



# STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

**DATE OF REPORT** March 22, 2022

**MEETING TYPE & DATE** Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting of May 4, 2022

**FROM:** Parks & Trails Division  
Land Use Services Department

**SUBJECT:** Revitalization Plan for Saltair Centennial Park in Electoral Area G –  
Saltair/Gulf Islands

**FILE:** 6100-20 G SALT New Design 2021

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## **PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Saltair Centennial Park Revitalization Plan, which will guide priorities for investment in improvements and new park amenities for this community park in Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands, over the next 10 to 15 years.

## **RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION**

That it be recommended to the CVRD Board that the Saltair Centennial Park Revitalization Plan be approved.

## **BACKGROUND**

Saltair Centennial Park in Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands is a multi-purpose community park providing local residents with a variety of outdoor recreation amenities, including a playground, sports courts (2), tennis courts (2), baseball diamonds (2), open grass areas, picnic shelter, concession building and washroom building. The majority of these park amenities were constructed decades ago and are at or near the end of service life, requiring decisions to either remove or refurbish them. To inform these decisions, a community engagement process was initiated in 2018 towards preparation of a Revitalization Plan for Saltair Centennial Park. Between 2018 and 2021, a series of community engagements took place. The extended engagement process was due, in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily delayed work on the plan, with a subsequent shift to more online and in-park dissemination of information and opportunities for input/feedback.

Community engagement in 2018/2019 focused on the community's park use, preferences for revitalizing existing facilities and/or adding new amenities and responses to tax funding levels that would support improvements to the park (see Attachment B – Appendix A 2018-2019 Community Engagement Surveys Summary). A draft Revitalization Concept Plan for Saltair Centennial Park was prepared based on this initial community feedback (see Attachment C – Appendix B Draft Revitalization Concept Plan), followed by a further round of community engagement in spring/early summer 2021 to collect feedback on the draft plan. The results are summarized in Attachment D (Appendix C – 2021 Community Engagement Survey Summary).

The draft Revitalization Plan was amended in response to the feedback, and is attached as Attachment A – Saltair Centennial Park Revitalization Plan. Pending Committee/Board consideration for implementation, the plan will provide guidance for annual budget decisions on park amenity refurbishments and new amenity additions at Saltair Centennial Park over the next 10 to 15 years.

Saltair Centennial Park has developed over the years with a multitude of outdoor recreational amenities to provide for the community of Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands. While the extent of built park amenities in the park are fairly extensive for a community of this size, the park spaces and amenities are generally well-used by the community. While two park amenities (the upper basketball court and the tennis practice half court) were initially proposed for removal as a cost saving measure in the draft Revitalization Plan, subsequent community feedback indicated a preference to refurbish and retain these park amenities, along with maintaining other existing amenities in the park.

The current Electoral Area G community parks' budget is insufficient to support the annual investment necessary to complete the community supported revitalization of existing amenities and new park amenities, as outlined in the Revitalization Plan. Initial community survey results in 2019 indicated 57% (50 out of 87 question answers) of respondents were not supportive of a tax increase to fund park improvements at Saltair Centennial Park. However, as the Revitalization Plan developed with community input, by 2021, 64% (62 of 96 question answers) of Saltair respondents to the questionnaire circulated at the time, were supportive of a tax increase for community parks in the amount of \$30,000/year, or approximately \$4 per \$100,000 household property value.

*Table 1 - Proposed Funding Schedule for Saltair Centennial Park Revitalization*

[illegible]

The Revitalization Plan's proposed funding schedule provides recommendations for capital improvements scheduling based on asset management needs, community priorities and annual budget limitations. While the plan offers a proposed funding schedule, actual project budgeting decisions will be addressed by the CVRD Board during annual budget processes, and in consideration of the overall annual costs and budget priorities for delivery of community parks and trails services within Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands. The Revitalization Plan and community engagement summaries provide input and guidance for those decisions over the next 10 to 15 years.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In 2021, 64% of Saltair survey respondents (62 of 96 question answers) indicated support for a \$30,000/year (~\$4 per \$100,000 household property value) tax increase, in order to complete park revitalization projects in future years. The Forest Loop Trail has been included in the approved 2022 major capital budget for Budget Function 237 – Saltair Community Parks. For years 2023 and beyond, consideration must be given for a requisition increase in order to accommodate the \$30,000 per year into the annual budget.

#### COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

If approved, the Saltair Centennial Park Revitalization Plan will be posted on the CVRD website and notifications will be posted on social media. The Revitalization Plan will serve to provide background information and strategic direction towards developing annual budget priorities for Budget Function 237 – Saltair Community Parks with input from the Electoral Area G – Community Parks Advisory Commission.

#### STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

#### GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

☐ Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

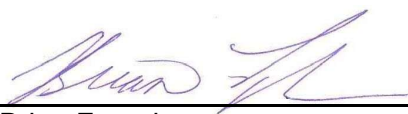
- ☐ Communications & Engagement
- ☐ Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Emergency Management, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Information Technology, Procurement*)
- ☐ Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste Management, Water Management*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Planning – Strategic Initiatives, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:



Megan Walker  
Parks & Trails Planner



Brian Farquhar  
Manager



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Ann Kjerulf, RPP, MCIP  
General Manager

Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

Financial Considerations:

☒ Corporate Officer

☒ Chief Financial Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Saltair Centennial Park – Revitalization Plan

Attachment B – Appendix A 2018-2019 Community Engagement Surveys Summary

Attachment C – Appendix B Draft Revitalization Concept Plan

Attachment D – Appendix C 2021 Community Engagement Survey Summary