

Village of Gold River – Nimpkish Park

Design Options Report

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Prepared for the Village of Gold River
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. Project Background

The intent of this report and associated project was developed to present viable options for the redesign, enhancement, and preservation of Nimpkish Park. The desired result was to provide the Village with a Conceptual Design to implement through grant funding and in order of community priority.

The Conceptual Design for Nimpkish Park guides the revitalization and enhancement of one of Gold River's key community open spaces. The action items propose a clear and achievable vision for the park that reflects community needs, supports year-round recreation, and celebrates the natural setting of the Village. The project process included technical analysis, design exploration, and implementation planning, positioning the Village for future investment and grant opportunities.

The project scope included the following key steps:

1. **Base Mapping** – Compilation and review of existing background information, site survey data, and mapping to establish a clear understanding of existing park conditions, opportunities, and constraints. This foundational step ensured that all subsequent design work was based on accurate spatial and environmental information.

2. **Concept Development** – Preparation of preliminary park design concepts illustrating alternative approaches to layout, circulation, amenities, and landscape features. Concepts respond to local needs, site character, and environmental considerations. This included potential community garden locations that were reviewed by the community during the engagement session.

3. **Options Review and Selection of Preferred Concept** – Presentation of design options for review and feedback by Village staff, Council, and community stakeholders. Based on this input, a list of action items was identified and refined to reflect community priorities and technical feasibility.

4. **Option Costing - Class "C" Cost Estimate** – Development of preliminary cost estimates for the preferred design option assisted in the evaluation of feasibility, phasing, and value for investment. Preparation of a more detailed Class "C" cost estimate for the action items was initiated, providing a reliable order-of-magnitude cost for budgeting and future grant applications.

5. **Implementation Plan** – Preparation of a clear implementation strategy outlining project phasing, priority actions, and recommended next steps for design development, approvals, and construction.

2. Parks and Trails Master Plan

2.1. Parks and Trails Goals

The goals set forth in the Master Plan were adopted to develop actions that would better the overall health, connectivity, and usability of the Village's parks. These goals consist of the following:

> "**Active Living** – foster active living through the use of parks and trails"
>
> "**Inclusion and Access** – increase inclusion and access to parks and trails for populations that face constraints to participation"
>
> "**Connecting People and Nature** – help people connect to nature through their parks and trails, as well as work to promote environmental sustainability and protection of biodiversity"
>
> "**Supportive Environments** – ensure the provision of supportive physical environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong caring communities"
>
> "**Recreation Capacity** – ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field"

Actionable efforts were then developed to achieve these goals, which are to be implemented where possible in the revitalization of the Village's parks and trails.

2.2. Nimpkish Park Recommendations

Nimpkish Park is seen as the backbone of the park system in Gold River. The park currently has a large open field with a baseball diamond in disrepair surrounded by aged asphalt pathways, a pair of tennis courts in dire need of maintenance and an adjacent waterpark / playground that includes a small, covered gazebo.

Nimpkish Park has been assessed, and specific actions were created to direct restoration efforts. These actions were developed by evaluating the current inventory and layout of the proposed site and allowing the public to provide comments on what assets are integral to their lives (i.e. walking path), whilst other assets were determined to no longer justify the space they occupy (i.e. aging baseball diamond).

2.3. Existing Amenities

The current inventory of amenities that Nimpkish Park contains provides a safe and active space for all members of the community. The following are already available for use at Nimpkish Park:

1) Tot-Lot
2) Playground Equipment
3) Gazebo

4) Spray Park
5) Large Open Field
6) Toilet Facilities
7) Several Garbage Receptacles
8) Shaded Areas along edges

Through discussions with staff and the public, year-round availability for the Toilet Facilities has been a desire; however, due to the nature of accessing the facilities for maintenance, associated costs with enhancing the existing facilities and the increased demand on civil workers required, it was determined that any renovations to the facilities did not align with the intent of the revitalization efforts at this time. Further review of the feasibility of implementing a year-round facility should be pursued at a later date.

To facilitate the continued benefit of the existing amenities on site, specifically the playground equipment and associated spray park, regular inspections should be undertaken by Village staff to ensure a safe space for children. These inspections can then indicate when renovations or replacements should be implemented when most optimally needed. Through these efforts of maintaining and updating the existing amenities, future new amenities that will further serve the public more broadly can be implemented with greater impact.

The foundations to support a more substantial park that will continue to benefit the community are present. The following information within this report has been provided to allow Council and the public to see what enhancements can be achieved through revitalization efforts.

3. Design Options

3.1. Key Aspects

The principal purpose of this report and associated project is to present multiple options to Council and the public that incorporate different desired aspects of the individual park. There are many alterations that can be made to the plan layout; however, it is our opinion that the following options respect the existing park assets, desires of the community as well as ease of us for implementation.

3.2. All In Option

The initial concept for Nimpkish Park redesign aimed to achieve as many of the goals outlined in the Parks & Trails Master Plan. If chosen, the proposed projects envisioned for the park can occur in a phased manner. The proposed restoration efforts include the following actionable items:

All In Option's Projects:

- Bike Racks
- Storage Facilities (Shed, Bins, etc.)
- Public Library Stand
- Picnic Tables & Benches
- Enhanced Signage
- Small Grove
- Feature First Nations Designs
- Garbage & Recycling Receptacles
- Covered Gathering Space(s)
- Tree Planting to Provided Shaded Areas
- Fencing between Courts
- Upgrade/Restore Walking Paths
- Skate / Pump Park
- Preserve Open Space
- Remove Baseball Diamond
- Small Dog Park (Fenced)

Figure 1 – Site Plan



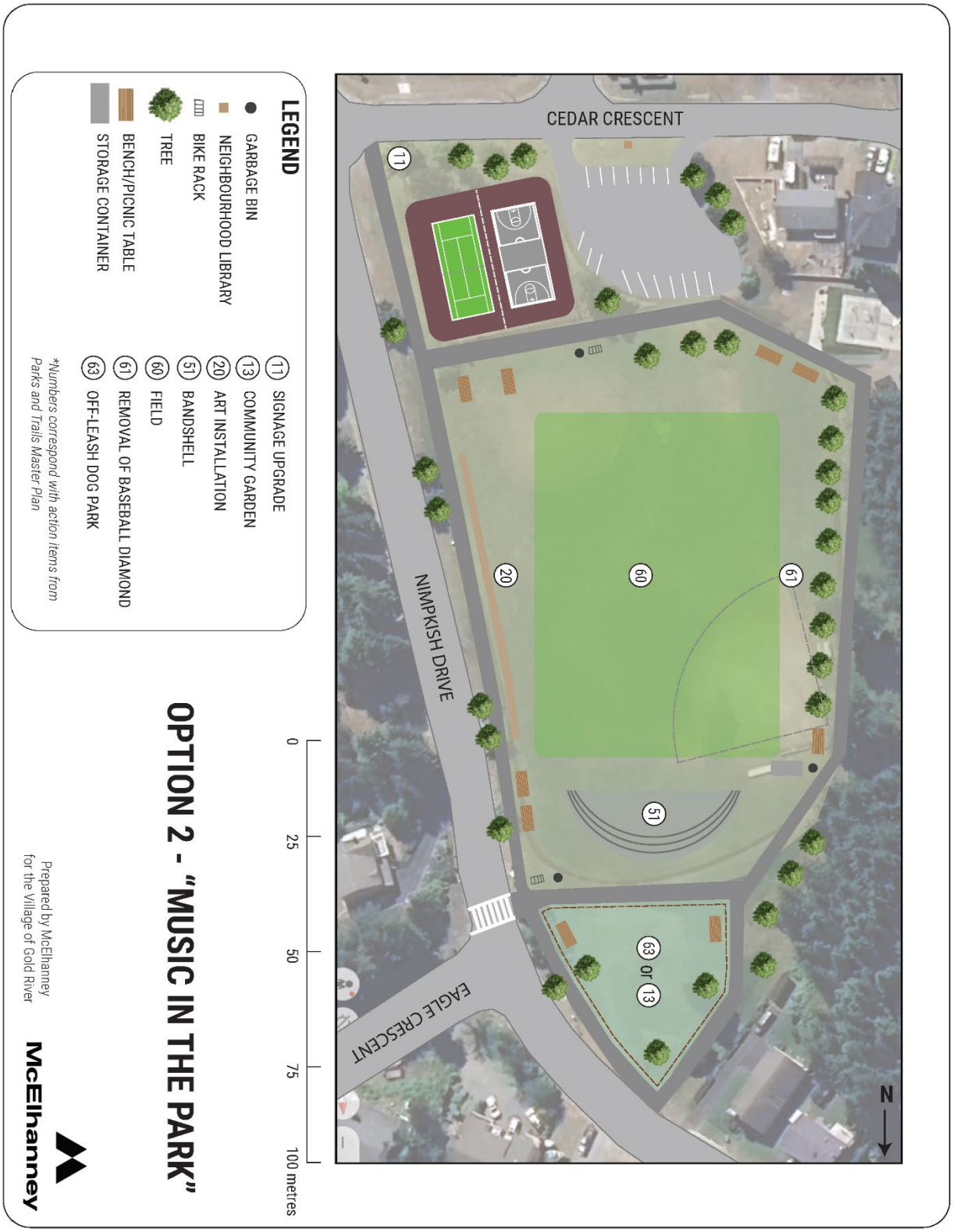
3.3. Music In the Park Option

Efforts with this concept were directed towards creating an open and welcoming space capable of providing venue space for outdoor music festivals. This area is proposed to be divided into spaces that all enhance the band shell / large, covered area, providing a focal point while also allowing for use of the open space for seating, food trucks, vendors, etc. This concept proposes the following revisions:

Music in the Park Option's Projects:

- Bike Racks
- Storage Facilities (Bins, Shed, etc.)
- Public Library Stand
- Signage Upgrades
- First Nations Art Installation
- Garbage & Recycling Receptacles
- Bandshell
- Small Gathering Spaces
- Fencing between Courts
- Benches
- Pathway Upgrades/Restoration
- Preserve Open Field
- Remove Baseball Diamond
- Large Dog Park (Fenced)

Figure 2 – Site Plan



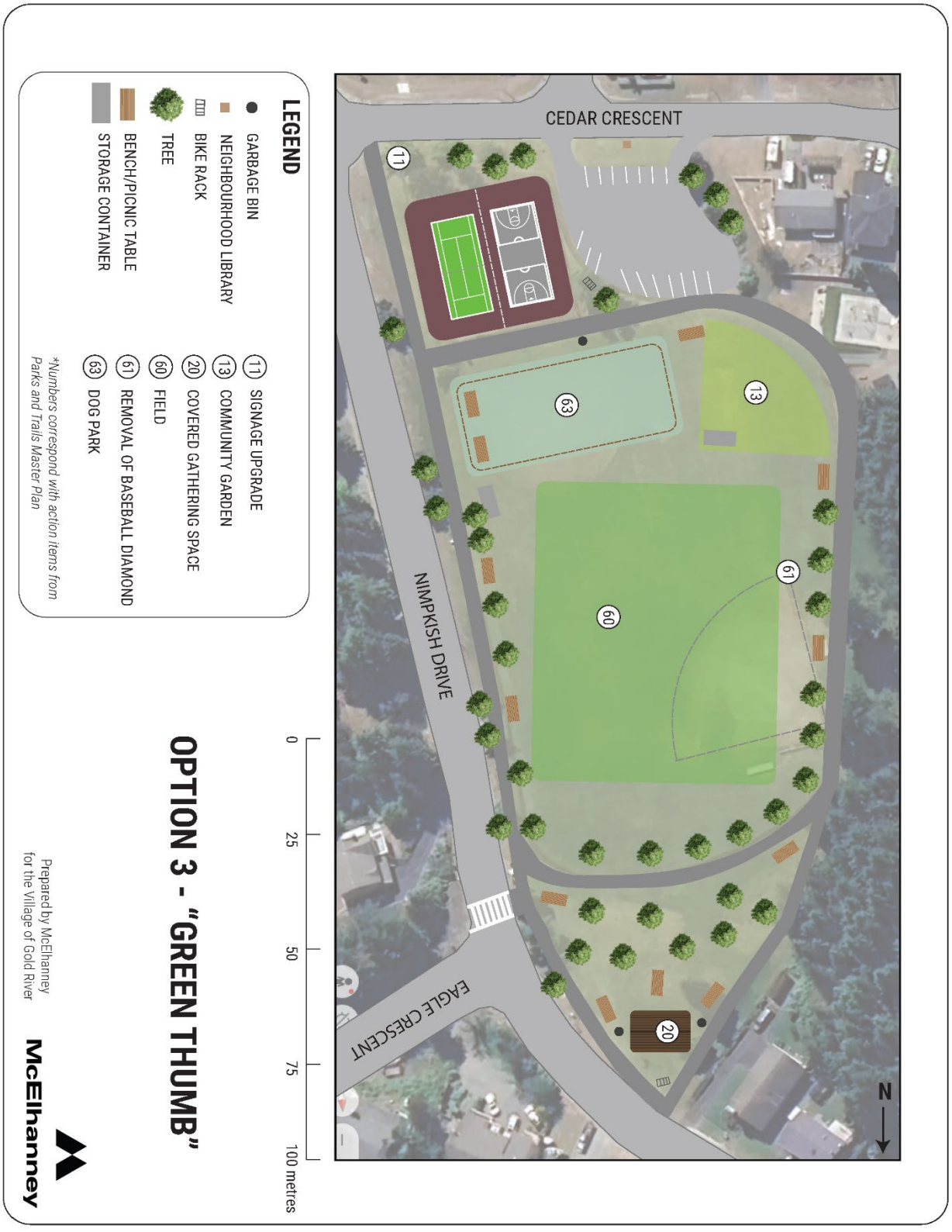
3.4. Green Thumb Option

The Green Thumb concept plan for Nimpkish Park was devised with the key actions being the provision of a Community Garden, Enhancement of Natural Features, and a Dog Park. Along with these key actions, the following recommendations are integrated into the design:

Green Thumb Option's Projects:

- Bike Racks
- Storage Facilities (Bins, Shed, etc.)
- Public Library Stand
- Wayfinding Signage
- Seating Options (Benches, Picnic Tables, etc.)
- Enhanced Signage (First Nations Design)
- Large Community Garden
- Covered Gathering Space
- Garbage & Recycling Receptacles
- Forested Gathering Space (Feature First Nations History)
- Fencing between Courts
- Pathway Restoration
- Preserve Large Open Space
- Consider Removing Baseball Diamond
- Medium Dog Park

Figure 3 – Site Plan



3.5. Green Thumb Alternative Option

Through discussions with Village staff, concerns were raised regarding the Community Garden's proposed location. If larger garden beds were chosen or if the crops established grew to significant heights / needed arbors to grow along, then the clear sightlines to the splash park and playground would be impacted. This would be a concern for children's public safety. In response, an alternative design was created.

Figure 4 – Site Plan



4. Community Engagement

4.1. Open House Results

On March 28th, 2026, McElhanney representatives held an Open House to provide the public with the opportunity to give their input on possible options for the revitalization of Nimpkish Park. This took the form of sticky note comments on specific topics and general thoughts on the project as well as discussions with representatives. In addition to this opportunity for comment, members of the public were able to submit remarks through the Village's website and associated survey.



4.2. Meeting Boards Notes

The following sections outline the comments received & verbal discussions had during the Open House session regarding the revitalization efforts for Nimpkish Park. These comments have been condensed into principal concerns in this section. Comments received during the Open House (in-person) are provided in Appendix A, attached and included in this report.


HEART RATE TARGET
LINCOLN'S PARK

4.2.1. All In Option

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Lack of seating options makes this option less appealing.

4.2.1.1. Let us know your thoughts Board

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- The opinion on the proposed location for the Gazebo is divided by participants.
- This option does not include a community garden, which is desired by the community.
    - Proposed dog park location would suit the Community Garden better.
- Need for more seating and shaded areas.
- Concerns that the Skate / Pump Park will be expensive and questioning over its usage.
- There is a divide as to whether to include Pickleball Courts instead of a basketball court / tennis court, or to preserve the Tennis Court and install a Basketball Court.

4.2.1.2. Implications

The following outlines what effect the public comments would have if implemented:

- Increase in seating would reduce the areas dedicated for other purposes.
    - To be optimally effective, additional trees would be required for shade.
- Removal of Skate / Pump Park would reduce costs but would remove a key feature of this option.
- Replacing the Dog Park with a Community Garden may ultimately serve fewer people.

4.2.2. Music in the Park Option

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Other areas in the Village would be better suited for the incorporation of a dog park.

4.2.2.1. Let us know your thoughts Board

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Area where Bandshell is proposed becomes inundated with water during the wet and cold months.
- Suggest relocating the Bandshell closer to parking lot, or to an area where electricity can be provided for the stage. Can be reduced in overall size.
- More shelters from the sun should be provided, especially benches that under the shade along Nimpkish Drive.

- Suggestion(s) to move dog park into area north of the park that is forested.
- Hope(s) to include Pickleball Courts with dividers in lieu of a basketball court or tennis court.

4.2.2.2. Implications

The following outlines what effect the public comments would have if implemented:

- Consideration needs to be given as to how far into the shaded area can the dog park be placed without encroaching onto adjacent parcels or affecting slope stability.
- Inclusion of Pickleball courts will result in either the elimination of the basketball court or the tennis court.

4.2.3. Green Thumb Option

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Instead of splitting the courts into 1 Basketball Court & 1 Tennis Court, desire to have Pickleball courts instead of the Basketball Court.

4.2.3.1. Let us know your thoughts Board

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Instead of locating the community garden where proposed, strong desire to locate a gazebo or covered seating area in this location. The area proposed is very busy with children and young families.
    - Recommend switching locations for Dog Park with Community Garden.
- Utilize this revitalization opportunity to enhance the edges of the park, transitioning them into a natural state. Will result in increased wildlife presence (i.e. birds, etc.).
    - Educational signs where native plants are included.
        - Encourage participation from the public to assist in these restoration efforts.
- Pathways need improvement to allow for access via walkers and wheelchairs.
    - Suggestion to move dog park into area west of the park that is forested.
    - If the baseball diamond is not affecting the other proposed uses, no reason to remove it.

4.2.3.2. Implications

The following outlines what effects the public comments would have if implemented:

- To enhance the pathways to be suitable for the desired purposes will be a costly effort.
- Moving the community garden further away from the existing parking lot may restrict access to easy materials drop off.

4.2.4. The Brass Tax

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Desire to improve what the Village already has, and to supply more benches.
- The amount of money indicated by the attendees to be provided by citizens ranged from 0% to 0.75% increase in taxes.

4.2.5. Operations & Maintenance

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- The cost of the dog park (operations) is too expensive.

4.2.6. Add Your Own Ideas Board

Principal Concerns – Notes from Public Meeting

- Suggestion to move dog park into area west of the park that is forested.
- Desire to locate the Community Garden on the northern edge of the park.
    - Level the area with gravel for drainage, install raised beds / plots, install a perimeter fence and provide a storage shed.
- Locate picnic benches on the edge of the park in the forested area.
- Area near the splash park is recommended as an optimal gathering space (previously used as outdoor movie area). Electricity would be beneficial for this use.
- Designated Pickleball Courts that are contained, provide proper court lines, and are resurfaced.
    - Include tall fence divider for pickleball courts (possibility of 4 courts)
- Lincoln's Park
    - Include a Bike Track as well as Bike Jump areas in the open field's current location.
    - Installation of a zipline that runs along the western path to an entertainment stage near the current splash park.
        - Include a sheltered area and add more playground equipment.

4.3. Website / Survey Responses

The following sub-sections outline the comments received through the Gold River webpage and survey, or through physical submissions. These comments have been condensed into principal concerns that were raised by the participants. Website and digital input received can be reviewed in Appendix B, attached to and included in this report.

4.3.1. Survey Questions

Amenities currently in the park:

- The park amenities are well utilized, with the largest number of respondents utilizing the Field/Open Space, Spray Park, and Pathways.
- The areas that were least utilized were the Basketball nets in the Tennis/Pickleball Court, Sloped Grass area adjacent to the washrooms, and the courts themselves.
    - It may be due to the deterioration of the courts that the use of them is less prevalent.

Amenities or Features wanted in the park:

- The main features that respondents felt that Nimpkish Park would be best suited for is additional Picnic Tables & Gathering Spaces, Upgrades to Pathways making them wider and clearer, and more Shaded Spaces.

4.3.1.1. Implications

The following outlines what would be deemed as priority projects:

- Upgrades to the walking path/track that surrounds the Open Space / Field.
- Installation of picnic tables and benches to provide gathering spaces.
    - Upgrading the walking path/track will be an initially expensive objective due to its size.
        - It may be more difficult to acquire provincial grant funding for less centralized community amenity upgrades

4.4. Priority Projects

Through review and compiling the data received through the public engagement processes, it has been determined that the priority projects that would be best pursued by the Village of Gold River would be upgrading and reestablishing the track/pathway that surrounds the majority of Nimpkish Park, installing various gathering spaces throughout the park (i.e. picnic tables, benches) with additional shading where funds are available, and the establishment of a community garden with the ability to expand to reflect community use.

5. Priority Costing

5.1. Project #1 – Track Upgrades

The track/pathway is a well utilized amenity of Nimpkish Park; however, after attending the site prior to the Open House event, it was made clear that upgrades are needed for the feature to better serve the community. At certain points of the track, the asphalt became so narrow that a walker would have difficulties moving through or for anyone to pass one another without walking off the paved area. Other areas of the track were inundated with water, which is a normal occurrence according to public input. The upgrades to the track should address these existing restraints.

5.1.1. Project Cost

Through the contribution of our engineers, the following costs have been deemed necessary to complete this project:

1) The costs are projected to cover the full redevelopment of the pathway, including the sidewalk along Nimpkish Drive are approximately cost **$227,000**. This project is likely to be the most disruptive to the use of the park and therefore should be planned accordingly to avoid conflicting with park users (i.e. festival use, sporting events, etc.). Please refer to Appendix C for a full breakdown of this proposed estimate.

2) An alternative option with the same intent as above is the redevelopment of the pathway; however, only the portions that wrap around the edge of the spray park along the western side of the property up to the connection with the sidewalk along Nimpkish Drive. As this would involve less materials and hours to complete it, the cost of this alternative option is approximately **$126,000**. Please refer to Appendix D for a full breakdown of this proposed estimate.

5.2. Project # 2 – Gathering Spaces

The total area of Nimpkish Park is quite impressive, allowing for multiple groups to utilize the space effectively without disturbing one another. An element that prevents this occurring more frequently is the lack of seating and gathering spaces. The installation of benches along the pathway can provide a brief reprieve from a long walk, while picnic tables shaded through the planting of native tree species can enable gatherings of friends new and old.

5.2.1. Project Cost

Through the contribution of our engineers, the following costs have been deemed necessary to complete this installation project:

1) The cost of providing several small gathering spaces and seating areas for the public is estimated to be **$19,000**. The costs would provide picnic tables placed upon a solid pad. The number of picnic

tables & benches can be expanded upon depending on Council's recommendation. The project cost breakdown can be located in Appendix E.



5.4 Project # 3 – Public Gardening

A key direction for Nimpkish Park is to incorporate a Community Garden. The area for this garden can be small initially; however, additional plots / garden beds can be added based on demand and utilization by the Public.

5.4.1 Project Cost

The associated costs with implementing a Community Garden are flexible, being dependent upon the number of plots / garden beds, the materials for construction (i.e. plastic, wood, metal, recycled materials), as well as the availability of necessary materials for both construction and function (i.e. fertilizer, quality soil, etc.).

Though the above noted materials and costs are subject to changes, the total cost of the project will be unlikely to vary substantially.



6. Action Plan

6.1. Actions

The revitalization of Nimpkish Park is recommended to be pursued as a phased approach, with goals for the short, medium and long term. The rationale for this proposal is to ensure that the funding is viably available through either collection of additional taxes, or available grants provided by the Provincial government.

The recommended order of the restoration efforts was determined by the predicted project lengths (easily achieved – time consuming) as well as the overall predicted costs, which have been summarized in the following table:

Project	Proposed Timeline	Project Cost
Build Gathering Space (Seating)	Medium Term	**$19,000**
Partial Pathway Restoration	Medium Term	**$126,000**
Full Pathways Restoration	Long Term	**$227,000** (cost reduction if partially implemented as a Medium-Term phase)

6.2. Short Term

The initial recommended goals for the park are to pursue projects that are easily funded and have a shorter phase to complete.

Dedicating the area and constructing Garden Boxes, establishing the key features of a Community Garden is proposed as the initial pursuit for revitalization. The location for the garden should either be the easily accessed location adjacent to the Spray Park and Parking Lot, or at the portion of the park furthest away from the Parking Lot that was indicated by the Public during the engagement session as a possible location.

The timeline is anticipated to be short as the conditions that will affect the implementation are resource procurement and construction time.

6.3. Medium Term

There are two projects that would best suit a medium-term timeline for the park's revitalization. These projects include the establishment of picnic tables placed at strategic points throughout the park, and the partial redevelopment of the pathway that crosses the park, spanning from the Spray Park to the Crosswalk at Nimpkish Drive & Eagle Crescent.

The establishment of picnic tables will benefit community members who wish to gather at the park and need the table and seating, those who need a place to rest while passing the park on walks, or those who wish to meet and connect before and after utilizing the tennis/basketball courts, the remaining ball diamond and open field, or the adjacent spray park. The cost associated with this improvement to the park is roughly **$19,000**, which can be pursued with current funds or through viable grants through the Provincial government.

As was heard during the engagement process and visually confirmed through site visits, the pathway requires significant attention due to its ailing state. The pathway connects in a crescent loop linking to the sidewalk along Nimpkish Drive from the Spray Park. By focusing on this portion of the pathway, the predicted costs would be reduced from **$227,000** to **$126,000**. These costs are a significant increase from the short term and the alternative medium-term project; however, the need to connect the prior projects effectively for ease of use will be paramount at this point in the park's revitalization process. If it is determined that this cost is too high for the current available funds and would require a large grant, then it can be pushed into the long-term phase.

6.4. Long Term

The project that best suits a long-term goal for the Village is the full redevelopment of the walking path that spans the majority of Nimpkish Park's exterior, connecting each access point of the park with one another and to surrounding path continuations.

The full replacement of the pathways is a substantial cost, approximately **$227,000**, or if divided into medium-term and long-term projects, as previously mentioned, then the remaining costs would be approximately **$101,000**. As this project would also be of a substantial length and may disrupt the use of the park, it would be beneficial to spread the works across these terms, lessening the burden on the Village's funds and reducing any impact users may experience whom regularly enjoy the Park and its amenities.

Through the above noted projects, the revitalization of Nimpkish Park can begin in a feasible way. The projects would achieve many of the desired outcomes for the park as indicated through the engagement process.



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