

Gabriola's Skatepark Receives Funding

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has received funding to continue improvements at Gabriola Island's Huxley Community Park. The next phase includes construction of a skatepark and improved parking. Work is anticipated to take place from Spring to Fall 2021.

The skatepark project on Gabriola Island was first conceived of 25 years ago. In 2003, a community group was formed called Ride Free. They were committed to completing a skatepark on Gabriola and 15 years later, the non-profit Gabriola Skatepark Fundraising Association has carried on the legacy. In 2017, local riders and interested community members provided input into the design of their park and reviewed the draft design to make sure it satisfied their needs.

The [Huxley Park conceptual master plan](#) was approved in 2014. Phase 1 of the master plan was completed in 2017 including a new playground and new sport court hockey boards.

For the skatepark, the RDN has received \$309,480 from the federal government and \$257,874 from the provincial government through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, Community Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream. The remaining \$206,346 will be paid for through donations, reserves and taxes.

For more information, visit www.rdn.bc.ca/huxley-community-park.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is investing in a bigger, more accessible Gabriola skatepark where kids can stay active and healthy and where the community can meet together. Canada's Infrastructure plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across Canada and builds stronger communities."

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"I am pleased to join with the federal government to invest in people and their communities. We know that these investments in public spaces, in all regions of the province, will strengthen relationships and promote mental and physical well-being. Working with local governments, Indigenous communities and other partners means that we can continue to deliver the services people count on and need right here in British Columbia."

The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Get Involved RDN!

“On behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, we are grateful that this funding request has been approved. Access to outdoor amenities has proven so important these last few months and Gabriola residents will no doubt benefit from continued enhancements to Huxley Park.”

Ian Thorpe, Regional District of Nanaimo Board Chair

“The construction of this skatepark is the culmination of many years of dedication by community members. This skatepark will expand the amenities already available at Huxley Park and will enhance its role as a central gathering place with opportunities for active recreation for all ages.”

Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo Director for Electoral Area B

-30-

For media inquiries, contact:
Christina Gray
Communications Coordinator
250-390-6502
cgray@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!