority Action #17 – Implementing actions in the Buttertubs and West Marsh Plains through ongoing discussions with partners, invasive plant removal projects, improved communication, and shared initiatives.

IAP Priority Action #34 – Secure bike racks/lockers are available at City recreation facilities.

IAP Priority Action #38 – Secure bicycle rack-parking and/or lockers are available at City recreation facilities. As well, PRC works collaboratively with EVO bikes to facilitate movable end of trip parking at major events in destination parks.

IAP Priority Action #39 – E&N Trail Improvements - Illuminate the E&N Trail starting with Northfield Road heading north.

IAP Priority Action #45 – Completing a accessible wayfinding signage update for Westwood Lake Park that can be used as a template for other sites, and to showcase accessibility options and conditions.

IAP Priority Action #48 – Lotus Pinnatus Park - Nature Trails | Ongoing work to reduce impacts from informal trail activities in Lotus Pinnatus Park, completed fencing, signage and trail upgrades.

IAP Priority Action #78 –PRC staff support equitable access to City recreational programs and facilities through programs such as LEAP and Health Hub, Lions free swim sessions in partnership with the Lions Club and through offering access to free recreation opportunities during the year such as on Family Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Canada Day.

IAP Priority Action #81 – PRC management and staff are committed to the development, design and future programming of the South End Community Centre. Land Assembly complete and location announcement made in July 2025.

IAP Priority Action #87 – Beban Park | PRC staff will engage community partners to develop additional agricultural and food production through the development of the Beban Learning Gardens.

IAP Priority Action #94 – Aquatics management aim to maintain and advance current services through ongoing hiring to increase casual lifeguard/instructor staffing numbers. Maximizing resources and Incorporating efficiencies where possible to accelerate the recruitment process.

IAP Priority Action #95 – Beban Park Master Plan | PRC staff attend the Beban Park Master Plan working group meetings when they occur. Parks staff continued working toward the phased implementation of the Beban Park Master Plan and the Beban Park Facility Plan, with updated site plans for the central development area, user group meetings, and new facility projects including new trails, cricket pitch, upgraded bike facilities and pickle ball courts.

IAP Priority Action #96 – Aquatics staff facilitate and prioritize communication with the community, user groups and event organizers to host events at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, which align with the actions in the Sport Tourism Strategy.

IAP Priority Action #97 – PRC Community Recreation focus on needs of underserved demographic, ages 10 – 17 yrs., through supporting after school programming.

IAP Priority Action #99 – Conduct a research project to identify potential barriers, which may inhibit participation in community wellbeing programs and identify implementable actions to reduce barriers.

IAP Priority Action #100 – In collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nation, PRC Community Recreation to offer programming on site.

IAP Priority Action #104 – PRC recreational programming is offered at Hammond Bay School, in partnership with SD68.

IAP Priority Action #105 – PRC management and staff are committed to the development, design and future programming of the South End Community Centre.

IAP Priority Action #106 – Loudon Activity Centre & Boathouse – Building Stage | Proceed with the construction of a Loudon Activity Centre & Boathouse and associated park improvements to improve amenities for users. Work to be in collaboration with community and stakeholders to ensure renovation to the park meet the needs of all users.

IAP Priority Action #109 – Striving for corporate excellence and engaging with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by engaging and partnering with Snuneymuxw First Nation on recognition events and by engaging with City staff and the community, both in City facilities and through media/social media, about the Calls to Action and the City's ongoing work to address them through City Plan policies, Integrated Action Plan priorities and staff learning and engagement.

IAP Priority Action #116 – 116 Te'tuxwtun – Fifth Street Properties Project | Continued working partnership with the Snuneymuxw First Nation, NLPs, and BC Housing to jointly plan and develop the Fifth Street Properties to create an integrated community site providing housing, education, and recreation opportunities as supported by the joint MOU.

IAP Priority Action #116 – Continue to hold an Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness to meet the Accessible British Columbia Act.

IAP Priority Action #117 – Implement Phase 2 of the Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) program review and take steps to build partnerships within the community for administering the LEAP program.

IAP Priority Action #117 – Offer the Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) program to support citizens in financial need to access culture community programs and services.

IAP Priority Action #118 – Supported the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) as required by the Accessibility BC Act through development of an annual workplan with input from all City departments.

IAP Priority Action #119 – Culture and Event staff implementing recommendations from ACAI committee such as a focus on accessibility and inclusivity during Luminous Paths event (increased and controlled access to accessible parking/ drop-off, multiple weeks to engage with art outside of festival setting, online interactive platform, etc.); prioritizing public art projects and opportunities that engage multiple senses; offering multiple platforms for engagement with public art programming to increase engagement and accessibility (such as an interactive online map for Luminous Paths, and interactive online tours of the permanent public art collection). As well, Facilities and Parks staff worked with ACAI and other organizations to identify ways to create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere in the city and facilities with key projects in the facility lobbies and park trailheads.

IAP Priority Action #120 – Culture staff will continue to explore and implement different platforms of engagement that improve access to public art programming and experiences with consideration for varied accessibility needs.

IAP Priority Action #121 – Continued assessments of an initial list of City-owned parks and facilities to identify those that would benefit from accessibility and gender diversity updates, and create improvement priorities.

IAP Priority Action #124 – Continued to install and improve accessible beach accesses and mobi-mats at popular beach locations such as Westwood Lake First Beach, Neck Point, Colliery Dam and Departure Bay. Other sites can be added in the future.

IAP Priority Action #129 – Accessibility audit of Nanaimo Aquatic Centre in progress.

IAP Priority Action #130 – Prepare a communication strategy that raises the awareness of the role culture plays through culture grants in supporting the production and delivery of arts and culture activity.

IAP Priority Action #131 – On-going collaboration with the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Poet Laureate programming, including poetry reading events and exhibiting youth poetry. Collaboration with cultural organizations such as the Nanaimo Art Gallery and the Port Theatre on programming related to the Luminous Paths event.

IAP Priority Action #132 – Culture and Event staff will work to include public art in and natural/ cultural interpretation as part of the ongoing upgrades to Beban Park.

IAP Priority Action #133 – Continue to partner with the Nanaimo Art Gallery Working Group in support of the business plan for a future new Nanaimo Art Gallery.

IAP Priority Action #134 – Culture and Events staff continue to work with the Nanaimo Performing Arts Guild and community cultural partners to explore options for cultural or black box space in the south end community centre.

IAP Priority Action #135 – The Coordinator of Cultural Services will look for opportunities to integrate public art into the stadium District as development continues and in complement to ongoing facility upgrades.

IAP Priority Action #137 – Diversify community recreation and culture programming by offering programs outside of our core facilities such as school gyms, parks and the VICC. This aligns with City Plan urban nodes/ neighborhood pockets. VICC spaces including Piper's Lagoon Lobby and Shaw Lobby have been used for cultural programming including ongoing Poet Laureate series, 'Poetry in the Harbour'.

IAP Priority Action #140 – Working with the Japanese Heritage Society (7 Potatoes) and partners to design and create a Japanese History interpretive landscape and signage feature in a public space in Maffeo Sutton Park.

IAP Priority Action #144 – Two new Temporary Public Art projects will be selected and installed in 2026, following adjudication and selection by panel of City staff and members of the Art in Public Spaces Working Group.

IAP Priority Action #149 – Integration of murals as public art feature at the Harewood Artificial Turf Fields. Murals are located on one end of each new turf field and reflect feedback gathered from various user groups, as well as community and neighbourhood members.

IAP Priority Action #151 – Staff will continue to support Downtown Event Revitalization Grant funding process for the 2026 intake.

IAP Priority Action #152 – PRC Manager of Sport and Arenas works with Tourism Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Hospitality Association as a member of the Sport Tourism Committee. As well, Culture and Event staff will continue partnership to attract shoulder-season and off-season events and gatherings as opportunities come available.

IAP Priority Action #154 – As a member of the Sport Tourism Committee, the PRC Manager of Sport and Arenas works collaboratively with stakeholders to implement Sport Tourism Strategy options which include focusing on Indigenous sport, all things cycling, paddling, individual/small sport disciplines, adaptive sport, and sport business.

IAP Priority Action #160 – Harewood Centennial Park Improvements | Continued implementation of the Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan including conversion of Sherry Fields to artificial turf, completion of the mountain bike skills park with beginner features, and increased partnerships to restore the riparian area along Chase River through planting projects

IAP Priority Action #163 – Neck Point Park Improvements | Implemented some outstanding actions from the Neck Point Master Plan including: invasive plant removal, restoration, create accessible beach access at Finn Beach and additional amenities for scuba dive use. Future circulation, parking and signage improvements is also underway.

IAP Priority Action #164 – Stadium District | Completed several construction initiatives and continued planning for the development of the Stadium District, as a primary area for sporting and outdoor event development.

IAP Priority Action #171 – Maffeo Sutton Park Waterfront Improvements | Hired design team and began program development and conceptual design for washroom upgrades to support events and improve accessibility and safe park spaces.

IAP Priority Action #188 – PRC staff are represented on the Tourism Nanaimo Meetings and Events Advisory committee.

IAP Priority Action #191 – Maffeo Sutton Park Washroom Upgrades | Initiated conceptual design and development of upgraded and accessible washroom facilities.

IAP Priority Action #192 – Completed several construction initiatives and continued planning for the development of the Stadium District, as a primary area for sporting and outdoor event development.

Strategic Priority: Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges

Contribute to upstream solutions for social, health and public safety challenges by administering Culture and Downtown Event Revitalization Fund grants and Program Development grant.

Contribute to upstream solutions by bringing art into public spaces and by producing events like Concerts in the Park to build a sense of community in the core.

Contribute to upstream solutions for public social and health through the provision of free swim sessions in partnership with the Lions Club. Support equitable access including free swimming during the year such as Family Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Canada Day.

Work collaboratively with Active Transportation staff and neighbourhood associations to develop and install decorative asphalt art in select intersections, promoting safety, beautifying public space, and bring communities together.

Continue to provide and maintain community parks and trails that promote both physical and mental health and are safe for diverse user groups.

Parks crews will continue to work on public area sanitation, safety and wellness, maintaining downtown open spaces, streets and parks for varied user groups.

In observance of public safety concerns, to deter vandalism and support effective incidence response, Civic Facilities aims to introduce CCTV services to the Bastion Street Parkade, add additional CCTV cameras at the Harbour Front and Port of Nanaimo Centre Parkades, and complete CCTV the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre CCTV project.

Prioritize community health and safety by providing and maintaining facilities and open spaces that can serve as emergency service centres and offer heating and cooling locations around the city.

Highlighting health and public safety by offering an Ammonia Awareness course for all staff working in and around the City's arenas to educate them on safety protocols and responses as required.

Strategic Priority: Maintaining and Growing Current Services

Continue development of the South End Community Centre. Staff moving forward with communications plan and coordination of the Capital Development plan.

The Culture and Events team will administer the 2026 Culture Operating, Culture Project and Downtown Event Revitalization Fund grant streams to support vibrant, varied organizations, projects and events in the City.

Continue to collaborate with the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society to grow and improve the annual Newcomers' Event.

The Culture and Events team will continue to grow the Concerts in the Park summer concert series to support artists, encourage wellness and showcase City parks throughout the city.

Through the Downtown Event Revitalization Fund, support the development and delivery of new events.

Culture and Events staff, in collaboration with other City departments, continue participation in and support for the Nanaimo Art Gallery Working Group.

Continue to support the Nanaimo Performing Arts Guild to maintain the OV Arts Centre and oversee administrative and operational matters for the facility.

Continue to work with the Vancouver Island Military Museum to realign the operating model and establish a co-management agreement.

Maintain and grow current Aquatic services through staffing, training and equipping lifeguard/instructors at Westwood Lake in July and August as a safe/supervised and accessible (free) swimming area for families.

Commit to maintain and further grow Aquatic services through ongoing hiring to increase casual lifeguard/instructor staffing numbers, maximizing resources and incorporating efficiencies where possible to accelerate the recruitment process.

Work with Nanaimo District Lacrosse Association to ensure they could successfully bid for the event, book venue space and assist with logistical requirements in City of Nanaimo Arenas.

Execution of up to date and improved contracts for maintenance of Parks in conjunction with the business community, user groups and community groups.

Parks and Civic Facilities will implement park asset condition assessments, repair and maintenance programs.

Parks and Civic Facilities seeks expansion of services related to the management and stewardship of Natural Areas.

Integration and use of Corporate Asset Management System (CAMS) software to map, track and manage assets and infrastructure within parks and facilities.

Continue to support asset management, assessments, and data collection for the implementation of the ongoing transition to a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS).

Promote Civic Facilities and Custodial staff training in various areas of operations to ensure facilities are maintained and operated safely and efficiently.

The PRC Civic Facilities team upholds a commitment to upgrade and replace mechanical equipment in facilities as determined by the City's lifecycle policy. This ensures the longevity of the various systems and mitigates unplanned downtime.

Strategic Priority: Capital Projects

Culture and Event staff support the planning for key capital projects by advising on opportunities for public art integration and opportunities to ensure event readiness.

The Culture Coordinator will oversee the call to artists, selection and installation of 2026 Temporary Public Art.

Explore options for the inclusion of recreational, cultural and community spaces within a future South End Community Centre.

Parks and Trails upgrades:

- Maffeo Sutton Park: washroom
- Working with 7 Potatoes on the Beban Park Complex: outdoor performance space and the Japanese Canadian Memorial Garden
- Beban Tennis Courts: asphalt resurfacing
- Brechin Dock: phase 2 - wooden dock replacement
- Rotary Bowl: pole vault and high jump relocation - surfacing work
- Laminated root rot remediation
- Barney Moriez playground improvements
- Bleacher and bench relocation
- Serauxmen Fields outfield fencing

Civic and Recreation Facilities upgrades:

- Upgrade Port of Nanaimo Centre Parkade Fire Alarm Panel
- Upgrade Harbour Front Parkade Fire Alarm Panel
- Complete SARC/City Hall Interior Painting(Over 3 years
- Replace Walk-in Coolers at the VICC Commercial Kitchen
- Replace roof on Miners Cottage
- Replace Domestic Hot Water Tank at the RCMP Facility
- Phase 1 of the water feature project at the NAC
- HVAC upgrade at the NAC
- Kin Pool boiler replacement
- Beban Pool Sound system upgrade
- Complete NAC Lobby upgrades
- Convert NAC concession into much needed office space
- Convert change rooms at the Bowen complex into much needed office space

Strategic Priority: Communicating with the Community

The Culture Coordinator engages with the Art in Public Spaces Working Group to ensure that decision-making around art in public spaces happens with community guidance and feedback.

The Special Events Coordinator will host pre and post-event meetings with groups organizing events at Maffeo Sutton Park to ensure that event organizers are set up for success.

Continue to support the Nanaimo Performing Arts Guild to act as the new long-term operating structure of the Old Victoria Arts Centre at 25 Victoria Rd.

Culture will host information sessions with interested organizations on grant criteria and application process for Culture Operating and Project Grants and the Downtown Event Revitalization Fund.

Culture will facilitate public engagement opportunities and communicate with neighbourhood associations in the ongoing development and implementation of public art programming and projects in urban nodes/ neighbourhood pockets.

Grow and improve the annual Newcomers' Welcome Event at the VICC.

Implement a communications strategy that raises the awareness of the role Culture plays, through culture grants, in supporting the production and delivery of arts and culture activity in the City.

Facilitate and prioritise communication with the community, user groups and event organizers to host events at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, which align with the actions in the Sport Tourism Strategy.

Work with Tourism Nanaimo and the Sport Tourism Committee to identify potential bid opportunities, evaluate grant submissions, and identify areas of strength and opportunity within the City to improve the City's position as a sport-hosting destination.

Listen to and meet park users' needs and concerns, providing effective means of public feedback and efficient, prompt and professional response.

Explore ways to improve and deliver external messaging in a timely manner regarding changes or interruptions to services and park improvements.

Promote Programs and volunteer opportunities in parks such as Partners in Parks and Volunteers in Parks Programs, the Parks Ambassador program and volunteer work parties.

Work collaboratively with user groups or stakeholders to develop and carry out various projects.

Governance and Corporate Excellence

Striving for corporate excellence and engaging with the calls to action on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is achieved through free participation opportunities, acquiring orange uniforms for lifeguard/instructor staff, and providing copies of Calls to Action in our lobby.

Continue to implement ACAI recommendations in efforts to make public art programming, and cultural events and initiatives more accessible and inclusive.

Implement governance practices that provide transparent and collaborative decision-making relating to Parks and socially significant spaces.

Commitment to supporting the collection of new Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) data for interdepartmental benefits.

Improve interdepartmental communication, seeking to promote efficiencies in processes that affect the public, resulting in prompt and appropriate response to concerns or complaints received.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Draft Budget	2027 Draft Budget	2028 Draft Budget	2029 Draft Budget	2030 Draft Budget
Revenues						
Aquatic Operations	\$ 2,898,794	\$ 2,742,281	\$ 2,977,515	\$ 3,007,290	\$ 3,037,364	\$ 3,067,739
Arena Operations	1,876,250	1,952,900	1,972,429	1,992,153	2,012,074	2,032,194
Civic Properties	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Community Development	1,383,310	1,390,000	1,390,000	1,390,000	1,390,000	1,390,000
Culture & Events	21,000	22,600	22,826	23,054	23,284	23,517
Facilities Planning & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parks & Facilities Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parks Operations	679,794	758,794	789,328	797,222	805,195	813,246
Parks, Recreation and Culture Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation & Culture Administration	15,000	13,000	13,130	13,261	13,394	13,528
Recreation Operations	3,131,613	3,343,944	3,377,387	3,411,158	3,445,269	3,479,720
Annual Operating Revenues	\$ 10,029,761	\$ 10,247,519	\$ 10,566,615	\$ 10,658,138	\$ 10,750,580	\$ 10,843,944
Expenditures						
Aquatic Operations	\$ 7,589,678	\$ 7,333,038	\$ 7,421,455	\$ 7,441,966	\$ 7,497,989	\$ 7,531,049
Arena Operations	3,041,776	3,128,944	3,145,147	3,164,900	3,185,527	3,212,107
Civic Properties	31,957	37,205	37,803	38,384	39,034	39,666
Community Development	54,500	54,500	54,500	54,500	54,500	54,500
Culture & Events	3,184,076	3,264,079	3,344,663	3,395,449	3,451,428	3,499,791
Facilities Planning & Maintenance	1,369,783	1,188,315	1,223,506	1,203,549	1,241,619	1,224,618
Parks & Facilities Administration	109,858	109,877	110,060	109,812	110,298	110,439
Parks Operations	11,147,305	11,544,495	11,679,570	11,781,089	11,931,126	12,063,368
Parks, Recreation and Culture Administration	582,283	578,583	584,166	590,151	591,153	593,726
Recreation & Culture Administration	220,711	221,358	223,672	225,661	228,396	230,797
Recreation Operations	6,964,832	7,296,069	7,349,810	7,375,082	7,447,714	7,492,267
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$ 34,296,759	\$ 34,756,463	\$ 35,174,352	\$ 35,380,543	\$ 35,778,784	\$ 36,052,328
Net Annual Operating Expenditures	\$ 24,266,998	\$ 24,508,944	\$ 24,607,737	\$ 24,722,405	\$ 25,028,204	\$ 25,208,384
Staffing (FTEs) - Budgeted	145.7	150.9	150.9	150.9	150.9	150.9

The CUPE contract is set to expire on December 31, 2025, a contingency for wage increases has been included in the Financial Plan under Corporate Services.