[redacted]
Victoria, B.C. V8S 5E4
March 12, 2019

Monty Holding, Chair
Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission
Municipality of Oak Bay
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Holding and Members of the OB Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission,

As a grandparent who regularly cares for preschool and school age children, here are some suggestions to please consider as you plan to meet the needs of young children in our community:

1. A play area with climbing equipment in the Oak Bay Village, so that when we shop, visit the library (with its wonderful storytime), or attend events like the Night Markets, there is a place for children to play and parents to connect. Perhaps the area behind the library or around the Municipal Hall?
2. A washroom next to the play area at Windsor Park. Currently, the washrooms in the Windsor Park Pavilion are a long haul across the often busy rugby field for a parent juggling a child or two who are at the learning stage for toilet use. It looks like there is a building already there, which could be updated? We understand that a new picnic shelter is being planned. Or perhaps a small playground needs to be adjacent to the building with the preschool facilities and between the two playing fields?

Thank you for your consideration of these needs.

Sincerely,

Christina Johnson-Dean

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| To: | **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission** |
| From: | **Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture** |
| Subject: | **Uplands Park Management Plan** |
| Date: | **May 1, 2019** |

www.recreation.oakbay.ca

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**BACKGROUND**

Developing a natural area management framework is a recommendation of the Urban Forest Strategy, and was included as an item to be completed in the first year of the Five Year Implementation Plan approved by Council in 2018. Further, Council approved one-time funding of $10,000 to complete this work in 2018.

Wylie Thomas was contracted to undertake this work in 2018.

Mr. Thomas made a presentation to the Commission on March 6, 2019, but the Uplands Park & Cattle Point Management Plan was not completed in time to be included in the agenda and made public on the website. Thus, the Plan is now coming forward.

If the Commission is happy with the report it can be received and it will be forwarded to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Commission receives the Uplands Park & Cattle Point Management Plan and that the report be forwarded to Council.

Ray Herman
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

# Uplands Park & Cattle Point

## Management Plan

*submitted to:*

**Chris Hyde-Lay**
**Manager, Parks Services**
**District of Oak Bay**

*by:*

**Wylie Thomas**
**Victoria, BC**

# Table of Contents

# 1 Introduction

Uplands Park, a municipal park located in the District of Oak Bay, is a place of exceptional beauty, home to a rich variety of flora and fauna and offering superb vistas of the sea, magnificent and varied landscapes, and spectacular displays of flowering meadows. Its rare ecosystems and unusually large number of endangered plant species make it a place of national conservation significance. It is rightfully a source of pride for Oak Bay residents who consider the natural environment to be at the core of Oak Bay's identity and an important part of what makes it such a desirable place to live (Oak Bay Official Community Plan, 2014).

Uplands Park is bordered on three sides by an urban residential neighbourhood and on its southeastern end by Haro Strait. With an area of 31 hectares, it is the largest in Oak Bay's park system and accounts for more than 75% of the municipality's undeveloped natural parkland.

**Figure 1—View of Mount Baker from Cattle Point**

The administrative entity of Uplands Park consists of two distinct parts: Cattle Point and Uplands Park (sometimes referred to as Uplands Park "proper"). These sections are separated from each other by Beach Drive.

*Cattle Point*, situated on the ocean side of Beach Drive, is a 5.5-hectare piece of land consisting of a rocky coastline aside the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the oldest such sanctuary in Pacific Canada (established 1923). Cattle Point offers magnificent views of the water, islands and mountains, abundant birdlife and marine life, maritime meadows, and an impressive diversity of plants, some of them extremely rare and of national significance. With the exception of the many informal trails that crisscross its meadows, Cattle Point is fairly well developed and the most heavily used section of the park. It contains well-used boat launch ramps, a scenic waterfront drive, parking facilities, information kiosks, benches and picnic tables, and a single portable toilet (port-a-potty).


**Figure 2—Map of Uplands Park and Cattle Point**

Administratively, Uplands Park and Cattle Point are treated as a single park: Uplands Park. However, most people, including park managers and the public, distinguish between Cattle Point on the southeast of Beach Drive and the larger section of the park to the northwest, which they call Uplands Park. This map shows the main fire routes into the park (red), and the 100 treatment units ("TU"s) that were developed to help organize work related to the park's *2018 – 2025 Invasive Plant Management Plan*, and are referred to in this management plan for identifying areas for activities.

On the north and northwest side of Beach Drive is the remaining, and much larger, 26-hectare section of the park commonly referred to as "Uplands Park" to distinguish it from Cattle Point. It contains at least 16 distinct plant communities ranging from Garry Oak woodlands to meadows and vernal pools, providing habitat for 22 rare and endangered plant species. With the exception of annual mowing and brush cutting by the municipal parks department to reduce the risk of fire, this section of the park has been kept in a

largely natural state with no built infrastructure except a sign and kiosk at its entrance, gravel fire access road and three fire hydrants. Its many informal and untended trails offer visitors opportunities for outdoor enjoyment in one of Canada's rarest and most endangered ecosystems. This section of the park is also of considerable archaeological interest as it was once part of a large pre-contact Coast Salish cemetery, and contains many burial cairns and other cultural features, some dating back more than 1500 years ago (Mathews and Kilburn, 2013).

A small, half-hectare manicured section on Beach Drive between Cattle Point and Uplands Park is devoted to a war memorial, and is not considered part of this management plan.

Although Cattle Point is technically part of Uplands Park, where this document refers to Uplands Park it is only refers to those portions of the park west and north of Beach Drive. Where it refers to Cattle Point, it only refers to the area east and south of Beach Drive. When addressing issues common to both units, it refers to them as 'Uplands Park and Cattle Point'.

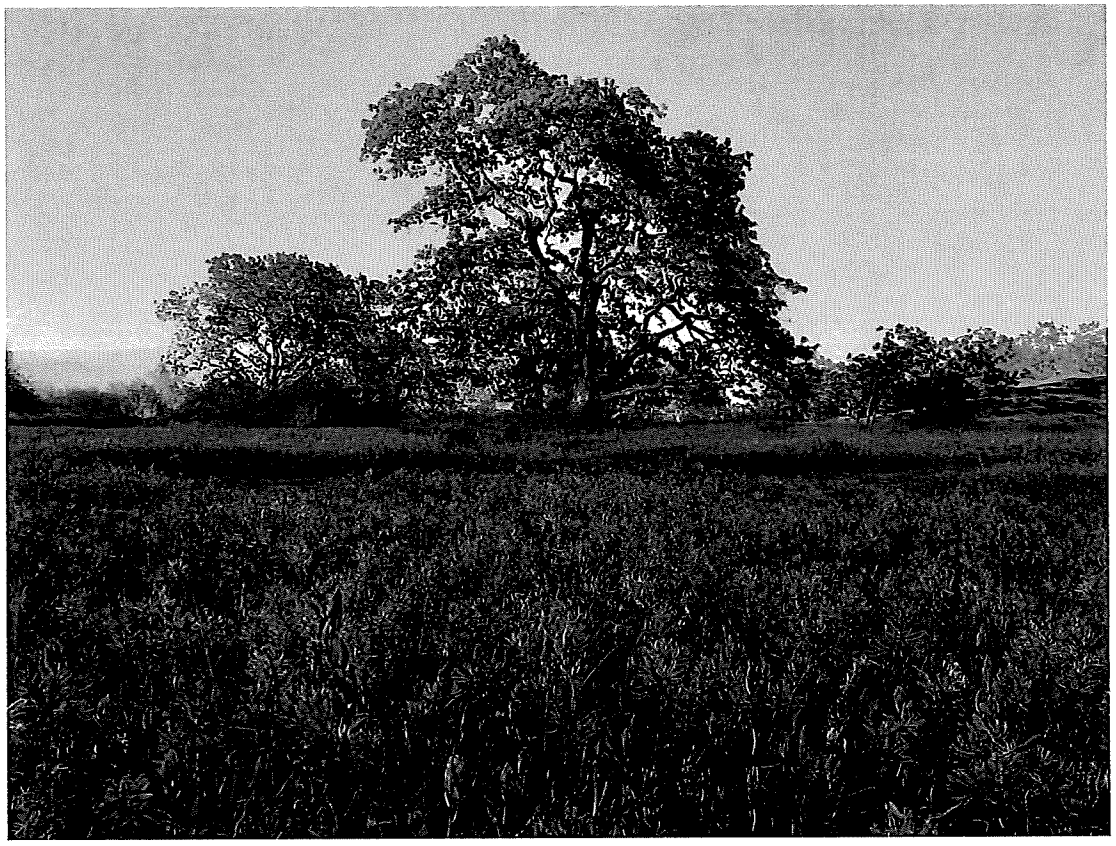

**Figure 3—Central Meadow (TU62) in full camas bloom**

# 2 Park Values

## 2.1 Recreation

Uplands Park and Cattle Point offer one of the best places in the Greater Victoria Area to enjoy the outdoors. Many hundreds of people visit the park each day to take in fresh air, stretch their legs, walk their dogs and connect with nature in what is arguably one of the city's most beautiful settings and one of the best places to view the islands, volcanoes and mountains that frame the seascape off its shores. During the spring and summer months, the number of visitors increases as Cattle Point becomes a popular stop for tourists and guided tours of the city.

Uplands Park and Cattle Point are also widely considered to be one of the most outstanding pieces of natural heritage in our region. They contain, within a relatively small area, a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna, and a varied landscape that includes rocky seascapes, woodlands of majestic oaks, wet prairies and meadows of camas and wildflowers, which in Canada are unique to southeastern Vancouver Island, the nearby Gulf Islands and two areas in the Fraser Valley. Ranked as one of the top five birding sites in the Capital Regional District, Cattle Point and Uplands Park are important destinations for birders from all over the region, and its Garry Oak ecosystems and rare flora are famous among naturalists and researchers who flock to the park in the spring to view its meadows in bloom. Local schools use the park extensively for outdoor classes to educate students about the natural and cultural history of the region, and colleges and universities regularly hold field study courses in the park. Interesting bedrock features and the traces of two different processes of glacial erosion at Cattle Point make it one of Victoria's premier geological sites and a destination for university geology classes.

The park is unusual for a city park in that large parts have been left in an undeveloped, semi-natural state without formally defined walking trails. The exception is Cattle Point which offers a number of amenities including a paved scenic drive, parking spaces for cars and boat trailers, a port-a-potty and two boat launches that are well used by recreational boaters. Of the two sections of the park, Cattle Point is the more heavily used. Interpretive kiosks explaining the natural and pre-contact history have been installed in both Cattle Point and Uplands Park.

In addition to the uses cited above, the park is enjoyed for many other purposes, a few of which will be referenced here. For local residents, the large blackberry patches at the park's boundaries are popular for berry picking in the late summer. And, Cattle Point, one of only 14 designated dark sky reserves across the country, is an important destination for amateur astronomers (cattlepointstarpark.org).

The park is used as well for commercial purposes. It is a popular location for film crews who have shot a number of TV series in the park including an episode of CBC's Murdoch Mysteries series. It is often used by small businesses for professional dog walking and dog obedience classes, and occasionally for wedding party photos and recreational activities such as orienteering club races.

## 2.2 Natural Environment

### 2.2.1 *Flora and Plant Communities*

Uplands Park and Cattle Point are of national conservation significance. They contain one of the largest and most intact fragments of endangered Garry Oak and associated ecosystems remaining in Canada. These ecosystems, which include Garry Oak woodlands and flowering meadows, vernal pools and seeps[1], rocky outcrops, maritime meadows and coastal bluffs, are home to more plant species than any other terrestrial ecosystem in coastal British Columbia (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, 2018). Less than 5% of their original extent remains (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, 2011). In addition to their unusual beauty, the park's Garry Oaks, meadows, vernal pools and vernal seeps are home to 24 rare and endangered plant species, one of the highest concentrations in Canada. Some of these plants are found in few other places in the country[2]. A complete list of the rare plants found in the park is provided in Appendix. The park is also notable for its deep-soiled Garry Oak woodlands—which because of their rich soils and flat topography have been largely converted to housing and agriculture elsewhere—are now considered very rare. It is one of the reasons one finds in the park some of the region's largest specimen oaks.

While the park's many ecosystems add to its natural interest, it is its open areas with their meadows and vernal seeps and pools that harbour the park's greatest biodiversity. Together, Cattle Point and Uplands Park count 33 such areas totalling 8.6 hectares or 27% of the park's 32 hectares. Of these, only 1.6 hectares are considered maritime meadows, an extremely rare plant community of which only 200 hectares remain in Canada (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, 2011). Figure 4 below shows the number of rare plant species by meadow/open area. Four areas stand out for having the highest number of endangered species: Central Meadow (17 species); Eastern Meadow (5 species); Memorial Meadow (5 species) and four of the maritime meadows at Cattle Point which, between them, count 10 species at risk.

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[1] *Vernal pools* are a unique type of wetland ecosystem. Central to their distinctive ecology is that they are ephemeral, occurring temporarily and then disappearing until the next year. They are wet long enough to differ in character and species composition from the surrounding habitat, while their prolonged annual dry phase prevents the establishment of species typical of more permanent wetlands. *Vernal seeps* are shallow flows that occur where groundwater emerges on sloping terrain, usually at the lower slopes of hillsides. (Parks Canada Agency, 2006)

[2] Uplands Park contains a significant proportion of the Canadian populations for many of its rare species. For example, 98% of the Canadian population of Mühlenberg's Centaury, 60% of Water-plantain Buttercup and 100% of Kellogg's Rush are found in the park. (Parks Canada, 2006 & 2013).


**Figure 4—Number of rare plant species per meadow in Uplands Park and Cattle Point**

Cattle Point and Uplands Park are home to a total of 24 rare and endangered plant species; with 22 in Uplands Park and 11 in Cattle Point. Numbers shown are for rare plant species currently known to occur in different areas of the park.

### 2.2.2 *Fauna*

The fauna of Uplands Park and Cattle Point has not been as intensively studied as its flora, and consequently is less well known. We do know however that it is rich in bird life, both resident and migratory. eBird (ebird.org), a website managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for reporting bird sightings around the world, places Cattle Point in the top 5 birding sites in the Capital Region District based on reported sightings of 218 species. Local birding expert Geoffrey Newell (pers. comm.) has recorded a total of 240 species in both sections of the park, which would make it the top spot in the entire region.

Little is known about most insect groups in the park, although it is reported to support about half the native species of grasshoppers and crickets native to Vancouver Island, an impressive diversity for such a small area (James Miskelly, pers. comm). Western Black Widow Spiders have also been observed in the dryer, rocky meadows of the park (Marian McCoy pers. comm).

Historical accounts make note of an abundance and diversity of butterflies, although today only 7 species are regularly observed (Elizabeth Garrett, pers. comm). Four rare

butterflies are reported to have disappeared from the park over the last 50 years. Taylor's Checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) and the Western Branded Skipper, *oregonia* subspecies (*Hesperia colorado oregonia*) were both collected from the park in the 1950s but have not been reported since (Collier *et al.*, 2004). The Common Ringlet (*Coenonympha californica insulana*), once the most common butterfly in Victoria, but endangered today, and Propertius Duskywing (*Erynnis propertius*) were last reported from the area in 1995 (BC Ministry of the Environment 2014)[3].


## 2.3 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Uplands Park contains an archaeological treasure of pre-contact burial cairns and mounds. The park lies within what was once an extensive human-modified landscape tended by Coast Salish peoples for centuries prior to the arrival of the first European settlers. First Nations peoples managed the land here intensively for a range of foods,

[3] James Miskelly, a local rare plant botanist and butterfly expert, reports that he saw Common Ringlets in Uplands Park in the early '00s, and was shown a photo of a Propertius Duskywing taken by someone in the park in 2007. It may therefore be premature to declare these two species extirpated from the park.

including camas and other staples, medicinal plants and other resources by regular burning and cultivation. The landscape included sites of spiritual importance and the largest pre-contact Coast Salish burial mound and cairn cemeteries in the Salish Sea, one that extended from a former village located at Willows Beach to a large settlement at Cadboro Bay, encompassing what is today Uplands Park. While much of the original funerary landscape has been altered by historic development, the portions within the park have remained largely protected.

Researchers from Camosun College have studied a section of Uplands Park where they found 90 funerary petroforms and another 17 cultural features, some dating from more than 1500 years ago (Mathews and Kilburn, 2013). Although few people are aware of these archaeological artifacts, they are nevertheless an important part of what makes Uplands Park exceptional and in need of protection.

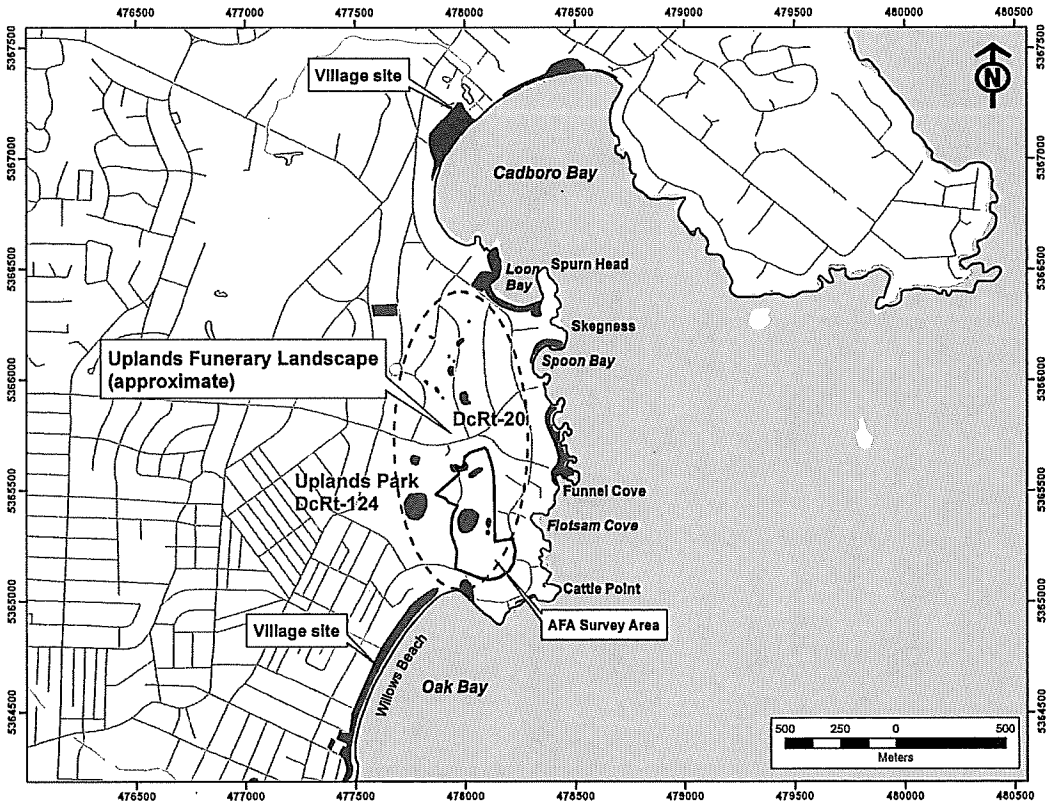


**Figure 5—The Uplands funerary landscape showing the Uplands Park study area (Mathews and Kilburn, 2013)**

# 3 Relevant Documents

The following plans, bylaws and background reports were consulted during the preparation of this management plan. The goals and actions identified in this park management plan are consistent with these reports.

- Oak Bay Official Community Plan, 2014, Schedule A to Bylaw No. 4620
- Recreational Use of Oak Bay Parks & Open Spaces: Report of the Parks Vision Committee, March 2005, updated July 2011
- District of Oak Bay Urban Forest Management Strategy, March 2017
- Oak Bay Public Parks and Beaches Bylaw No. 4672
- Oak Bay Animal Control Bylaw No. 4013
- Uplands Park: A Stewardship Plan. (Collier, Spencer and Miskelly, 2004)

**Figure 6—Fauna at Uplands Park and Cattle Point**

Clockwise from bottom left: The cicada *Okanagana occidentalis*, one of only two local species found in Northeastern Meadow (TU68); Western Black Widow Spider (*Latrodectus hesperus*) making a meal of a grasshopper in TU63; and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) at Cattle Point (TU92) protecting its ground nest of four eggs which can be seen at the top just off the centreline of the photo.

# 4 Key Management Issues

## 4.1 Natural Area Management

The natural environment of Cattle Point and Uplands Park is arguably their most valuable asset and the main draw for visitors, residents and tourists alike. Some of these assets, particularly the Garry Oak meadows and woodlands, and vernal seeps and pools are under severe strain and at risk of being lost forever if not managed carefully. Indeed, information available through the BC Ministry of Environment (http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/), shows that at least three nationally endangered species—Bear's-foot Sanicle, Coastal Scouler's Catchfly and Howell's Triteleia—have disappeared from the park since the 1990s, and one critically imperiled species, Victoria's Owl-clover, has not been seen at Cattle Point since 2004, one of only 4 sites worldwide where this species is known to occur. In addition, as mentioned in Section 2.2.2, four rare butterflies have disappeared from the park.

The Convention on Biological Diversity lists: invasive species; and habitat loss and degradation as two of the top drivers of the worldwide decline in biodiversity (CBD, 2016). Both of these processes are at work in Uplands Park.

### 4.1.1 *Invasive Plants*

Uplands Park and Cattle Point have an unusually high number of invasive species. More than 80 alien, invasive plants have been observed in the park, where they threaten its rare species and endangered meadow and woodland ecosystems. Many of these invasive species must be controlled if the park's Garry Oak woodlands are to survive and its open meadows, vernal pools and vernal seeps saved from conversion to closed canopy shrubland.

Much progress has been made in the control of invasive species since the early 1990s when volunteers began removing Scotch Broom from a few meadows. This work now encompasses the entire park and targets a larger number of invasive shrubs and trees. By the end of 2018, the park had been kept free of flowering Scotch Broom and Gorse for 5 consecutive years, 14 hectares of Garry Oak woodlands had been cleared of all mature invasive trees, and invasive woody shrubs such as Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy had been removed from 7.5 hectares of woodlands surrounding the meadows with the highest biodiversity and rarest plants.

The progress seen over the last 10 years is due in part to the astonishing number of volunteer hours organized each year (1600 hours in 2017) by Friends of Uplands Park (Margaret Lidkea) which help the municipality in its successful bids for funding from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP). These funds allow Oak Bay to hire each year a seasonal crew and project manager to work exclusively on invasives removal from the park. The municipality has also provided arborist time (more than 100 pd since 2014)

and equipment to remove mature invasive trees from the park and many hours of staff time to dispose of the biomass removed by the seasonal crew.

Despite tremendous progress, more years of work lie ahead. Many noxious weeds produce seeds that remain viable for a long time, even decades, meaning that most areas must be retreated for years after initial treatment to control regeneration from the seed bank. As well, large parts of the park have not yet been treated, including the heavily infested woods in the northwestern section of the park. To guide invasives removal in the park, a comprehensive eight-year (2018 – 2025) invasive plant management plan has been developed which includes a series of detailed annual treatment plans with retreating and monitoring schedules and maps identifying locations of activities.

### 4.1.2 *Habitat Loss and Degradation*

Because of Cattle Point and Uplands Park's status as a municipal park, their ecosystems, flora and fauna are protected from the large-scale loss of habitat that tends to accompany capital projects or other major developments. However, the park's lack of formally demarcated foot paths and signage advising users how they can minimize disturbance has led to a proliferation of informal trails which is leading to a slow but steady decline in meadow habitat. These spring-flowering meadows and open areas are one of the park's key attractions, and where most of its biodiversity and rare plants are found. The situation is particularly dire at Cattle Point where a very large number of visitors hiking in a relatively small area with few obvious trails has led to a severe decline in the health of its maritime meadows, and where camas and other native flora are now generally only found growing in crevices and on the sides of rock outcroppings where people do not tread. The presence of 22 commemorative benches scattered throughout Cattle Point is a likely contributing factor.

Much of Uplands Park floods in winter forcing hikers to alter their route through the park, in the process widening existing paths and creating new ones to avoid flooded areas. This is particularly pronounced in the Central Meadow, which is home to the park's greatest diversity of flowering plants, including 17 endangered species. In the winter, when the meadow is at its wettest, footpaths become flooded and park users are forced to step into growing meadows to avoid getting their feet wet. This has led to a widening of existing trails, trampling of growing native plants at their most vulnerable, and compacting of soils to such a degree that some areas can no longer support native flora. In 2016, a study of the Central Meadow found that more than 2000 m of informal trails had been created over the years, reducing viable meadow habitat by at least 1000 $m^2$, equivalent to about 10% of the entire meadow area.

A well-designed system of formalized trails and signage—one that fits into the landscape so that it does not detract from its natural beauty—is needed as a matter of priority, starting in Cattle Point where damage may be reaching a point of no return. Wherever possible, wheel chair accessibility should be considered, although not all areas can be made wheelchair accessible.

Dogs can also contribute to habitat loss when they are allowed to dig and run freely over sensitive meadow habitat or when their owners use meadows to play catch. Dog faeces left on site alter the chemical composition of the soil by adding nitrogen, which benefits exotic grasses such as Orchard Grass at the expense of native species, which are adapted to nitrogen-poor conditions (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, 2011). A better system is needed for keeping dogs under control and out of the ecologically sensitive parts of the park, one that might include creating a fenced-in section in the park where dogs can run off leash all year long.

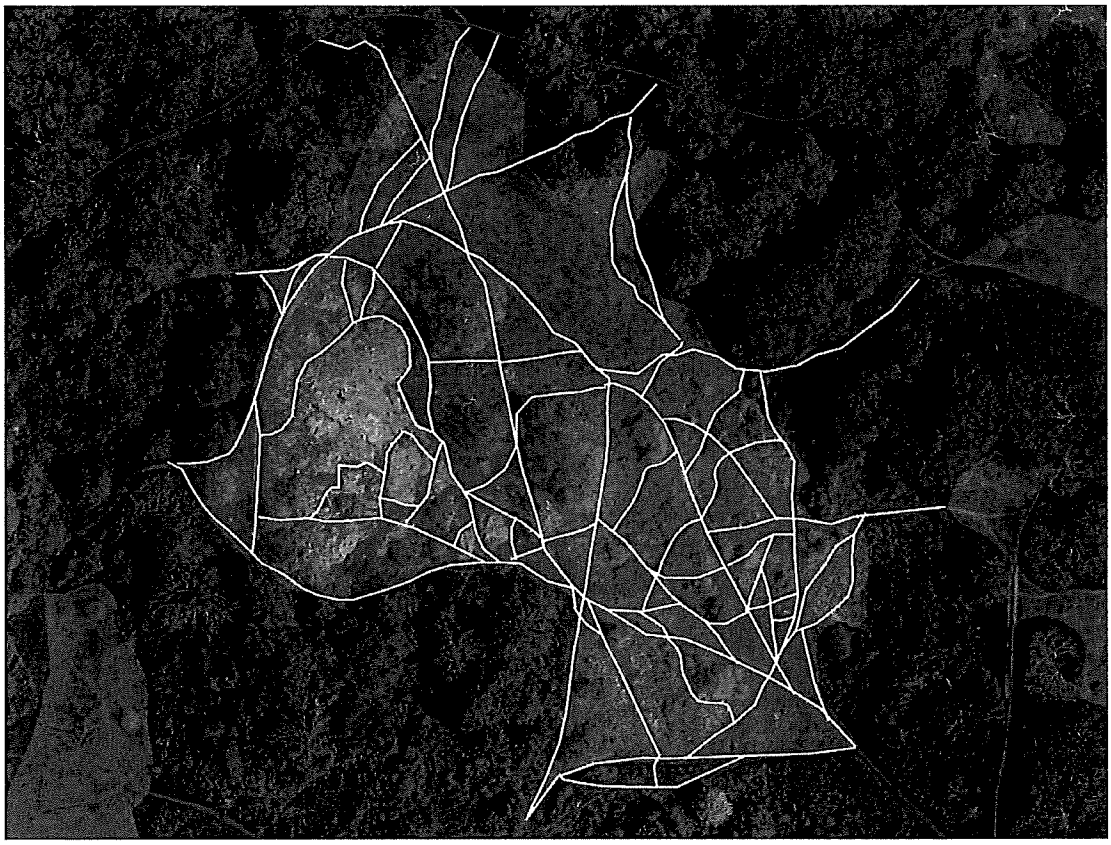

**Figure 7—Central Meadow showing the more than 2000 m of informal trails**

The white lines represent the many informal trails that weave through Uplands Park's Central Meadow, home to its largest Garry Oak Meadow and 17 rare plant species. The number of these trails is increasing and prime meadow habitat is being lost. It is possible to formalize these trails and reduce their numbers in such a way that park goers can continue to use the neadow with little impact on their ability to enjoy this exceptionally rare and beautiful site.

Uplands Park is blessed with a great diversity of birdlife, including some very rare species that use the park as a rest stop along their migration routes. Others are resident in the park all year round. All add to the rich experience of the park. A big threat to birds comes during the nesting season, when many species build their nests on or near the ground where they can be disturbed by dogs. This is being dealt with effectively by a bylaw requirement for all dogs to be on leash during the nesting season (April – June). This bylaw, however, does not apply to Cattle Point where at least one species (killdeer) nests on the ground and loses its young each year (See Figure 6).

Changing habits and use patterns requires the support of the public. Kiosks with interpretive materials have helped increase public awareness of the park's exceptional natural values, and public outreach programs organized by Friends of Uplands Park and the District of Oak Bay have helped raise awareness among some segments of the population about how they can help protect the park for future generations. However, a more concerted plan is needed to reach other users including the many tourists who descend on Cattle Point from tour buses during the spring and summer months.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the important role hydrology plays in the persistence of some of the park's rarest plants, which depend on vernal pools and seeps for their survival. These ephemerally wet areas remain wet much longer into the spring than the surrounding landscape, although they eventually dry out completely by early summer. The drastic fluctuation in water regime, combined with their rarity, means that vernal pools and seeps are home to many of British Columbia's rarest plants. They can be inadvertently destroyed by slight changes in hydrology such as that which might occur as a result of construction or landscaping on the park's boundary.

## 4.2 Protection of Archeological Resources

Uplands Park contains within its boundaries some of the region's best-preserved examples of pre-contact ancient burial mounds and cairns, and other cultural features. These funerary petroforms and cultural features are unmarked and often small, and therefore at risk of being inadvertently disturbed by park users and park employees alike. The parks department will need to work with researchers and others to develop a plan for identifying and protecting these sites from disturbance.

## 4.3 Recreational Management

Most visitors to Uplands Park and Cattle Point are there for the natural beauty and outdoor experiences they provide. The vast majority of park goers believe that recreational activities must not unduly harm the park's natural values, and most try their best to minimize their impacts. However, poor awareness of the locations and sensitivity of endangered ecosystems and plants, combined with a dearth of clearly defined trails and signage, make it difficult for these individuals to know where to step and what activities to avoid. There are opportunities for improving communications, designing walking trails and setting aside sections in the park for certain activities so that park goers can continue to enjoy the park while protecting its natural values.

With the exception of Cattle Point's boat launches, scenic drive and parking sites, most of the park is undeveloped and suitable for passive recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching and dog walking. Generally, the facilities for boaters are adequate and their activities have little impact on the natural values of the park.

Passive recreational use of the park is steady all year long, with a significant increase during the tourist season beginning in the spring and extending into the early fall. This time of year brings with it many tour buses for which Cattle Point is an important stop on

their city tours. Hundreds of tourists at a time are let off their buses and given a few minutes to move quickly around the landscape to explore its many views, take souvenir photos and use the single port-a-potty on site. During the months of March through June this can cause significant damage to the native flora and, in many places, has led to soil compaction that has degraded large parts of the park's maritime meadows. Most people, and especially tourists, are unaware of the rarity and fragility of the park's maritime meadows as this information is not provided as part of their guided tours. There is an opportunity here to develop a comprehensive communications plan that uses different media for relaying key messages to park users, one that includes working with tour bus operators and other tourism-related businesses to provide them with information for tourists that can help them protect the very meadows that make Cattle Point a tourist attraction. There may also be an opportunity for the municipality to create a marked-off vantage point at Cattle Point where tourists can take souvenir photos, without unnecessarily damaging its maritime meadows.

The District of Oak Bay and Friends of Uplands Park hold many public outreach events throughout the year that bring together community members to participate in restoring the park and help raise awareness of its uniqueness. Although no formal study into the impact of these outreach activities has been conducted, anecdotally it can be said that support for preserving and restoring the integrity of the park's natural ecosystems has increased substantially over the last 10 years. There remain however opportunities for reaching out more broadly to other stakeholders through a more comprehensive communications plan.

Certain potentially damaging activities in the park continue despite bylaw prohibitions or a requirement for written consent from the park director. These include biking in the meadows, races, dog-training courses and professional dog walkers. Increasing bylaw enforcement in these areas would offer, among other things, an opportunity to raise awareness about the park's natural values among these users of the park.

Many local residents use the park in the late summer for picking blackberries. Although blackberries are an aggressive invasive species targeted for removal in the *2018 – 2025 Invasive Plant Management Plan*, it is possible to set aside an area in the park where the blackberry won't be removed to ensure a supply of blackberries for local residents.

## 4.4 Park Fuel Load and Fire Management

Fire exclusion and the invasion of exotic woody species—some of them highly flammable—have led to significant fuel accumulation in Uplands Park, with serious impacts on native biodiversity and increased risk of catastrophic fire. The invasives removal program, started in the early '90s, and accelerated in the mid-'00s with increased funding and volunteer contributions, has helped lower the fuel load in the park by removing flammable shrubs such as broom and gorse from open meadows and the many shrubby invasive trees that fill the understory of the park's woodlands This work will continue as the *2018-2025 Invasive Plant Management Plan* is implemented (See Figure 8). In addition, the municipality takes action each year to reduce the risk of fire spreading

by mowing dry meadows to create firebreaks and brush cutting along the main fire routes into the park to keep them open. These activities usually take place in July when native flora have reached maturity and shed their seeds. Since time to maturity varies from year to year, the Manager of Parks Services always checks with the park naturalist regarding the timing of the mowing and to allow him or her to mark off sensitive habitat to avoid.

While putting out fires in the park must always remain the overriding priority, there are opportunities for minimizing damage to the park's most endangered natural values by providing the fire department with a map of sensitive areas in the park. This has been done in the past, and these maps should be updated periodically, and a short tour through the park with the fire chief organized from time to time.

**Figure 8—A week's worth of invasive shrubs removed from the park's woodlands**

# 5 Park Management Plan: Vision, Goals and Actions

## 5.1 Vision Statement

Uplands Park, which includes Cattle Point, is an ecologically intact natural heritage site that is managed in a way that successfully protects its many rare species and ecosystems, along with its archaeological heritage, while encouraging sustainable public enjoyment and appreciation of a unique outdoors setting in ways that do not diminish the site's exceptional natural values.

## 5.2 Natural Areas Management

The future survival of Uplands Park's sensitive ecosystems, rare species and other natural values are threatened by a combination of invasive plants, a lack of well-defined trails and poor awareness among many users of how certain activities can damage these natural values. Projects to protect and restore these natural values are an essential part of the solution, the long-term success of which depends on ongoing public education and continued support from park visitors, volunteers and the community. Mapping the locations and inventorying the numbers of rare plant species in the park are needed for monitoring and evaluating project effectiveness and for taking corrective action, if needed.

### *Goal 1—Protect natural areas, starting with those with the highest conservation values.*

*Actions:*

1.1 Formalize footpaths at **Cattle Point.**

- Design a network of footpaths that provides park visitors with opportunities to enjoy views and appreciate the natural history of Cattle Point while protecting species at risk, endangered maritime meadows and vernal pools where they occur.
- Consider wheelchair accessibility in the design of the footpath network.
- To the extent practicable, employ a footpath design that blends in with the surrounding landscape and does not detract from the natural beauty of the site but that, at the same time, does not alter the soils and water flow on the point, which provide the habitat that sustains the rare plants.

- In some places on the point (e.g., in TU90[4], the maritime meadow north of the second boat ramp), it will be necessary to build short stretches of raised boardwalk over sections of the trail system that are flooded in the winter in order to discourage park users from stepping off trail into sensitive habitat.
- Review placement of existing benches at Cattle Point in light of the newly developed footpath network and consider repositioning those that encourage walking off trail.
- Install educational signage that communicates the ecological significance of Cattle Point with suggestions on how park users can reduce their impacts and help its survival into the future. (Signs have been printed).

1.2 Create a vantage point for tourists / tour bus passengers at **Cattle Point.**

- Identify a vantage point at Cattle Point that provides tourists, particularly those arriving by tour bus, with a place to enjoy the magnificent ocean views and take souvenir pictures where they won't cause damage to the maritime meadows and rare plants.
- Mark out this area clearly with appropriate signage and advise tour bus operators with information on its existence.

1.3 Close off **Uplands Park**'s Central Meadow (TU62) during the wet season.

- Build a system of sturdy split rail barriers at all major entrances to the Central Meadow that can be easily opened and closed.
- The barriers will be used to exclude foot traffic from the meadow when it is at its wettest—roughly, early November until early spring—when foot traffic can trample growing plants at their most vulnerable, and compact meadow soils to a degree where they can no longer support the native plants that once grew there.
- The idea is that when the meadow is re-opened, flowers will be reaching their peak, foot paths will have started to dry out and park users will no longer need to step into actively growing meadows in order to avoid the flooded trails. This will help reduce the widening of existing trails, as has been happening over the last few decades, and will allow more meadow plants to reach maturity, flower and set seed.
- Allocate staff time to open and close the Central Meadow twice a year (fall and spring).

1.4 Formalize footpaths in the three rare-species-rich meadows of **Uplands Park** (Central Meadow—TU62; Eastern Meadow—TU67; and Monument Meadow—TU75).

- Design a network of footpaths that provides park visitors with opportunities to appreciate the natural beauty of these areas of the park while protecting

[4] TU standards for "treatment unit" which were developed for the invasive plant management plan and of which there are 100 in the park. To see which part of the park a TU is referring to, please consult Figure 2.

species at risk, endangered Garry Oak meadows and vernal seeps and pools where they occur.

- ❖ Consider wheelchair accessibility in the design of the footpath network.
- ❖ To the extent practicable, employ a footpath design that blends in with surrounding landscape and does not detract from the natural beauty of the site but that, at the same time, does not alter the soils and water flow through the meadows which provide the habitat that sustains the rare plants.
- ❖ In some places in the Central Meadow (TU62), it will be necessary to build short stretches of raised boardwalk over sections of the trail system that become inundated in the winter and spring in order to discourage park users from stepping off into sensitive meadow habitat.

1.5 Formalize footpaths in remaining meadow areas of **Uplands Park** (TU63; TU64; TU65; TU68; TU69; TU70; TU71; TU72; TU79; TU80).

- ❖ Design a network of footpaths that provides park visitors with opportunities to appreciate the natural beauty of these areas while reducing pressures on the remaining Garry Oak meadow ecosystems and rare plant species where they occur. This will require decommissioning the many informal trails that cut through meadow habitat and which are leading to a net reduction in the size of the park's Garry Oak meadow ecosystem.
- ❖ Consider wheelchair accessibility in the design of the footpath network.
- ❖ To the extent practicable, employ a footpath design that blends in with surrounding landscape and does not detract from the natural beauty of the site but that, at the same time, does not alter soils and water flow through the meadows.
- ❖ In some places in these meadows, it will be necessary to build short stretches of raised boardwalk over sections of the trail system that become inundated in the winter and spring in order to discourage park users from stepping off into sensitive meadow habitat.

1.6 Erect exclosures around vulnerable communities of rare plants in the park.

- ❖ Build a split-rail exclosure around the vernal pool and seeps in the Eastern Meadow (TU67).
- ❖ Build a split-rail exclosure around the last population of Yellow Montane Violet in the park (TU78).
- ❖ Extend section of fencing at Cattle Point to prevent park visitors from taking shortcuts though one of the largest populations of endangered Bearded Owl-clover in TU91.
- ❖ Identify additional sites within the park that would benefit from exclosures.

1.7 Implement measures to reduce the impact of dogs on sensitive ecosystems and rare plant habitat in both **Cattle Point** and **Uplands Park** during the growing season (beginning of October to end of June).

- Improved controls are needed to reduce a source of significant damage to the rare plants and ecosystems of the park that accompanies the use of meadows and sensitive habitat for exercising dogs.

1.8 Ensure that development permits for properties adjacent to the park safeguard against changes in hydrology in the park.

- A slight change in the magnitude or direction of winter run-off could have devastating impacts on endangered plant populations which depend on a very specific water regime that can be altered by a change in hydrology caused by new construction adjacent to the park.

1.9 Institute measures to control unauthorized uses of the park.

- A number of groups use the park for active recreational activities (geocaching, orienteering races) or commercial purposes (dog walking, training classes) without the written permission of the Parks Department as required by Bylaw no. 4672. Enforcing the requirement for these groups to seek permission offers an opportunity to provide these groups with information on the park and how they can minimize impact on its natural values.
- This will necessitate improving bylaw enforcement in the park.

1.10 Maintain a map of appropriate areas in the park where native trees can be planted.

- One of the main natural attractions of the park is its open areas of Garry Oak meadows, vernal pools and seeps which put on an outstanding display of spring flowers and are home to the greatest biodiversity and numbers of rare plant species in the park. A major goal of the activities identified in this plan is to prevent a net loss in area of these open areas. The planting of new trees in the park must be sited such that they do not lead to a net reduction in the park's open areas. A map of appropriate areas should be maintained by the Manager of Parks Services to guide the municipality in its tree plantings in the park.
- A list of trees species appropriate for planting in the park should be maintained by the parks department.

## *Goal 2—Restore natural areas in those sections of the park with the highest conservation values.*

*Actions:*

2.1 Implement the *2018-2025 Invasive Plant Management Plan.*

- A comprehensive eight-year invasive plant management plan (IPMP) has been developed to coordinate invasive plant removal in both Uplands Park and Cattle Point so that by the end of 2025, the threats posed by invasive non-native trees and shrubs to the park's rare plants and ecosystems will be reduced to levels sufficiently low that subsequent long-term control can be sustained by municipal parks staff and volunteers without additional external support.
- Hire seasonal crews to remove invasive plants from target areas according to the annual action plan for each years of the IPMP.
- Direct municipal arborists to remove invasive trees from woods according to the IPMP.
- Dispose of invasive biomass off site.
- Revegetate areas cleared of invasives with native plants and seeds.
- Hire a part-time restoration biologist / natural areas technician to manage work.

2.2 Assess conservation value and management needs for the wet forests found in the northwestern section of the park.

- Preliminary evidence suggests that imperiled wet forest communities may be present in the northwestern section of the park, but this must be confirmed through a rigorous assessment. An assessment will provide the information to help park managers in their decision on whether to invest the resources in its restoration.

2.3 At the end of eight years (2025), take stock of the invasive plant removal program to determine next steps.

- This will require at a minimum the development of a long-term plan for maintaining treated areas and a renewed commitment of resources for its implementation.

2.4 Complete the inventory and mapping of all the park's 24 rare plant species by 2025.

- This information, which will be reported to the federal and provincial governments, will be useful in designing the trail networks (see actions under Goal 1 above), and provide a baseline for measuring success of restoration activities in the park. The data will help the provincial and federal agencies

track the overall recovery or decline of rare plant species in Canada, and establish funding priorities for recovery activities such as habitat restoration.

### *Goal 3—Increase awareness among the public about the park's outstanding natural values and how they can help preserve them.*

*Actions:*

3.1 Develop a communications plan for relaying key messages to the public and key stakeholders on **Cattle Point** and **Uplands Park.**

- ❖ Develop a colour informational brochure for tourists and other visitors to Cattle Point describing its natural history and how visitors can preserve it for future generations.
- ❖ Develop a similar colour brochure for Uplands Park that includes a map of formal trails that people should use while visiting the park.
- ❖ Provide similar information to neighbourhood schools and colleges (e.g., Willows Elementary, Monterey and Lansdowne Middle Schools, Oak Bay High, GNS) that use the park for educational and recreational purposes.
- ❖ Increase communications with neighbours whose houses border the park to discourage them from dumping garden waste in the park and planting invasive species that can re-infest the park.
- ❖ Consider using QR stickers that can be placed on existing signs that visitors can scan with their phones to obtain more detailed information on the park. This will require creating QR codes/stickers that link to a page on oakbay.ca with the additional information, preparing text and reviewing the text regularly to keep it current.
- ❖ Continue the calendar of regular public outreach events: Tree Appreciation Day (November), community invasive pulls (October), fall presentations to the community on various aspects of the park and updates on restoration activities, publish an article on the park in the local press at least once a year

3.2 Create more effective signage for both **Cattle Point** and **Uplands Park.**

- ❖ Reduce the total number of signs in the park by combining bylaw messages onto a single panel.
- ❖ Install visually pleasing "moral suasion" signs at the park's entrances that highlight the outstanding natural values of the park and encourage park users to help protect it by following a few rules of behaviour.
- ❖ Ensure that sign placement does not disrupt vistas or detract from the natural character of the park.

3.3 Continue support for community groups that provide volunteer hours in support of the park and the overall goals of this management plan.

- Continue supporting Friends of Uplands Park who organize each year many of hundred volunteer hours in support of ecological restoration in the park. These volunteer contributions are an important component in Oak Bay's successful bids for funding from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program to support the restoration work in the park. Friends of Uplands Park also host throughout the year many outreach and educational events that help build community ownership for protecting the park and its natural values.

## 5.3 Protection of Archeological Resources

Uplands Park encompasses part of what was likely one of the largest pre-contact Coast Salish cemeteries in the region, extending from the village site along what is now called Willows Beach in Oak Bay, north along the entire length of The Uplands, to a large village at Cadboro Bay. A study conducted in one section of the park (Mathews and Kilburn, 2013) identified 90 funerary petroforms and 17 other cultural features, some dating from more than 1500 years ago. Restoration activities and trail formalization must be undertaken with protection of these ancient archaeological features in mind.

### *Goal 4—Protect the park's archeological heritage.*

*Actions:*

4.1 Manage ecological restoration and recreational activities in such a way as to protect the park's many ancient funerary petroforms and other cultural features.

- Consult Darcy Mathews and Nicole Kilburn's archeological survey of the park whenever changes to the park's infrastructure (footpaths, exclosures, fencing) are planned to avoid disturbing archeological sites in the park.
- Meet with Nicole Kilburn (Camosun College) and Darcy Mathews (University of Victoria) to establish the best way of protecting these features including mapping them in a geodatabase for use by the Oak Bay Parks Department.
- More actions will arise as our understanding of the needs for protection increases.

## 5.4 Recreational Opportunities

Uplands Park and Cattle Point offer opportunities for visitors to enjoy the great natural beauty of Oak Bay in a unique setting that includes views of islands, mountains and the sea and one the finest examples of Garry Oak woodlands and meadows in the region. Except for boaters who use Cattle Point's boat launch for access to the sea, most park visitors use the park's informal trails for passive recreational activities such as hiking,

jogging and walking dogs. Preserving the health and integrity of the park's natural environment is therefore an important part of maintaining the park's recreational appeal.

### *Goal 5—Enhance opportunities for recreation that complement the park's natural values.*

*Actions:*

5.1 Distribute informational materials on **Cattle Point** to tour bus operators for distribution to their tour guides (see Action 3.1, above).

- These brochures would be laminated for tour guide use and reuse.
- This will require some staff time to identify the main tour bus companies that visit Cattle Point as well as other tour operators and tourist boards (e.g., Tourism Victoria) that provide information to tourists.

5.2 Distribute informational brochures on the park's natural heritage and trail maps for tourists at **Uplands Park** and **Cattle Point** (see Action 3.1, above).

- Build and install a single dispenser in each of Cattle Point and Uplands Park (the dispenser could be affixed to existing kiosks). A sign would appeal to tourists to return brochures to the appropriate dispensers when they are done with them.
- Print and distribute 500 brochures (approx. 350 + 150) each year.
- Allocate person hours to check supplies periodically, keep track of numbers used and replenish as necessary.
- Investigate the benefits of developing trail maps for smart phones (e.g., on Google Maps) and report back to Park Services.

5.3 Protect area in the park for community blackberry picking.

- Identify one or two areas in the park where Himalayan Blackberries will be spared from restoration activities in order to allow residents to continue picking berries in the late summer.
- These should be in areas away from rare plants and intact native ecosystems.
- Two candidate sites are the large blackberry patch in the northwest along Midland Road (TU49) and a smaller patch at the Lincoln / Dorset entrance to the park (TU29).

5.4 Consider creating a fenced-off section for off-leash dogs in an area of the park that has already been degraded from an ecological point of view.

- Identify and study candidate sites for their suitability. Two potential sites are: the large field in the northwestern section of the park (TU49) and in the

wooded area of TU50b, once its has been opened up by the removal of its many hundreds of invasive One-seed Hawthorns.

- ❖ Before deciding on a site, the potential impact on street parking in the neighbourhood should be studied.
- ❖ Clear site of invasive shrubs and fence off from adjacent portions of park and adjacent road (Midland Road).

5.5 Install an additional port-a-potty and garbage can at Cattle Point adjacent to the existing port-a-potty to accommodate the increase in tourism traffic.

- ❖ The current single port-a-potty at Cattle Point is reaching its capacity to handle the increased influx of tourists.
- ❖ While the current number of garbage cans appears to be sufficient to handle regular tourists, installing a new garbage can near the port-a-potty, which is heavily used by tourists arriving by tour bus, may help alleviate the littering in the woods behind the port-a-potty.
- ❖ Bus tours may constitute commercial use of the park and may therefore require a permit, in which case permit fees could be used to offset the cost of managing bus tours.

## 5.5 Park Fire Risk / Fuel Load Management

Decades of wildfire suppression and in-growth by invasive plants, both native and nonnative, have increased the fuel loading of the park to a level where if a fire were to occur it could cause severe damage to the native ecosystems and surrounding houses. Implementing the invasive plant management plan described in Action 2.1 above will contribute to a reduction in the park's fuel load. In addition, the Oak Bay Parks Department maintains firebreaks by mowing dry grassy fields in July each year and brushing cutting along the main fire routes into the park to keep them open. The Oak Bay Fire department maintains three fire hydrants in key locations that allow its hoses to reach all sections of the park. To the extent possible, fire control methods should be conducted in a way that minimizes damage to the park's rare plants and ecosystems.

### *Goal 6—Manage fire risk in the park while minimizing damage to the park's rare plants and ecosystems.*

*Actions:*

6.1 Continue the program of mowing meadows (TU70, TU69, TU71, TU&7 and TU49) in mid- to late July to reduce the risk of fire created by stands of dried grasses.

- ❖ Coordinate with the park's restoration practitioner / botanist to determine the best time to mow to allow seeds of native flora to fully ripen and shed their seeds, and allow him or her to mark off any sensitive areas that should not be mowed.

- ❖ Institute a protocol for tractor mowers to clean blades and wheels before moving to a new area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the park and between the park and other areas of Oak Bay.
- ❖ Produce a map of rare plant habitat at Cattle Point for municipal parks crew to avoid when they are weed whacking around benches, mowing grassy fields during the dry season and maintaining open fire truck routes.

6.2 Continue the program of annual brush cutting to widen the fire routes through the park to maintain vehicle access.

- ❖ Coordinate with park's restoration practitioner / botanist to determine best timing to allow seeds of native flora to fully ripen and shed their seed, and allow him or her to mark off sensitive areas to avoid.
- ❖ Institute a protocol for brush cutters to clean blades before moving to a new area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the park and between the park and other areas of Oak Bay.

6.3 Update information package for Oak Bay Fire Department on how to limit damage to sensitive rare plant habitat in the event of extinguishing a fire in the park.

- ❖ This would apply to meadow areas with vernal pools and high numbers of rare plants (i.e., TU62, TU67, TU75)
- ❖ Such a map has been provided in the past for TU62 but may soon require updating to include other areas.
- ❖ Organize a walk through the park with the fire chief every three years or so.

# 6 Implementation

| 5.1 Management of Natural Areas | |
|---|---|
| Short Term (= 1 – 3 years) | 1.1 Design and install formal footpaths at **Cattle Point**, including boardwalks over flooded paths |
| Short Term | 1.2 Establish a vantage point for tourists/tour buses at **Cattle Point** |
| 2020 | 1.3 Close off **Uplands Park**'s Central Meadow during wet season |
| 2019 & 2020 | 1.6 Erect exclosures around vulnerable communities of rare plants in the park. |
| Short Term | 1.7 Implement measures to reduce the impact of dogs sensitive ecosystems and rare plant habitat in both **Cattle Point** and **Uplands Park** during the growing season (beginning of October to end of June) |
| Short Term | 1.9 Institute measures to control unauthorized uses of the park |
| Ongoing | 1.10 Maintain a map of areas in the park where trees can be planted |
| Ongoing | 2.1 Implement *2018 – 2025 Invasive Plant Management Plan.* |
| 2019 | 2.2 Assess conservation value and management needs for the wet forests found in the northwestern section of the park |
| Short Term | 3.1 Develop communications plan for relaying key messages to the public and key stakeholders on **Cattle Point** and **Uplands** Park |
| 2019 | 3.2 Create and install more effective signage for both **Cattle Point** and **Uplands Park** |
| Ongoing | 3.3 Continue support for community groups provide volunteer hours in support of the park and this overall goals of this management plan |
| Mid Term (= 4 – 6 years) | 2.4 Complete the inventory and mapping of all the park's 24 rare plant species by 2025 |
| Mid Term | 1.4 Formalize footpaths in the three rare-species-rich meadows of **Uplands Park** (TU62, TU67, TU75) |

| 5.1 Management of Natural Areas | |
|---|---|
| Mid Term | 1.8 Ensure that development permits for properties adjacent to the park safeguard against changes in hydrology in the park |
| Long Term (= 7 – 10 years) | 2.3 Take stock of the invasive plant removal program to determine next steps. At a minimum, a schedule for maintaining treated areas of the park free of invasive plants would need to be developed and resources. Depending on the assessment, a new 8-year IPMP might be developed. |
| Long Term | 1.5 Formalize footpaths in remaining Garry Oak meadow areas of **Uplands Park** (TU69, TU79; TU65; TU64; TU63; TU70; TU80) |

| 5.2 Protection of Archeological Heritage | |
|---|---|
| Ongoing | 4.1 Manage ecological restoration and recreational activities in such a way as to protect the park's many ancient funerary petroforms and other cultural features |

| 5.3 Recreational Opportunities | |
|---|---|
| Ongoing | 5.1 Distribute informational materials on **Cattle Point** (see Action 3.1, above) to tour bus operators for distribution to their tour guides |
| Ongoing | 5.2 Distribute informational brochures with information on the park's natural heritage and trail maps for tourists at **Uplands Park** and **Cattle Point** |
| Ongoing | 5.3 Protect area in the park for community blackberry picking |
| Short Term (1 – 3 years) | 5.5 Install additional port-a-potty and garbage can at **Cattle Point** adjacent to existing one to accommodate increase in tourism traffic |
| Mid Term (4 – 6 years) | 5.4 Consider creating a fenced-off section for off-leash dogs in the park |

| 5.4 Fire Risk / Fuel Load Management | |
|---|---|
| Ongoing | 6.1 Continue program of mowing meadows (TU70, TU69, TU71, TU&7 and TU49) in mid- to late July to reduce risk of fire created by stands of dried grasses |
| Ongoing | 6.2 Continue program of annual brush cutting to widen the fire routes through the park to maintain vehicle access. |
| Ongoing | 6.3 Update information package for Oak Bay Fire Department on how to limit damage to sensitive rare plant habitat in the event of extinguishing a fire in the park. |

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## Appendix

| Rare Plants of Uplands Park and Cattle Point | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Name | Scientific Name | SARA Status | BC Status | Global Status | Uplands Park |
| Banded Cord-moss | *Entosthodon fascicularis* | Special Concern | Blue | G4/G5 | Present |
| Bearded Owl-clover | *Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *versicolor* | Endangered | Red | G5T5 | Present |
| Bear's-foot Sanicle | *Sanicula arctopoides* | Endangered | Red | G5 | Extirpated |
| Bigleaf Lupine | *Lupinus polyphyllus* var. *pallidipes* | — | Red | G5T3T4 | Present |
| Carolina Meadow-Foxtail | *Alopecurus carolinianus* | — | Red | G5 | Present |
| Coast Microseris | *Microseris bigelovii* | Endangered | Red | G4 | Present |
| Scouler's Catchfly | *Silene scouleri* ssp. *scouleri* | Endangered | Red | G5T3T5 | **Extirpated** |
| Dense Spike-primrose | *Epilobium densiflorum* | Endangered | Red | G5 | Present |
| Erect Pygmyweed | *Crassula connata var. connata* | — | Red | G5TNR | Present |
| Foothill Sedge | *Carex tumulicola* | Endangered | Red | G4 | Present |
| Geyer's Onion | *Allium geyeri* var. *tenerum* | — | Blue | G4G5T3T5 | Extirpated |
| Graceful Cinquefoil | *Potentilla gracilis var. gracilis* | — | Blue | G5T5 | Present |
| Heterocodon | *Heterocodon rariflorum* | — | Blue | G5T5 | Present |
| Howell's Triteleia | *Triteleia howellii* | Endangered | Red | G4 | Extirpated |
| Kellogg's Rush | *Juncus kelloggii* | Endangered | Red | **G3** | Present |
| Macoun's Meadowfoam | *Limnanthes macounii* | Threatened | Red | **G2** | Present |
| Mountain Sneezeweed | *Helenium autumnale* var *montanum* | — | Blue | G5T3T5 | Present |
| Muhlenberg's Centaury | *Zeltnera muehlenbergii* | Endangered | Red | G5 | Present |
| Nuttall's Quillwort | *Isoetes nuttallii* | — | Blue | G4? | Present |
| Poverty Clover | *Trifolium depauperatum* var. *depauperatum* | — | Blue | G5T5 | Present |
| Purple Sanicle | *Sanicula bipinnatifida* | Threatened | Red | G5 | Present |
| Spanish-clover | *Acmispon americanus* var. *americanus* | — | Blue | G5T5 | Present |
| Tall Wooly-heads | *Psilocarphus elatior* | Endangered | Red | G4Q | Present |
| Twisted Oak Moss | *Syntrichia laevipila* | Special Concern | Blue | GNR | Present |
| Victoria's Owl-clover | *Castilleja victoriae* | Endangered | Red | **G1** | Extirpated |
| Water-plantain Buttercup | *Ranunculus alismifolius* var. *alismifolius* | Endangered | Red | G5T5 | Present |
| White-top Aster | *Sericocarpus rigidus* | Special Concern | Red | **G3** | Present |
| Winged Water-starwort | *Callitriche marginata* | — | Blue | G4 | Present |
| Yellow Montane Violet | *Viola praemorsa* ssp. *praemorsa* | Endangered | Red | G5T3T5 | Present |

To: **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission**

From: **Manager of Recreation and Culture**

Subject: **ArtsAlive Installations for 2019-20 – Change of Location**

Date: **May 1, 2019**

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation & Culture

## PURPOSE

To seek approval for one location change for one of the 10 year-long temporary installations of art as part of the 2019-20 ArtsAlive public art program.

## BACKGROUND

Commission had approved of 10 locations for the ArtsAlive sculpture installations in February 2019. Nine of these locations had been used in previous year's programs with one new location approved along the Esplanade for the 2019-20 program. Sculptures and location matches are determined by an Inter-departmental staff committee and the Public Arts Advisory Committee based on the sculptures suitability and fit to the location context. This change in location is necessitated because the sculpture does not fit well in the original proposed location given the size of the sculpture. The sculpture to be moved is the "Dreams can come true," by Roger Hunwick, which is a smaller bronze rabbit sculpture.

### Proposed Location Change for the 2019-20 ArtsAlive Program

This proposed location change is to a location that has been used in previous year's programs. This is not a new location for this ArtsAlive program.

#### Original Location

- Sidewalk of Oak Bay Avenue between Foul Bay Rd. and Mitchell St near Gage Gallery.

#### Proposed Location (Change)

- On Oak Bay Avenue in front of Vis a Vis Restaurant and Roger's Chocolates

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact in this location change.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Commission recommend to Council to approve this change of location for one of the temporary year-long sculpture installations for the 2019-20 ArtsAlive program as described in this report.

Steve Meikle
Manager of Recreation and Cultural Services

# Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

Playground Modernization Sub-committee

Workplan (Report Outline)

*Draft v2.1 ~ 26 April 2019*

| ACTIONS | SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES + REQUIREMENTS |
|---|---|
| • ***CURRENT STATE***<br>  • Call to action: why action is needed<br>  • Staff "Playground and Park Amenity" report (summarize and attach as Annex) | • Ask staff to update "*2017 Playground and Park Amenity*" report |
| • ***GOAL OF OUR PLAN*** – modernize Oak Bay's playgrounds etc. and contribute to our Mission and Vision | • Determine alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities and Corporate Goals (2019) the PRC Commission Strategic Plan 2019-2023 |
| • ***PLAYGROUND PLANNING AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES*** – to guide the development of existing and new playgrounds in Oak Bay | • Review and incorporate existing planning and design principles currently used by staff in playground planning<br>• Commission to endorse sub-committee draft (June 2019) |
| • ***PLAYGROUND MODERNIZATION PRIORITIES*** –<br>  • Based on an updated Playground and Park Amenity report and an evaluation of current playgrounds against the planning and design principles (above)<br>  • Identifies which playgrounds are a priority in need of attention and why | • Determine staff capacity to assess current playgrounds against the planning and design principles or whether external resources will be needed for this |
| • ***FUNDING VEHICLES*** – establishing a Playground Modernization "fund" in the PRC budget that can be supported by contributions from Oak Bay budget (including Parks, Recreation and Culture available net operating budget at year-end); external donations; matching donations etc. | • Identify a volunteer coordinator<br>• Create funding campaign and communications plan for key players<br>• Create promotional material<br>• Identify individual donors<br>• Identify grant opportunities and funding criteria |
| • ***POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING:*** identify existing and potential funding sources including - grant programs; service club contributions; individual/group donations; organized fund-raisers | • Determine staff capacity to identify appropriate and available sources of potential funding for playground modernization or whether external resources will be needed for this |
| • ***FUNDING CAMPAIGN PLAN*** – Key messages for potential funding partners; funding "ask" plan | • Determine staff capacity to write grant applications to potential funders or whether external resources will be needed for this |
| • ***ACTION PLAN*** – Recommended next steps and timelines | • Including recommending an existing playground to be modernized and see through to completion |

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# Programs

## Aquatics

- Over 853 swimmers are currently registered for the first set of Spring Lessons that started April 2nd.
- Spring Break was a huge success at the pool as every area of Aquatics was extremely busy. Before Spring Break, over 900 swimmers finished their winter 2019 Red Cross swim lessons. Between March 16th and March 31st, the following camps, advanced courses and lessons took place in the pool:
    - Junior Lifeguard Camp's popularity grew compared to 2018 and 34 aspiring lifeguards attended. Throughout the weeks, they were taught, and tried their hand at, water rescues, first aid procedures, and assisted the Recreation Oak Bay lifeguards in running the 2-5pm Spring Break Kids Fun Swims.
    - Fun Unlimited Camp was almost full both weeks, with 60 campers participating in the Monday to Friday swim lessons offered in this camp.
    - Monday to Friday Spring Break lessons were full, as well as 25 children participating in Simple Set Private/Semi-Private Swim lessons and over a dozen Perfect Fit Private lessons swimmers.
    - Most of the advanced aquatic courses ran full in the last 2 weeks of March. Youth, aged 13 years and older, participated in the following Advanced Aquatic leadership courses in the last 2 weeks of March. The Red Cross has reported that Oak Bay Recreation had the most participants in these courses in the province in 2018.
        - 6 participants in the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor- Step 2
        - 12 participants in the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor- Recertification
        - 12 participants in the Lifesaving Society Bronze Medallion & Bronze Cross Combination
        - 12 participants in the National Lifeguard Award
        - 12 participants in the National Lifeguard Recertification

## Community Recreation

### Before/Afterschool Care

- After school care programs from the Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Henderson went on an out trip to the Oak Bay High School in March. The leadership class created a super fun event for the kids with activity stations such as crafts, face painting, musical chairs, relay challenges, and more. The kids loved it and the high school students did a fantastic job of organizing the event.
- The value-added lessons in After School program continue to be popular with skating lessons and swimming lessons running at full capacity. The afterschool care program has also incorporated rock climbing, and dance lessons providing opportunities for all of the children to participate in physical activities for the months of March and April.
- New this fall, the Preschool Playhouse at Windsor will be running Monday through Friday from 9am-12noon. Registration for Preschool Playhouse starting in September 2019 was in March for returning and new participants. The program is full with a small waitlist.

### Paddington Daycare

- The children are currently enjoying dance lessons, music lessons, story tellers and sports programs. They went on an out trip to the BC Legislative Buildings. This month the children were learning about family, colors and spring.

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**CR Programs and Camps**

- Spring Break camps were a huge success with over 450 children participating in a variety of fun adventures over the two weeks. Children had a wide range of themes to choose from and enjoyed many activities and out trips in the local area. Camps took place at Henderson Centre, Windsor and the Neighborhood Learning Centre.
- Birthdays at Henderson for March and April have been busy with 8-10 parties booked on one weekend.
- The golf course re-opened on Saturday, March 16th. The weather was sunny and warm with over 200 rounds played in the first few days of opening.
- Lessons for golf started in the middle of April on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Four out of the 5 classes are full on both days.

## Culture

**ArtsAlive 2019**

- Ten pieces are being installed in the community over April and early May.
- Save the Date, June 20 for the ArtsAlive 2019 bus tour and launch which leaves the Oak Bay Beach Hotel at 3:00 pm and arrives back at the Hotel at 5:30 pm for a Reception.
- New additions to the program this year include the following:
    - New online voting options to accompany the use of QR codes as well as paper voting for the public, voting starts after June 20th.
    - Monthly walking tours of the sculptures, hosted by members of the PAAC to run the second Tuesday of the months of July, August, Septembers and October.
    - There will be audio recordings from the artists available online via the Oak Bay Recreation website with artists providing a 1-3 minute overview of the artistic process that went into the design and build of their sculpture.

**Spring Studio Tour**

- The 20th Spring Artists Studio Tour took place April 13th-14th. With some increased marketing, many artists have commented that they saw an increase in the number of participants, some reported over 80-90 people over the weekend. The Neighbourhood Learning Centre rooms saw over 200 people and by all accounts artists were happy with the event. Some artists reported having a few families with children visiting and signing some tour maps.

**Tell Me A Story**

- This program was run for the second time on April 10th and 11th. The students in the After School Care program from Campus View Elementary attended, with 8-9 adult readers each day. This is our new multigenerational reading program that aims to encourage interaction between seniors and kids using reading and books as a conduit and is run in partnership with the Oak Bay Branch library. Both afternoon sessions were a great success with some lovely scenes of seniors and kids chatting, reading and enjoying each other's company.

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**Bowker Creek Mural**

- The Bowker Creek Mural project is now underway with the mural site is the large public works wall overlooking the Oak Bay High School Track. This project is a partnership between the District, the Public Arts Advisory Committee and the Oak Bay Community Artists Society (OBCAS) who received a project grant from the CRD Arts Development Service. This grant will fund a portion of the project. The remaining funds will be drawn from a private donation made to OBPRC, in which the donors selected the mural project as their preferred cause. We have engaged BC mural artist Luke Ramsay who has successfully completed other large mural projects in Victoria and are working with Luke, the Public Arts Advisory Committee and OBCAS to implement this mural. Luke is open to community involvement and encourages emerging artists to work with him. One of the first steps is a call out to the public, called a "Community Call for Inspiration" to provide ideas and suggestions to inspire the mural artist. There will be opportunities for the public to send in email suggestions, as well as write/draw and submit suggestions at Oak Bay Recreation Centre and Monterey Recreation Centre. It is planned that this project will be completed by October 2019 with most of the painting happening in August.

**NLC Hallway Art**

- The current artists are:
  Main artist: Hsiao-Lan Rodgers (until May 6)
  Emerging artist: Cassandra Lillico (until June 10)

## Fitness

- Oak Bay and Henderson have seen an increase in the number of Personal Training sessions, resulting in an increase in total personal training revenue over the last 12 months. We offer 2 specials for Personal Training that run in December and throughout the summer months which have also seen an increase in packages sold over the last 12 months. Additional staff have been hired to help with attending shifts which allow our best trainers to focus more on Personal Training and offering a first class individualized service to our members.

## Monterey Centre

- One hundred and eighty-two Monterey members and guests participated in the day trip to the popular hit musical "Come from Away" in Vancouver over the March 9-10th weekend.
- Trips this month included the live musical performance of the Sound of Music in Chemainus on March 23rd and a lunch outing to Café Zanzibar in Brentwood Bay on April 11th.
- The "New Members Meet and Greet" on April 3rd attracted 30 new members. The welcome event featured a photo slide show that showcased all the clubs, courses, trips and events. Participants enjoyed the volunteer guided tours at the end of the event.
- The Monterey Table Tennis Club hosted an in-house sold out tournament for their members on April 7th.
- Monterey partnered with the Art and Culture Programmer to host a multigenerational free reading program with grade 4 and 5 students from Campus View Elementary's After School program and Monterey members on April 10th.
- Monterey hosted Pacific Opera's free "Concert for Seniors" on April 12th from 2:00-3:00pm.
- The Annual Easter Luncheon April 16th was enjoyed by 200 Members.
- The new Monterey Cabaret Club, formerly the Monterey Note-ables, has launched. Their first performance, "Love on Broadway," is on April 25th from 1:30-3:30pm.
- The volunteer income tax program for qualifying members continued until April 30th.

- Popular adult courses this spring include, Zuma Gold 50+, Hatha Yoga, Yoga Lattes, Holiday Sketching with Robert Amos, Nuline Dancing, Age Stronger, Qi Gong and Yang Style Tai Chi.

## Arena/ Teens / Indoor Sports Field

### Indoor Sports Field

- Soccertron is very busy for spring classes in all ages. All classes are full with waitlists.
- In an effort to utilize the indoor sports field during the non-peak season, themed sports birthday parties were created. These parties offer a choice of Bubble Soccer, Laser Tag, dodgeball, nerf shooters and basic theme parties. This includes one hour in the indoor turf and 45 minutes in the activity rooms at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre for food and gifts. The parties are building in popularity with 3-4 parties being booked on average every weekend during the Spring Season.

### Arena

- Novice Hockey Game Days program (5-14 years) is popular with 15 registered in the April session and some positive interest so far for the May set. Game Days is a fun, focused scrimmage session for kids of all skills and abilities. Free hockey gear is offered for those who need it.
- Spring Learn to Skate lessons are off to a great start with all 11 levels running classes during the Saturday morning session.

### Youth

- Lunch drop in at the Youth centre is showing consistent numbers in the 30-35 range.
- The youth monthly special events continue to be a great success. The April 'make your own burrito' night had 12 youth attend. These special event nights are completely free of charge and offer food and prizes for youth that attend.

### Adult Softball

- The Adult Mixed Softball league started up the first week of April with 18 teams. The program continues to enjoy the benefits of the Joint Use Agreement with the use of the school district ball fields.

## Tennis

- Spring Break camps have grown by 84% since 2016:

| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red Ball Players ( ages 5-7 yrs) | 57 | 35 | 16 |
| Morning / Afternoon Camps (Ages 8- 16 yrs): | 118 | 74 | 79 |
| Total: Participation Levels | **175** | **109** | **95** |

- Tennis BC Spring Break Junior Tournament was held March 22nd – March 24th with 45 players registered and 74 matches scheduled over 3 days
- Wheel Chair Tennis Clinics for Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces were held March 25th -29th with 8 players attending.
- The "Experience Tennis" program, designed for people on the spectrum of Autism, finished March 23rd. This program starts again for May and June.
- Team Tennis on Friday nights had 7 juniors attend and participate in a round-robin.
- Carnarvon pickle ball courts will be repaired this spring to support continued play for the next few seasons and Henderson tennis courts 1/2/3- will be resurfaced May 5th to May 19th.

- Block booking for pickle ball courts at Carnarvon was held on January 19th for play April 29th – December 8th.
- Block Booking for tennis courts at Henderson was held on April 13th for play April 29th - December 8th.

## Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 27th – **Junior Rogers Rookie Tournament**, Oak Bay Tennis Bubble, 3pm to 7pm.
- Tuesday, April 30th – **Young Exceptional Star (YES) Awards**, Oak Bay Beach Hotel, 6:00 – 9:00pm.
- Friday, May 3rd, **Rick Fines & Suzie Vinnick**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Saturday, May 4th, **Benjamin Dakota Rogers & Blue Moon Marquee**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Wednesday, May 8th, **Monterey Volunteer Recognition**, Garry Oak Room, 5:00-7:00pm.
- Saturday, May 11th, **Spring Fashion Show**, Monterey Centre - Garry Oak Room, 1:00-3:00pm.
- Sunday, May 12th, **Mom's Golf for Free**, Henderson Golf Course, 9am-12noon.
- Thursday, May 16th, **Dinner Theatre**, Monterey Centre - Garry Oak Room, 5:30-8:00pm.

# Parks

- Parks staff are in the process of removing and installing the Public Art at various locations throughout the Municipality.
- Field renovations at Henderson, Carnarvon and Windsor east have been completed.
- Volunteer groups have been doing excellent work in many of our natural area parks removing invasive plants. These parks include Uplands Park, Cattlepoint, Trafalgar Park, Brighton Trail, Native Plant Garden, Anderson Hill and Queens Park.
- Parks staff have refurbished the Jack Groves Fieldhouse sign at Fireman's Park. Four new informational signs will be posted around the Fireman's Park perimeter requesting that there be no battling or pitching towards private fences.
- Camas Day this year will be called "The Garry Oak Meadow Celebration". The date is Sunday, April 28th from noon to 3 pm.

### Oak Bay Parks: Report on Administration of the Tree Protection Bylaw and Related Tree Work.

#### For the Month of March and April

The tree crew has been finishing off the tree planting season that was impacted a bit by the freezing temperatures in February. Another 12 small Garry oaks were planted along the park side of the drainage ditch along Dorset. This area will have the invasive species removed as part of the work being done in the park. We have worked with the Royal Victoria Golf Course to improve the boulevard at the corner in the 900 – 1000 block on Beach Drive. They removed the invasive blackberry and ivy back from the curb about 5 meters. The tree crew then removed a couple of trees blocking visibility on the curve and a number of ivy covered holly trees on the boulevard and along the edge of the golf course property. We then planted Garry oaks on both sides of the property line. The golf course will then seed the boulevard with grass for two meters. We will maintain the trees and they will maintain the grass. We supplied 15 trees and the Golf Course supplied 5.

#### Public Property

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A total of 13 trees were removed from public property. These trees were either dead, diseased or dangerous. Two of these were part of the golf course project and two were cypress trees being used as a camping area in the south west corner of Carnarvon Park. There are a number of pine trees in the 1000 block of beach drive that have been infested with what we have identified as Turpentine beetle, mostly on private property. It is an opportunistic pest whose larva feed on the conductive tissue of stressed pine trees eventually girdling them and the trees die. One tree has died completely and there are 5-6 more that will likely have to be removed. Drought and shallow lawn watering are likely the cause. Austrian pines are a very common landscape tree and a pest that targets them could have an impact on the local canopy. The Victoria Golf Course has at least 100 Austrian pines right across the street from the above trees.

**Private Property**

Thirty four permits were issued under the Tree Protection Bylaw since the last report. Twelve removal permits were requested for the removal of thirteen trees protected under the Tree Protection Bylaw. These permits were issued because the trees were dead, diseased, dying or structurally unsound or removed for construction. Seven of the removals were Garry oaks and two permits were issued for construction. Twenty five permits were issued for pruning protected trees.

**Security Deposit and Enforcement**

Two security deposits were received and none were refunded. The bylaw requires security deposits to ensure care of required replacement trees; deposits are held by the Municipality for 3 years pending satisfactory planting and care or required replacement trees. Forfeited deposits go to the Parks tree purchase account.

**Work Orders**

These two months we received 78 calls for service and completed 62.

## Oak Bay Parks: Report on Administration of Tree Protection Bylaw (#4326, 2006)

### Protected trees: permits for removal, replacements

| 2019 | Private Property | | | | | | | | | Municipal Property | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Permit* | *Permits approved* | | Trees removed | | | | Total | Replacement | Trees | Replacement trees | | |
| | *Requests* | Removal | Pruning | Protected | | | Building | Trees | Trees | Removed | | | |
| Month | (S.2 or s.16) | s.2 | s.16 | Native | Other | Total | (s.2 or s.3) | Removed | Required | (s.22) | Native | Others | Total |
| Jan | 11 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 30 | 33 |
| Feb | 12 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 20 |
| Mar | 24 | 9 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 18 | 45 |
| Apr | 10 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| May | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Jun | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Jul | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Aug | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Sep | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Oct | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Nov | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Dec | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Totals | 57 | 20 | 41 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 3 | | | | 34 | 73 | |
| | | | | | | | **Key Totals** | **21** | **6** | **20** | | | **107** |

**Note**: "Trees Removed-Building" includes trees removed within building envelope;
replacement trees required only for trees removed outside building envelope

**Key bylaw sections:**

- s. 2 Permit required under this bylaw or development permit to cut down or damage a protected tree
- s. 3 Trees within building envelope
- s. 10 Replacement trees required, security deposits
- s. 16 Pruning only
- s. 22 Trees on public property

**Protected (native) species**: Garry oak, Arbutus, Pacific Yew, Black Hawthorn, Pacific Dogwood

| **Security deposits:** | | **#** | **Amount** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year-to-date: | Received | | $1,000 |
| | Refunded | | $0 |
| | Forfeited | | |

| **Tickets issued:** | **#** | **Amount** |
|---|---|---|
| (YTD) | | |