



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Endorses Parks & Recreation Infrastructure Community Engagement Program

Maple Ridge, BC: On April 4, 2016 Council identified five major infrastructure concepts from an inventory of projects that are part of the 2010 Parks, Recreation & Cultural Plan. That 2010 plan was developed with significant community consultation. These five projects are currently unfunded in the City Capital Plan. Council has asked staff to develop a funding model for each of the five projects that will include greater detail on the potential capital and operating costs. In addition, staff will also bring back a draft implementation schedule for the projects as well as a community engagement process to allow the public to provide their input on the level of need and priorities for each project.

“This is an important point in the community conversation. It’s the starting point of what will be an extensive dialogue for the community and our Council,” said Mayor Read. “Now that we have these five project groupings our staff can do the work necessary to bring Council a more detailed business plan for each component, a broad schedule of when these five projects might be built and a plan to engage the community. We want to provide citizens with the information they need to ensure we receive meaningful feedback on each of the concepts.”

The five project concepts identified in the report include;

- A) Multi-use Wellness Facility with an Aquatic Centre
- B) Synthetic Field, Stadium and Event Setting
- C) Cultural Facility
- D) Ice Rinks
- E) Neighbourhood Amenities

BACKGROUND

The presentation made at the April 4, 2016 Council Workshop meeting included a report summarizing Council's top five priority areas.

The Multi-use Wellness Facility with an Aquatic Centre concept includes an aquatic component with six 25 metre lanes, three and ten metre diving platforms, a lazy river, hot pool and saunas. The space is also imagined to have community meeting rooms; event space with two full size basketball courts, bleacher seating (field house style), 200 metre indoor running track, fitness centre, a purpose built six sheet curling rink and social spaces for the community.

The Synthetic Field, Stadium and Event Setting concept suggests a retrofit of Albion Sand Fields to synthetic fields, development of a 500 seat covered spectator area, change rooms and washrooms plus the development of two additional synthetic fields for multiple sports user groups. This concept also envisions this space being used for cultural events or festivals as well.

The Cultural Facility concept looks at the co-location of the Museum, Archives (with a potential partnership with the City and area First Nations) and a Performing Arts Theatre (150 seats). The concept also imagines access to outdoor gathering space and a tourist information area.

The Ice Rinks concept looks at a retrofit of the existing curling facility to create a third NHL ice sheet, development of a fourth NHL ice sheet, and additional change rooms and space to accommodate a new ice skating lounge area.

Finally, the **Neighbourhood Amenities** concept suggests the development of the Albion Community Centre, a new Silver Valley community amenity (as yet unidentified), Hammond Community Hall retro-fit and possible investments in the Ridge Canoe and Kayak facilities at Whonnock Lake.

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