

Regional District of Nanaimo Approved for FireSmart Grant

The Province of British Columbia has approved \$153,387 in funding for the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) FireSmart Coordination and Prescriptions project. The Community Resiliency Investment program grant enables the RDN to continue its FireSmart initiatives that focus on education, interagency cooperation, cross training and vegetation management.

The funding covers programs such as the yard waste bin and chipper days, public education, employee professional development and a temporary Regional FireSmart Coordinator. The coordinator will manage the RDN FireSmart program and work with local fire departments to implement FireSmart education including FireSmart Community Preparedness Day, Home and Neighbourhood assessments, Neighbourhood Champion workshops and the Neighbourhood Recognition program.

The grant will also fund fuels management prescriptions for five parks based on their proximity to residential properties, wildfire risk or historic fire activities within their boundaries:

- Descanso Bay Regional Park (Electoral Area B)
- Cox Community Park (Electoral Area B)
- Moorecroft Regional Park (Electoral Area E)
- Kipp Road Community Park (Electoral Area A)
- Malcolm Road Community Park (Electoral Area F)

A Fuel Management Prescription describes the wildfire risk and the recommended fuel management activities to reduce that risk. Recommended prescriptions are generally located within a 1-kilometer band between forest and urban areas. The recommendations consider many factors including fuel sources, weather influences, the landscape and land management objectives such as retaining the forest canopy.


These FireSmart activities complement the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRPs) which will be completed in June and the Fuels Management Prescriptions (FMPs) for the 707 Community Park and the RDN Arboretum that are now done. The CWRPs and FMPs provide a foundation for the RDN to develop longer-term, sustainable programming within the seven FireSmart disciplines - education, legislation, development, interagency cooperation, cross training, emergency planning and vegetation management.

For more information on FireSmart programs, visit rdn.bc.ca/firesmart and for information on fire services in the RDN, visit rdn.bc.ca/fire-services.

-30-

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