



## Pender Island Parks & Recreation Commission

As we all are painfully aware, our main thoroughfares are narrow, winding and not safe for cycling or walking. This is an issue for all Penderites, especially our youth, and it won't go away unless we take it upon ourselves to do something about it.

The PIPRC has been working closely with our local Capital Regional District (CRD) representatives to find a solution for our main routes. After many months—or should I say years?—of planning, we are now finally ready to officially kick off our fundraising efforts for The Schooner Way – School Multi-use Trail, running from Danny Martin Ballpark to the Pender School and Medical Centre.

As we wrote back in July, multi-use trails support various forms of human-powered transportation, such as walking, running, cycling and people using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walkers and strollers.

We are focusing on the first phase of a three phase multi-use trail network. The trail will eventually tie into the CRD's planned Gulf Islands Regional Trail, which will run from Otter Bay ferry to the Driftwood Centre, and from the Driftwood Centre to South Pender. These trails will enable Pender residents to travel safely and efficiently to school, work and social activities, and to access community services, amenities and businesses – all while reducing our carbon footprint.

Although PIPRC is leading the charge, we need to give credit to Moving Around Pender for laying the groundwork and continuing to support this project.

### Fundraising Kick-off

Building the trail is expected to cost \$2.1 million. We know this is a large sum of money. However, when working within the roadway allowance, we are required to meet engineering standards to ensure the integrity of the roads for the safety of all motorists and trail users. This is a significant infrastructure project and it will add to our quality of life for generations to come.

We anticipate up to \$1 million through the BC Active Transportation Grant Program and we will be applying for the first instalment of \$500,000 in September. The CRD is looking to raise an additional \$600,000 through other government funds, including the Federal Community Works Fund.

This leaves us about \$500,000 shy of our total. This is the amount we hope to raise from the Pender Island Community. At this time, all support will be in the form of a pledge dependent upon approval of the BC Active Transportation Grant. We are focused on this grant and have a high level of confidence that we will be able to secure these funds for Pender Island. Once the grant is approved, we will follow up with those that have pledged support to request payment. With this money in hand, we can start trail construction.

We realize that \$500,000 is a large ask, but we are hopeful that the Pender Island Community will come together and start the process of building a safer and healthier island. Each \$250 pledge will sponsor 1m of trail and special Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum "founders" categories have been set up for sponsors of 10+, 40+, 100+ and 300+ metres of trail. Even if you can't sponsor a metre, all donations of \$20 or more are tax deductible.

This is just only the first step in making Pender Island even better for all of us. We hope you will support us, however you can, in this endeavor. Pledge forms and more information about the project are available at: [www.crd.bc.ca/schoonerwaytrail](http://www.crd.bc.ca/schoonerwaytrail).

Questions may be directed to me at 778.677.4733 or [fawcettexpeditions@gmail.com](mailto:fawcettexpeditions@gmail.com). Please send your pledge forms and comments about the project to: [penderparks@crd.bc.ca](mailto:penderparks@crd.bc.ca).

Rob Fawcett  
PIPRC Vice-Chair