

Appendix A - Background Document Review and Area Demographics

Summary

The Track and Field Facility was proposed in the Recreation Services Master Plan in 2006. It was also proposed that a start be made acquiring land for a major outdoor sports complex; it was noted that the Track and Field Facility could be part of that complex.

The Official Community Plans for all the local government units in District 69 are consistent both with each other and with the Regional Growth Strategy. They focus on small parks, trails and environmental protection. Some, such as Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan suggest that another community park may be needed in the future, but they all stress that trails for walking and biking are the highest priority. Working collaboratively with the School District is noted as a high priority, both in terms of school buildings for community schools, and fields for community sports.

Demographically, the community is continuing to attract new residents, but they are, almost without exception, aged 45 years plus. This is born out in the recently produced results from the 2006 census.

Recreation Services Master Plan

The Master Plan was developed in 2006. Various sections of the plan provide a context of the development of the Track and Field Facility. These sections are reproduced as follows:

7.2 CENTRALIZED FACILITIES

During meetings with local organizations, numerous needs were identified in terms of new and improved facilities. The consultants have identified several amenities below that are similar to the major facilities discussed in Chapter Six, in that they should be centralized, and located as conveniently as possible to all Oceanside residents.

Outdoor Sports Complex *Oceanside is well located in the central Vancouver Island area, and should consider the development of a large multi-sport facility with state of the art facilities.*

Track and Field Facility *Consideration should be given to the construction of an eight lane, 400 meter running track and support facilities.*

RECOMMENDATION (2007)

22. Consider the following facilities – a sports complex, a track and field facility, and Regional Parks trails – as Region-wide facilities, to be provided as conveniently as possible to all Oceanside residents.

7.3 OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX

It is the consultants' opinion that as a long term solution to many existing difficulties, local sport organizations - baseball, softball and soccer, football and others – require a large centralized sport complex to accommodate their need for regular league play, as well as for tournaments, and even regional and provincial events.

This type of facility has been developed in numerous communities across the Province, and has proven to be extremely successful in terms of attracting a variety of events, and also providing first class amenities that essentially meet the needs of the vast majority of sport requirements.

An example of this type of facility is the South Surrey Athletic Park, which includes a four diamond, lighted softball / fast pitch complex, complete with change rooms, restrooms, concession and restaurant; several soccer and rugby fields, lighted baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and a 400 meter running track, in addition to an Olympic-size arena and a new recreation centre, and a Rotary Club field house.

Surrey has several of these facilities, but it is not alone in recognizing the value of placing as many amenities at one location, in terms of convenience, reduced maintenance costs, and as an attraction to residents, non-residents and tourists. Other similar facilities are located in Kelowna, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Port Alberni, Burnaby and Mission.

This is a project that requires a vision, a “champion”, a commitment from numerous organizations and the Regional District, and patience – because it will be expensive to build, and it will, in all likelihood, be built in a number of phases, one of which would be locating and acquiring the appropriate land (twenty or more acres). It is also a facility that can bring the sports community together as few others can.

It is the consultants’ opinion that the Recreation and Parks Department could play a leadership role in the planning and development of such a facility, along with the Oceanside Sports Association, the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, the School District and other organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS (ONGOING)

23. Facilitate a meeting with local sport organizations to discuss the possibility of developing a major sports complex in the Oceanside area.

24. Visit sports complexes in other communities.

25. Identify potential sites.

26. Prepare a concept plan for the facility.

27. Investigate funding sources.

28. Determine priorities / phasing possibilities.

29. Initiate construction.

It should be noted that this discussion is not intended to diminish the importance of facilities located at existing park sites. It is intended primarily as a long term venture that will meet the future needs of the Oceanside area.

7.4 TRACK AND FIELD FACILITY

As discussed earlier, the consultants feel that a good quality track and field facility is needed in the Oceanside area. This type of facility should include a 400 meter track, and other amenities to conduct local, regional and provincial meets, but it will likely be utilized a great deal by local residents, for walking and jogging.

This is a facility that could be located at the proposed sport complex, or it could be located at a secondary school site, such as Ballenas Secondary School.

It should be noted that high quality track and field facilities are not inexpensive. However, a relatively new facility in the Cowichan Valley Regional District provides an excellent example of the efforts of a non-profit society to build and maintain a first class facility at modest cost, locating the track on Crown land, acquiring grants and conducting numerous fund raising events.

RECOMMENDATIONS (2010)

30. Ensure that track and field interests are represented in discussions regarding the development of a centralized sports complex.

31. Contact the Chesterfield Track and Field Society (District of North Cowichan) to discuss the planning, development and current use of the Cowichan Valley facility.

The Master Plan also provides an inventory of regional parks and school sites with sports fields:

Regional District Sites

With one exception (Jack Bagley Field), Electoral Area community parks are limited to a small number of playgrounds which are located in Area E, G and H. Sites include:

- *Jack Bagley Field (Area E) Includes a large sport / play field / two ball diamonds, and one soccer pitch.*

School Sites

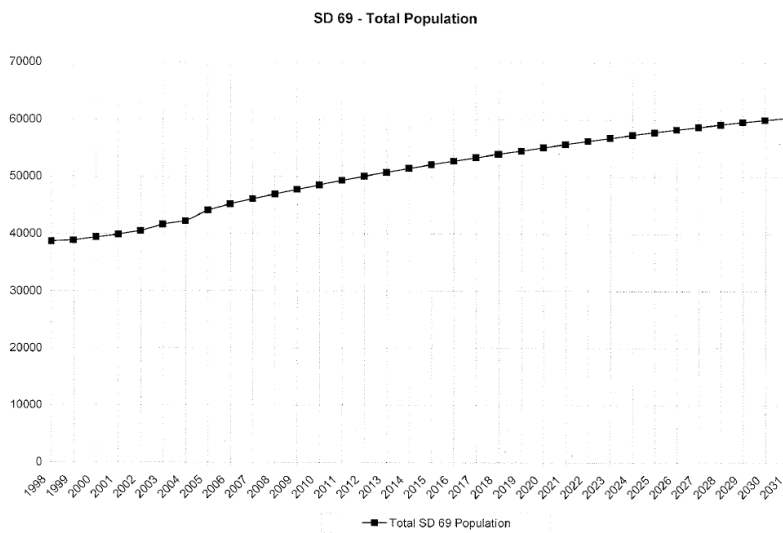
Most of the schools in District 69 have sports fields that are used by community organizations. The fields receive heavy use during the school year, and their condition varies from one site to another.

- *Kwalikum Secondary - Two large fields / soccer pitches.*
- *Ballenas Secondary - Large sport field / soccer pitch, playfield with backstop, cinder track, four tennis courts.*
- *Oceanside Middle - Large playfield / soccer pitch, softball diamond.*
- *Springwood Middle - No fields – uses Springwood Park facilities.*
- *Qualicum Middle - Soccer pitch.*
- *Arrowview Elementary - Two sport fields with ball diamonds and soccer pitches.*
- *Nanoose Bay Elementary - Small playfield – uses Jack Bagley facilities.*
- *Parksville Elementary - Small playfield with three backstops.*
- *Winchelsea Elementary - Playfield with backstop.*
- *Errington Community School - Small playfield.*
- *French Creek Community School - Small playfield.*
- *Qualicum Beach Elementary - Large playfield with two backstops.*
- *Bowser Elementary - Small playfield with backstops.*

Schools and School Planning

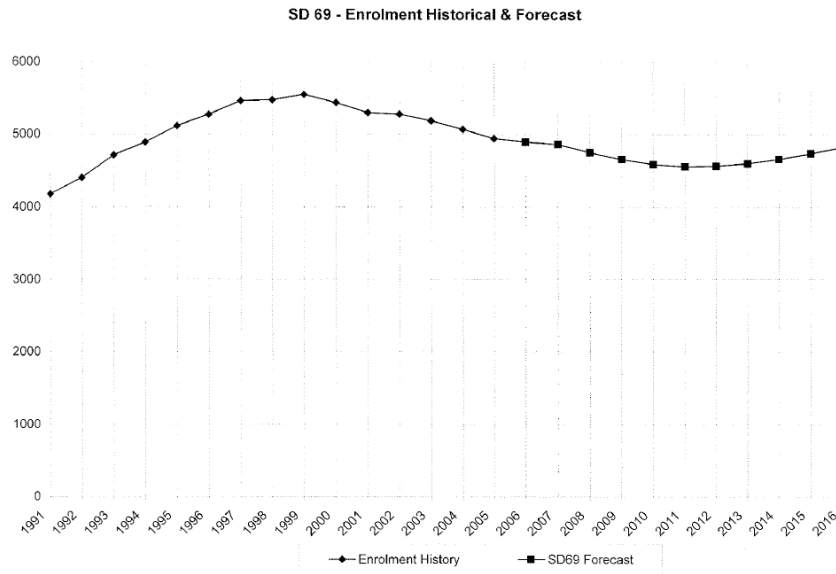
The District has 2 secondary schools, Ballenas which serves primarily Parksville and Kwalikum which serves primarily Qualicum Beach. In addition there are three middle schools: Qualicum Beach, Oceanside, and Springwood.

The school district uses the BC Stats projections which indicate their area population increasing to over 60,000 by 2031 in a steady and continuing fashion.



BC STATS - P.E.O.P.L.E. - Population Projection (August 2007)

However its school age and enrolment trends show that overall K-12 population peaked in 1999, and has declined steadily since then. It is estimated to bottom out in 2012 and start a slow increasing trend from there. These projections assume an increasing number of births to British Columbians, a trend which started to show in 2003/4, when the number of births bottomed out at 40,200 (down from its peak of 47,000 in 1993/4).



City of Parkville Official Community Plan

The City of Parkville Official Community Plan was adopted in 2002 and consolidated in 2006. The Official Community Plan addresses many planning areas and focuses on eight community objectives:

- *Preservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment*
- *Maintenance of Small Town Atmosphere*
- *Promotion of Diversified Economic Development*
- *Enhancement of Recreational Facilities*
- *Improvement of Transportation Networks*
- *Improvement of Human Services*
- *Provision of Housing Options*
- *General Management of Growth*

The Official Community Plan notes about Parks, Recreation, Culture and Heritage

There are several parts to the City's initiatives regarding open space. These can be categorized under the topics: Greenbelts, Parks and Open Space (including trails), Recreational Facilities, Bike Paths.

With regard to recreational facilities, the Official Community Plan notes:

The City provides recreational facilities for its residents. These facilities also attract out of area users. This results in a high demand without an equivalent tax contribution to draw from. The City recognizes its role in the provision of recreation facilities which was also expressed in the prior Official Community Plan and has, as a goal, the provision of a diverse range of recreational and cultural opportunities and facilities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors

The following Objective was adopted:

The City's objective is to provide a comprehensive parks and recreation system emphasizing access to the waterfront, walking and cycling and enjoyment and preservation of the natural environment. The City also, as an objective, wishes to provide an array of cultural services and facilities for the enhancement of community life and support a variety of active recreational facilities."

Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan

The Town of Qualicum Beach has an Official Community Plan that was adopted in 2005. It covers a number of areas including Parks and Natural Spaces.

The policies in this area focus on:

Greenways

...which are defined as:

a network of green spaces, or 'Greenways' that provide ecological and recreational benefits for the Town.

It identifies two types of Recreational Greenways

- *Greenway Trails in a public right of way, to provide off-road facilities for non- motorized linear recreation such as walking, hiking, and cycling.*
- *Greenway Streets to provide facilities for pedestrians and cyclists as well as motor vehicles in well-landscaped corridors.*

Both are envisioned as beautiful green spaces, with special facilities for people to walk, cycle and enjoy nature.

Watershed Management

...which would include:

- *A Watershed Awareness Campaign*
- *An extension of the Stormwater Management Program*
- *A Water Quality Bylaw*
- *A Watershed Best Practices Bylaw*
- *Working Landscapes Advocacy*
- *A Stewardship Rewards Program*

Recreational Facilities

...where it notes that:

existing recreation facilities should be retained and renewed and that new facilities might include:

- *Development of the Community Park;*
- *Acquisition and development of neighbourhood parks;*
- *Acquisition of land for the development of recreational greenways;*
- *Enhancement of special recreation areas such as the Little Qualicum River, Marshall Wildlife Sanctuary;*
- *And provision for private (user-pay) recreation facilities.*

Official Community Plans for Electoral Areas



Electoral Area E

The Official Community Plan for this area supports the protection of the environment, the location of community facilities within the Urban Containment Boundary, collaboration with School District 69 on school site planning and the extension of walking and biking trails.

Electoral Area F

This Official Community Plan establishes general policies toward parks, trails and recreation as follows:

- *Develop a Master Parks Plan for Electoral Area 'F' to identify the types of park land desired by residents, identify significant sites for proposed parks, trails and recreation areas and to promote the integration of a parks and trail system into other recreational opportunities in the Regional District of Nanaimo.*
- *Encourage the community to consult with land owners on community access to private forested lands.*
- *Preserve Arrowsmith Trail (old CPR Trail) near Cameron Lake.*
- *Support the retention of Crown land parcels for recreation and environmental protection. Encourage a trail network connecting the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo.*
- *Ensure consultation takes place with affected landowners in the development of trails and open spaces and consider appropriate buffering to prevent negative impacts on adjoining lands.*

Electoral Area G

A new Official Community Plan has recently been developed (2008) for this electoral area. It states regarding Park Land, Green Space, and Natural Areas:

Park land, green space and natural areas are essential in creating complete liveable communities. Parks and open spaces can take on many forms and can serve a variety of functions such as sports fields, tot lots, wildlife viewing areas, hiking or walking trails, pedestrian linkages, and protected areas not intended for human disturbance. Parks and open spaces are an important component of the Plan Area as they help define the community, provide an opportunity for Plan Area residents to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, and encourage community recreation and social interaction.

The OCP notes that:

Residents of Electoral Area 'G' have stated a need for additional park land to provide:

- a. linear walking trails;*
- b. riparian area protection and access;*
- c. beach access;*
- d. protection of natural features;*
- e. outdoor recreational and leisure neighbourhood park opportunities;*
- f. sports fields; and,*
- g. access to water.*

While it mentions 'sports fields' it is unlikely that it includes track and field facilities or a major sports park within this definition.

Electoral Area H

Electoral Area H is the rural area in the north of District 69. Its Official Community Plan notes regarding parks and open space:

The Regional District has numerous community parks generally concentrated in the rural residential areas in the coastal portion of the Plan Area (with the exception of Spider Lake Community Park, located inland in the Spider Lake neighbourhood). In addition, the Plan Area contains a Regional Park at Horne Lake. Many community parks in rural residential areas are small greenbelt areas and a few provide opportunities for linear pedestrian/cycling connections, shoreline access or outdoor recreational activities.

The Plan Area includes field sport recreational opportunities at Lions Community Hall and at Wildwood Community Park. It should be noted that the Wildwood Community Park is leased Crown Land and includes sport fields. There is also a community park adjacent to the Village Centre of Dunsmuir, which has a small tennis court and basketball half-court. This park could provide significant recreational opportunities when the Dunsmuir Village Centre develops. Along with these existing provincial, regional, and community parks, the residents of Area 'H' have stated a need for additional parkland developed for the:

- 1. protection of known unconfined aquifers;*
- 2. linear walking trails;*
- 3. stream protection and access;*
- 4. beach access;*
- 5. protection of wetlands and natural features; and*
- 6. outdoor recreational and leisure neighbourhood park opportunities;*

Demographics Review

The Recreation Services Master Plan reviews the demographics of District 69 and its six constituent areas. It was based on 2001 census data and other sources. The 2006 census data is now available and it has been assembled for District 69 and compared with the Master Plan review. Comments are as follows:

The population projections used in the Master Plan are on track, as close as can be estimated. The projected Oceanside figures were 42,466, while the 2006 census estimate was 42,134. However the MP estimate used a 2001 census figure as the projection base which had been adjusted upwards to account for census undercounting (3.1%). If the 2006 census is similarly adjusted, a 2006 actual figure of 43,440 is obtained. This would infer that Oceanside is actually growing faster than anticipated.

**FIGURE NINETEEN
POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS**

Area	2001 Adj.	2006 Est.	2011 Est.	2016 Est.
Parksville	10,643	11,867	13,469	14,883
Qualicum Beach	7,135	8,870	9,580	10,251
Area E	4,969	5,540	6,565	7,878
Area F	5,718	6,147	6,670	7,470
Area G	7,259	6,598	7,259	7,912
Area H	3,204	3,444	3,737	4,055
Oceanside	38,928	42,466	46,280	52,449

		Population in 2006	Population in 2001	Increase	As %
District 69	Total	42,134	37,759	4,375	11.6%
Parksville - City (Census subdivision)	Total	10,993	10,323	670	6.5%
Qualicum Beach - Town (Census subdivision)	Total	8,502	7,849	653	8.3%
Nanaimo E - Regional district electoral area	Total	5,462	4,820	642	13.3%
Nanaimo F - Regional district electoral area	Total	6,680	5,546	1,134	20.4%
Nanaimo G - Regional district electoral area	Total	7,023	6,113	910	14.9%
Nanaimo H - Regional district electoral area	Total	3,474	3,108	366	11.8%
		Population in 2006	Population in 2001		
Adjusted for Undercounting					
Parksville - City		11,334	10,643		
Qualicum Beach - Town		8,766	8,092		
Nanaimo E - Regional district electoral area		5,631	4,969		
Nanaimo F - Regional district electoral area		6,887	5,718		
Nanaimo G - Regional district electoral area		7,241	6,303		
Nanaimo H - Regional district electoral area		3,582	3,204		
District 69		43,440	38,930		

Age projections are not projected in the Master Plan, but comparing the noted (figure 18, page 22) 2001 figures and comparing with 2006 census, the following is noted:

	2006 Census		2001
	#	%	%
0-14	5,070	12.0%	14.5%
15-25	3,730	8.9%	8.6%
25-44	6,850	16.3%	20.1%
45-64	14,430	34.2%	29.9%
65+	12,055	28.6%	26.9%
Sources:			
2006 Census Unadjusted for undercount			
2001 - Master Plan			

The 2006 population is skewed even more toward the 45+ age groups than previously. These age groups were 56.8% of the total population in 2001; by 2006 they made up 62.8%.

Household structures reflect this 'amenity migration' to Oceanside.

	2006 Census		2001
	#	%	%
Total private households	19055		16895
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) with children	3295	17.3%	19.3%
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) without children	8810	46.2%	44.3%
One-person households	4995	26.2%	26.1%
Other household types	1940	10.2%	10.4%
Sources:			
2006 Census Unadjusted for undercount			
2001 - Master Plan			

The number of households with children declined from 19.3% of all households in 2001, to 17.3% in 2006.

The Master Plan contains other demographic and trend assertions, but the main ones, and their changes to 2006, are noted here.

Appendix B – Consultations

Results of June 2008 Survey

A survey form was printed on the back of the invitation flyer for the public meeting in June. It was also made available through the Recreation Centre and Ballenas Secondary School. A total of 41 forms were returned. A number of questions were asked, one of them being 'are you involved with Oceanside Track and Field Club?' The survey results were sorted by this question, and the results of each question are given below:

How far away from Ballenas Secondary School do you live?

	Involved with OTFC	Not Involved with OTFC
Live within 1 km, 10 mins, or 6 blocks	10	7
Live between 1km and 5 kms	9	2
Live over 5 kms	7	4
Total	26	13

- About two thirds of the responses came from those involved with Oceanside Track and Field Club; these families lived both close to the school and farther away. Of those not involved with the club, some people lived close by and were no doubt concerned neighbours, while those living farther away were involved with the school or other sports.

Would you, or someone in your family, use a renovated track at Ballenas Secondary School?

	Involved with OTFC	Not Involved with OTFC
Yes	27	8
No	0	4
Maybe	0	3
Total	27	15

- Very few respondents indicated that they would not use the facility, but that is not surprising given the population the sample was drawn from.

What would you, or someone in your family, use it for?

	Involved with OTFC	Not Involved with OTFC
Practice with OTFC	27	4
Practice with School	22	5
Recreational Walking	27	8
Other	4	2

- Recreational walking was a frequent response both from those whose children are involved in the Oceanside Track and Field Club and others, presumably those involved with the school or local neighbours.

In addition, two open ended questions asked about any concerns and any further comments. Comments made by those who had previously indicated that they were involved with the Oceanside Track and Field Club covered the following points:

- The track and field facility needs adequate facilities such as stands, change rooms, washrooms, etc
- There will not be enough space for these.
- That if it is built at Ballenas, that it should be done 'right'.
- That it will interfere with the school's football program.
- That fixing up the field is a higher priority.
- That Kwalikum Secondary School needs its fields fixed up as well.
- A new track would encourage more kids to be physically active.
- A track is a basis community facility if we want to produce Olympic athletes.
- A track and field facility would provide opportunities for meets and events which have an economic value, from youth development meets to the Seniors Games.
- Concerns re maintenance in the short and long term.
- Concerns re access by motorbikes, dogs, etc and other vandalism.
- Losing control of the track to other sports groups especially if the infield is grass or artificial turf.
- Opportunity to serve all schools in the district.
- As a facility it would be used by a wide range of groups and programs.
- The school is not the best location – better to start afresh somewhere else.

Please write down any further comments:

I think that sports are important and a new track would encourage me and my friends to be more active,

Those comments made by those who had previously indicated that they were not involved with the Oceanside Track and Field Club covered the following additional points:

- Older people would use the track for exercise.
- Concerns re parking and traffic if large events held.
- Need for a better transit system to get people to the facility and to link it to other schools and recreation centres, and in particular to connect it to the Electoral Areas.

- Cost of upkeep of new facility.

Notes from October Open Houses

The two presentations were largely similar, with some small additions and changes made for the second (Kwalikum) meeting. Comments made at one or both of the meetings were as follows:

The issue of the in-field pitch at Ballenas was discussed. It is currently used by the school and by non-school football teams. It is generally not available for other users, such as youth soccer. The assessment criteria 'primacy of use by track and field' caused some concern as it implied that this field would no longer be available. The community is very short of fields and cannot afford to lose this one. This also applies to the period of construction of the track when current users of the in-field would be displaced. Could funds be included in the overall program to upgrade the north field first, so providing a place for these displaced users while construction occurs, and adding to the overall field space in the long term?

In response to the comments about 'primacy of use by track and field', it was generally agreed that the sport groups worked together well now and would continue to do so once the new track was built. Representatives of OTFC indicated that the main concern would be safety of runners if there were a football or soccer game going on.

There were a number of local runners and walkers, of various degrees of seriousness, who all indicated that a track would be an excellent addition to the community. The availability during school hours was questioned, with the response that while during these hours the school would be the prime user, it was likely that small numbers of other users would be acceptable.

In addition to members of the OTFC there are 120 members of ORCAs, the adult running club, who would be users of the facility.

There were several questions related to the size of the two fields that would be created at Ballenas once the new facility is built. The sizes of both the in-field and the north field should be stated, compared with the official sizes for football, soccer, rugby and lacrosse, and the adequacy for each sport assessed. If the in-field is grass, its size is less critical since grass fields only generally provide about 30 hours per week of usage, and much of this would be school time (but accommodating school football is important).

If artificial turf is selected as the preferred surface for the in-field, then most field events could be accommodated on the north field. However the general recommendation is that if a track and an artificial turf field are required, then it is best practice to locate them separately.

Lighting of the track and field facility was discussed. Generally the agreement was that low level lighting would be a boon for casual track users and OTFC training in winter, as well as adding a sense of safety and security. High levels of lighting to serve events is not required – very few events; evening event use can be avoided; and this lighting level would be opposed by the local neighbours.

Variant #2 which involves rotating the field would remove the north field but a new field could be created from an expanded Winchelsea field. However its width would be about 57m (limited by the current 'permanent' portables) which is not adequate for any of the sports. This variant is also likely to be opposed by Winchelsea School. It was generally felt that this option would be more costly and the fields at the end of the process would not be as good as with variant #1.

Both meetings felt that the report sections concerning the outdoor sports complex concept were not adequate. The option is excluded from debate on the grounds that there is no site currently available, yet many people commented that there are several, if not many, sites available. These

should be included in the report, so that it can be adequately considered by RDN Commission and Board. This is important since the investment of \$2.5m is very significant.

The need to spend \$450,000 (the amount included in the estimate on page 30) to upgrade the in-field was questioned in light of the fact that over \$175,000 had recently been spent on that field to improve drainage.

The need for additional parking at Ballenas for events was noted, although it was also noted that the number of events would be very small in terms of days per year.

The issue of additional noise and it being a concern for Ballenas neighbours was also questioned. It was noted that these people were already used to living adjacent to the school; additional noise would be minimal.

The potential to put the track and field facility on either Qualicum Beach Community Park or Springwood Park was initially proposed as an option which seemed not to have been considered. Both these sites had been investigated and the apparent options were not possible due either to lack of space or to other plans for the land.

Some comparable cost data would be helpful in the report, in particular the cost for the construction of the North Cowichan facility.

Various people questioned whether taking the simplest option was the best course of action. Would not it be better to spend longer to investigate the outdoor sports complex concept and site options, rather than just dismissing them as 'not achievable in the near future'? This approach was compared to the Oceanside Place development which had expanded significantly as time evolved.

Were local residents consulted? Yes around Ballenas, where 400 flyers were distributed; very few negative comments received.

Appendix C – Survey of Other Track and Field Facilities

As part of the research for this study, 12 communities with track and field facility were contacted and requested to provide answers to a set of questions. Ten communities responded, either by phone, or by email. These responses will assist in defining 'best practices' for the design and development of the Oceanside Track and Field Facility.

The ten communities for which data was obtained were as follows:

- Oak Bay - Oak Bay High School
- Saanich - Claremont High School
- Kelowna - Apple Bowl
- Kamloops - Thompson Rivers University
- Port Alberni – Alberni Valley Multiplex
- North Cowichan - Cowichan Sportsplex
- Nanaimo - Rotary Bowl
- Coquitlam – City Centre Stadium
- Abbotsford - Exhibition Park
- UVic - Centennial Stadium

Who owns the track?

In larger communities, the track and field facility was owned by the municipality: Kelowna, Kamloops, Abbotsford, Coquitlam, Port Alberni.

School Districts owned the facilities at Claremont, Victoria/Oak Bay, Nanaimo.

The University was the sole owner (since 1994) of its track.

The North Cowichan track is owned by the Chesterfield Sports Society, who lease the land from the District of North Cowichan.

In relation to age, the newest tracks are the ones at North Cowichan, developed by a not-for-profit group, and some of the municipal tracks.

It is interesting that the Oak Bay response came from the track and field club, who indicated that there was joint ownership:

Joint ownership between Oak Bay Municipality, School District 61 [as it is on school property] and Victoria Track and Field Club

On the other hand the municipality denied any knowledge of the facility!

Is there an operating partnership? Is it formal or informal?

In most cases, the owner simply rented out the facility, with no formal operating agreements.

The Oak Bay Track and Field Club commented:

Formal partnership papers were drawn up at the time of construction. No one seems to follow the repairs and upgrading part of it as we just do what is needed when it is needed. Track is wearing thin and supposedly all three partners are responsible for major repairs but doubtful whether or not any of us could afford to resurface it.

Their track was built as the training track for the 1994 Commonwealth Games. At the same time as it was being built, the original 1967 agreement regarding UVic's Centennial Stadium and track and field facility was coming to an end, since when UVic has been the sole owner and total contributor to any upgrades.

The Port Alberni track and field facility was built adjacent to the new multiplex, and this allows various synergies related to use e.g. the summer hockey camps use the facility for dry land training.

What's the history of the track? Was it built for a specific event such as BC Games, Canada Games?

Several of the tracks were built in conjunction with major games hosting:

- ⇒ Kamloops - the original track was built for the 1993 Canada Summer Games but was completely re-built and opened in 2006.
- ⇒ Oak Bay – Built as a training track for the Victoria Commonwealth Games. Money came from CG Society and Victoria Track and Field Club for upgrading of the existing dirt/cinder track.
- ⇒ Port Alberni – Built for BC Summer Games in 1992
- ⇒ Coquitlam – Built for the BC Games in 1991 – first element of the then new Town Centre rec facilities.
- ⇒ Abbotsford – The track and complex was built in the late 1980's. It was upgraded for the 1995 W. Canada Summer Games. The track built because of the pressure brought by Jane Swan a former administrator of the Valley Royals Track Club. In addition, the Rotary Club of Abbotsford and the City of Abbotsford and Matsqui got behind the project.
- ⇒ Kelowna - Built in 1980 for Summer Games, as part of a multipurpose facility with grass infield and stadium called the Apple Bowl.

Both school tracks were built as part of school construction and have been maintain and upgraded by the school districts, often with pressure from parent and local sports groups. Re Claremont it was noted:

Built in 1967 with the school development. In late 90's there was an identified risk due to deteriorating condition and the School District had to replace the original rubberized material to standard asphalt.

The history of the North Cowichan track and field facility was noted as follows:

Long term fundraising by the Society – major contributions by public agencies (e.g. School District \$200,000) and groups (track and field club \$40,000). The Road Runners and the track and field club were major drivers of the concept. The overall complex has track and field facilities, but also 3-plex ball diamonds, artificial turf for field hockey and lacrosse box. Funding and development are still underway – currently for a change/washroom facility

When was the track first built?

A couple date from the 1960s; most were built or renovated in the 1990s; only North Cowichan's is more recent than that.

What major renovations have occurred since then?

Several of the track and field facility noted major renovations recently or still in progress:

- ⇒ Kamloops – Re-located. re-surfaced, lights added, permanent bleachers for 1800, Media Booth, washrooms, concession, storage, Filming platform, 8 change rooms, dedicated Jumps area, separate Throws area, completely fenced...
- ⇒ Kelowna – Track was re-surfaced in 1992 and 1998. In the summer of 2006 it was given a 5mm lift coat. Additional drainage added
- ⇒ Coquitlam – In 2007, the grass infield was replaced by artificial turf with some of the field facilities moving to accommodate it. An electronic finish line and camera were installed in 2005. Currently adding two art turf fields to the north of the facility. The original track surface is still in use. An estimate for topping was received in 2002 for \$435,000, but work was not done – now all the track needs replacing with likely a cost of close to \$1m
- ⇒ Port Alberni - Have added lighting – due for resurfacing in 2010 (hoping for federal provincial infrastructure grants)
- ⇒ Port Alberni - Would like to add artificial turf to the infield rather than the current grass on sand base
- ⇒ Abbotsford - The track has been resurfaced three times--the life of a track is between 8 and 11 years.

Nanaimo is also planning major renovations to turn their facility into a multipurpose stadium with artificial turf infield, as opposed to a dedicated track and field facility as at present.

Even the North Cowichan track, at less than 8 years of age, needs resurfacing.

It is noteworthy that all the municipal facilities have been regularly upgraded and updated, while the two school board and university track and field facility have not been.

Is the location a positive advantage?

Two communities noted responses to this question:

- ⇒ Port Alberni - Only the multiplex – the adjacent site is being considered for a new secondary school
- ⇒ Coquitlam - Location in the town centre adds lots of visitors especially around events. Also good location for track and field meets, etc.

Who are the main users?

The main user groups were the same for all track and field facility:

- ⇒ Schools
- ⇒ Local track and field club – who generally had two practices per week and several events during the year.
- ⇒ Other noted users were Special Olympics, charity events and the general public for recreational walking and running.

North Cowichan has diversified somewhat into vintage car meets and community events, while Coquitlam's two major events were the Highland Games and a Korean Festival.

Where there is a useable grass or artificial turf in-field, there were also many users, and revenues from these groups.

What amenities does the track have? Stadium, washrooms, change rooms, concession, etc.

In terms of amenities, there are two groupings of facility, and within each of these groups, there is a range of amenities:

- ⇒ Multi-purpose stadiums which have a track but also use a grass or artificial turf in-field for other sports, primarily football and soccer, but also field lacrosse.
- ⇒ Focused track and field facility.

The continuum of multipurpose facilities is as follows:

- ⇒ UVic – Covered stadium on SW side – seating for 5000 - Open seating on the NE side – about 1500 - Change and washrooms under main stadium - Storage only under other stadium - Scoreboard – legacy of Commonwealth Games - Grass infield with all field events occurring there
- ⇒ Abbotsford – It contains an excellent, covered stadium that seats between 4,500 and 5000. It contains two outlets for concessions. There are several change rooms that are quite good. However, the washroom facilities are sub standard. We have a complete supply of world class equipment--such as high jump and pole vault landing pits, hurdles, starting blocks, timing systems, throwing cages--the equipment would be valued at approximately \$150,000. Without this type of equipment it would be impossible to host high level competitions.
- ⇒ Kelowna – 4 change rooms, refs rooms, men's and women's washrooms, storage, mechanical room, concession, press box, grandstands (seating for 2200) storage bins for track equipment and OK Sun, pole vault and hammer throw facilities, steeple chase pit, javelin run up. Lighting. Has grass infield and happy at that – will not change to art turf, since could not get enough hours of use out of the facility since track and field sports could not use at same time.
- ⇒ Kamloops – Re-located. re-surfaced, lights added, permanent bleachers for 1800, Media Booth, washrooms, concession, storage, Filming platform, 8 change rooms, dedicated Jumps area, separate Throws area, completely fenced...
- ⇒ Coquitlam - Stadium has a fabric roof and has lasted very well – plans to replace original roof in 2011. The main services (wash/change) are served by a field house
- ⇒ Port Alberni - Stadium for 600 (although reality is closer to 400) with storage under – Lighting - Large electrical capacity to service events

The other facilities are much more single purpose track and field, although Nanaimo is planning to move to the multi-purpose model as soon as possible.

The two school board and North Cowichan track and field facility are of this dedicated model.

What are the track dimensions? Length? Radius of corners? How many lanes? Is there a separate sprint track?

All the tracks are 400m, and most meet IAAF standards (although some are in poor condition and would not reach IAAF standards for events).

All tracks were 8 lane except for Oak Bay's which was five lanes, and UVic's which is 10 lanes.

Abbotsford noted with regard to their track corners:

...the track has the widest corners allowed by international rules. This is excellent since wide corners allow for faster times for running events--particularly the 200 and 400-meter events.

Only Nanaimo had a separate sprint track. Abbotsford noted in this regard:

No, and a separate sprint track would be a waste of money. The electronic timing system would have to be moved every time you switched from events that circle the track to the straight away events. In any case, it is doubtful that you could ever make practical use of a sprint straight away. Better to have sprint starts and finishes on both sides of the track.

What field facilities are there (jumps and pits)? Where are they located?

All the facilities reviewed could host all the field events with the exception of pole vault, which could only be hosted at UVic, Port Alberni and Abbotsford.

The distribution of field facilities on and off the in-field varied considerably. The preference for locating these facilities on the in-field came from the track and field clubs since it made the overall facility more focused and easier to manage in events. On the other hand, a grass in-field, especially an artificial turf in-field, was a significant investment for other sports and presented conflicts for field events.

A high jump that used an apron off the track, but with run-ups that took up track space and therefore interfered with track use, was not liked by track and field clubs but was a design style that was frequently used.

Abbotsford compromised by having an off-in-field cage that was also used for practice and small events, but another one on the in-field that was used for major events.

Double ended long/triple jumps (pits at either end) allowed greater use of the run up.

Is there a steeplechase water jump?

Most tracks (all except Oak Bay) have a water jump. Most are filled from a nearby tap with hose and have a drain to the storm water system, but Kelowna's required a water truck for filling and to be pumped out afterwards.

It is a feature that is seldom used.

What competitions/track and field events have been hosted there?

UVic, Kamloops and Abbotsford were most extensively used for events beyond the high school level. All three have hosted events at the national level with some international invitationals.

Abbotsford's event resume is as follows:

NAIA National Collegiate Championships--2 times

Canadian Junior Championship--3 times

Canadian Senior Championships

Western Canada Summer Games

Harry Jerome International

Dual meet between Canada and Northern Ireland

Lafarge International--4 times

Numerous Fraser Valley High School Championships

12 BC Track and Field Championships

Countless elementary and middle school meets

Kamloops also has hosted various high level events. They noted:

2000 World Masters, BC Jr / Sr Track and Field Championships, BC Junior Development Track & Field...

The North Cowichan track and field facility hosted the North American Indigenous Games in 2008. They hosted the 2005 BC Seniors Games.

The other facilities had only hosted provincial level meets, and for some, just high school meets.

What are the main sources of revenue?

Various comments were made about revenue, although several respondents regarded it as a foreign concept related to track and field facility:

- ⇒ Port Alberni - Most revenues are simply charge backs – e.g. use of lights. One stage on BC Bike Race (Victoria to Whistler) – 400 riders and camped on infield
- ⇒ North Cowichan – Rental income - Club membership fees - Grants from all local government - Fundraising
- ⇒ Abbotsford - Some events pay for use, but for the most part, the tax payers would subsidize the track. All school groups within the district do not pay as there is a joint use agreement in place between the city and the school district
- ⇒ Coquitlam – Total revenue for 2007 was \$57,000 – mostly rental from major events. No field/facility charges for youth groups since 2005, so virtually no rent from track and field club.
- ⇒ UVic - The University provides the facility to many groups at minimal or no cost. The in-field is not rented out as it is reserved for varsity soccer matches.

The bottom line is that revenue comes primarily from two sources:

- ⇒ Rentals, largely to adults, of the in-field for team sports.
- ⇒ Special events, especially commercial events for which an entrance fee is paid to the organizers.

Can we get a copy of the annual budget for the latest year?

In most cases, the track and field facility budget was included in other departmental budgets or lumped in with other facilities. The best estimate of a municipal facility was from Coquitlam who noted:

- ⇒ Revenues - \$57,000 (plus \$10,000 from concession)
- ⇒ Expenditures - \$180,000 – very little of this is the track – most is the field house operation and maintenance

What do you really like about the track?

Comments were as follows:

- ⇒ Oak Bay High School
 - ⇒ Port Alberni
 - ⇒ North Cowichan
 - ⇒ Coquitlam
 - ⇒ Abbotsford Exhibition Park
- ⇒ *Nothing*
 - ⇒ *Accessible for daily users – all ages, all abilities*
 - ⇒ *Quality and versatility of events that can be hosted – adds to community*
 - ⇒ *Proximity to multiplex and Glenwood Centre for change/wash rooms*
 - ⇒ *Natural viewing areas around*
 - ⇒ *Great community appeal, especially in its City Centre location*
 - ⇒ *Community walking is very popular*
 - ⇒ *The wide turns*
 - ⇒ *The cooperation between the Abbotsford Recreation department and the Valley Royals Track Club. We have an excellent working relationship and this means that things get done and the community can bid for high level competitions--which they have and have been successful.*
 - ⇒ *The fact that Abbotsford Parks and Recreation Dept. maintains the track--resurfacing is completed when necessary and the field event surfaces are upgraded regularly. Facilities for equipment storage are provided.*
 - ⇒ *The track club aids the schools with equipment for their meets.*
 - ⇒ *The storage sheds that have been provided to house equipment.*
 - ⇒ *That the pole vault equipment is able to be left outside since there are sheds that house it. When we need to use the pole vault equipment we only need to push back the sheds.*
 - ⇒ *There are two runways--facing in opposite directions for the long jump, triple jump and pole vault events. This means that the wind can always be on the back of the athletes.*
 - ⇒ *The electrical outlets means that the electronic timing equipment can be set up with ease. A special timing tower has been built that houses the timing and results equipment.*

What don't you like and would do differently if you started again?

Again, a variety of comments:

- ⇒ Oak Bay High School
- ⇒ *Full 8 lane track facility with all jump areas and throws areas located inside the track. Spectator areas, washrooms, etc. Proper storage for equipment. We are limited to the number of athletes we can take into our club as the facility is so small. If you are going to build a track facility, do it right and have 8 lanes and all event areas or you will compromise the programs and events which you can hold. For Summer Games you must have an 8 lane track with full facilities or you cannot even bid on the Games. Have a track club involved with or attached to the facility as they will look after the facility and the equipment.*

- If it is a community track, then no one cares about maintaining it as it is always someone else's problem [e.g. Swangard Stadium in Burnaby].*
- ⇒ Kelowna's Apple Bowl ⇒ *Inside curb creates drainage challenges.*
 - ⇒ Port Alberni ⇒ *Change rooms and washrooms built to 1980 standards, therefore small and cramped*
 - ⇒ North Cowichan ⇒ *More permanent lockable storage*
 - ⇒ Coquitlam ⇒ *Artificial turf infield*
 - ⇒ Abbotsford Exhibition Park ⇒ *Would make the track more circular, less oval, thus allowing field hockey to run across the field and even out goal wear*
 - ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium ⇒ *Budgeting for the inevitable upgrade costs*
 - ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium ⇒ *Washroom facilities need upgrading.*
 - ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium ⇒ *Would have liked the track built so that it took better advantage of wind conditions. Unfortunately, the westerly winds usually mean a head wind on the main straight away. Sprinters don't like that*
 - ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium ⇒ *The inside curb is designed very poorly*
 - ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium ⇒ *Difficult to get a good p/a system working in this large outdoor space*

Any other comments?

Again, a variety of comments:

- ⇒ Oak Bay High School ⇒ *I don't think that this facility is the best model for you as it is unlike other tracks around the province as it is ONLY a training track.*
- ⇒ Oak Bay High School ⇒ *Good model for everything except the steeplechase pits [which are backwards forcing the start and finish lines to be flipped for SC events] is the one in North Cowichan. It is the most recent one on the island and it has been done beautifully and has a support group from the city assisting the club with equipment, repairs, new construction. They did it right [except for steeplechase].*
- ⇒ Claremont High School ⇒ *I wouldn't necessarily say that this is a model as we are getting to a point where major maintenance or replacement is necessary and there are no funds at the School District level to do so. We have 2 tracks - one at Claremont and one at Parkland. The Parkland track is now in very poor condition, but was originally supported through a partnership.*
- ⇒ Claremont High School ⇒ *This is no longer a very viable track for major track and field events. The critical aspect of why these installations fail is that while there may be a partnership for the original construction, there is nothing to sustain the facility. There needs to be a sinking fund for major repairs & replacement along with annual maintenance by specialized contractors, not just routine grounds staff.*
- ⇒ Kamloops ⇒ *This is part of a major multi-purpose facility and requires cooperation and advance planning from various groups including: soccer (youth and adult), TRU athletics, football, grass hockey, Track, and Lacrosse. (The artificial field inside the track is rated a FIFA One Star and is lined for football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey.)*
- ⇒ Abbotsford Exhibition Park ⇒ *In general--an outstanding track and field facility, excellent*

- ⇒ UVic Centennial Stadium
- atmosphere, and great cooperation between the Recreation Commission and the Track Club*
- ⇒ *Major dollars are required to bring this facility up to date .*
- ⇒ *Try to keep all vehicles from driving on the track*