

OCP Excerpt: Cultural Sustainability Policy Section

6.1 Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

Objective 6.1.1 To create a recreation system that connects community parks, trails and open space.

Policies:

- a) All new developments are required to provide appropriate public access and transportation connections to recreational lands or help upgrade existing trail connections that lead to the development;
- b) Identify a network of community corridors connecting the various centres, major attractions and natural features within Port Hardy and the immediate vicinity; and
- c) Establish new parks and investigate the associated feasibility of adding these to the parks and trails system to provide recreational and green spaces in newly development areas.

Objective 6.1.2 To advocate and promote multiple trail uses within Port Hardy and the surrounding area.

Policies:

- a) Identify separate trails for motorized use where appropriate;
- b) Create a hierarchy of trails and proper signage that instructs and provides ease of route finding, difficulty of trail and popular landmarks and local amenities;
- c) Identify, protect and enhance public views and vistas within parks, trails and open-space environments;
- d) Identify trails on crown, private and park land and navigate the legal responsibilities and maintenance challenges of these trails;
- e) Negotiate with the Province and private property owner(s) to provide access through and/or on property for public pedestrian trail accesses by securing right-of-ways and easements; where possible work to purchase these lands for controlled and dedicated community use;
- f) To achieve a strong network of facilities and services to accommodate a multi-faceted approach to recreation and leisure for residents and visitors;
- g) Create a Parks and Recreation Open Space and Trails (PROST) Master Plan, which includes a common wayfinding theme and deployment plan for all recreational amenities;
- h) Map existing trails (using GPS) so a complete trail inventory can be conducted and produced and make available to the public accurate mapping of existing trail locations;
- i) Develop a comprehensive trail inventory and establish “made in Port Hardy” trail standards;
- j) Support the creation of a central community gathering place;
- k) Work with local motorized recreation groups to determine appropriate recreation areas;
- l) Establish a reserve fund to plan, fund and improve parks;
- m) Design more opportunities for walking, cycling and other forms of alternative transportation;
- n) Identify habitat network (e.g. wildlife corridors, nesting areas and dens and food supplies) and create buffers;
- o) Develop a trails wayfinding strategy to identify trail routes, provide user information and improve trail systems; and

- p) Amend the Zoning Bylaw and create a parkland dedication, density bonusing, phased development agreement system and associated reserve fund for the acquisition of monetary funds, fee simple land, parkland and amenities.

Objective 6.1.3 To achieve an integrated approach towards the utilization of parklands, open spaces and wilderness areas.

Policies:

- a) Extend trails (acknowledging adjacent private ownership of property);
- b) Create safe outdoor play areas designed by youth;
- c) Require suitable accessibility and include accessible amenities where terrain and natural ecosystems permit;
- d) Update park plans for all District-owned parks;
- e) Work toward an integrated management and maintenance strategy for the Tex Lyon wilderness trail between the District of Port Hardy, Regional District of Mount Waddington, Kwakiutl Band and recreation and Trails BC, with priority given to legally establishing and appropriately zoning the first 2km of trail on Crown Land (Chatham Avenue to Patrician Cove) that are partly within Port Hardy's community boundaries (as per Section 56 of the Forestry Act); and
- f) Review Regional District of Mount Waddington's Coordinated Outdoor Recreation Resource Initiative (2009) to identify actions for trails and parks.

6.2 Recreation Services

Objective 6.2.1 To ensure existing and future recreation facilities are centres of activity and serve the interests of the community.

Policies:

- a) Encourage partnerships with School District #85 for property use;
- b) Establish a protocol with all pertinent local stakeholders and organizations to ensure efficient and effective use of community assets (e.g. arena, swimming pool, School District gymnasiums and other recreational centres);
- c) Continue to improve recreation facilities and programs to be accessible and meet the evolving needs of the community;
- d) Continue to be a community that maintains and enhances expanded year round indoor and outdoor recreation programming for all ages;
- e) Encourage the use of locally-based skills, knowledge and expertise in delivering recreational programs;
- f) Encourage programs and services to support a multi-generational audience;
- g) Work closely with community organizations and assist the public in becoming self-sustaining in leisure pursuits;
- h) Work with neighbouring jurisdictions to create linkages to Regional amenities; and
- i) Research the possibility of creating a Port Hardy "Recreation Coordinator" position to encourage the expansion of services and potential recreation tourism opportunities.

Objective 6.2.2 To leverage existing recreational opportunities to the long-term development of marine-based activities.

Policies:

- a) Create added marina capability for a diversity of marine-based uses;
- b) Integrate marine-based uses with upland accommodation, services and commercial opportunities;
- c) Link marine-based uses with existing services (e.g. marine sani-dump, fish cleaning, recreational docking, small-commercial ventures, etc.);
- d) Investigate the feasibility and increased uses of foreshore areas for economic opportunities; and
- e) Zone foreshore areas for specific marine-based recreation and commercial uses.

6.3 Arts and Heritage

Objective 6.3.1 To strengthen the District of Port Hardy's relationship with neighbouring First Nations and building bridges of diversity and cultural understanding.

Policies:

- a) Recognize Kwakiutl, Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw, Quatsino and settler histories and encourage the sharing and preservation of those histories;
- b) Continue to support the Community to Community (C2C) initiative and identify linkages with Arts and Culture;
- c) Identify areas that would be appropriate for First Nation recognition, interpretation, display of art, heritage and stories;
- d) Promote arts and the continual development of a physical inventory of arts and heritage projects displayed in public spaces, both indoor and outdoor;
- e) Support the development of a Class A museum and cultural centre;
- f) Continue to provide use of public open spaces for community events and ceremonies;
- g) Support access to spaces that accommodate arts and cultural programs, activities and events; and that preserve, celebrate and share the community's history and achievements; and
- h) Encourage the installation of public art on or within public buildings and property.

Objective 6.3.2 To establish a community that is supportive of Arts and Heritage.

Policies:

- a) Work with local business, tourism, economic development and cultural organizations to identify ways to facilitate partnerships in furthering cultural development in Port Hardy , including the expansion of existing events, development of new events and the integration of cultural activities with business and tourism;
- b) Identify opportunities to support the arts when making planning, service and program decisions;
- c) Integrate arts and culture into community planning, recreation programming and economic development;
- d) Encourage the creation of a "Public Art Master Plan" that encourages all new commercial, institutional and multi-family developments to participate in a public art program throughout Port Hardy to support the work of local artists, enhance public buildings, streetscapes and other public spaces;
- e) Encourage live-work studios and home-based work arrangements for artists and artisans;

- f) Consider an arts centre and/or an arts school that would service the entire community and surrounding region;
- g) Encourage community programming for a variety of artistic disciplines;
- h) Provide opportunities to celebrate the unique historical, artistic and cultural character of the Port Hardy community by means of community festivals, award recognition, community outreach and external marketing;
- i) Integrate arts and culture into community planning, recreation programming and economic development;
- j) Establish a Port Hardy Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Amenity Reserve Fund for the purpose of supporting capacity building actions, including staff, volunteers, web-development, funding to community-led projects and arts, culture and heritage capital projects;
- k) Support organizations such as the North Island Concert Society and other groups working to enhance local arts and culture;
- l) Encourage the creation of an Arts Council and seek funding to support cultural initiatives;
- m) Identify opportunities for the expansion and enhancement of the museum;
- n) Create a central location where local artists can showcase the many talents of people that live in the region;
- o) Encourage the collection, documentation and distribution of local stories and historical testimonies; and
- p) Work with local business, tourism, economic development and cultural organizations to identify ways to facilitate partnerships in furthering cultural development in Port Hardy including the expansion of existing events, development of new events and the integration of cultural activities with business and tourism.

Objective 6.3.3 To protect unique heritage features.

Policies:

- a) Encourage and support the conservation of lands, structures and artifacts that have cultural heritage values;
- b) Encourage private owners to preserve heritage characteristics of their property;
- c) Establish a heritage registry consisting of:
 - Buildings and structures;
 - Viewscapes; and
 - Artifacts;
- d) Encourage private owners to preserve heritage characteristics of their property; and
- e) Ensure the location of buildings, sites, plantings or structures of historical significance on land to be redeveloped, that preservation of such sites, buildings or structures shall be considered as part of the development approval process.

6.4 Community Engagement and Learning

Objective 6.4.1 To encourage and support youth participation and opportunities for developing youth leadership skills in municipal and community organizations, programs and events.

Policies:

- a) Strengthen communication between Council, District staff and youth;

- b) Create a youth reserve fund to support youth-based ventures;
- c) Continue to support child-friendly amenities in business and public buildings; and
- d) Work with the School District, Vancouver Island Health Authority and other community organizations to identify programs and services to develop a comprehensive and collaborative approach to community engagement.

Objective 6.4.2 To create an environment of continual life-long learning.

Policies:

- a) Promote local career training opportunities at the high school and encourage post-secondary and continuing education;
- b) Collaborate with North Island College about future service plans for the North Island Area;
- c) Work with local industries to ensure that residents are informed of training and employment opportunities;
- d) Encourage residents to share specialized skills and knowledge with each other;
- e) Encourage early childhood education services and facilities within existing and new developments and neighbourhoods; and
- f) Review North Island Coordinated Workforce Strategy (2010) and work towards implementing key recommendations