



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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For further information, contact:
Don Cramb at 604-467-7466
dcramb@mapleridge.ca

Community Consultation Will Shape Future of Recreation Facilities in Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, October 25, 2016 Maple Ridge Council endorsed a comprehensive community consultation program whereby citizens will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on a suite of new facility concepts. Council will use the information collected to develop a long term plan to meet the sport, recreation and cultural needs of the community.

The community engagement program will run from November 2016 through to March 2017 and includes a mail out survey, online surveys, YouTube videos, focus groups, user group consultations, social media engagement and a host of other methods to ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to provide feedback to Council.

“Maple Ridge is one of the fastest growing communities in the region and we know that we will require facilities; sports fields, ice rinks, fitness venues and community gathering spaces to meet the needs of our citizens in every corner of the community,” said Mayor Read. “This is an exciting opportunity for citizens to help shape the vision and priorities for the development of recreation facilities in the short, medium and long term. The work we are doing today will help Council identify the most critical investments and give future Councils a strong foundation for decisions they will be asked to consider as the City grows.”

Background

In April, 2016 Council endorsed a recommendation seeking greater detail around five concepts including the potential design, construction costs, operating costs and a community engagement process to gauge the needs and priorities of the following projects:

- 1) Multi-use Wellness Facility with an Aquatic Centre and Curling Facility
- 2) Synthetic Field, Stadium and Event Setting

- 3) Civic and Cultural Facility including a museum and archives
- 4) Two Ice Rinks
- 5) Neighbourhood Amenities
 - a) Albion Neighbourhood Learning Centre
 - b) Silver Valley Neighbourhood Amenity
 - c) Hammond Community Centre Retrofit
 - d) Whonnock – Retrofit of the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Training Facility

On Monday, October 17, 2016 Paul Fast from HCMA Architecture and Design presented Council with renderings and facility designs that addressed the five concepts that were identified in April. The materials presented to Council reflect consultations that have been done with community stakeholders and user groups.

Of interest to Council is the proposed Civic and Cultural Facility located in the civic precinct. Council has made presentations to the Provincial and Federal governments seeking funding partnerships for the development of a Civic and Cultural Facility that would host a Youth Wellness Centre, a post-secondary education site, a community gathering space, a Museum and Archives and a potential partnership such as seniors housing and/or a boutique hotel. The project profile also includes upgrades to the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, an expansion of the underground parking and enhanced outdoor spaces and amenities.

The proposed Multi-use Wellness Facility incorporates an aquatic centre, a new curling centre, multi-use gymnasium, fitness centre and indoor track.

The proposed upgrade to the facilities at Albion Sports Complex will include the redevelopment of gravel fields to all weather synthetic fields, the possible addition of a parking structure as well as increased amenities in the form of change rooms, washrooms, storage, seating and lighting enhancements.

The original concept list included a 5,000 seat covered stadium. No site has been selected for such a facility and Council's recommendation to seek co-location opportunities is being explored.

The plan contemplates an enhancement to the existing track and field facility at Maple Ridge Secondary School, a new area for discus and hammer throw, lighting and additional seating to increase opportunities for Maple Ridge to host high level track meets.

Mr. Fast also presented drawings for neighbourhood gathering spaces in Silver Valley with the development of covered 'pavilions' where community members can gather. The site drawings and designs allow for future development to create indoor spaces as the neighbourhoods grow.

The project list also includes a potential upgrade and expansion at Whonnock Lake to enhance the facilities for the popular and growing sports of canoeing and kayaking. Upgrades and renovations of Hammond Hall were also identified as part of the neighbourhood amenities discussion.

The full presentation is available as part of the recording of the October 17 Committee of the Whole meeting. The recording can be found at goo.gl/xygRaf. The presentation starts at 1:20:00 of the recording.

For more information please contact Don Cramb, Senior Recreation Manager, Recreation and Community Services at 604-467-7466 or by email at dcramb@mapleridge.ca.