

Welcome to the Spring & Summer Activity Guide!

Parks, Recreation and Culture is well known for creating memorable summers through the variety of camps we offer. Each camp is led by experienced, passionate and fun staff who really work hard to make each child feel welcome. We offer general camp experiences or others that have a specific theme. Even if you're not coming to camp this summer, we invite you to "Move with Us" by participating in a variety of fitness, sports, wellness, arts, crafts, cooking and more because an active community is a healthy and happy community. **Registration for aquatics programs begins on March 5; registration for all other programs begins on March 12.**



Stay Connected

- Check our website (recreation.nanaimo.ca) for updates on programs, special events or severe weather cancellations.
- "Like" us on Facebook ([cityofnanaimolocalgovernment](https://www.facebook.com/cityofnanaimolocalgovernment)).
- Follow us on X (Twitter) (@cityofnanaimo).
- Follow us on Instagram (@prc_nanaimo).
- Sign up to receive weekly E-News (MyCity Newsletter) through our website.
- Listen to local radio stations for updates that need immediate communication, including information on severe weather closures or cancellations (106.9 WOLF, 102.3 WAVE, 91.7 COAST).
- Please ensure we have up-to-date contact information for you, including your email in case we need to contact you.

SPRING & SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE

View online for the latest details!

Waitlists, inclement weather, instructor availability and other factors lead to program and schedule changes. Be sure to check our online Activity Guide for the latest information.



recreation.nanaimo.ca

(click on Activity Guide)



Join Us for Unforgettable SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURES!

- We host over 200 kids each day throughout the summer in our Daily Camps (see page 37-40). We also host an additional campers in our Westwood Lake Camps (see page 41). In addition, we have hundreds of participants in our contract camps.
- We hire approximately 60 staff each summer to lead our summer camps. These staff are highly qualified in a variety of areas ensuring a positive and memorable camp experience for each child.
- Each camp has it's own unique experience and focus, but campers generally participate in a variety of activities, including swimming, skating, a variety of sports and games, crafts, science, discovery of nature, team building, getting to know the community, making new friends and so much more! Each day is a new adventure.
- Kids get so much out of participating in camp, including discovering new activities, building confidence, creating new friendships, fostering relationships with positive role models and helping them unplug and enjoy hands-on activities.



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Spring & Summer Special Events

See recreation.nanaimo.ca for more details.

MARCH

- 4 (Tue) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
6:30-8 pm at Frank Crane Arena
- 21 (Fri) **Super Hero Swim**
12-2 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- 22-Apr 22 **Water to Earth Month**
see getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart
- 22 (Sat) **Earth Hour Skate**
1:15-2:45 pm at Frank Crane Arena
- 28 (Fri) **Super Hero Swim**
12-2 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre

APRIL

- 2 (Wed) **Starlight Skate**
6:30-8 pm at Frank Crane Arena
- 13 (Sun) **Earth Day Celebration**
Bowen Park
- 18 (Fri) **Good Friday Swim**
12-4 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- 20 (Sun) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
3-4:30 pm at Cliff McNabb Arena
- 21 (Mon) **Easter Monday Swim**
12-4 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre



WATER TO EARTH MONTH

March 22-April 22

Activities and events to celebrate both World Water Day
and Earth Day!

Check getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart for event details

MAY

- 5 (Mon) **Pro-D Day Swim**
12-2 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- 7 (Wed) **Starlight Skate**
6:30-8 pm at Frank Crane Arena
- 1-7 **Youth Week**
(see nanaimo.ca)
- 1-31 **Invasive Species Awareness Month**
(see nanaimo.ca)
- 11 (Sun) **Family Fishing Day**
10 am-2 pm at Colliery Dam Park
- 11 (Sun) **Concert in the Park**
1-2 pm at Colliery Dam Park
- 16 (Fri) **Wear Your Lifejacket to Work Day**
- 17-23 **Safe Boating Awareness Week**
Nanaimo Aquatic Centre/Beban Park Pool
- 18 (Sun) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
3-4:30 pm at Cliff McNabb Arena
- 19 (Mon) **Victoria Day Everyone Welcome Swim**
12-4 pm at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- 30 (Fri) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Bowen Park Amphitheatre

JUNE

- 1 (Sat) **Invasive Plant Drop Zone**
10 am-2 pm at Bowen Park (Wall St)
- 4 (Wed) **Starlight Skate**
6:30-8 pm Nanaimo Ice Centre
- 8 (Sat) **Oceans Day**
- 11 (Wed) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Kin Park (Departure Bay)
- 15 (Sun) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
3-4:30 pm at Cliff McNabb Arena
- 27 (Fri) **Concerts in the Park**
6-8:15 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park

JULY

- (Thu) **Aquatic Adventures (Thu in July)**
Thu 12-2 pm at Beban Park Pool (weekly)
- 1 (Tue) **Canada Day Celebrations**
11 am-3:30 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park
- 1 (Tue) **Canada Day Swim at Westwood Lake**
12-5:30 pm - lifeguards on duty
- 2 (Wed) **Starlight Skate**
6:30-8 pm at Nanaimo Ice Centre
- 9 (Wed) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Mansfield Park
- 18 (Fri) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Deverill Square Park
- 20 (Sun) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
3-4:30 pm at Nanaimo Ice Centre
- 20-26 **Nat. Drowning Prevention Week**
Westwood Lake/Beban Park Pool
- 25 (Fri) **World Drowning Prevention Day**
Westwood Lake/Beban Park Pool
- 30 (Wed) **Family Fun Night**
4:30-7:30 pm at Harewood Cent. Park
- 30 (Wed) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Harewood Cent. Park
- 31 (Thu) **Lifeguard Appreciation Day**
Westwood Lake/Nanaimo Aquatic Centre

AUGUST

- (Thu) **Aquatic Adventures (Thu in Aug)**
Thu 12-2 pm at Beban Park Pool (weekly)
- 4 (Mon) **BC Day Swim at Westwood Lake**
12-5:30 pm - lifeguards on duty
- 6 (Wed) **Starlight Skate**
6:30-8 pm at Nanaimo Ice Centre
- 6 (Wed) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Bowen Park Amphitheatre
- 12 (Tue) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at McGregor Park
- 17 (Sun) **Glow in the Dark Skate**
3-4:30 pm at Nanaimo Ice Centre
- 22 (Fri) **Concerts in the Park**
6-8:15 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park
- 22 (Fri) **Family Fun Night**
4:30-7:30 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park
- 27 (Wed) **Concert in the Park**
6-7 pm at Westwood Lake
- 27 (Wed) **End of Summer Splash**
5-7 pm at Westwood Lake Park

Concerts in the Park

Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy local talent against the backdrop of our beautiful park spaces.

free!

SUN, MAY 11 • 1-2 PM

COLLIERY DAM PARK - as part of Family Fishing Day

WED, JUL 30 • 6-7 PM

HAREWOOD CENT. PARK - as part of Family Fun Night

FRI, MAY 30 • 6-7 PM

BOWEN PARK AMPHITHEATRE

WED, AUG 6 • 6-7 PM

BOWEN PARK AMPHITHEATRE

WED, JUN 11 • 6-7 PM

KIN PARK (DEPARTURE BAY)

TUE, AUG 12 • 6-7 PM

MCGREGOR PARK

FRI, JUN 27 • 6-8:15 PM

MAFFEO SUTTON PARK - double feature in partnership with Food Truck Fridays

FRI, AUG 22 • 6-8:15 PM

MAFFEO SUTTON PARK - double feature in partnership with Food Truck Fridays and as part of Family Fun Night

WED, JUL 9 • 6-7 PM

MANSFIELD PARK

WED, AUG 27 • 6-7 PM

WESTWOOD LAKE PARK - as part of End of Summer Splash

FRI, JUL 18 • 6-7 PM

DEVERILL SQUARE PARK

See our website in April for performer details.





Summer

Events



CANADA DAY

Tuesday, July 1, 11 am-3:30 pm

Maffeo Sutton Park

CONCERTS in the PARK

Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy local talent against the backdrop of our beautiful park spaces. See our website in April for performer bios and music genre.

• Sun, May 11, 1-2 pm at Colliery Dam Park

• Fri, May 30, 6-7 pm at Bowen Park Amphitheatre

• Wed, Jun 11, 6-7 pm at Kin Park at Departure Bay

• Fri, Jun 27, 6-8:15 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park *(double feature)*

• Wed, Jul 9, 6-7 pm at Mansfield Park

• Fri, Jul 18, 6-7 pm at Deverill Square Park

• Wed, Jul 30, 6-7 pm at Harewood Centennial

• Wed, Aug 6, 6-7 pm at Bowen Amphitheatre

• Tue, August 12, 6-7 pm at McGregor Park

• Fri, Aug 22, 6-8:15 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park *(double feature)*

• Wed, August 27, 6-7 pm at Westwood Lake Park

WATER PARKS

May-September, 9 am-8 pm

• Departure Bay Kiwanis Park • Deverill Square Park

• Harewood Centennial Park • Mansfield Park

WESTWOOD LAKE

LIFEGUARDS

June 28-September 1, 12-5:30 pm

(including stat holidays; weather permitting)

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

July 2-August 29

Join us for some neighborhood fun! Play games, make crafts, or run around and play a sport with our exciting playground leaders. This is a FREE program for all to enjoy between the ages of 5-12 years old.

(Please sign in with leader and dress for the weather. Remember your sunscreen, snacks, water.)

Monday to Friday, 9:30 am-4 pm (not open on stat holidays)

• DEPARTURE BAY PARK

Roving Playground, 10 am-4 pm

Look for our banner and our enthusiastic leaders wearing their orange shirts.

• Jul 2-4, Neck Point Park

• Jul 7-11, Westwood Lake Park

• Jul 14-15, Hawthorne Park *(620 Serum Rise Way)*

• Jul 16-18, Colliery Dam Park

• Jul 21-25, Pipers Lagoon Park

• Jul 28-29, Forest Drive Gyro Park *(2035 Forest Dr)*

• Jul 30-Aug 1, Harewood Centennial *(10 am-4 pm; July 30, 1-8 pm)*

• Aug 5-8, Westwood Lake Park

• Aug 11-15, Groveland Gyro Park

• Aug 18-22, Maffeo Sutton Park *(10 am-4 pm; Aug 22, 1-8 pm)*

• Aug 25-27, Country Hills *(1899 White Blossom Way)*

• Aug 28-29, Mansfield Park *(10 am-4 pm)*

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS, 4:30-7:30 PM

• Wed, Jul 30 - HAREWOOD CENTENNIAL

• Fri, Aug 22 - MAFFEO SUTTON PARK

HOW TO BE GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS...

Join Partners in Parks

- Over 100 invasive plant removal, litter pick up and restoration workparties happened in 2024 (with over 1800 volunteers to date)
- Over 20 community and school groups have been involved in our Adopt-A-Park Program over the last 6 years
- 40 individuals are committed to being regular stewards in our parks and greenspaces as Volunteer Park Ambassadors



Join us! See our Partners in Parks website

Avoid Invasive Plants

Invasive plants can spread rapidly out-competing our native species for resources, water, nutrients and space. They negatively impact our ecosystem, diminishing biodiversity and may be harmful to infrastructure and potentially us. Here are some tips:

- Purchase and plant only non-invasive plants (see bcinvasives.ca)
- Join an invasive plant work party (see page 63)
- Never compost invasive plants in your backyard composter or place in your green bin (bag and dispose in your black bin)
- Never dump organic material (last year's hanging baskets) into your neighbourhood park or green space thinking it will simply compost and "disappear" (did you ever wonder where English Ivy in our parks came from?)
- Bring your invasive plants to our Drop Zone during Invasive Plant Removal in May
- If you see noxious invasive plants, such as Knotweed or Giant Hogweed, please report to our Parks Department



Protect Wildflowers

Camas flowers, along with other local wildflowers, are significant to the local ecology turning meadows into a beautiful rainbow of colours in the spring. Did you know their bulbs were traditionally harvested by the Coast Salish people as a source of carbohydrates and are often found growing under the branches of Garry Oak trees? Please remember to stay on the path while visiting our many parks such as Pipers Lagoon, Bowen, Camas and Neck Point Park - especially during wildflower season.



Encourage a Healthy Ecosystem

Vernal pools are low areas, often on rock or clay, which temporarily fill with rainwater in the spring. These pools are often part of the Garry Oak Ecosystem and contribute to biodiversity providing an ideal environment to a unique set of plants and animals. Many are considered endangered in Canada. When you see these pools out in nature, think twice before you drain them or stomp in them and look closer to see if you can discover the variety of plants and critters that might call this mini ecosystem home.



Contribute to Food Security

Reimagine Nanaimo (CityPlan) includes policies that promote Food Security and local food production. There are currently 7 community gardens and 3 food forests on City-owned property, plus many nut and fruit trees planted throughout our community's parks and greenspaces to be enjoyed. The City also owns 12 hectares of parkland in the Agricultural Land Reserve that can be used for future food production (located at East Wellington Park and in Harewood at 933 Park Ave.). See our website page on Community Gardens for more information.



Safeguard our Watershed

Reimagine Nanaimo (CityPlan) promotes green or environmental policies that protect healthy watersheds and storm water management. Nanaimo has many ponds, swales and raingardens that collect storm water to filter out pollutants and recharge the groundwater system rather than funneling it directly into underground pipes.



Many popular Nanaimo parks feature storm water ponds and raingardens, such as Hawthorne Park, Brookwood Park, Linley Point and the new parking lot at Westwood Lake Park. Our local marshes also play an important role in a healthy community helping to mitigate weather events and provide habitat value, such as Richards Marsh, Buttertubs Marsh, West Marsh, Molly's Marsh and Northfield Marsh. Protect our watershed by not dumping into waterways and by planting trees and vegetation that are native to this area.



LOTUS PINNATUS PARK

100 Lotus Pinnatus Dr.



This local park is home to globally endangered Garry oak meadows and Nanaimo's floral emblem, Lotus Pinnatus (*Hosackia pinnata*)

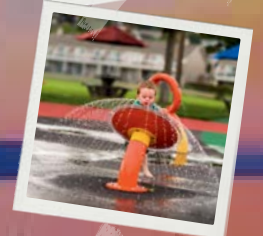
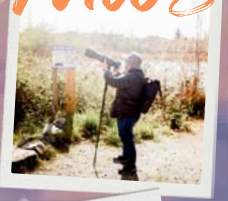
Check out this unique area. The flower blooms in June but is still beautiful throughout the summer (June to August).



Scan the QR code for more details.

EXPLORE *Your Parks & Trails*

- Play a game of Disc Golf at **Bowen Park**
- Ride your bike along the **E& N Trail** or **Parkway Trail**
- Take your dog to one of the 12 dog **off-leash parks**
- Play a game of pickleball at the new outdoor courts at **Beban Park**
- Check out the newly-renovated BMX Track, the Steve Smith Bike Park or the Mountain Bike Skills area at **Beban Park**
- Enjoy a picnic at **Pipers Lagoon Park** and see the temporary public art
- Learn about salmon habitat as you walk the trails in **Bowen Park**
- Discover the inclusive playground, public art, walking trails and spectacular views of the harbour at **Maffeo Sutton Park**
- Build a fort along the beach at **Departure Bay** or **Neck Point Park**
- Escape the heat this summer by visiting the waterparks at **Departure Bay**, **Harewood Centennial**, **Mansfield Park** or **Deverill Square Park**
- Swim at the lifeguarded beach at **Westwood Lake Park** this summer
- Hike the many trails in Linley Valley Park
- View the wildflowers blooming this spring in **Planta Park** or **Bowen Park**



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Culture & Events

CULTURE AWARDS

Tickets Now Available!

Our FREE annual Culture Awards gala event will take place at The Port Theatre on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Celebrate cultural excellence and achievement with us as we recognize this year's recipients. Secure your tickets through the Port Theatre (in person or online).



PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT

Robert Turriff's *The ReWilders*

Located in Colliery Dam Park, tucked into the greenery where invasive ivy grows, the two dynamic sculptures symbolize 'rewilding,' the practice of restoring natural habitats. Depicted in the act of removing invasive species and planting native plants, they represent the importance of land stewardship.

The ReWilders are imaginative, sci-fi inspired creatures designed by youth from the Nanaimo community in a collaborative public engagement workshop led by artist, Robert Turriff, as part of the City's Temporary Public Art Program.

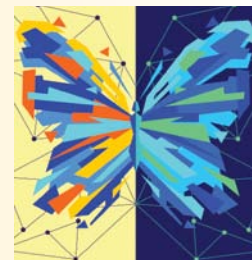


Additional information on the project can be found on the City's website.

2025 STREET BANNERS

The 2025 Street Banner Design Program sought proposals from artists focused on the theme 'Metamorphosis & Change' reflecting on positive instances of change and transformation. Nanaimo artist, Aiyem Samay-Sampson's, created a design representing patterns of transformation was selected. Aiyem's design reflects on processes and patterns of change. The organic, familiar shape of a butterfly is seen in abstract, fragmented form, embodying the duality of metamorphosis. Vibrant shapes come together in the artist's design symbolizing both the familiar and unfamiliar, the seamless and abrupt aspects of change that we experience in our communities, relationships and even within ourselves.

2025 street banners will be on display in early spring 2025. See our website to learn more.



Coming Soon

The Culture & Events team has many exciting projects and events coming this spring and summer, including ongoing cultural events, Concerts in the Park and the unveiling of more public art projects!



Follow us on [prc_nanaimo](#) on Instagram or subscribe to the "Love Arts Nanaimo" newsletter through our website at [nanaimo.ca](#)

NEW POET LAUREATE: Neil Surkan



Read, Reflect and Write with Neil Surkan

FREE | Drop-In | Harbourfront Library Meeting Room

Wednesdays, Mar 5, Apr 2, Jun 4 at 7 pm

An opportunity to develop skills as a poet and collaborate and learn from others.

Poetry in the Harbour with Neil & Guests

FREE | Drop-In | Vancouver Island Conference Centre,

Piper's Lagoon Lobby

Wednesdays, Mar 12 & Jun 11 at 7 pm

Join Poet Laureate, Neil Surkan, and special guests for an evening of poetry!

WAKE by Poet Laureate, Neil Surkan

To stay with a body through
the night, the track — widening — grown
fainter; also, the motion
of meshworks ever after. We've cut
the outboard to drift
into our berth, having left
the island called Protection
shrinking beyond the stern light,
and so the rollers that diverged
to separate shores behind the prop —
warping the stars (no : planes
and smallsats) spangling the water
like burrs — seem to have lost
connection to our passage .
But even here in the harbour,
hulls squeak against the dock's gumline;
the smooth surface is deeply
alive, the way hunches of hunches swell
in us before we

2025 CULTURE & EVENTS GRANTS

Did you know the City of Nanaimo supports over **40** arts and culture groups through our Grant program?

Culture & Events have three available grants:

- Culture Operating Grant
- Culture Project Grant
- Downtown Event Revitalization Fund

These grants are essential in supporting the activities of the professional and community-based arts and culture organizations who contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Nanaimo.

To learn more about our Grants and to see the organizations, programming and events being supported by this program, please visit our Grants page on our website.



Act Theatre in Maffeo Sutton Park



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