

FOR: COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING DATE: June 22, 2026
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: **NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION PRIORITY REQUESTS 2026**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present the Neighbourhood Association Priority Requests for 2026.

Recommendation

That Council receive the 2026 Neighbourhood Association Priority Requests as outlined in Attachment A of the Staff Report titled “Neighbourhood Association Priority Requests 2026”, dated 2026-JUN-22.

BACKGROUND

The fourth annual neighbourhood association engagement event was held on 2026-APR-29. The City of Nanaimo has 16 recognized neighbourhood associations; representatives from 14 associations attended the event. “City Plan Bylaw 2022 No. 6600” ([City Plan](#) – Official Community Plan [OCP]) supports engagement with neighbourhood associations, and policy E1.2.1 encourages Council to host an annual engagement opportunity to hear the priorities of neighbourhoods. The City’s [Neighbourhood Association Supports Policy](#) also states that Council will host an annual engagement opportunity with recognized neighbourhood associations.

DISCUSSION

At the 2026-APR-29 event, the neighbourhood associations had an opportunity to discuss their requested priorities with Council members and Staff. Staff facilitators recorded the updated 2026 priority requests. After the event, the recorded requests were sent to the neighbourhood associations for verification and refining of the wording.

Attachment A contains the finalized 2026 priority requests for Council consideration based on responses received from neighbourhood associations.

ALIGNMENT WITH CITY PLAN

The report is aligned with the following City Plan (OCP) goals:

- A Green Nanaimo: Resilient and Regenerative Ecosystems
- A Connected Nanaimo: Equitable Access and Mobility
- A Healthy Nanaimo: Community Wellbeing and Livability
- An Empowered Nanaimo: Reconciliation, Representation and Inclusion
- A Prosperous Nanaimo: Thriving and Resilient Economy
- Area & Neighbourhood Planning
 - E1.2 Neighbourhood Plans & Community Engagement: City Plan (OCP) Policy E1.2.1 notes Council will host an annual engagement opportunity to hear the collective concerns and priorities of neighbourhoods, and to share updates on City initiatives.

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The report is aligned with the following [Council's Strategic Framework](#) priorities:

- Implementing City Plan Action Plans and Key City Management Plans
 - [Integrated Action Plan](#) Priority 198 supports the implementation of the Neighbourhood Associations Support Policy, and notes Council will host an annual engagement opportunity.
- Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges
- Maintaining and Growing Current Services
- Capital Projects
- Communicating with the Community
- Governance and Corporate Excellence

NEXT STEPS

Similar to previous years, Staff will continue to review the requests identified by the neighbourhood associations for consideration of inclusion into the City's capital plans, budgets, and department workplans. Council can choose to elevate specific neighbourhood association requests into the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) Priority Action list, and into the City budget. Staff will regularly update the neighbourhood associations and provide a final progress report to neighbourhood associations in March 2027 to advise on the status and progress of each request.

OPTIONS

1. That Council receive the 2026 Neighbourhood Association Priority Requests as outlined in Attachment A of the Staff Report titled "Neighbourhood Association Priority Requests 2026", dated 2026-JUN-22.
 - The advantages of this option: Identifying neighbourhood association priorities is one way the City can understand and address the interests of neighbourhood residents.
 - The disadvantages of this option: The identified priorities will need to be reviewed by Staff, and requests could have budget implications.
 - Financial Implications: Council can choose to elevate specific neighbourhood association requests into the IAP Priority Action list, and into the City budget.
2. That Council provide alternate direction to Staff.

KEY MESSAGES

- City Plan (OCP) policy encourages engagement with neighbourhood associations, and Council hosting an annual engagement opportunity to hear the priorities of neighbourhoods
- The fourth annual neighbourhood association engagement event was held on 2026-APR-29, and 14 associations attended the event.
- It is recommended that Council receive the 2026 neighbourhood association priority requests for consideration of inclusion into the City's capital plans, budgets, and department workplans.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: 2026 Neighbourhood Association Priority Request

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ATTACHMENT A

2026 NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION PRIORITY REQUESTS (2026-JUN-22)

The requests in the table below were identified by recognized neighbourhood associations at the 2026-APR-29 engagement event.

NORTH SLOPE DISTRICT	
Dover Community Association (DCA)	
1	Secure a park with playground facilities in the area bounded by Hammond Bay Road, Uplands Drive, Dover Road, and Applecross Road.
2	Complete a City traffic assessment of the intersection at Dover Road and Uplands Drive/Blueback Road.
3	Set up a meeting with the City's Transportation Department to review traffic priorities in the DCA area, including the DCA's long-term traffic priorities.
Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association (RPNA)	
1	Explore adding raised crosswalks at Williamson Road and Vista View Crescent.
2	Establish funding to complete the construction of the Walley Creek trail from Fillinger Road to McGuffie Road once City Staff successfully acquire lands to extend the existing trail.
3	Identify opportunities to acquire additional park land within the neighbourhood, including opportunities for improved waterfront access.
Linley Valley-Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Association (LVSP)	
1	<p>The Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project represents a unique opportunity to correct lack of investment in pedestrian, cyclist, and transit user infrastructure on LVSPNA's over 3.2km of Hammond Bay Road frontage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a minimum, provide a paved standard-width pedestrian area along the south-bound lane of Hammond Bay Road, between Prince John Way and Chinook Road. • Provide a pedestrian link between key neighbourhood entries (Stephenson Point Road, Planta Road) and the pedestrian infrastructure by means of a crosswalk installation at those entries and/or a paved standard-width pedestrian area along the north-bound lane of Hammond Bay Road to existing crosswalks. • Between Prince John Way and Nottingham-south, reinstate the sidewalk that is to be taken out for sewer installation and/or provide another treatment with the equivalent Crash Reduction Factor (CRF).
2	In 2023, LVSPNA and Council members identified that all other emergency measures were dependent on first addressing cell reception and in lieu of further investment by telecom's, the City continue to support finding a solution for emergency cell reception, by facilitating meetings between City Staff (Planning, Real Estate, Public Safety, Information Technology, and Emergency Services), Provincial MLA's, the Federal MP and representatives from Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) commencing by October 2026. More than 900 households, a major employment centre (Pacific Biological Station), region-wide visitors to popular parks (Linley, Planta and Piper's Lagoon, and Stephenson Point beach accesses) and offshore waters, and over 11,000 daily commuter trips are vulnerable to poor or no cell reception within LVSPNA's boundary. This vulnerability is exacerbated by the LVSPNA area lying well outside the recommended emergency response time, a single road connection (Hammond Bay Road) to the rest of the City, increasing urban/forest fire interface risk, delays in establishing an emergency services centre within or near LVSPNA, and compromised connectivity with the rest of the City during the 2026-2031 Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project

PLEASANT VALLEY / RUTHERFORD	
Rutherford Community Association (RCA)	
1	As part of the Zoning Bylaw update, review the regulations that will apply to lands with a Future Land Use Designation of Mixed-Use Corridor, Residential Corridor, Neighbourhood and Suburban Neighbourhood to address the neighbourhoods concerns regarding the level of density permitted and the need to better transition building form and height when adjacent to lower density neighbourhoods.
2	As part of the Tree Management Strategy Review and the Zoning Bylaw Update, strengthen the regulations pertaining to the protection of the urban tree canopy by minimizing the cash-in-lieu option and including impermeable surfaces such as surface parking within the maximum allowable lot coverage.
3	Work with the RCA to advocate to the Randerson Ridge Elementary School to consider taking part in the Active School Travel Program, to reduce vehicle traffic on Nelson Road.
NORTH TOWN DISTRICT	
Wellington Community Association/Wellington Action Committee (WAC)	
1	Prioritize dog-park fencing to be installed as soon as possible around the full boundary of the existing designated off-leash dog park area at Diver Lake Park, to improve the safety of the dogs and other users, and to avoid contact with beavers.
2	Install signage and environmental fencing at Diver Lake Park per the recommendations of the Basking and Nesting Study, to protect the existing nesting sites of the endangered Western Painted Turtles.
3	Establish a Beaver Management Plan to protect Diver Lake Park from flooding, damage to infrastructure, loss of trees, and other hazards and risks to public property and public safety.
DEPARTURE BAY MID-TOWN DISTRICT	
Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association (DBNA)	
1	Continue to explore and consult with DBNA regarding redesign and long-term future of the Kin Hut at Kinsmen Park.
2	Increase communication with DBNA regarding projects occurring within the area, such as the Regional District of Nanaimo Departure Bay Pump station to ensure that the DBNA can provide feedback wherever possible.
3	Increase monitoring of speeding vehicles and consider improvements to enhance pedestrian safety at the Loat Street and Departure Bay crosswalk, such as an illuminated speed sign and/or illuminated crosswalk.
Rock City Neighbourhood Association (RCNA)	
1	Expedite resurfacing and active transportation upgrades to Departure Bay Road and Rock City Road to tie in with the Country Club Transit Exchange project and previous works and permitted developments. Prioritize bike lanes, traffic calming measures, reduced speed limits, and other measures as recommended by Staff to make our neighbourhood streets safer and more welcoming to pedestrians. Consult with RCNA on the project, with potential for RCNA to coordinate/lead neighbourhood outreach on these upgrades.
2	Amend the Zoning Bylaw to allow for deer fencing with higher fence heights in the front yard setback for food production. Consult with RCNA about details to avoid permitting unintended fencing (e.g. preference for wire fencing not solid walls).

3	Consult with RCNA regarding updates to the Zoning Bylaw that advance City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined and align with RCNA values. These include downzoning parcels to align with Future Land Use Designations, restricting impermeable surface coverage, and considering the addition of city-owned multipurpose community spaces to large residential developments.
Brechin Hill Community Association (BHCA)	
1	Collaborate with BHCA to develop a welcoming gathering space featuring tables, benches, and natural vegetation for Barney Moriez Park improvements (Phase 2) as BHCA does not support the creation of an off-leash dog area.
2	Have Community Clean Team resources be directed toward removing waste and graffiti, along with an expansion of the Community Safety Officer program, to increase monitoring and presence in the area St. Georges Ravine Park to address concerns about safety and cleanliness.
3	Expand the seawall walkway extending from Downtown to Departure Bay to increase pedestrian connection and walkability to the Departure Bay ferry terminal area.
Newcastle Community Association (NCA)	
1	Work with the NCA and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to install gateway welcome banners within the Newcastle neighbourhood at the following locations: a. 1000 block of Stewart Avenue b. Terminal/Vancouver Avenue (Pearson Park) c. Stewart/Terminal Avenue at the Salish Bowl planters d. Terminal Avenue/St. George Avenue (by the Canco gas station)
2	Provide support and guidance to the NCA to install tree lights on boulevard trees within the 100 to 400 block of Vancouver Avenue for the annual Illuminate Festival in December. The NCA requests the City bring power to trees within the 300 block (tree lights within the 100, 200, and 400 blocks will be powered from residential homes in the area).
3	Meet with NCA prior to reinstalling the shelters following the scheduled removal of the bus shelters on the 300 and 400 blocks of Terminal Avenue.
DOWNTOWN UNIVERSITY DISTRICT	
Protection Island Neighbourhood Association (PINA)	
1	Support improvements to Protection Island's road maintenance program to address safety, air quality, and infrastructure resilience within existing budget allocations, including but not limited to the following: implement an as-needed maintenance approach that includes pothole repair and dust suppression at least twice per year, with the flexibility to respond to increased traffic and weather impacts (dry seasons extending) and to explore more effective suppressants or surface treatments in problem areas, and to hold a town hall style meeting for Protection Island residents to educate them on the topic of chip seal.
2	Work with the Protection Island community to plan, fund, and construct a new community dock to address capacity, accessibility, and long-term marine access needs, including but not limited to the following: assign a City Staff member to investigate and help determine the best dock design options as well as preparing cost estimates, including construction of an initial dock section that meets accessibility requirements for people with mobility challenges and can accommodate a potential future passenger ferry service should the current private operator cease operations.

3	Support changes to downtown transportation and parking policies to restore fair and predictable access for Protection Island residents and to improve connectivity between the island and the downtown core, including but not limited to the following: approve a dedicated level of access to downtown parking for Protection Island property owners in the form of guaranteed street parking and/or monthly parkade passes, consistent with historical access and reflecting Protection Islanders' unique circumstances and their reliance on downtown parking access as the primary connection to the rest of Nanaimo, keeping in mind that parking restrictions may impact negatively on property values.
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Nanaimo Old City Association (NOCA)

1	Promote community safety and well-being by focusing on the neighbourhood as a model for active transportation and Complete Streets. Additionally, focus on safety and improve visibility at these dangerous intersections by prohibiting parking for 2 spaces down from the following intersections: (a) Machleary and Campbell Streets; (b) Kennedy and Albert Streets; (c) 200-300 blocks of Machleary and Fitzwilliam Streets; (d) Lane between Kennedy and Machleary Streets and Fitzwilliam Street; and (e) Franklyn and Kennedy Streets.
2	Preserve the Old City's heritage and family-oriented neighbourhood. (a) Continue to enforce Heritage Design guidelines as densification happens and pre-planning takes place; and (b) Create signage welcoming people to a community with heritage values from the past and into the future.
3	Support sustainable improvements to the quality of life by continuing to increase the tree canopy to 33% of the land in the Old City with plantings on the boulevards and creating a pollinator pathways.

Harewood Neighbourhood Association (HNA)

1	Undertake traffic and pedestrian safety improvements at key intersections in the neighbourhood with priority at Howard Avenue and Fifth Street, and other high-risk intersections informed by City data (specifically along the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Street corridors and their intersections with Bruce, Howard, and Georgia Avenues).
2	Undertake community safety and visibility improvements along north side of Dundas Street between Georgia Avenue and Shepherd Street by pruning trees to remove blind spots to improve traffic visibility and safety when entering intersections and delimb trees along City streets where there are social disorder concerns (hidden camping spots).
3	Explore partnerships for social and cultural spaces to accommodate outdoor gatherings such as an amphitheater or stage and consider repurposing the old, uncovered lacrosse court (adjacent to the new covered lacrosse box) in Harewood Centennial Park, to a pickleball court.

SOUTH NANAIMO DISTRICT

South End Community Association (SECA)

1	Improve pedestrian experience by increasing the number of City collected trash cans along major pedestrian routes (Victoria, Nicol, Haliburton) and around parks and trails to ensure previous Clean Team gains are durable. Add street trees and planters where possible.
2	Create a welcoming gateway into downtown by having a conversation with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) about extending the City art banners along Nicol Street and installing a welcome sign.
3	Improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall experience at two five-way intersections (Victoria-Old Victoria-Needham and Esplanade-Crace-Irwin-Trestle), through conversations with City Staff/adjacent property owners and community-based initiatives (e.g. painted intersection mandalas).

Chase River Community Association (CRCA)	
1	Collaborate with the CRCA to ensure that the proposed South End Community Centre moves forward and that community priorities are incorporated into the design and planning of the community centre.
2	Work on line repainting for faded road lines and markings on Extension Road and nearby collector roads.
3	Explore gateway beautification of the entry to Chase River along the Island Highway (e.g. adding plantings and/or art projects along the chain link fence recently installed on the east side of the Highway).