Summary of Responses

Distribution Strategy & Response Collection.

An open house was held at the Women’s Institute Hall on July 13th 2013. Approximately 50 residents came to talk with RDN Director Howard Houle & RDN Parks staff to provide their input. All attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts and suggestions by completing the questionnaire.

An on-line open house was also hosted at the Regional District of Nanaimo parks website www.rdn.bc.ca/parks between July 13th and September 7th. This on-line open house provided those who could not attend the open house the opportunity to review the materials presented at the open house and to complete the questionnaire.

At total of thirty-six responses were received. Eleven (11) responses were collected at the open house and twenty-six (26) were completed on-line.

QUESTION 1:  
Tell us what you know about the history of Huxley Park
Answered: 31  Skipped:6

Comments:

- Very little even though I've lived on Gabriola Island part-time for 5 years. I've never seen any visible signs to the park entrance.
- Basic facts only.
- I'm new to gabriola.
- Lots but the statute of limitations has not expired.
- In 2000 we moved here and our children were 4 and 6 years old. Lots of kids activities and parks and rec events happened there; then it became a place for youth.
- Leased to community for 99 years, responsible for 99 years as part of commercial zoning. tennis courts funded by grants, tax payers. Play court funded by private donation.
- donated land
- Been a tennis player & park president.
- Familiarity over 20 years
- very little
- not much
- Given to the island by Brenda Huxley
- It was a privately owned piece of land recently donated to the community via the RDN. It has been poorly maintained for all but tennis players
- Not too much
- It was donated to the RDN
- Built mainly with volunteer effort & donations, very important to hockey & tennis players
- We know a little about the tennis courts and skate/bike park, but mainly just know the "history" from the website.
- I know the complete history of the park, including the fact that the 'Huxley' who 'donated' the land did so only to secure support for the rezoning of the remainder of the parcel in order to sell the land at a great profit. I also know there was a horseshoe pitch originally installed, but a careless equipment operator destroyed it when clearing for the tennis court.
- the land was owned by Brenda Huxley and the lease was for 99 years renewable for another 99 years at $1.00 for each 99 years. The money for developing the park as a tennis location that includes two courts came 1/3 from the provincial gambling revenues, 1/3 from the local taxes approved by a referendum and 1/3 from local donation
- it's made of cement and surrounded by trees
- it is small,
- founded by Brenda Huxley Brian Stewart set up the hockey court volunteer labour and business donations
- I have lived on gabriola for 8 years, Huxley park is always occupied with residents and is a large part of our tourism attractions
- Helped build the Hockey court in early 1990s. Added the lights and shed. Played ball hockey for the last 20yrs
- that kids go there to have fun, play sports and talk until some older people decided it would a good place to do drugs
- park dedication for rezoning in the 90s; now used well for tennis and skateboarding
- Huxley park has been used successfully host to tennis players and scratch hockey games. There is a spot that is kind of an area meant for skate boarding. There is usually a group of people there smoking, drinking, and hanging out
- I have been playing tennis there for about 20 years. I heard that the land was generously donated for field hockey and tennis. The tennis group actively maintained the park for all the years I have used it.
- That it was created as part of a land swap when the Village Mall was built. There was a donation by some with the name of Huxley.
QUESTION 2:
Do you currently use Huxley Park?
Answered:26  Skipped:0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>62.16%</th>
<th>37.84%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

QUESTION 3:
If not, why don’t you use the park?
Answered:13  Skipped:24

- Not a tennis player.
- Too old and slow to make the hockey team.
- Out of the way - nothing for us there. Nowhere to sit. Not safe or welcoming.
- No kids. Have dog.
- Too busy!
- No playground for kids. Walked through with my dog in the past.
- Seems a bit rougher, not ideal for young kids to have so many people swearing around them.
- cause druggies hang out there, and it's pretty trashed
- it is to small, and i ride a bm, and it is hard to do thing because it is so small,
- drug users, and it's dangerous, needs cleaning up
- i just like walking through it and seeing it being used. i don't play tennis or skateboard, but i bike and walk through it to avoid being on the road
- Mostly because of the crowd of people using the back area as a drinking/drugs hangout spot.
QUESTION 4:
What do you do in the park?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>17 responses (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>3 responses (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball hockey</td>
<td>9 responses (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>5 responses (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>4 responses (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking</td>
<td>8 responses (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog walking</td>
<td>4 responses (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang out</td>
<td>6 responses (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>3 responses (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2 responses (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>4 responses (15%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other:
(5 responses)
- Zamboni
- Lacrosse
- Walking
- bike ride and walk through, as a trail
- I walk through the park almost daily.
QUESTION 5:
How do you usually access Huxley Community Park?
Answered:33  Skipped:4

- North Road entrance: 21 responses (64%)
- From Folk Life Village: 18 responses (55%)
- From Gabriola Commons: 7 responses (21%)
- Other (please specify): 1 response (3%)

Other:
(1 response)
- why do you find the access route so intriguing? Is this a leading question?
QUESTION 6:
How would you rate the following park amenities?

Answered: 32  Skipped: 5

Comments (1):
- I just walk through the park, so I can't really rate these
QUESTION 7:
How would you rate the following aspects of park management?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 6

- Maintenance: 2.48
- Sense of safety: 2.63
- Park visibility: 2.33
- Park promotion: 2.43
- Aesthetics: 2.30

Comments(1):
- There’s still a lot of natural woodland, which is nice.
QUESTION 8:
What improvements to existing park facilities do you think are important?
Answered: 34  Skipped: 3

- Sport court improvements
  - 2.61Very important
- Tennis court improvements
  - 2.00Somewhat important
- Pedestrian trail improvements
  - 2.04Somewhat important
- Parking lot improvements
  - 1.91Not important
- Security improvements
  - 2.17Very important

Comments (6):
- BMX and Skate park
- The park (entire village) needs a PUBLIC WASHROOM
- an additional tennis court would be a great asset for this sport which is attracting new players of all ages.
- leave the trees for shade. resurface court
- i'm ok as-is, but support what youth want, so am glad you are asking
- Water and bathroom facilities
QUESTION 9:
What site features are the most important to include in the park?
Answered: 35  Skipped: 2

### Comments (5):
- improved security
- any of the above assume space/what is available?
- landscaping - clearing out brush
- additional tennis court for the growing number of interested people, both young middle aged and seniors. Visitors to the island often use the courts.
- expanded hockey court. better hockey goals and nets. resurfaced hockey court
QUESTION 10:
Do you have any concerns you feel should be addressed in the design/management of the park?
Answered: 24  Skipped:13

Garbage/washrooms/maintenance (5)
- garbage
- provision for better garbage management
- Garbage and collection
- Washrooms? Really, I'd love public washrooms, but who is going to clean them and clean the trash
- if the feature added cannot be maintained or sustained over the long term, then don't add it.

Visibility/security/safety (11)
- Need it to be more visible
- The current skatepark and basketball courts are too secluded, which encourages unsocial activities.
- cutting the trees alongside North Road to open the visibility of the park which would improve security
- Tree removal
- more lighting
- If I send my kids there, I don't want them to be accessible to the drinking crowd. A perimeter fence may be required
- some monitoring of legitimate use of facility
- Rowdy, no policing. Drinking, drugs. I would not feel safe if it got out of control. It was not pleasant in the past. I would not walk there.
- Need to look at tree removal to let in sunlight for winter months.
- Safety should be a high priority.
- Accidents-what happens if no parent present?

Skatepark/bmx (3)
- A much larger bike park that provides an assortment of pipe, quarter pipes, boxes, ramps, tables and half pipes
- Skateboard
- Bmx
Sport Courts (8)
- new fence along hockey court
- re surfaced ball hockey court
- it is great recreation for young males and gets used twice a week all seasons
- consider that the major use of the park is tennis and hockey
- Would like to volunteer service for maintaining & managing the sport court.
- leave trees on North Rd - important for wind protection in the summer for tennis.
- Improve quality of materials in sports arena.
- Remove some trees along east side of tennis courts - cause tennis court surface deterioration.

Youth/kids involvement (7)
- have kids involved at meetings to design what they want
- ensure youth usage - there isn't much for them on Gabe
- keep asking the kids
- it should be designed with young people in mind.
- every effort should be made to involve young people in the planning AND in the subsequent management.
- There is really very little designed for/by young people on this Island. Us old folks already have numerous amenities.
- Focus on youth at Huxley Park.

Trails/connectivity (11)
- The walking trails are rough; they could be improved.
- invasive species
- Connectivity to the planned "off-road trail" is critical.
- remove some underbrush, define trails
- keep Commons involved for possible park there
- I think it should maintain a woodsy, natural environment
- I like the idea of a trail around the perimeter.
- The pathway from Village to Commons should be open for everyone.
- Connect with Commons & Village Trail plans.
- It should link the village with the Commons - easy flow etc.
- remove some underbrush, define trails

Other (2)
- It is a multiple memorial site at present.
- Leave parking lot on North Rd.
QUESTION 11:
If you could make 3 improvements to the park, what would they be?
Answered: 31  Skipped:6

Improve garbage/washrooms/maintenance (10)
- public washroom
- bathrooms
- better garbage and recycling opportunities
- more garbage receptacles/pickup
- Maintenance
- Restrooms
- restrooms
- restrooms
- water and bathroom facilities for emergencies
- Clean, neat, safe and open to all.

Improve security/visibility (7)
- Visibility security lights
- clear boundary at back
- better visibility - open up by removing a few trees.
- make it more visible, lights, to get the drugs out of our park
- security cameras
- less brush
- Tree removal East & S.E.

Improve skatepark/bmx facilities (11)
- larger bike / skate park
- make the skate park bigger!!!!!
- new plan for skate park
- skateboard
- Put a bmx/skatepark up along North Road.
- Skateboard area
- make the skate park more BMX friendly
- bike path with jumps around the perimeter of the park
- Bmx
- Share land with the Commons for the construction of a skateboard facility alongside North Road
- Add A Dirt Jump (bike) park

Improve parking area (3)
- increased parking area
- Move parking to alongside of park to the back right side.
- increase parking space - pave it perhaps
Provide picnic area (3)
- picnic area
- picnic area
- More picnic tables etc. Easy access.

Trails/Connectivity (3)
- Better trails.
- Better access for pedestrians.
- Clear connection to the village core

Improve sport court facilities (29)

Hockey sport court (14)
- larger walls and lighting on the sport court
- expand & re-surface hockey court
- better nets and goals
- extend netting above sport court all around
- improve ball hockey court
- better stands
- fix up boards and surrounding area for drainage
- a better court, for example a surrounding fence above walls
- proper basketball hoops
- Hockey sport court
- Bleachers
- Improve fencing at sports arenas & basketball hoops.
- make more attractive for pickleball
- some kind of court cleaning device

Tennis courts (8)
- A third tennis court
- More tennis courts
- More tennis courts
- resurface hockey court
- Indoor tennis court for winter usage
- an additional tennis court.
- Cut the trees that are destroying the tennis court surfaces through their roots
- Remove trees (some) east of tennis courts.

Lighting (7)
- playing lights
- more lighting for court
- some kind of court cleaning device
- add large overhead lights (the sort used on soccer fields)
- more lighting
- more lighting
- lights for evening tennis
Improve skatepark facilities (2):
  - skatepark
  - Build skate park facility next to parking area.

Other (10)
  - Habitat enhancement
  - WiFi! Many kids have ipods, and can contact their family that way.
  - Enter in negotiation with the Commons to have additional land donated to the RDN to increase the size of the Park
  - Outdoor amphitheater for community performances.
  - Parking
  - water
  - swings and playground
  - Make it as appealing as possible to young people.
  - habitat enhancement
  - designated dog area
**QUESTION 12:**

Do you have any other comments or ideas on how the community could move forward with the development of Huxley Park?

Answered: 12  Skipped: 14

- Skateboard park in Tofino is open to road, visible and attracts a lot of people, whistler and Tofino both have small bike parks with high usage
- make it a safer more noticeable place to be
- The current area is insufficient for the activities desired.
- As mentioned above, the land is too small to include a skateboard facility additionally to the present users. Additional land donated from the Commons would make such a project possible and help create more parking facilities that would be required for the additional users. Those two parcels of land also have commonality regarding nature trails and should be married to facilitate cooperation regarding that issue. What we are after are better facilities for the general public and I feel that the Commons have a similar goal and all it needs is a willingness to move forward.
- open up the area, make it more "transparent" rather than hidden behind trees. This would deter "unfavourable" characters from hiding within while "smoking" etc. unseen. Increased attraction of sports would encourage greater attendance/use of the park. Tennis is a sport which is being played at all times except when the snow covers the courts, this sport would benefit from another court.
- lets get er done
- this is very exciting, I hope we can see it happen for our Island kids, not just a dream, it's been years they've been waiting. Let's give them the park they want and deserve:))
- no expertise but am glad you are asking
- I would love an activity park like this.
- Getting a lot of community input would be essential to provide an outdoor green space that all could enjoy.
- Work closely with the consultant chosen to develop the off-road Village trail
- Possible ice maker machine.
- What about a water feature? Paddle pool, fountain
- I do not see the park as a good place for picnics - unattractive location.
- Needs a lot of thought & volunteer commitment to make people safe & pleasant. Safe from unpleasant people and care after accidents. Education so people know what their responsibilities are.
- Ensure maximum input from young Gabriolans.