

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan



Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

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1. PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

1.1 Plan, Purpose and Goals

Harewood Centennial Park is a destination for many residents of the south end. The park is situated adjacent to John Barsby High School and its facilities.

In recent years, several groups have approached the City asking for improvements to this park including a covered area for lacrosse and other sports, as well as a youth skate park. In addition, residents have asked for aesthetic improvements to the Parks Operations Harewood Yard. Recent development in the Harewood area has also given community contributions toward improvements in this park equating to about \$60,000 and the School Board and City have received a \$10,000 Community Connections Grant.

The City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission initiated a park improvement process to create and review interim and long-term park improvement options.

The Harewood Centennial Park planning process is allowing Commission to explore what park improvements and recreational facilities are desired by the greater neighbourhood and park users. This park serves as a community park and strategizing for short and long-term facility upgrades to create a community gathering space for all ages will be a goal of all improvements. In addition, it is hoped that a community park improvement process will build relationships among the City, schools, Vancouver Island University, neighbourhood associations, community aid agencies, youth groups, and sports teams.

The purposes of the park improvement plan are to:

- Work with park user groups and residents to determine necessary and desired park improvements.
- Improve Harewood Centennial Park to meet the changing community recreational needs by updating facilities for safety, accessibility and general appearance.
- Increase maintenance and design standards to create a friendlier park and trail environment for all.
- To encourage more community and school use of this park for all ages.
- To create a comfortable and meaningful outdoor gathering and recreational space.
- To support and encourage community wellness and active living.
- To partner with community groups and agencies to create a park campus.



1.2 Plan Development Process

The City of Nanaimo led the planning process for this park with input from park stakeholders. The following section outlines the activities associated with the plan development process. All open houses were well advertised in the newspaper, in the park, on local radio and social media, through the community schools and Harewood Neighbourhood Associations, as well as mail-outs to over 1500 residents of the Harewood neighbourhood.

	Stage 1: Review Existing Conditions
January 2011	Prepare a background study of the park, including survey information, baseline mapping, current site conditions and issues analysis.
	Visit McLean Park in Langley, Gorge Community Centre, and precedent research on other youth parks in BC.
	Meet one-on-one with stakeholder groups to discuss park issues and improvement opportunities and listen to their ideas and develop park vision.
	Stage 2: Assess Priorities for Park Use and Improvements
April 2011	Hold open house #1 to obtain input into major park issues, recreational needs of the area and development of a park vision. About 100 people attended and gave comments.
	Public survey regarding park and improvement opportunities (April-May 2011).
May 2011	Met and surveyed students at John Barsby School (grades 8-11) regarding park and recreational needs (May 2011).
Summer 2011	Discuss park improvement opportunities and opportunities for school partnerships with John Barsby administration.
August 2011	Assessment of survey results.
	Stage 3: Plan Preparation
February 2012	Present update to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.
March 2011	Draft improvement plan based on feedback and shared visioning.
	Share concept(s) with stakeholder groups for feedback.
	Updated planning process reviewed by Commission and Council.
May 2012	Hosted open house #2 to review initial park vision and concept. Online and event survey also available for input and comment.
July 2012	Shared draft plan with Harewood Neighbourhood Association, School Board 68 facilities staff, John Barsby School administration and Community Schools program, and VIU Good Neighbours. Also in communication with City of Nanaimo Community Planning Department as they begin the Harewood Neighbourhood Plan.
August 2012	Present final improvement plan with budget to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for review and consideration. Then plan to be forwarded on to City Council.

1.3 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

The City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan was updated in 2005. This process surveyed residents about their park satisfaction and desires. The plan is a ten-year policy guide for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Many of the recommendations are consistent with the concept of an improvement plan process at the Harewood Centennial Park site.

This ten-year vision identified a need for the



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development of youth parks and youth-oriented indoor and outdoor activities (including smaller scale skate parks) distributed around the city. Tween facilities in playgrounds were also identified as a desire.

This ten-year vision also identifies the need for a South Nanaimo Community Centre. While Harewood Centennial Park is likely not the site for this, it could be a community gathering place.

In addition, the park has a creek running through it. The Master Plan advocates for public access to water and this creek could be better accessed and celebrated.



Lastly, the Master Plan recommends creating partnerships with outside agencies. Given Harewood Centennial Park's proximity to John Barsby High School and Vancouver Island University, relationship building with these agencies and smaller local groups makes sense.

1.4 Public Input

The Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan was prepared with public involvement to obtain insight into the needs, desires, preferences and values of the general public and identified stakeholders.

Stakeholder Meetings

Community stakeholder groups had the opportunity to provide input through interviews and questionnaires prior to the preparation of this plan. Meetings were ongoing throughout the process. The following summarizes the main issues and concerns expressed by each stakeholder group:

Stakeholder Group	Comments
SD 68 Board and Facilities staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supportive of project and community school grant.
The Harewood Neighbourhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would like to see a perimeter trail for walking (safe walking for all ages as well as athletic training).• Concerned about kids hanging out at night and during school hours in the park and geese on fields.• Appreciate existing shade trees and want more.• Would like washrooms to be made accessible.• Want crime prevention considered and more park lighting.• Skate park is a big focus for this group. Youth amenities and safe zones needed in south Nanaimo.• Interested in telling the story of Harewood in the park (mining and agricultural heritage).• Run the playground program/lunch in the summer and interested in keeping this going in the future.
World Café Focus group—held November 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking along Harewood Centennial is dangerous; walking along 7th is dangerous.• Trail around the park and connecting to Georgia Avenue.• Lots of crime under the bridge on Howard.• Add a concession to the park.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of youth programs in general to the Harewood area. • Add more affordable youth activities (soccer, tennis). • Have programmer in community school. • Harewood School is nucleus and great community centre location.
John Barsby Community High School staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keen to utilize new amenities for physical education. • Have a more stable population so more intentional combination of curriculum and amenities is possible.
John Barsby Community High School students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to increase park safety and crime prevention (including lights and sight lines). • Would like to facilitate walking and better park circulation. • Interested in breaking up the large park for better utilization of space. • Would like facilities for all ages. • Keen to see facilities and programming for youth (under 18) and a community gathering place that is covered (for all ages). • Would like to include public art, shade trees, and seating areas. • Interested in improving the field conditions (especially artificial turf) and possibly having an Olympic-sized field with seating. • Interested in concessions for food or mobile vendors in the park. • Interested in improving washroom facilities.
The Harewood Community Schools program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think big for longer-term vision and partnerships (school, VIU, City). • Long-term movement of community garden to community location. • Agreement about circulation routes need improvement and shared spaces and upgrades are necessary.
Sport Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanaimo District Timberman Lacrosse is very interested in participating in improvements - especially to multi-use hard surface space and a multi-use covered space. • Roller Hockey, roller derby and bike polo leagues have also expressed great interest in the multi-purpose covered space. • Soccer, field lacrosse, ball and high school football groups have expressed great interest in potential field improvements, potential artificial turf, and potential for a tournament facility campus.
Youth Groups such as Lifeline Harewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of activities to keep youth active and focused.
Vancouver Island University and Good Neighbours group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Dept. is interested in showcasing habitat of the Chase River. • VIU is interested in branching out into the Harewood community and having shared facilities and community services.
Boys and Girls Club of Nanaimo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very active in Chase River and Harewood and looking for program locations.
City Parks Operations Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the potential loss of storage space at Harewood Barn but excited about park improvement opportunities.
City Community Planning Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about potential loss of Harewood barn. Interested in telling stories about the development of Harewood in the park. • Hosting a Harewood Neighbourhood Plan beginning in 2012.
City Recreation Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very keen to continue playground programs and have drop-in safe locations for youth.

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First Public Open House and John Barsby Student Survey Input (Spring 2011)

The initial public open house and survey results have helped to form a clear vision for the park. Over 1500 written invitations were sent out to residents in the Harewood area, as well as signs at the park, notice through the neighbourhood association, Facebook, newspapers, and Community Schools program. Over 100 people attended and/or gave feedback through the online survey while 66 students from John Barsby participated in a separate input process. Both age brackets shared the same desire for a safe inter-generational park.

Key themes in both age categories were:

- Increasing park safety and crime prevention (including lights and sight lines).
- Facilitating walking and better park circulation.
- Breaking up the large park for better utilization of space.
- Having facilities for all ages.
- Improving facilities and programming for youth (under 18).
- Providing a community gathering place that is covered (for all ages).
- Including public art, shade trees, and seating areas.
- Improving the field conditions.

The adult population also mentioned issues with dog's off-leash on the field and considering an off-leash dog area. The youth population expressed a strong desire for a mobile vendor and improved washroom facilities.

This input will guide the Stage 3 site planning and review process and be integral to meeting the recreation and green space needs of all ages in the community.

Second Public Open House and Community Survey Input (May 2012)

A second public open house and survey was held to examine a draft concept plan and re-examine the park issues and constraints. Again, over 1500 written invitations were sent out to residents in the Harewood area as well as signs at the park, and notice through the neighborhood association, Facebook, newspapers, and Community Schools program. About 150 people attended and/or gave feedback through the online survey. In addition to re-expressing the previous themes, new ideas such as preserving the park knoll and weaving heritage stories into the park emerged. Park neighbours on Howard Ave. were concerned about maintaining park aesthetics against the road. Overall, the response was overwhelmingly supportive for the park improvement concept and everyone was eager to start implementation.

2. PARK CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

2.1 Harewood Community Background

In 1884, Samuel Roberts of the Vancouver Island Coal Mining and Land Company subdivided the area that is now known as Five Acres and Harewood into several parcels of land (mostly 5 acres or 2 hectares) for mining families. This was to ensure that families could produce food and be self-sufficient when mining was not doing well.

Over time, more and more development occurred and a Harewood Local Improvement Area was established. They oversaw the operations and administration of the community until 1975 when the improvement area was amalgamated into the City of Nanaimo.

Today, the Harewood community is gentrifying. Five-acre parcels are being subdivided into standard subdivisions and older homes are being renovated to keep pace with increasing housing markets.

Recent censuses found Harewood to have a young population. In 2001 and 2006, over 20% of the population was between 5-19 years. The census data shows higher than average percentages in Harewood than the rest of Nanaimo for children 0-4 years, 5-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-34 years, and 45-54 years. Conversely, the percentages are lower than the City's average for anyone over 55.



Above: View of the Western Coal Mine company farms in the Harewood Area. Mount Benson is visible in the background. (Date unknown).

Below: Harewood Valley circa 1900 with the Mottishaw property on the right and Joe Sutton's property on the left.



2.2 Site Features

Harewood Centennial Park is located at 740 Howard Ave. and is 15.7 acres (6.4 hectares) in size. It became a City of Nanaimo managed park in 1975. Some site features already existed and some have been built since.

Harewood Centennial Park includes the following recreational amenities:

- Four tennis courts (with lights)—the tennis court surfacing is in below average condition and the courts do not appear to be used frequently.
- Lacrosse box—The lacrosse box is a popular multi-sport facility, but is not easily accessible and is in poor condition.
- Spray park—the Harewood Neighbourhood Association worked with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to install the Harewood Community Mining Spray Park in 1999. This facility is well used June-September.



Existing spray park at Harewood Centennial Park



Aerial photo of the park taken in spring 2009

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- Playground—a playground catering to kids 2-12 years was installed in the park over the last twenty years. A climbing wall was also built to appeal to the older age bracket.
- Change rooms, washroom and storage—this building is open during the summer months and some weekends but not while the high school is in session. The building is not universally accessible.
- 2 lit sports fields (including 2 ball fields and 2 soccer fields)-The natural turf fields are booked frequently in the evenings.



Existing playground at Harewood Centennial Park.

In addition, the Parks Operations Department stores equipment on a portion of the parkland and inside a barn. This barn has been noted by several residents as an eyesore and others as a heritage icon. The barn was originally built in 1910 by the Dickinson family for the purposes of dairy farming. At one time, they are said to have produced much of the milk, cheese and butter for the Harewood Community. It is in poor repair today but does have some architectural features of the era.

There is also a section of the park that is natural. It is primarily treed with a tributary of the Chase River running through it. This section of the park is currently inaccessible, but could be a park feature and accessed and celebrated more. Occasionally youth get into this area through the fence and congregate and use it for mountain biking.



Harewood Centennial Sports Fields



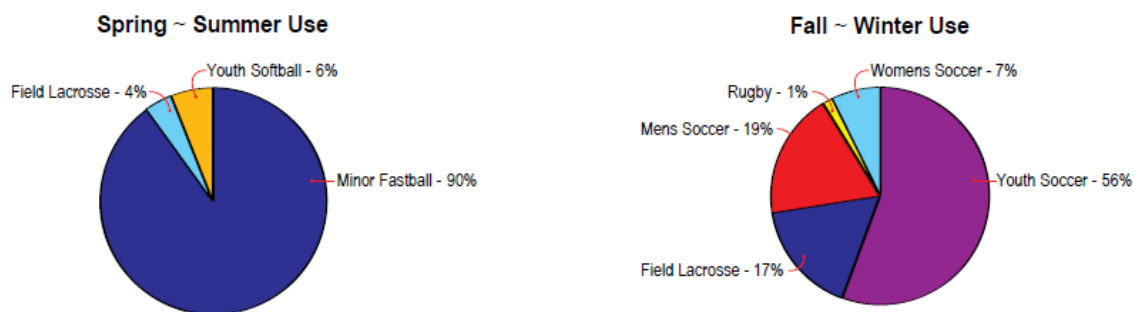
View of the Harewood Operations Yard (former Dickenson Barn)

2.3 Field Bookings

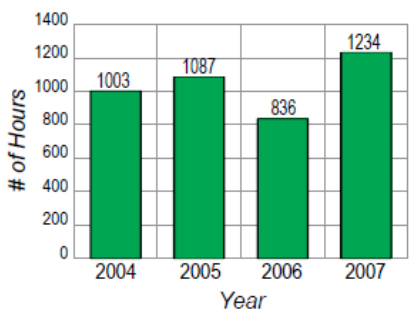
The sports fields at Harewood Centennial Park are frequently booked by a variety of user groups including the Nanaimo District Lacrosse Association, Nanaimo Raiders Field Lacrosse, Masters Soccer, Nanaimo Youth Soccer, Women's Rec Soccer, Nanaimo Rangers Soccer, Youth Soccer Academy, Nanaimo United Soccer, Nanaimo Wheat Sheaf Women's Soccer, Minor Fastball, and Ladies Rec Fastball.

The following graphs depict the booking trends in 2009. Soccer is the most common sport played on the field but ball and lacrosse also book it. The proximity of John Barsby, their physical education programs, and their award winning football team, may also support additional field space at a later date.

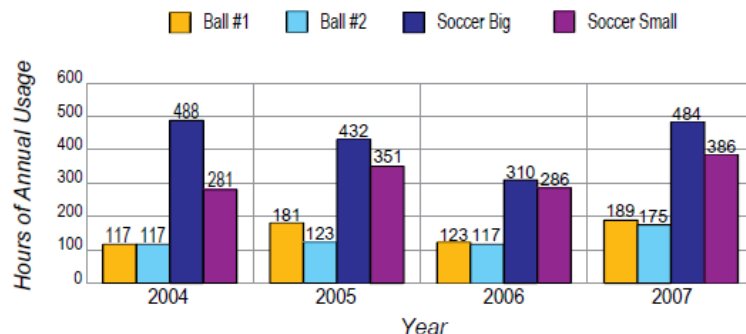
Harewood Centennial Sports Field
Field Bookings (2009)



Harewood Centennial Sports Field



Harewood Sports Field



2.4 Summer Program statistics

For a number of years, the City of Nanaimo has contracted out the administration of a summer playground program to the School District 68 Community Schools liaison and Harewood Neighbourhood Association. The playground program at Harewood Centennial is the busiest one in the City.

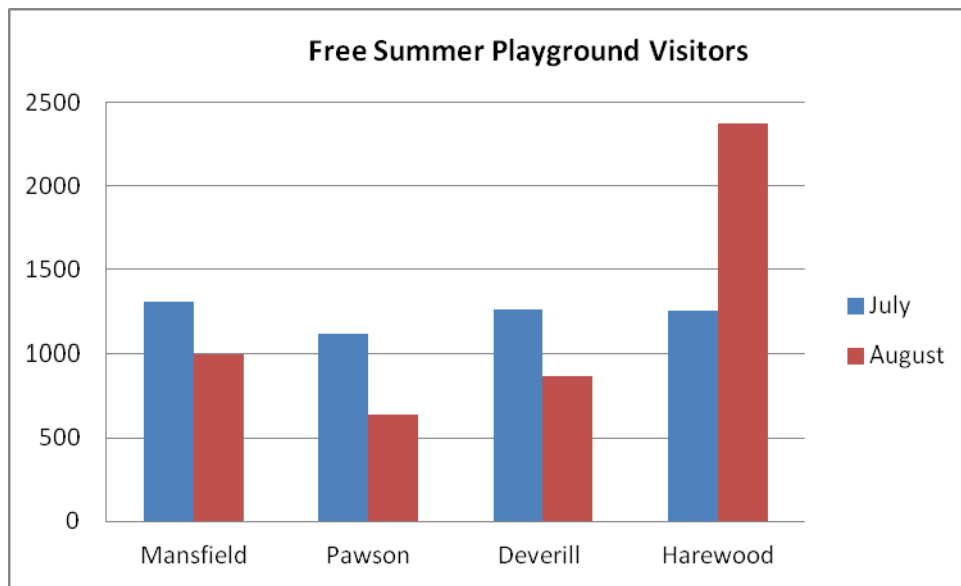
In 2011, the largest demographic at the park was ages 6 – 12 years and the lowest was the teenage group. The ratio of adults to children was low, due to numerous daycares, camps, and birthday parties using the park. Camp demographics shifted to a younger age group from 9 -12 to 6 – 10 years. In addition, camp numbers increased at lunch time, as many kids and teens knew lunches were available and many of them would just come to eat lunch (and sometimes breakfast).

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Many campers came because it is in walking distance from where they live and many of them requested that the camp went from 10 – 6 pm since many of their parents don't get home until then; these kids attended various elementary schools in Harewood. Campers also came from North Nanaimo, Quarterway, Brechin, Pauline Haarer, Chase River and Mountain View.

The chart below depicts the high numbers of visitors at the Harewood Centennial playground program in 2011.

	Visitors			
	Mansfield	Pawson	Deverill	Harewood
July	1304	1119	1261	1257
August	1003	639	872	2374



2012 figures are still coming in. So far, this has been the busiest July ever at Harewood Centennial Park and additional leaders are being brought in for the remainder of the summer.

2.5 Access and Parking

Parking primarily occurs in the lot off Howard as well as parallel to the park on 7th. The gravel parking lot offers good access to the playground and water park, however, the tennis courts and lacrosse box are not easily accessible by vehicle. Field users primarily park on 7th Street. This parking is quite haphazard and dangerous. Parking also limits circulation by pedestrians.

While the general topography of the park is quite flat, the lack of trails and sidewalks as well as L-shaped entrance gates make universal access to the park a challenge.

2.6 Circulation

Circulation routes through and around the park are quite weak. Sidewalks are limited and the only trails through the park are ones that users have created over grass. Mothers can often be seen pushing strollers across the grass sports field or between cars and around the park perimeter. The park is not universally accessible, and the lack of trails means there is no direction of users to different sections of the park (including the washrooms and water park).

2.7 Site Design and Overall Park Condition

Harewood Centennial Park has developed over the years as needs changed and money became available. No overall park vision has ever been established so development has happened in a fairly piecemeal manner. Placement of some facilities no longer makes sense (such as the washroom building); however, these amenities would be costly to move so improvements will be made within the constraints of existing amenities.

In general, the park has a very stark and outdated character. It is under-utilized and there are few linkages between the different site facilities and park features.

2.8 Maintenance

As a destination park with sports field and playground, Harewood Centennial Park receives regular maintenance attention by the Parks Operations Department. The lights and irrigation system are programmed by central control for energy and time efficiency.

2.9 Crime and Surveillance

No crime data specific to Harewood Centennial Park exists. However, many of the park amenities are quite hidden away and vandalism has been experienced.

Youth can often be seen skateboarding in the water park (not causing damage) and there have been complaints about youth congregating with and without alcohol near Georgia Ave. and along the stream in the park. In addition, neighbours directly across from the park have complained about car to car drug deals occurring in the gravel parking lot off Howard.

Youth have broken into the Parks Operations barn and compound (cut through the chainlink fence) and can cause difficulties in the washroom building when it is open during the school year. Because of these troubles, the bathrooms are locked while school is in session.

In general, the park does not give users the perception of safety. Improving sightlines, circulation, lighting, and increasing use would all contribute to an increased feeling of safety.

2.10 Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) Summary

SWOT analyzes are effective analytical techniques to support strategic decisions and action plan. The following summarizes the internal and external factors that, together with public input and observation, are informing the proposed park improvements.

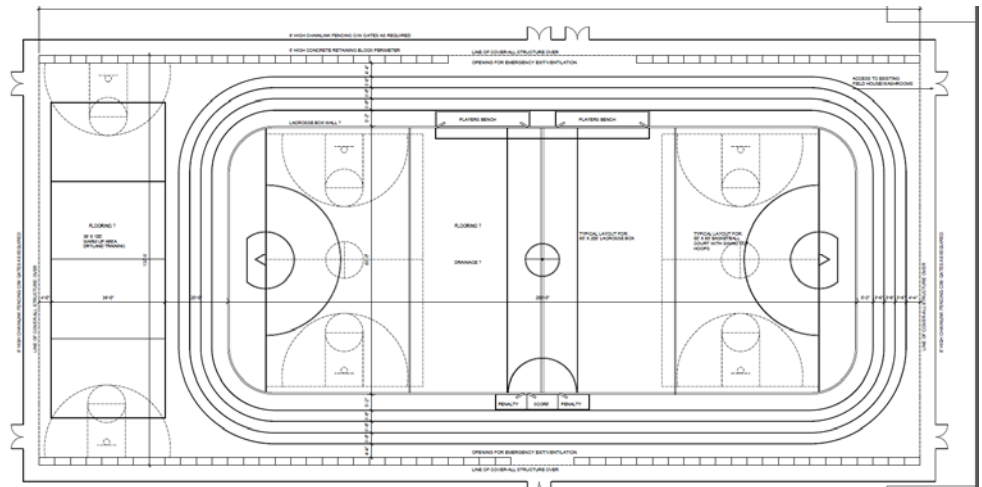
Strengths:

- Large park with central location.
- User and sport groups are keen to use and develop this site.
- Keen students, staff, agencies, and neighbourhood to see change.
- Strong summer playground program and lots of sport use.
- Relatively flat site that could provide universal access.
- Natural and developed features.

Weaknesses:

- Limited accessibility.
- Lack of circulation through and around the park.
- Piecemeal design without cohesion between amenities.
- Perception that it's not safe.

Tha SWOT Matrix	
Strength GOOD NOW Maintain, Build, Leverage	Weakness BAD NOW Remedy, Stop
Opportunity GOOD FUTURE Prioritise, Optimise	Threat BAD FUTURE Counter



The Nanaimo District Lacrosse Association has proposed the development of a multi-purpose covered space/community gathering place on the underutilized tennis courts. A facility such as this could be used by many sports and also serve as a gym and meeting space.



McLeod Park in Langley features a multi-purpose covered facility shared between the municipality and a local high school. These two pictures depict the exterior and interior of this space. The space is comfortable for sports and other activities.

Opportunities:

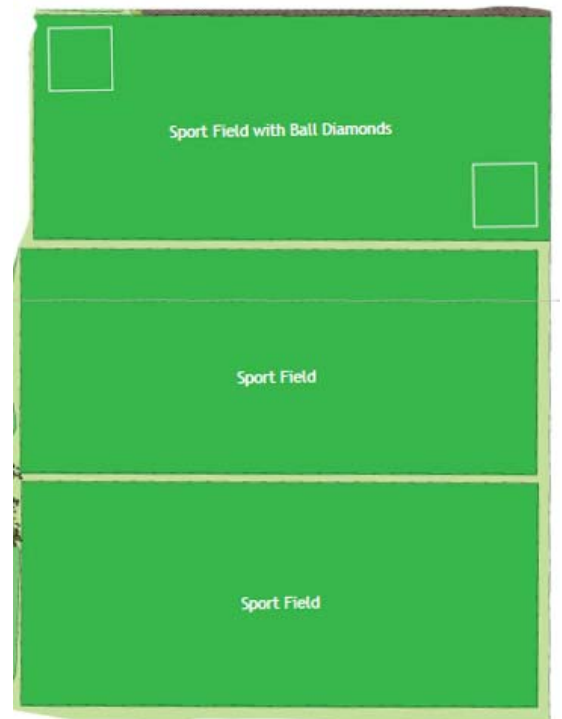
- Direct circulation via trails, sidewalk, park landmarks and signage.
- Perimeter walking trail with potential connections to school trail to increase activity in the park.
- Create hub for community gathering.
- Open up sightlines.
- Open up physical and visual access to the river and across the park.
- Strengthen partnerships and park use with John Barsby school, VIU, age groups, and neighbourhood.
- Create a sport and open space campus.
- Strengthen community through improvement process.
- Better organize parking, fields and storage facilities.
- Youth are motivated and interested in using the park and helping out. This is considered part of their school and home.

Threats:

- Crime trends.
- Lack of storage areas in other areas of the City to move existing storage.
- Funding and limited resources.



The graphic above shows the reorganization of the 2 existing sports fields could facilitate the development of an additional field. The graphic below shows an alternate layout to achieve the same 3 fields. Overall, reconfiguration allows the space to be better utilized for additional fields and the potential for tournament facilities.





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The concept plan will be implemented in a phased approach and concentrates on the highly desired development of improved athletic facilities and a youth park. It provides functional circulation routes for pedestrians and vehicles along with ample parking and supports the community's access to and enjoyment of the park. Development of the park concept, especially with partnerships with School District 68 and VIU, opens the door for a Harewood Centennial Park campus. The following summarizes the key elements of the design:

3.1 Athletic Facilities:

The redevelopment and reconfiguration of the existing sports fields provides an opportunity to add a field and act as a potential venue for large sporting events. These fields could be surfaced in natural or artificial turf and would be lit to allow for evening play. Increased use of the park could help to deter crime and increase recreational use of the park. It is hoped that these fields may be used jointly with John Barsby School and other partners.

The addition of a multi-purpose covered court and new lacrosse/multi-sport box will invite park users into the centre of the park to come and enjoy a diverse sports environment. This covered facility is similar to an unheated gymnasium, but is sized and lined for box lacrosse as well as other sports.

The covered space could be used and booked by multiple sports as well as community events. The uncovered lacrosse/multi-sport box could be booked or used by ad-hoc groups. Both spaces could be programmed, booked, and used for drop-in youth on an informal basis.

The concept also shows an arrival plaza for team gatherings (with lighting and site furnishings) which provides an alternative hard surface space for warm-ups, staging and spectators. Spectator seating mounds are built into the design to provide definition and function around the fields. Seating bleachers could also be added long term.

A fitness loop trail and outdoor exercise area are also depicted in the concept and could be used by sport teams and the general public.

3.2 Parking and Circulation:

The soft-surface fitness loop trail system around and through the park and school offers opportunities for casual recreational use, sports, and school programs. Given the lack of sidewalks and unsafe circulation on the park perimeter, it also improves circulation safety within the park. The loop system is integrated with hard surface inner park walkways. These walkways help to define movement patterns, break up the sections of the park, and provide universal accessibility.

Parking pockets are located throughout the park. These pockets help to disperse cars throughout the park and get users and gear close to their facilities. Opening up the park for vehicles also helps to add life to sections of the park that have historically



McLean Park's covered lacrosse facility in Langley.



Example of a soft surface walking trail.



Parking pockets at the Cowichan Sportplex in Duncan.

been inaccessible or problem locations. These vehicular circulation routes could be gated when the park is closed or there are no bookings. It is hoped that by providing parking pockets throughout the park, users will no longer park haphazardly along Bruce Ave.

3.3 Youth Park:

A desire for a South Nanaimo skateboard park has been expressed by youth of Nanaimo for quite some time. The skate park could be unique for Nanaimo and include an urban plaza skate experience with concrete furnishings, metal components and street lighting. The design of this skate park as shown also creates an amphitheatre that could be used for community functions.

A mountain bike skills park could also be developed adjacent to the skate park. To avoid conflicts and provide unique challenges, mountain bikers and skateboarders often enjoy having their own spaces. These complimentary uses create a “youth zone” within the park and help to blend into the natural stream area.

Plantings around the youth amenities would be punctuated to allow for good sightlines and the trail loop and road would allow physical and visual access by the entire neighbourhood.



Urban skate park created by Barkman concrete pre-fab pieces.



Urban skatepark created by Barkman concrete pre-fab pieces on a slope that creates some seating and amphitheatre opportunities.



Mountain bike skills park at Cecila Ravine Park in Victoria.

3.4 Amenities for Young Children

The playground is relocated adjacent to the existing water park. This allows for field expansion but also helps to integrate the water park into year-round play zones and focus the attention of parents and summer leaders on one location. The new playground equipment could be universally accessible with nature-inspired and traditional play zones. Similar to the water park which focuses on a mining theme, the playground equipment could also reflect agriculture and mining in a fun and interactive way. The zone for young children is comfortably removed from athletic and youth facilities, but within sightlines and a short walk. This play area is also connected by paved plaza/trail to the washroom building.



Example of potential traditional play equipment.



Above and below: Examples of nature inspired play equipment



The existing spray park will remain unchanged but will be integrated with playground equipment.

3.5 Way finding and Signage

Way finding means helping people to orient themselves when in a park. This can be done with a number of visual clues such as paving patterns, plantings, trails, and signage. Harewood Centennial Park is quite large and potentially will be filled with many amenities. Way finding and signage will be key to direct people throughout the park.

The park entrances will be marked with gateways to welcome people into the park. A neighborhood kiosk will be added to the information plaza and/or arrival plaza. One side will feature a park map while others could be for local postings and have historical information about the settlement of Harewood. Interpretive signage and trail and directional markers will be placed throughout the park.

In addition, the main use areas and spine trails of the park will use consistent materials and plantings.



Concept of way finding signage. These frames could be made with salvaged timbers from the Dickenson barn or other materials.

3.6 Community Gathering, Public Art, Place-making

Parks are important meetings places for neighbourhoods. Harewood lacks meetings places and it is hoped that an improved Harewood Centennial Park can help to meet this need. A picnic shelter, plazas, and the multi-sport covered structure are being built into the design as landmarks and potential meeting places for the neighbourhood. Park trails, fields, and facilities for youth and children are also likely areas of congregation. The placement of benches and picnic facilities at key rest areas and viewpoints will help to make the park comfortable for users.



The existing washroom building in the park will remain in its current location but will be better integrated into the flow of activities and uses. It will also require upgrades to increase universal accessibility and improve fixture standards.

The existing washroom building will require upgrades, but will remain in its current location. Public art could be placed on its wall.

The development and installation of public art is an effective way to increase a park's sense of place and involve the neighbourhood. The installation of art created by students, residents and artists will help to customize the space and involve local community in place-making. Art could be on placed buildings, fences and other creative projects.



Community gardens can also bring people together in a park. John Barsby School currently has a school community garden that is maintained near the existing washroom building. This could potentially be opened up to the greater public and integrated into the park in the future.

Cut-outs at Robins Park were created by students at John Barsby's LifeWorks Program. Similar projects could be considered around Harewood Centennial Park to involve the neighbourhood and youth in the park development process.

3.7 Safety and Security

Lighting and sightlines will be strategically considered throughout the park to make users feel safe. In addition, increased use and better circulation will increase the safety levels of the park. Youth zone hours and lighting could potentially be extended to keep youth positively engaged on weekend evenings.



Gates, such as this one in the Cowichan Sports plex in Duncan, could be used to close off park vehicle routes after hours and when the park is not booked.

3.8 Natural Areas and Plantings:

The treed knoll and stream were identified as park assets by the neighbourhood and, consequently, both are preserved in this design. The stream is salmon bearing and could benefit from planting enhancements. The trail loop system will provide increased physical and visual access near the stream and could also weave interpretive signage along its length.

Residents along Howard expressed concerns about the aesthetics of the park. A treed buffer and increased shade tree plantings are shown throughout the design to enhance park ambiance and aesthetics. Plantings can maintain a high canopy to ensure good sightlines.



Shade trees, such as the one above, can be planted throughout the park with a raised canopy that allows sight lines underneath.

4. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This section outlines plan recommendations and possible phasing options. Carrying out these actions is dependent upon both available resources and evolving priorities for parks throughout Nanaimo. These actions are outlined into the following level of priorities:

4.1 High Priority Actions - *Actions requiring attention in the immediate future (0-2 years)*

- Finding alternative storage locations for Parks Operations and removal of the Harewood (Dickenson) barn structure. If any elements of the structure can be reused, they should be saved for re-purposing in the park. This will allow access in to construct circulation routes and amenities in the north side of the park.

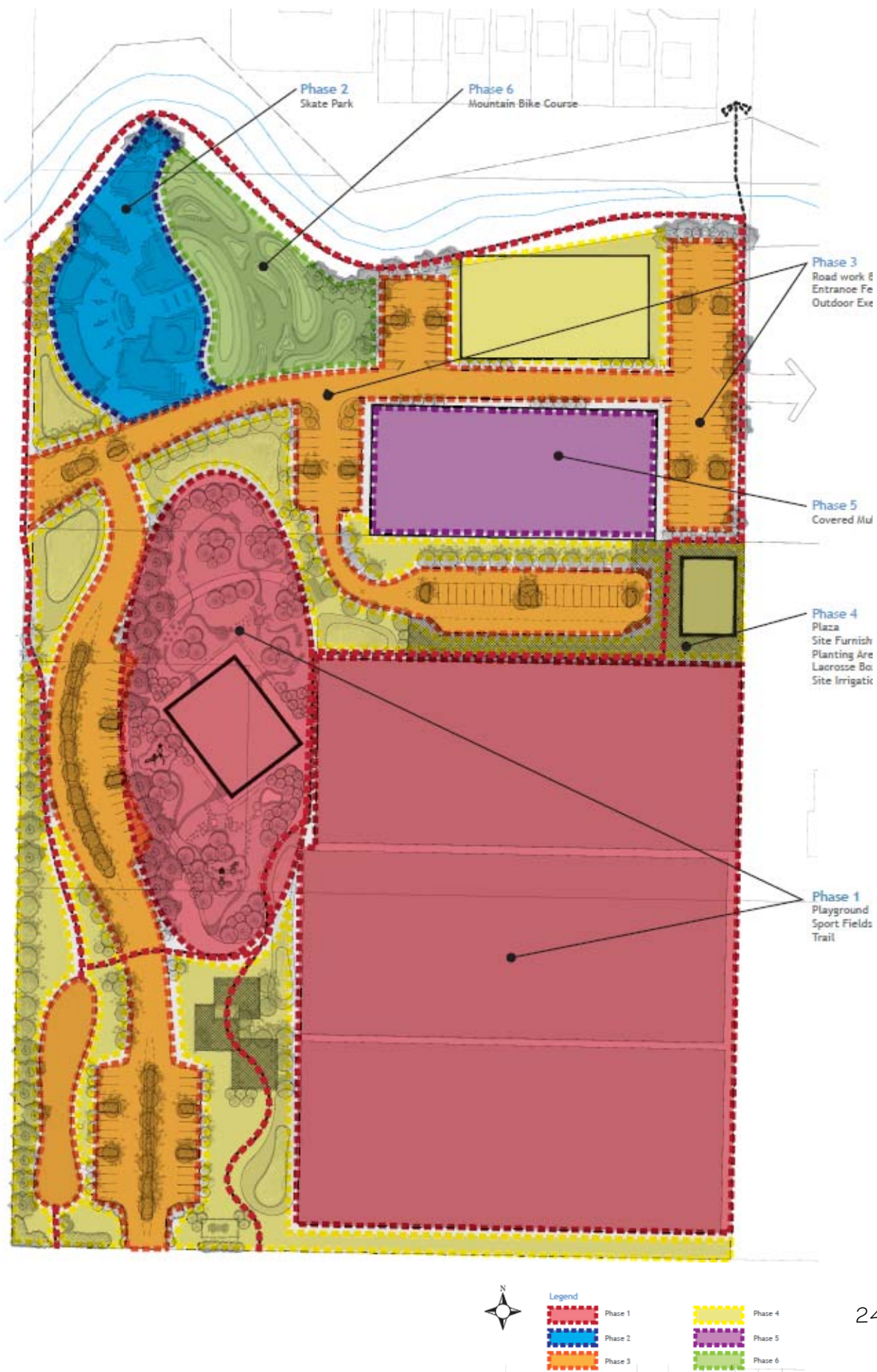
4.2 Ongoing Actions - *Actions requiring ongoing monitoring of specific tasks*

- Proposal and grant writing to help fund this project.
- Build partnerships with VIU, sports groups, School District 68 facilities staff and John Barsby School administration to seek out joint opportunities for funding and park use and campus building.
- Build partnership with the Harewood Neighbourhood Association and residents to help build pride and stewardship of the park.
- Increase in the presence of park control, including Bylaw Services, Animal Control, RCMP and private security companies. These will help to influence park users and change entrenched behaviors.
- Enhancement of park signage including a park entrance kiosk, information about the history of Harewood, and way finding signage throughout the park. New signs will clarify currently confusing park regulation signage. Signs can be relocated as park plan implementation moves ahead.
- Monitor trail and vehicular use of the park.
- Monitor field bookings and increased/decreased use patterns.
- Monitor summer playground program numbers and increased/decreased use patterns.
- As the park develops in phases, public access and safety will be ensured.

4.3 Phases 1-5 - *Possible sequencing of construction activities*

- Potential phases are illustrated in the following graphic. These are just a guide and may or may not be followed for logical implementation and funding opportunities.

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan



Appendix 1 - Public Input Survey – Open House April 2011

Attendees:

- About 75, primarily residents

Amount of Surveys filled in by attendees: 16

Emails: 6

1. How often do you visit Harewood Centennial Park?

3 ^α	Daily ^α	α
3 ^α	More than one time per week ^α	α
4 ^α	More than one time per month ^α	α
1 ^α	More than one time per year ^α	α
3 ^α	Never ^α	α

- Drive past monthly to check on condition.

2. If you currently use Harewood Centennial Park, which activities/facilities do you enjoy?

8 ^α	Walking ^α	3 ^α	Tennis ^α	α
1 ^α	Running ^α	7 ^α	Playground ^α	α
2 ^α	Field sports ^α	8 ^α	Waterpark ^α	α
1 ^α	Lacrosse box ^α	4 ^α	Picnicking and passive park use ^α	α
4 ^α	On-leash dog walking ^α	4 ^α	Washrooms ^α	α
2 ^α	Off-leash dog walking ^α	2 ^α	Mountain Biking ^α	α

3. What is your vision for Harewood Centennial Park?

- A park that is visually appealing which visitors feel safe in.
- Safe, clean.
- Safe place for young people to go and use up energy. Families to hang out and visit their neighbours. "Do have concern for safety."
- Bike/skate Park. Spot lights.
- To have enough activities (free) so all ages of kids have something to do they like, so they will not just hang out. This is when trouble begins. To have a pool one day. It was so good.
- A park for the whole family.
- Like most of proposed visions except skate park.
- A community oriented, safe place for families and youth. All of the ideas are great and I appreciate the work that has already gone into this process. I love the idea of a covered lacrosse box.
- A community focal point that integrates with Barsby community school.
- Site feature 1 parks yard – keep the barn but reconfigure footprint of works yard to open up the east and north sides for trail development etc. along the river edge.
- Space being used all year long by all age groups. Tonight the fields are full of young sportsmen learning softball, football. Parents/grandparents watching.
- I want to see a youth park for the pre teens and teens. BMX, skateboard, mountain biking. Lights around the park. The city yard shed painted red roof white sides.
- A place for people of all ages. A free mini-type swimming pool with lifeguards – I know, dream on...but you did ask!!!
- A much more varied, family park, trails, gardens, little playgrounds. Maybe even an old fashioned checker board in the ground – break it up.

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

4. Which of the following improvements and new facilities would you support?

11	Loop Trail	14	Park lighting
6	Covered Lacrosse	9	New playground equipment
7	Field reconfiguration	13	Picnic Tables and benches
4	Artificial Turf Field	9	Neighbourhood kiosk
5	Improved parking	13	Planting shade trees
5	Hard surface sports	11	Mountain bike jumps/structures
9	Public Art	13	Skatepark

5. Do you have any other improvement ideas for the park plan?

- Expand the community gardens. Recycling and composting facilities. All park improvements created in an environmentally sustainable way. Bike lock-up.
- Safety/drugs etc.
- Bike jumps. Better soccer field.
- Have some activities for kids in the winter from parks and rec.
- Paved sidewalk from waterpark to washrooms. HNA will share in cost. "cement is cooler" Picnic tables have disappeared, need benches on top grass.
- It would be nice if lights would shut off automatically. Many field users forget to turn them off.
- Dog fountain like Maffeo Sutton Park. Also if there was a way to recycle the waterpark water so it could be used to water the fields, like Transfer Beach.
- Rebuild a washroom closer to the water park. More natural trees near the river.
- Neighbourhood centre/house
- Would like to see all these ideas actually happening.
- Everything sounds good. Would like to see dirt jumps for BMX and in winter snow slides.
- Paved walkway from playground to bathrooms needed for stroller moms.
- Keep well lit.
- "Friendlier" washrooms. Seating areas, gardens? Expand community garden, historic markers (like at Deverill Square Park), all season playground.

6. Do you have any other ideas to improve the parks system in Harewood?

- Turf field
- Need to improve handicapped parking (install). 2 spots that are paved to the entrance
- Does anyone ever use Nova park?? Love the colliery dam park. Never heard of "Kinette Evergreen"
- No. The ones I'm aware of and use are great.
- More trail networks
- Colliery Dam – off leash for dogs in afternoon as well as morning. A designated time like the morning hours.
- Parie?? the dams area where the pipes were put in
- Like to see Harewood Firehall used for more recreation = so much Oliver Woods it seems
- Food, kiosks, lifeguards at the dam.

7. Do you have any other comments or concerns you wish to share?

- Have security and or cameras for children's safety
- To have some activities in the old fire hall we need to utilize it.
- Do not support skate park due to graffiti vandalize and noise that always seems to accompany skate parks. "slapping" of boards is very loud and travels far. Live directly across from park.
- Great ideas. I hope you get the community support you are hoping for.
- Some great ideas here! If this is a community park we need to encourage walking/cycling/skateboarding to/from the park, not driving.
- Harewood is a great place to live, work, go to school. These improvements will make it even better.
- Thanks for asking us what we think
- Security who will monitor this facility? Crime in this area is already a problem.
- Harewood is a big field – break it up, maybe put up historic interest plaque re the old barn. Works yard and nursery are great – love to see what they have each time, also love the river trail and the community garden (technically on school property I believe)

8. Where do you live?

11	Under 1 kilometre from the park
3	Between 1-5 kilometres from the park
1	Over 5 kilometres from the park
	Do not live in Nanaimo
	Never

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

9. What age range do you fall in?

1	Youth (under 18 years)
7	Adult
4	Parent with children
3	Senior

Email Input:

Email #1 – Saturday, April 16, 2011

Hope you can read the attached survey – basically my thought is that the park could be broken up more; it's basically a big field with a few attractions around the edges. The water park is nice but not really a four season area; what about a good old fashioned playground, more modest but along the lines of Beban Park; there are always kids playing there. The river trail is charming and the works yard is fun – what weird things have they got today? We're gardeners and enjoy the community garden (technically on school property I know). Any chance of more gardens? What about more areas like picnic spot, a checker board built into a bench or the ground? How about a food kiosk in summer? Also the historical aspect of the barn and the use of the area by the mine and Mr Robins' oaks and poplars. Aside from the occasional baseball game it's rare to see people in the park (except for the dog walkers). Seems like a big waste and I doubt that maintenance for a more developed area would be more.

The dam – lifeguards and food!!

Email #2

Dear Kirsty MacDonald,

My wife and I greeted your recent mailing on the proposed improvements for Harewood Centennial Park with great enthusiasm. We live in the strata of houses across the "river" from the park, and have often wondered if a better use might not be made of all that land and, of course, we have wished that the operations yard were a little less noticeable. We understand that all this material must be stored somewhere, but could suggest a few ways to make the yard more neighbourly. We have three suggestions as you consider the best investment of your funds.

1. Top on the list is the hill behind the yard that is fenced off from public use. This gently sloping rise surrounded by majestic trees is the quintessential picnic location, yet, alas it is out of bounds. To lie on that hill on a blanket with a wicker basket, a bottle of wine, and a companion to watch the clouds — well it is hard to imagine a more relaxing and pleasant way to pass the afternoon. Some work at the bottom of this little hill would be needed. I'm guessing that this location was intended as a temporary repository for plants and trees "between jobs" as it were. Some of them now look like they have been forgotten or abandoned for a good many years. Perhaps they could be judiciously assessed and transformed into a park in their own right? Even if this area could be opened during the day and left closed at night, would be a great improvement.

2. While we love the green space along the river, it also is a magnet for restless youth, especially during the summer, who occupy the space in large numbers and fill the night with their "joyous" revelry. The local constables will attest to this phenomenon. We hope that as designs progress, this will be taken into account. Harmonizing the whole park, with a mind to those who like to walk and stroll, would be most appreciated. For us, the promise of more group-sports related uses is not terribly inspiring. But that is just us.

3. We actually like the old barnlike building in the yard, and find it adds to the ambiance of the place. Seriously. But the yard itself is without a doubt, an eye sore. If the yard it to stay (and an argument could no doubt be made that it is not the best location for such a yard) perhaps surrounding the fence with a high (15 feet or so would be good) cedar hedge, or some similar greenery, would improve the aesthetic quality of the whole affair. Aesthetics is, unfortunately, an underappreciated aspect in the creation of utilitarian spaces.

Thank you for your work. I'm sure the job of an open space planner must be a rewarding and challenging one, especially with the disparate interests of park users. We will be watching with great interest as things proceed.

Kind regards,

Email #3

Dear Kirsty,

As a resident of Harewood (I live right across the street from the park) I am unable to attend the April 5th meeting but I do have some feedback.

Having three grandchildren I take to this park often, these are my comments:

-the aesthetics of the work yard are a must ... it does look horrid and makes the community low bad.

- the rest of my recommendations are for shade in the water park and playground ... so more trees to make shade and more benches to be able to sit on while supervising children.

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Email #4

Dear Kirsty MacDonald,

Re: Harewood Centennial Park Improvements

My husband and I have lived in Harewood for over 50 years and we have these suggestions for our neighbourhood park.

1. Keep the old barn. It adds character and storage for the park.
2. Please replace the stolen plaque off the change house to show the pioneers who originally planned for this recreation space.
3. I'd like a labyrinth for seniors and other walkers. It doesn't have to be made of concrete. There is a model at the Bethlehem Retreat. I suggest placing the labyrinth somewhere in the old tree nursery.
4. Remove said nursery it looks untidy now.
5. A scooter track for tots like the one at the Child Development Centre.
6. A sign on 7th to get spectator vehicles to stop parking on the sidewalk.
7. A running oval around the whole space.
8. A bench or two near the river. Anchor them in concrete.
9. Some park equipment to challenge children to understand that exercise is fun. Could we have equipment like they have at Oliver Woods.
10. Think to the future. I have heard hints that Barsby may become redundant due to low enrolment.
11. We are proud of the Bulldogs. We'd like to promote the team more.
12. I'd like youngsters to learn all sports. However, we do not need another skateboard park unless you know it will have good participation. The kids I see use their skateboards for transportation not for doing tricks which are hard on their ankles.
13. No more people parks for dogs! They don't pay taxes and they make a mess.
14. My husband and I and many other seniors walk Harewood for our health. We know the air is not always as clean as we would like it to be. We also take some risks as walkers with traffic and no signals at 4th, 5th and 6th at Bruce. Sometimes we feel invisible to drivers. However the exercise makes us feel better and the socializing with neighbours makes our day. I hope our younger ones could feel so invigorated.

With respect

P.S. Where is Reservoir Park? I saw it listed in a brochure about Nanaimo's beautiful spaces.

2P.S. I knew most of the Harewood pioneers who worked so hard to get the Harewood Colliery Dam property from Canadian Collieries when the coal miners closed. The dream of Alex Virostko, Rod Glen and Jim Borserio was a greenspace dedicated to the children of Harewood

Email #5

-----Original Message-----

From

Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2011 12:29 PM

To: Kirsty MacDonald

Subject: Dickinson Barn

Hi, Kirsty,

Just heard that the old barn is scheduled to be torn down! I suppose there are good reasons and it's not much use but it does seem a terrible shame to let that piece of history be forgotten. How about rebuilding that disaster of a field house/bomb shelter into the old barn? And I'm only half kidding.

I must apologize; there is a playground at Harewood but I suppose I haven't much noticed it because it's usually empty! I don't know why.

Parents don't want to walk that far?

Regards,

Elizabeth

From:

Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2011 9:22 AM

To: Kirsty MacDonald

Subject: Harewood Centennial park

Email #6

Good morning Kirsty

I attended the open house in Barsby school and wanted to make some suggestions. There are a lot of facilities available to young people in the park and it is great to see them being used as much as they are. There are two things that I would like to see put in place. When the works yard is closed I would love to see an enclosed off leash dog park. The hill to the left of the yard entrance and over to the fence that is beside Chase river would be an excellent place for such an area. It does not have to be huge. I have a

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Norwegian Buhund dog and they are a breed like Huskies that are known for their wanderlust. Mostly she will come back when called but if these dogs become fixed on something they just go. At the meeting I made this suggestion to one of the gentleman there who just basically told me to learn to control my dog. At the moment, every day, people are letting their dogs off the leash on the soccer field and ball diamonds in spite of the signs everywhere. Perhaps this would encourage them not to do that.

At the moment I have to put my dog in my car and drive her to Beban park so she can run free. This is time consuming and costly with the price of gas and the amount my truck uses.

The second thing I would like to see is adequate lighting at the waterpark car park. I live opposite this parking area and see a lot of very suspicious activity going on after dark. Obvious drug drops take place but I think that lighting might deter this activity as well as other things.

I hope you will give these suggestions consideration.

Sincerely

Appendix 2 - Harewood Centennial Park—John Barsby Youth Public Input Survey (May 2011)

Surveys: 66 (grades 8-11)

1. How often do you visit Harewood Centennial Park?

11	Daily
20	More than one time per week
14	More than one time per month
21	More than one time per year
4	Never

2. If you currently use Harewood Centennial Park, which activities/facilities do you enjoy?

28	Walking	11	Tennis
13	Running	30	Playground
26	Field sports	29	Waterpark
9	Lacrosse box	22	Picnicking and passive park use
7	On-leash dog walking	17	Washrooms
9	Off-leash dog walking	14	Mountain Biking

3. What is your vision for Harewood Centennial Park?

- There should be an area for indoor sports and games such as pool and fuzz ball. And then outdoor sports such as football, soccer, hockey, biking and skateboarding then an outside movie area at night.
- Not a store, coffee shop, etc.
- Maybe add an ice cream shop and place to walk like a duck pond or a hockey court and picnic area.
- Keeping the "park" aspect but have multi-purpose youth centre. With a room that could be use for many activities not just one specific sport. 1 big wall for an outdoor movie theatre
- Outdoor movie theatre
- I think that an outdoor or indoor movie theatre would be really cool. One white wall, a projector and seating space would be all thats needed. Weekly teen movie nights. Youth centre when its not used.
- Outdoor movies? All you'd need is a white or blank wall and a projector. Booster juice.
- For it to be a safe spot where people of all ages can go and use it in anyway to their enjoyment, without worries.
- Making an outdoor covered movie theatre. Gardens. Improved ball fields, better maintained.
- Outdoor movie theatre.
- Outdoor movie theatre.
- Big Water Park
- Outdoor movies
- Bike Park, turf field
- A place useable for everyone.
- Ice cream stand, gym, hot dog stand, booster juice
- Ice cream stand, gym, booster juice
- Booster juice, ice cream stand, basketball court (outside)
- Tim Hortons
- Gym. Booster Juice
- Gym or Booster Juice.
- I would like to see a turf field put in. The field would be of multipurpose. Soccer and Football can both be played on the turf field. There is only one turf field in Nanaimo and another would have such a good effect on the sports community!
- A nice trail with flowers and shade trees and benches.
- A small convenience store with parks and other stuff or a giant playground.
- Booster Juice!!
- Artificial Turf
- Turf field. Covered b-ball hoops.
- An outdoor swimming pool would be great for after school use.
- My vision for Harewood Centennial Park is new baseball diamonds, and a new field for other sports.
- Future Shop, EB games, Walmart, Panigo
- My vision for Harewood Centennial Park is like a little ice cream place or like a little snack shack. Also a bigger playground and a bigger waterpark. Outdoor pool. Waterslides, trampolines.
- New playground for the kids.
- Maybe a bigger park or bigger fields or bigger water park

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

- I think it should have a tennis court, trail and washrooms, also outdoor pool, with water slides, tim horton's, clothing store.
- Mountain bike/skateboard park
- Skateboard park
- To be nice and nice bathrooms that get cleaned daily!
- Outdoor pool. Bigger water park.
- Although I don't think it's realistic but a Tim Hortons would be nice I'd also like a pool.
- A summer picnic area with a water park. Shady trees. Outdoor Pool.
- I would like to see maybe a little iced cream shop or tim hortons
- An ice cream place, outdoor pool, deep pool, a better water park.
- A centennial building for things like floor hockey and other indoor sports.
- To have an fun and good place to hang out and play.
- Improve parking, lacrosse box, stands lacrosse box. Like covered structure idea. Skate park. Walking/running trail.
- That it a community place to go, somewhere you want to hang out.

4. Which of the following improvements and new facilities would you support?

21α	Loop-Trailα	26α	Park-lightingα
8α	Covered-Lacrosse-α	20α	New-playground-equipmentα
11α	Field-reconfigurationα	34α	Picnic-Tables-and-benchesα
30α	Artificial-Turf-Fieldα	11α	Neighbourhood-kioskα
8α	Improved-parkingα	29α	Planting-shade-treesα
19α	Hard-surface-sportsα	21α	Mountain-bike-jumps/structuresα
24α	Public-Artα	23α	Skateparkα

5. Do you have any other improvement ideas for the park plan?

- Outdoor movie area and food concessions
- A nicer public washroom
- Ice cream store, indoor gym
- Leveling out the park eliminating the tree border and putting some in the park and seating areas.
- Level out the field.
- Level out field
- At least clean it up and make it look nicer than it does now if nothing else.
- To restore the old barn instead of tearing it down and using it for recreational purposes.
- Food
- Concession, Booster Juice
- Don't fence off a huge portion of it.
- Small convenient store
- Small convenient store
- Small convenience store
- A nicer tennis court and washrooms
- Gym?
- Keep it looking natural, green.
- A little convenience store would be great.
- Sound system installed
- Concession.
- Covered basket ball hoops, with lights.
- Sand for the playground, newer basketball hoops.
- Outdoor pool, subway, 7 eleven, new York fries, bakery, eb games, future shop
- Sand on the ground or something soft so that when kids jump off the playground they could land on something softer than rocks.
- Maybe nicer park, playground or adding more to the water park
- Turf
- Keep the trees.
- Skateboarding park.
- Make it a bit bigger. A pool. A bigger water park with a waterslide and a place where you can get food!
- Nicer washrooms, pool, bigger water parks.
- Pool, waterpark
- A place to buy warm drinks and snacks would be nice.
- Starbucks, pool
- Heated water
- Stores for food/drinks. Subway
- A little coffee shop or iced cream shop basketball court big water park and pool with slides
- An ice cream place, a nice picnic area, basketball court (nice ones though!), outdoor pool
- Grass on football field
- A turf football field!
- New park

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

- Lots of garbage and recycling bins
- Motocross track pool hurtin
- Go karts paintball
- Turf field for the guys football they work hard and deserve it.
- Turf field because we work hard and have a bad field and would be nice to get turf
- I would really like to see a turf field because football is such a big part of this school and community and the field right now are terrible but they work through it because they love football, without it I have heard them say they wouldn't have gotten this far in school without it. Oh and beach volleyball court.

6. Do you have any other ideas to improve the parks system in Harewood?

- Colliery Dam should be cleaned for the environment and for the safety of the community.
- Colliery: Nicer washroom, second picnic table, less garbage
- Trails
- Park security. Lighting around the dams and trails, more maps.
- Have clean up crews.
- No, they're good walking places.
- Level out field. Add some nice looking trees or shrubs. Gardens.
- Maybe put gravel on trails, so they aren't so muddy.
- No, they're quite far from my house.
- More trees!
- Cleaner parks.
- Clean them up there to greasy.
- Put a hot tub by Colliery Dam Park
- Sometimes I go up to Colliery Dam park at lunch and sometimes to ride my bike.
- Newer basketball hoops and courts. Tree houses.
- Bigger parks or bigger field or water park
- Pool
- Skateboard park.
- For the Nova St. Park to be nicer and a new paint job, and some new equipment.
- Better washrooms
- Improved trails/upgrade/maintained
- Nova park can be maybe a skatepark because its a little smaller.
- Ice cream! Water fountains, outdoor pool
- New equipment for nova park
- Connecting loop trails

7. Do you have any other comments or concerns you wish to share?

- I think a store of any sort would take away from the aesthetic value of the park as well as providing an easy place for students to buy junk food.
- It would be nice if it could be made into a centre where many different type of lesson's, practices, ect could be heald not just one sport.
- I just don't want to see the barn get torn if its one of the older parts of Nanaimos heritage. I think restorations are better than just tearing history down and replacing it with new expensive, probably useless to most people, stuff.
- I don't think you should change it. How are we suppose to work during school well your making noise "fixing up the park."
- How will you keep the street people out of there.
- I come from Calgary and they built in a small neighbourhood and there was a lot of graffiti so how are you going to stop this from happening here?
- The parks are nice I wish to see it bigger and better.
- I would like something everyone would like!
- No skate park for Harewood Centennial Park please.
- I want ice cream
- Public safety – being a teen hangout at night. Garbage.
- When is going to be done 3017?

8. Where do you live?

26	Under 1 kilometre from the park
21	Between 1-5 kilometres from the park
17	Over 5 kilometres from the park
2	Do not live in Nanaimo
3	Never

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

9. What age range do you fall in?

64	Youth (under 18 years)
2	Adult
1	Parent with children
	Senior

Appendix 3 - Public Input May 2012

Attendees:

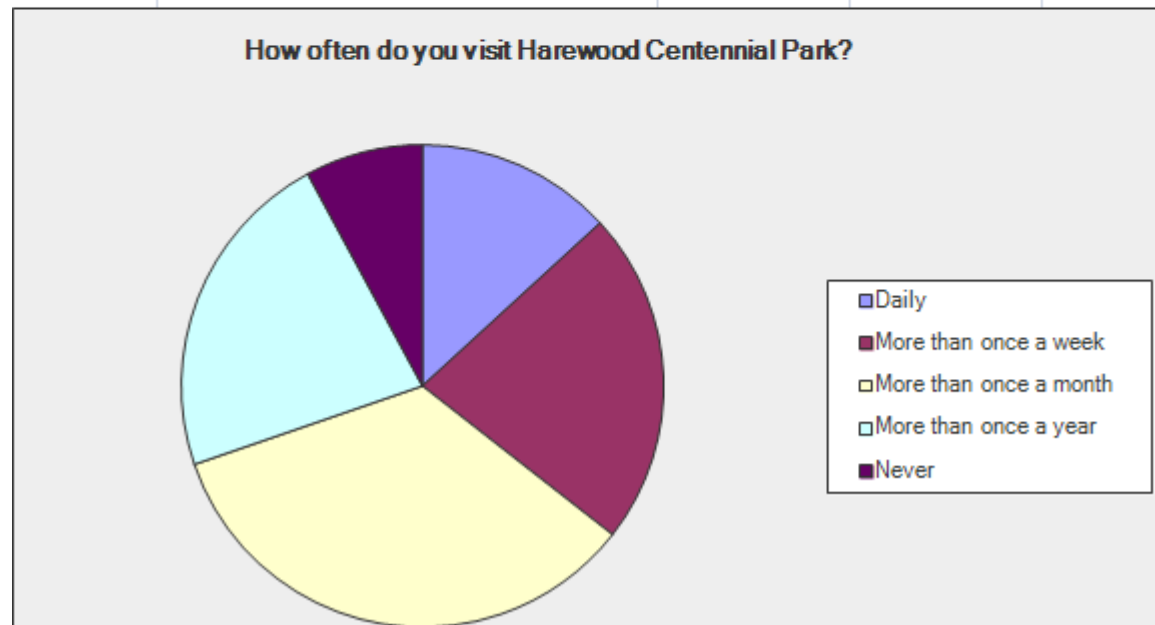
- About 100, primarily residents

Amount of Surveys filled in by attendees and online: 79

Harewood Centennial Park Public Input

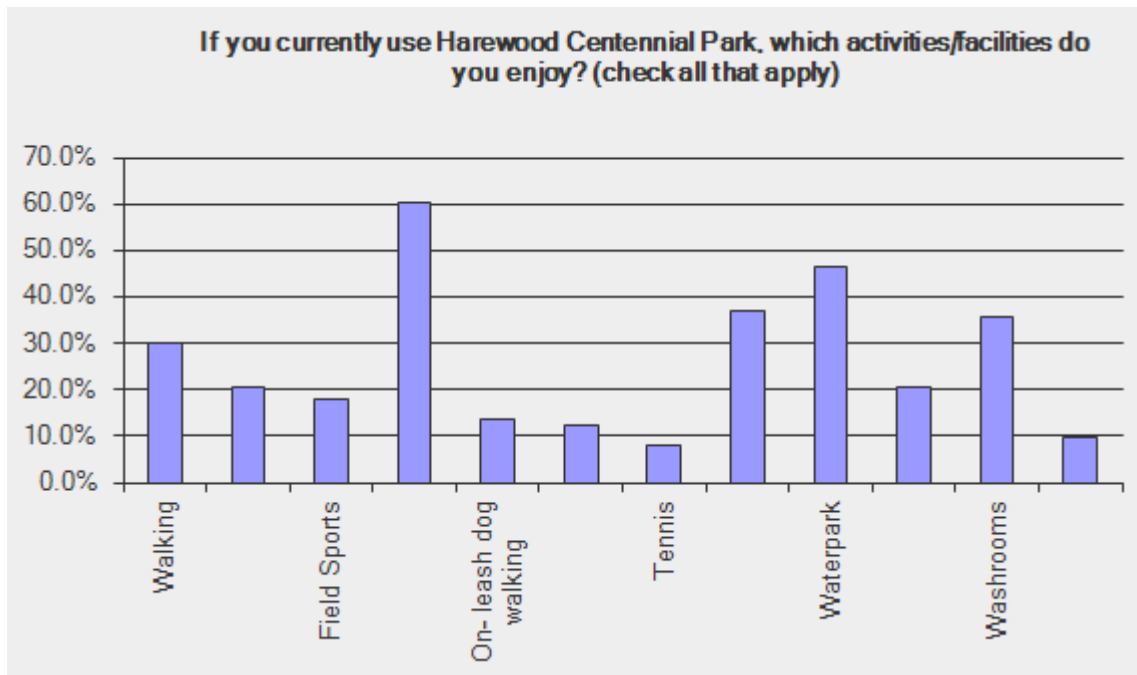
How often do you visit Harewood Centennial Park?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	13.2%	10
More than once a week	22.4%	17
More than once a month	34.2%	26
More than once a year	22.4%	17
Never	7.9%	6
<i>answered question</i>		76
<i>skipped question</i>		3



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If you currently use Harewood Centennial Park, which activities/facilities do you enjoy? (check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking	30.1%	22
Running	20.5%	15
Field Sports	17.8%	13
Lacrosse box	60.3%	44
On- leash dog walking	13.7%	10
Off-leash dog walking	12.3%	9
Tennis	8.2%	6
Playground	37.0%	27
Waterpark	46.6%	34
Picnicking and passive park use	20.5%	15
Washrooms	35.6%	26
Mountain biking	9.6%	7
answered question		73
skipped question		6



Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

What is your vision for Harewood Centennial Park?

Answer Options	Response Count
	50
<i>answered question</i>	50
<i>skipped question</i>	29

#	Response Date	Response Text	Categories
1	May 25, 2012 4:39 AM		
2	May 17, 2012 2:18 AM		
3	May 8, 2012 5:25 AM		
4	May 6, 2012 9:22 PM		
5	May 6, 2012 8:59 PM		
6	May 6, 2012 8:48 PM		
7	May 6, 2012 8:34 PM		
8	May 6, 2012 8:26 PM		
9	May 6, 2012 7:08 PM		
10	May 6, 2012 7:02 PM		
11	May 6, 2012 7:01 PM		
12	May 6, 2012 6:55 PM		
13	May 6, 2012 6:50 PM		
14	May 6, 2012 6:18 PM		
15	May 6, 2012 6:11 PM		

My vision for the park is a fun place where I can take my family. Activity space for adults, teens, and younger children would be ideal. Also, one big covered picnic area or a couple smaller picnic areas in the park. More scheduled activities (such as community soccer/lacrosse games or a community Family Fun Day) would encourage more use of the park, I think.

Small, Ugly, Run down, Pour, homes live there.

I had to look it up and see where it was. I would never take my dogs down there but myself at night or the day. Not safe.

I would love to see a more established park that is interconnected. Right now, everything is really separated and there is no clear park boundary. Sometimes it feels like you're trespassing on school property.

A recreational focal point for the community and the surrounding area.

What you have planned is lovely. I find that in the water park more shade trees are needed and picnic tables.

Great idea for a youth park. Anything to keep the young ones active.

To have the ability to play outdoors rain or shine.

To become more of a "one-stop shop" for families and community members of all ages.

to continue to be a community use area.

More walking trails/loop and better landscaping playground/H2O park is fantastic already but could use some shade trees instead of the horribly half dead cherry trees.

I very much like the plan I see laid out. I am older and would love the walking trails. My grandchildren use the water park but as they are toddlers we often have to leave when the older children arrive.

More facilities that are upgraded for all weather and multie sport activity use!

I think that you should put in a skatepark, and a mountain biking area because it is a big need in the area and it would be used a ton. A walking path would also be nice for old folks and people looking for exercise.

A "No Bikes" large sign for the water park. Foot bridge from Georgia? Can the trail be picturesque near the river, shrubs, etc? Bike rack. Would like to see tennis court kept? Do have concerns that skate bowl will look esthetically pleasing and not devalue house prices close by.

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

16	May 5, 2012 3:02 PM	A community sport facility with an emphasis on access for all user groups.
17	May 5, 2012 3:33 AM	I think the park should be a focal point for neighbourhood and community sports. It should offer alternative venues for sport that are not easily found elsewhere in the city.
18	May 4, 2012 7:20 PM	To have a facility designed for roller hockey with a proper playing surface like Victoria and Langley have.
19	May 4, 2012 6:36 PM	just needs to be cleaner...
20	May 4, 2012 6:28 PM	indoor inline hockey
21	May 4, 2012 5:25 PM	It would be nice to have a covered lacrosse box to play ball hockey in any weather. The centennial is the only covered surface where we can use normal hockey sticks
22	May 4, 2012 5:19 PM	I play in a roller hockey league and we currently only have one facility to use. I know a lot of people who play ball hockey and need another facility to use.
23	May 4, 2012 8:15 AM	Covered lacrosse box multi-use court
24	May 4, 2012 6:17 AM	would be nice to have an outdoor venue for our roller hockey during the spring, summer and fall. The fresh air and cool breeze would be nicer than a dusty building and not have to worry about the rain falling on us.
25	May 4, 2012 3:37 AM	A closed arena for lacrosse and ball hockey
26	May 4, 2012 3:27 AM	A covered Lacrosse Box
27	May 4, 2012 3:11 AM	Hockey or Lacrosse Box Covered
28	May 4, 2012 3:09 AM	Covered lacrosse box would be awesome!!!!
29	May 3, 2012 10:31 PM	Multi-use
30	May 3, 2012 6:25 PM	Great family area! It would be great to have a different building for roller hockey! A covered court for roller derby. We have no covered spaces in Nanaimo that allows roller derby, other than the old centennial building, where the roof substance falls on us while we practice, or we have to deal with dog hair clogging up our bearings. Its really unfortunate as communities even smaller than Nanaimo previously saw the obvious benefits to a covered multi use court.
31	May 3, 2012 5:41 PM	A new roller derby facility??
32	May 3, 2012 5:21 PM	A place for everyone that supports all sports.
33	May 3, 2012 3:48 PM	The covered sports rink would provide an excellent facility for various sports, such as lacrosse and floor hockey. In addition, it would provide a great space to hold practices for the Nanaimo Roller Derby teams, which is one of the fastest growing sports in North America.
34	May 3, 2012 3:09 PM	A covered multi purpose surface to be able to include such sports as Roller Derby
35	May 3, 2012 2:49 PM	*****with a ROLLER derby AREA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
36	May 3, 2012 1:58 PM	Facility to allow roller derby practices and games
37	May 3, 2012 1:12 PM	A large, covered multi-use sports building accessible to lacrosse players, roller hockey, and the roller derby community.
38	May 3, 2012 8:43 AM	A sports facility that means I don't have to travel to the north end of nanaimo.
39	May 3, 2012 6:49 AM	Multiple use covered "lacrosse" type venue
40	May 3, 2012 6:45 AM	New covered lacrosse box for multi-purpose use.... Hockey !!!!
41	May 3, 2012 6:35 AM	A sports facility that supports the interests of the surrounding community.
42	May 3, 2012 6:26 AM	

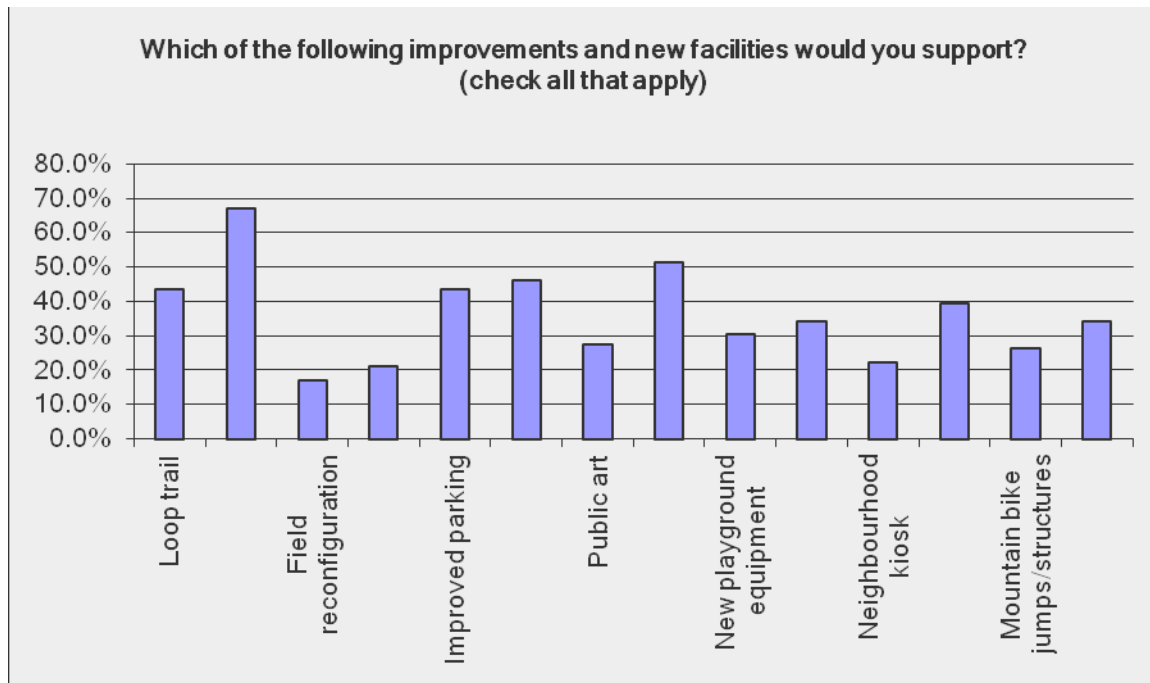
Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

43	May 3, 2012 6:18 AM	Indoor, Inline hockey surface
44	May 3, 2012 5:55 AM	Covered multi facility spots center
45	May 2, 2012 11:31 PM	A family friendly place with lots of recreational choices I would like to see something similar to Oliver Woods if possible, particularly the outdoor fitness area as well as the possibility of indoor fitness. This type of facility might encompass many of the key themes provided in previous open houses. I have never used the park however would do so more if there were some changes.
46	May 1, 2012 11:13 PM	A place for the public to enjoy as a peaceful and beautiful natural park.
47	May 1, 2012 8:35 PM	continued use as my children get older...i would love to see a skate or mountain bike park...and maybe a clubhouse/bathrooms that are closer to the park!
48	Apr 26, 2012 6:15 AM	I have seen many kids using the park as a skate park and I think it would be a really good idea to have one there
49	Apr 25, 2012 10:46 PM	For a bigger and better waterpark. I can't drag my kids away in the summer, its all the want to do.
50	Apr 25, 2012 7:45 PM	

Which of the following improvements and new facilities would you support? (check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Loop trail	43.4%	33
Covered lacrosse box	67.1%	51
Field reconfiguration	17.1%	13
Artificial turf field	21.1%	16
Improved parking	43.4%	33
Hard surface sports court	46.1%	35
Public art	27.6%	21
Park lighting	51.3%	39
New playground equipment	30.3%	23
Picnic tables and benches	34.2%	26
Neighbourhood kiosk	22.4%	17
Planting shade trees	39.5%	30
Mountain bike jumps/structures	26.3%	20
Skate park	34.2%	26
<i>answered question</i>		76
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan



Do you have any other improvement ideas for the park plan?

Answer Options	Response Count
	36
<i>answered question</i>	36
<i>skipped question</i>	43

#	Response Date	Response Text	Categories
1	May 25, 2012 9:53 PM		
2	May 25, 2012 4:39 AM		
3	May 17, 2012 2:18 AM		
4	May 6, 2012 9:22 PM		
5	May 6, 2012 8:59 PM		

Horseshoe Pit

New washroom/change facilities closer to the water park and playground. The current ones are far away, when you consider young children who often don't tell parents they have to use the washroom until they REALLY have to go. Also, perhaps bigger signs or some way to enforce the No Smoking rule inside the playground and water park area, as some parents/caregivers simply disregard the ones that are there. I would also suggest shaded picnic areas. I love that there are picnic tables in the playground and water park area, but there's no shade for them.

no.

I do not support keeping the barn. I see no reason too. An art piece could commemorate the history of the area as farm country. There is no need to preserve a dilapidated structure.

I cannot state highly enough the value of a covered lacrosse/multisport court. A city of Nanaimo's size needs it badly, as the lack of one is hampering and limiting many sports.

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

6	May 6, 2012 8:55 PM	Really like the idea of a skate park and mountain bike area, also improved playground and trails sounds great!
7	May 6, 2012 8:48 PM	lighted parking is important for winter month
8	May 6, 2012 8:43 PM	A covered lacross box would really be beneficial to my roller derby team as a way for us to practice outdoors in the good weather instead of being stuck inside. :)
9	May 6, 2012 8:09 PM	Coverd lacross box
10	May 6, 2012 7:08 PM	Think the bike park is too small, not sure of the reason for the reconfiguration of the fields.
11	May 6, 2012 7:02 PM	I'd like to see the barn preserved if possible, it is our heritage.
12	May 6, 2012 7:01 PM	Community garden group Would like a small place for infants and toddlers to play safely with no risk of being trampled by the older children. Is there room for a community garden? Not just a garbage can - recycling too please - juice boxes, etc.
13	May 6, 2012 6:55 PM	More staircases
14	May 6, 2012 6:18 PM	I think that two covered multisport surfaces would be a valuable addition. This facility would be a tournament destination for various sports year round.
15	May 5, 2012 3:02 PM	No; the plan looks good. I would question the inclusion of a skate park, as vandalism and graffiti seem to accompany the construction of these.
16	May 5, 2012 3:33 AM	Get rid of the riff Raff in the park, it doesn't feel safe after 6pm
17	May 4, 2012 6:36 PM	let us play inline hockey...we have a league and the city to support it
18	May 4, 2012 6:28 PM	See question 3
19	May 4, 2012 5:19 PM	outdoor flat roller rink
20	May 4, 2012 4:14 PM	Covered lacrosse box multi-use court
21	May 4, 2012 8:15 AM	no, but I must say that the idea of a covered lacrosse box is magnificent. It would serve so many other rec. groups besides ours. It has been needed for a long time and I hope it is one of the main things to get done down there.
22	May 4, 2012 6:17 AM	Covered Hockey
23	May 4, 2012 3:11 AM	Covered lacrosse box with roller derby oval
24	May 3, 2012 10:31 PM	Seating or bleachers for the covered lacrosse/roller derby box. It would be even better to have a place where people can come watch our sport, as it is a spectators sport.
25	May 3, 2012 5:41 PM	A new roller derby track
26	May 3, 2012 5:21 PM	a flat roller derby area
27	May 3, 2012 1:58 PM	No.
28	May 3, 2012 6:49 AM	Covered lacrosse box with lights for night use
29	May 3, 2012 6:35 AM	What surface would you use for the lacrosse box? A smooth polished cement such as is found in the arenas without the ice would be ideal for wheeled sports such as roller derby and inline hockey. Both sports have a great deal of potential growth in Nanaimo.
30	May 3, 2012 6:26 AM	Could the indoor lacrosse box be made available for inline hockey ?
31	May 3, 2012 6:18 AM	

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

32	May 1, 2012 11:13 PM	I have not seen the schematic plan however I like the key themes.
33	Apr 26, 2012 6:15 AM	bathrooms!
34	Apr 25, 2012 10:46 PM	skate park and a place for dogs to run around
35	Apr 25, 2012 6:46 PM	concession or food trucks?
36	Apr 25, 2012 6:42 PM	The bathroom needs to be closer to the water park and playground. it's not a safe distance

Do you have any other ideas to improve the parks system in Harewood? (Colliery Dam Park, Nova Park, Kinetite Evergreen Park, Reservoir Park, etc.)

Answer Options	Response Count
	18
<i>answered question</i>	18
<i>skipped question</i>	61

#	Response Date	Response Text	Categories
1	May 25, 2012 4:39 AM	Colliery Dam Park could use more strategically placed trash cans. When I was there last week, I found three Starbucks cups thrown on trees or on the ground. I picked them up, but it took a while to find a trash can (for two of them, anyway).	
2	May 6, 2012 9:22 PM	I live close to Nova Park. It is a very sad, outdated space. I would never use it because of that. Colliery Dam is lovely, I enjoy walking it. I access the park from Seventh Street and it would be nice to have a bridge on the lower connection.	
3	May 6, 2012 8:55 PM	Change the colour of doggy pick up bags to brown instead of light blue. Many of these bags, after pick-up are left on the side of the trails!	
4	May 6, 2012 8:34 PM	Keep up the good work.	
5	May 6, 2012 7:08 PM	Public info programs @ Colliery Dam re:nature, local plants/animals, etc.	
6	May 6, 2012 7:01 PM	get rid of time restrictions for off-leash at Colliery. It was fine before it was made "off-leash."	

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

7	May 6, 2012 6:55 PM	Nova Park has very outdated equipment. It is a small quiet park and perfect for walking to for a picnic with younger children. I would like to see the equipment updated. I really would like to see the GROSS amount of blackberry bushes removed from the empty lots on Brookefield Drive, these lots were originally deemed to be left natural, but they are an eye sore, breeding ground for rats and garbage collection! The property could be better used by the families in the neighborhood if the land was grass, with nice trees. I am ONE of the neighboring property owners and it is frustrating trying to keep the vermin under control and the blackberry vines out of my property. I would far prefer to see the children being able to use the grass and enjoy the trees! I would also like to see city garbage containers at each end of the trail that goes through the park for dog waste. Thank you. Teresa Durdle
8	May 6, 2012 6:50 PM	Nope
9	May 6, 2012 6:18 PM	Covered lacrosse box multi-use court
10	May 4, 2012 8:15 AM	no
11	May 4, 2012 6:17 AM	Support Adult Sports
12	May 4, 2012 3:11 AM	Accessible washrooms for patrons of the new covered lacrosse/derby box.
13	May 3, 2012 5:41 PM	More skating space
14	May 3, 2012 5:21 PM	...
15	May 3, 2012 1:58 PM	No.
16	May 3, 2012 6:49 AM	We really need a proper inline hockey surface in nanaimo.
17	May 3, 2012 6:18 AM	In terms of Colliery Dam- I think that there is an opportunity to have another bridge crossing near or over top of where the water new water pipe line is. It would provide an interesting view point and add another walking area.
18	May 1, 2012 11:13 PM	

Do you have any other comments or concerns you wish to share?

Answer Options	Response Count
	18
<i>answered question</i>	18
<i>skipped question</i>	61

#	Response Date	Response Text	Categories
1	May 25, 2012 4:39 AM		
2	May 17, 2012 2:18 AM		

Not at this time.

i feel it is not safe to go with my kids here

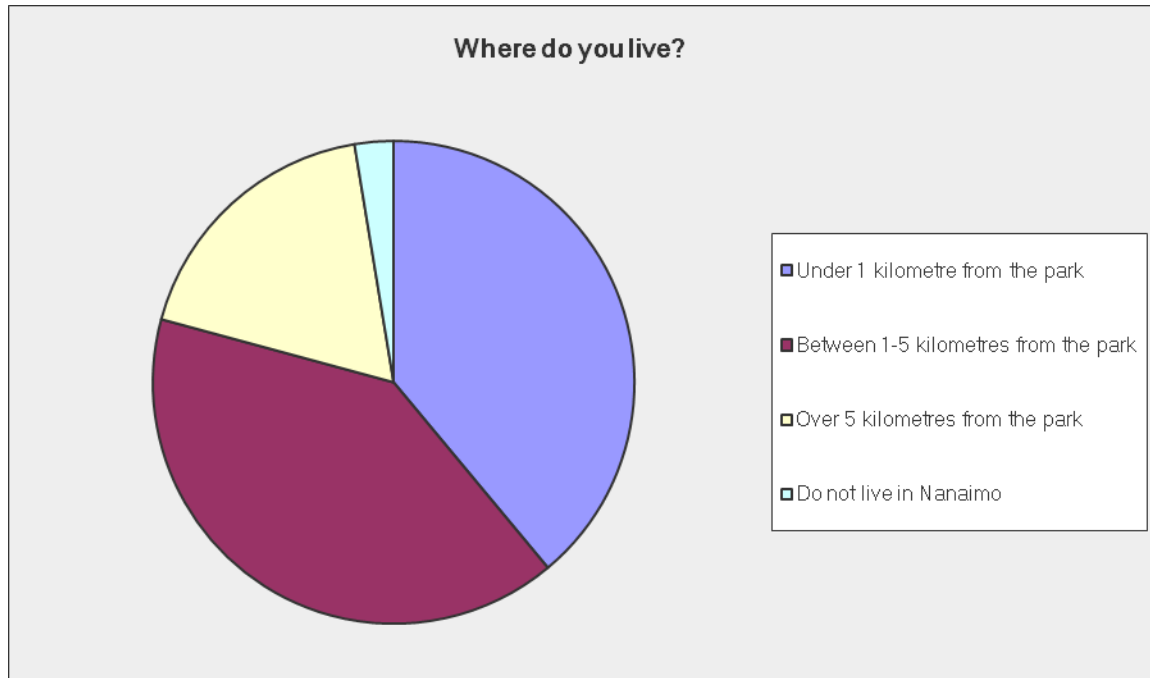
Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

3	May 6, 2012 9:22 PM	I do not support a skate park. Especially one so close to the road. There is already dangerous skateboard/biking antics that happen on Howard Avenue. I feel it would just increase these issues. I really like the idea of the crime prevention environmental design. I never walk the creek trail by myself because it feels unsafe.
4	May 6, 2012 8:48 PM	I am a football mom...seating in Serauxment is it being changed. (Dangerous lot of older not mobile fans!) Turf field at Beban (Merle Logan?) needs seating.
5	May 6, 2012 8:34 PM	My 12 yr old has had conflicts with the BMX gang who clash with the skateboard group. This is an ongoing problem in the rotary bowl park and the pioneer park.
6	May 6, 2012 6:55 PM	The bathroom needs to be updated as a priority. Would it be possible to add a seniors exercise area on the path similar to what they have at Beban Park.
7	May 6, 2012 6:18 PM	Please put in a skatepark!!!!
8	May 5, 2012 3:33 AM	I think the creation of a covered lacrosse box with the intended use as a multi-sport facility is vital. Nanaimo has no year round facility to meet the need. There are literally hundreds of people who play ball hockey or floor hockey in this town. For all of them, gymnasiums are a second rate facility, as gym floors require the use of soft plastic blades which are awful to play with. A lacrosse box sized facility with a smooth polished cement floor would allow the use of regular hockey sticks. A facility like this would be seriously in demand. Besides the floor hockey/ball hockey groups, I know there are inline hockey players and two roller derby groups in town who are stuck using the Centennial Building, which is quite frankly awful for sport. I know people in both groups who maintain that they would be ecstatic to have a facility like this to use.
9	May 4, 2012 8:15 AM	Covered lacrosse box multi-use court
10	May 4, 2012 6:17 AM	no
11	May 3, 2012 8:23 PM	We need more covered, dry areas for roller sports in this city!
12	May 3, 2012 6:25 PM	I think this is a great idea to build a covered lacrosse box as long as the surface is good for roller blades!
13	May 3, 2012 1:58 PM	THINK roller derby!!! Currently, the only 'multi use' facility that Nanaimo has is the Centennial Building. It is woefully inadequate for sport.
14	May 3, 2012 6:49 AM	I think that the addition of a covered lacrosse box would see it being in high demand year round. There are many groups that would flock to such a facility instead of making do with small gyms and other old facilities.
15	May 3, 2012 6:26 AM	I currently play in an inline hockey league and would love it if we had a proper surface to play on year round!!
16	May 3, 2012 6:18 AM	Nanaimo needs a covered sporting facility badly
17	May 3, 2012 5:55 AM	No
18	May 1, 2012 11:13 PM	

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Where do you live?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 1 kilometre from the park	39.0%	30
Between 1-5 kilometres from the park	40.3%	31
Over 5 kilometres from the park	18.2%	14
Do not live in Nanaimo	2.6%	2
<i>answered question</i>		77
<i>skipped question</i>		2

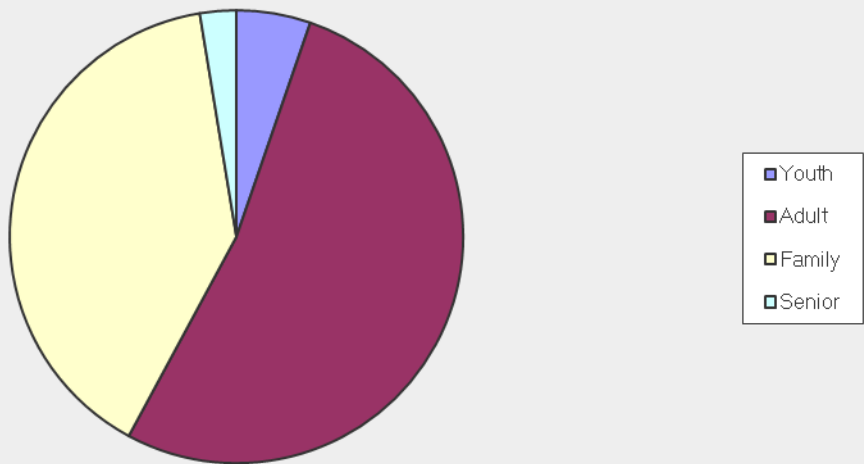


Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Which demographic user group do you feel describes you in relation to your use of Harewood Centennial Park?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Youth	5.3%	4
Adult	52.6%	40
Family	39.5%	30
Senior	2.6%	2
<i>answered question</i>		76
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Which demographic user group do you feel describes you in relation to your use of Harewood Centennial Park?



Appendix 4---Harewood Neighbourhood Plan Area - Statistical Profile

Census Data	2001 Harewood	2006 Harewood	2006 City of Nanaimo
Total Population	7920	8049	78690
0-4 years	535 (7%)	479 (6%)	3455 (4%)
5-19 years	1932 (24%)	1766 (22%)	13880 (18%)
20-24 years	522 (7%)	740 (9%)	5520 (7%)
25-34 years	1,119 (14%)	1090 (14%)	8255 (10%)
35-44 years	1300 (16%)	1197 (15%)	10435 (13%)
45-54 years	1,147 (14%)	1221 (15%)	12495 (16%)
55-64 years	562 (7%)	784 (10%)	10505 (13%)
65-74 years	468 (6%)	447 (6%)	6915 (9%)
75-84 years	273 (3%)	279 (3%)	5240 (7%)
85 years and over	70 (1%)	91 (1%)	1990 (3%)
Average age of population	33.8	36	42.0
Change in population	--	+129	+5693 (compared to 2001)
% Change in population	--	1.6%	7.2%
Total Population by 5 year mobility status	7394	7574	74160
Non-movers (same address five years ago)	3321 (45%)	3311 (44%)	34945 (47%)
Movers	4077 (55%)	4257 (56%)	39215 (53%)
Households	3172	3276	33525
Persons in private households	7905	8025	76790
Persons per household	2.5	2.5	2.3
Average household income	\$37,925	\$43,684	\$56,744
Median household income	\$30,558	\$37,022	\$46,460
% of all renter households who paid 30% or more of their gross household income on rent.	--	656 (53%)	4845 (49%)
Average gross monthly rent	--	\$665	\$736
Families	2282	2290	22580
Persons per family	2.8	2.8	2.7

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Two-parent families	1501 (66%)	1166 (51%)	18785 (83%)
Two-parent families with no children at home	761 (33%)	619 (27%)	10715 (47%)
Two-parent families with children at home	734 (32%)	531 (23%)	8070 (36%)
Lone-parent families	772 (34%)	692 (30%)	3795 (17%)
Low income families	625 (27%)	--	2698 (12%)
Total children at home	2738	2423	20110
Occupied Dwellings	3156	3262	33525
Owned dwellings	1884 (60%)	1998 (61%)	23635 (70%)
Rented dwellings	1277 (40%)	1244 (38%)	9890 (30%)
Single-detached house	1986 (63%)	1621 (50%)	19115 (57%)
Semi-detached/row/duplex	618 (20%)	876 (21%)	5780 (17%)
Apartments	386 (12%)	617 (19%)	7755 (23%)
Movable dwelling	165 (5%)	171 (5%)	870 (3%)

Age of Dwelling			
Built before 1946	325 (10%)	352 (11%)	2370 (7%)
Built 1946-1960	632 (20%)	650 (20%)	3635 (11%)
Built 1961-1970	459 (15%)	478 (15%)	4110 (12%)
Built 1971-1980	837 (27%)	716 (22%)	6465 (19%)
Built 1981-1990	516 (16%)	440 (13%)	6285 (19%)
Built 1991-1995	240 (8%)	321 (10%)	5020 (15%)
Built 1996-2006	141 (4%)	233 (8%)	5635 (17%)
Total Population 15 years and over by Labour Force Activity	--	6435	65695
In the labour force	--	4380 (68%)	40440 (62%)
Employed	--	3937 (61%)	37525 (57%)
Unemployed	--	425 (7%)	2915 (4%)
Not in the labour force	--	2050 (32%)	25255 (38%)
Unemployment rate	--	9.7%	7.2%
Total Employed Labour Force 15 years and over by Mode of Transportation	2845	3721	34465
Car, truck van as driver	2159 (76%)	2868 (77%)	27125 (79%)
Car, truck, van as passenger	248 (9%)	351 (9%)	2460 (7%)
Public transit	99 (3%)	164 (4%)	1165 (3%)
Walked to work	272 (10%)	213 (6%)	2450 (7%)
Bicycle	55 (2%)	58 (2%)	695 (2%)

Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan

Motorcycle	0 (0%)	30 (1%)	140 (0%)
Taxicab	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	30 (0%)
Other method	40 (1%)	16 (0%)	410 (1%)
Total Population 15 years and over by Educational Attainment	5438 (20* years and over)	6428	65690
Less than grade 9	375 (7%)	1728 (27%)	12665 (19%)
Grades 9 to 13	2158 (40%)	1993 (31%)	18950 (29%)
Trades certificate or diploma	906 (17%)	886 (14%)	8730 (13%)
Other non-university education	1078 (20%)	960 (15%)	12130 (18%)
University	940 (17%)	802 (12%)	13225 (20%)
Dominant Demographics			
Official home language	English	English	English
Non-official home language	Punjabi	Punjabi	Punjabi
Immigrant Place of Birth	United Kingdom	Asia & Middle East	Eastern Asia
Ethnic Origin	Canadian	Canadian	Canadian
Educational Attainment	Grades 9 to 13	Grades 9 to 13	Grades 9 to 13
Labour by Industry	Retail trade	Retail trade	Retail trade
Labour by Occupation	Sales & services	Sales & services	Sales & services

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Subject Area for Harewood Neighbourhood Plan Area - Statistical Profile

