

Salt Spring Island Family Bike Park 2018 Community Open House

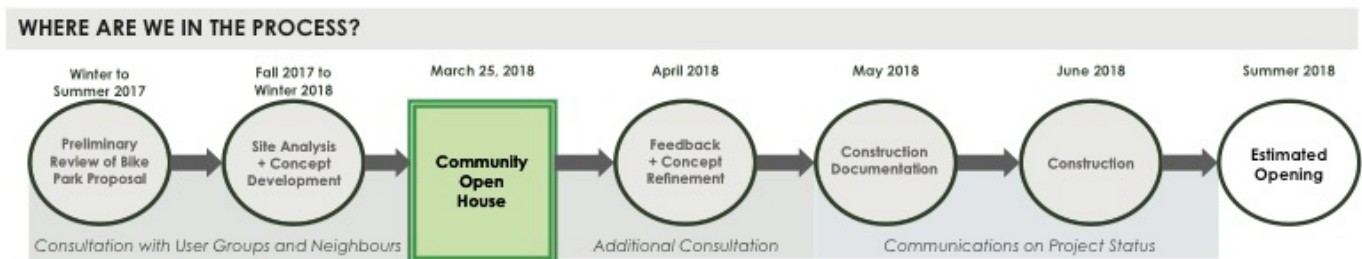
Summary



Submitted by Green City Builders, Inc. to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation
Commission (PARC) on March 28, 2018

OVERVIEW

A community open house for the proposed Salt Spring Lions Commemorative Bike Park in Mouat Park took place on Sunday, March 25 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Lions Hall. The event was hosted by the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) to share information about the project and receive feedback from the community. Information on the planning process, environmental and technical assessments and a draft design proposal were available for public review and discussion. Members of the consultant team (Green City Builders and Lees and Associates), PARC staff, and two commissioners were in attendance. Two site tours at Mouat Park were also hosted by the project manager, Elizabeth FitzZaland (Green City Builders) earlier in the day at 11:30 am and 12:00 pm.



The event was advertised on the Salt Spring Island Exchange, the Gulf Islands Driftwood, Facebook and through the CRD's website. Approximately 85 people attended the Open House and approximately twenty-five people attended the site tours. Most adult attendees and some underage attendees completed comments forms. A few people emailed comments after the event. This input is summarized below and, along with the verbal comments received at the Open House, will be used to direct the next phase of the project.



1. Project team explaining concept to attendees

2. Open House Attendees



2. Project team explaining concept to attendees



3. Kids activity table at the Open House

COMMENT FORM RESPONSES

Open house attendees were encouraged to leave written responses on comment forms. Fifty-five Community Open House attendees filled out comment forms, with an additional six people sending in comments via email to the CRD. Comments were received from many age groups:

- eight responses from people under 12
- 26 responses from 25-45 age range
- 10 responses from 46-65 age range
- eight responses from 66+ age range
- nine respondents declined to provide their age.

The comment forms collected feedback through a series of three questions:

1. What do you like about the proposed Draft Family Bike Park Concept?
2. Is there anything you want changed in the Draft Family Bike Park Concept?
3. Please provide any other comments in the space below or on the reverse side of this page

GENERAL RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED CONCEPT

The majority (55) of responses were supportive of the Family Bike Park Concept. Many commenters indicated that they like the design, the variety of trails, that it is a safe learning environment for kids and that the natural environment is considered in the design. Many commenters stated that the proposed concept was a good use of park space.

CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSED CONCEPT

Six commenters expressed concerns about the concept, with four commenting that they strongly disagreed with or disliked it. The most common concerns expressed were that the location was not appropriate for a family bike park and that such a use will put pressure on the parking facilities in the park. A few commenters also expressed concern for potential expansion beyond the proposed location and crowding in the park. One commenter expressed concerns about connectivity through the park. Another expressed concern that the concept is dangerous for small children. Two commenters felt that there had not been enough consultation with current park users, especially dog walkers.

SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED CONCEPT

Most commenters did not suggest any changes to the draft concept. Several (9) comments indicated that would like to see the bike park expanded, either now or in the future, or raised the possibility of a second park somewhere else on the island. Three commenters provided more technical feedback on changes to the park setup and types of installations possible in the area such as more jumps or relocating certain elements within the park. One suggested the installation of a bathroom, while another suggested the installation of more seating benches.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Where respondents left additional comments, the majority were positive. Eight people expressed their thanks for the organizers of the project. Nine people commented that the project was either long overdue or that they were excited to use the Family Bike Park. Another 15 expressed their strong support of the project in general terms.

There were some concerns raised in the general comments, one related to how injuries were going to be handled, and what sort of garbage collection was going to be in place. Two commenters expressed concerns about the tree removal that had already taken place.



4. Attendees filling out comment forms



5. Youth feedback board



COMMENT FORM

Family Bike Park | Community Open House | March 25, 2018

Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone/Email: _____

1. What do you like about the proposed Draft Family Bike Park Concept?
2. Is there anything you want changed in the Draft Family Bike Park Concept?
3. Please provide any other comments in the space below or on the reverse side of this page.

BACKGROUND

What is a Family Bike Park?

A family bike park is a dirt surfaced, trail network with technical features professionally designed to facilitate bicycle skill development among children and youth — such as balancing, braking, cornering, jumping, handling and more. In particular, a family bike park provides a fun and safe place for children as young as two years old to learn to ride a bike, increase their ability and confidence, and develop a love for the sport.

What are the Benefits?

- Safe environment for new and young bike riders
- Active recreation option for all, including those not interested in team sports
- Positive, encouraging place for kids and youth
- Supports skill development and passion for car alternative transportation
- Supports appreciation of the outdoors
- Very small environmental footprint
- Relatively low capital and maintenance costs
- Minimal impacts (traffic, noise, etc.) on adjacent uses

Why Mouat Park?

PARC reviewed three possible locations for a Family Bike Park and identified a 0.8 acre location at the east end of Mouat Park as the most appropriate site. This location is preferred because it is centrally located close to Ganges, pathways, schools and other amenities; has the appropriate zoning; was previously assessed as not containing threatened plant or animal species; is impacted by human activity; and, has terrain well suited for a bike park. PARC's 2011 Master Plan identifies woodland biking and a bike park as potential uses in the Mouat Park.

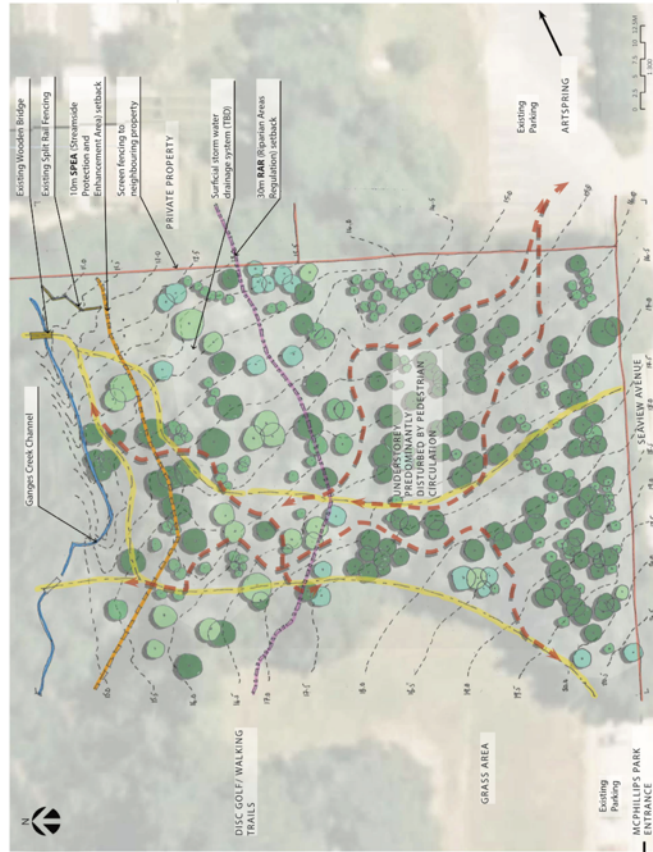
WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

Family Bike Parks in Nearby Places:

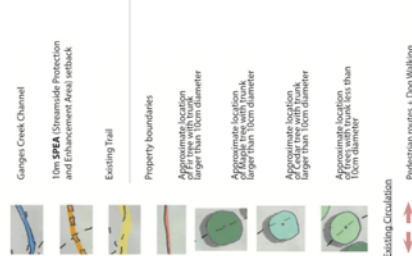
- Tofino
- Goldstream Provincial Park
- Udulet
- North Saanich
- Cobble Hill
- Bowen Island (opening May 2018)

SITE ANALYSIS

EXISTING USES, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS



LEGEND



Existing and Adjacent Uses

The proposed site is a forested area with disturbed understorey within the Parks and Reserves zone. The area is primarily used by dog walkers, elementary school classes and other pedestrians. The adjacent land uses include residential (east and south across Seaview), parking (east and west), a park lawn (west), and walking trails and the Ganges Creek Channel (north). The site is accessed from Seaview Avenue and is well served by trail connections from the East, South and North. These trails connect to the Village center, schools and surrounding neighbourhoods.



Environmental Assessment

PARC engaged Whitehead Environmental Consultants to undertake a due diligence assessment and a Riparian Area Regulations Assessment Report in 2017. The analysis reviewed the overall condition of the ecosystem in and adjacent to the proposed project location, and made recommendations in light of the proposed Bike Park project.

The key outcome of the environmental assessment is the establishment of 10 meter Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) on south side of Ganges Creek channel. The stream runs from west to east, outside of the northern boundary of proposed area. The stream is a constructed channel, built many years ago to provide flood relief and now considered to be the main stem of Ganges Creek in this area. Ganges Creek supports chum salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout from the mouth up to approximately 80m downstream of the end of McPhillips Avenue.

The environmental analysis also recommended a storm water and soil erosion control mitigation plan be implemented before and during the development of the bike park and that any bare areas that may be created during construction be replanted.

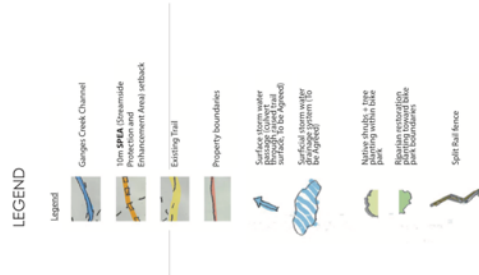
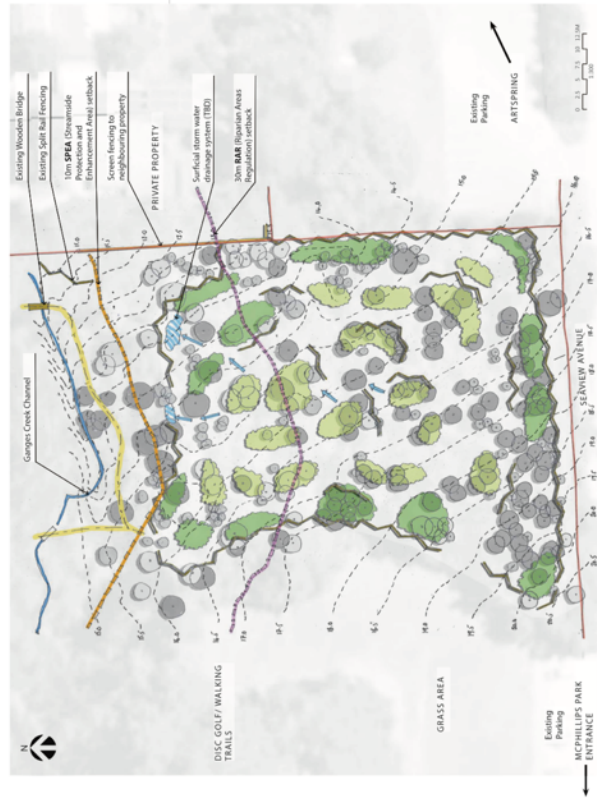
Archeological Assessment

Archeologist Eric McIay conducted a review of the proposed project site in early 2018. He found no indications of archeological sites and recommended no further evaluations within the 0.8 acre area. He did note the nearby Japanese kilns and confirmed the location of a midden within the Ganges Creek Setback. He presented recommendations for protecting this site from walkers, dogs and cyclists with split cedar fencing along and within the SPEA setback.

SALT SPRING LIONS COMMEMORATIVE BIKE PARK

ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

REVEGETATION, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL



- ### Ecology-Driven Design Principals
- No disturbances within the SPEA setback
 - Retain all healthy trees over 10cm in diameter outside the SPEA setback and most of the smaller healthy trees
 - Install split rail cedar fencing along entire perimeter of the site to establish the Bike Park boundaries and prohibit bikes from entering the SPEA setback
 - Locate all trails at least 1.5 m away from trees or "bridge" roots with elevated obstacles
 - Remove all invasive plant species and revegetate with native species throughout site to stabilize ground and protect trees, and enhance the health of the forest
 - Install split rail cedar fencing on the uphill side of tree-planting clusters to protect critical root zones and to drain effectively within the project site
 - Channel surface run-off from storm water to sufficient rock

Arborist Report

PARC engaged certified arborist Harry Williams of Madrone Environmental Services in early 2018 to document the health of the trees in the proposed project site, and to make recommendations for preserving and protecting as many healthy trees as possible during and after construction, and especially in consideration of the nearby riparian area. About 9 trees over 10cm in diameter were confirmed as dead or dangerous, and

identified for removal. Stunted trees in poor health were also identified for possible removal. All other trees were identified for preservation.

The arborist report provides recommendations for protecting the retained trees and enhancing the health of the forest. Many of these are listed above and shown in the diagram on this board.



SALT SPRING LIONS COMMEMORATIVE BIKE PARK



March 25th, 2018

BIKE PARK TRAIL PRECEDENTS

DIRT SURFACE



GRADE VARIETY



BERMS & ROLLERS



SALT SPRING LIONS COMMEMORATIVE BIKE PARK



BIKE PARK COMPONENT PRECEDENTS

CEDAR WOOD ROLLER COASTERS



ROCK GARDEN



LOG RIDES



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