



TOWN OF LADYSMITH

# BROWN DRIVE PARK

KINSMEN PLAYGROUND  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





## Purpose of the Plan

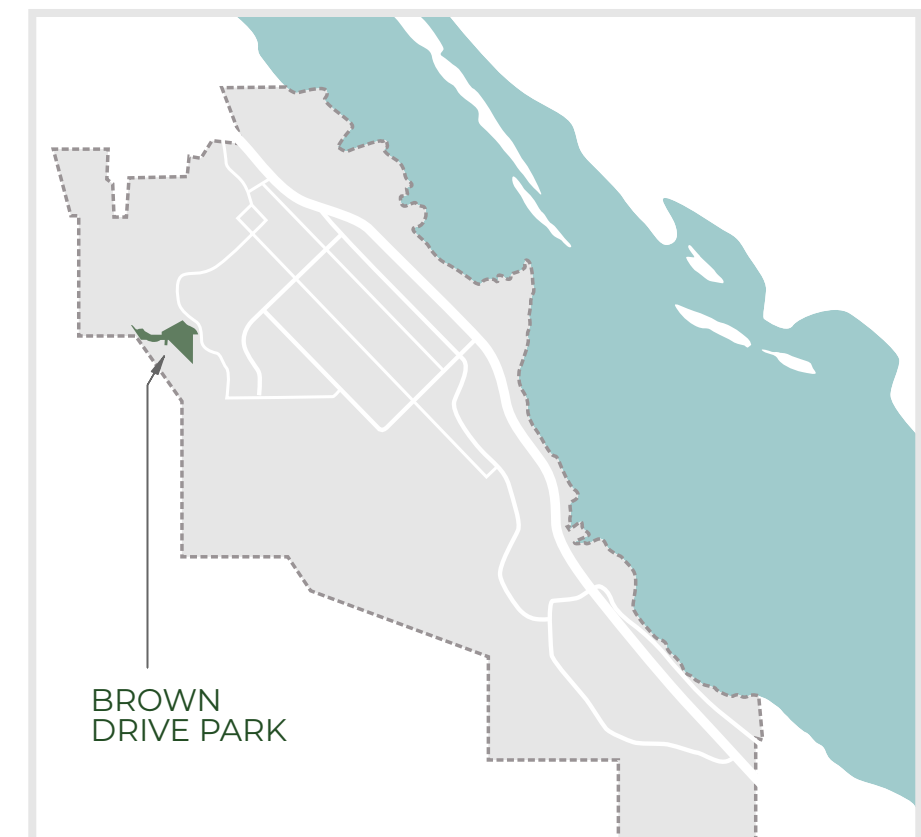
In recent years, identifying potential uses at the park, recreational bike trails were added through a collaborative effort between the Town and the Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society Ladysmith Chapter and many youth from the community. The Ladysmith Resources Centre Association currently operates the Storybook Walk Through, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town. Both amenities provide opportunities for families and youth to gather as community. The Kinsmen playground is the centre of most of the parks activities

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### Town of Ladysmith



# Overview

## History

Brown Drive Park is a neighbourhood park situated where Brown Drive meets Colonia Drive, offering a large open green space with a small brook. The Kinsmen Club of Ladysmith with community partners installed new playground equipment in phases a decade ago and has since been titled Kinsmen Playground. According to the Town's Park Bylaws, the original name of the park is Hill Top Park and it was dedicated under this name in 1984. The community commonly refers to it as Brown Drive or Kinsmen Park.

## Brown Drive Park Defining Characteristics:

- **Open Space** – Offering multiple opportunities for unstructured and structured play.
- **Kinsmen Playground** – The centre of most of the activities on the site and a popular destination for children of various age groups.
- **Small Brook** – Very popular with children and an excellent opportunity to teach children about the water cycle and the environment.
- **Storybook Walk** – A community collaboration with key community stakeholders that has become extremely popular and is an excellent example of multigenerational experiential programming.
- **Recreational Bike Trails** – A youth driven community building project involving the community, volunteers and many of the youth who ride and enjoy the trails.
- **Walking Trails** – Very popular amongst hikers, bikers and dog walkers. These trails are also an entry point that connects to the trails system beyond the Town boundary.

## Emerging Themes

Considering the user experience and the overall feedback from the community, the following themes represent how Brown Drive Park can continue to be a safe, enjoyable, inviting and engaging space.

They reflect the experiences people want to see and the practical applications to achieve this.



# Community Engagement

The Town of Ladysmith hosted an in-person public engagement event at the Park in early summer 2022 to gather feedback on potential park and amenity improvements. The event was attended by close to 50 community members supported by Town staff and members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee.

Temporary panels were installed at four key focus areas in the park: Green Space, Forest Area, Playground and Open Space. The public was encouraged to leave feedback and perspectives on improvements by leaving a notes and comments on the panels.

The public engagement approach encouraged an open dialogue by allowing the public to both review comments and make their own suggestions, ask questions and highlight their own experiences in the space. A BBQ was held in conjunction with this event.



## Key Messages

- Ensuring meaningful recognition of First Nations in the park, including development of interpretive elements and hul'qumi'num language.
- Improve overall accessibility and connectivity between park amenities through pedestrian access.
- Park identification/dedication.
- Education of the water system, native plants and ecological restoration.
- Utilizing existing 'passive' and 'active' areas.
- Keeping the Park natural.
- Focus on improvements and enhancements without changing the parks atmosphere.



# Implementation

## EXISTING

- ① Kinsmen Playground
- ② Washrooms
- ③ Storybook Walk
- ④ Recreational Bike Trails
- ⑤ Bike Skills Terrain Trail
- ⑥ Open Play Space

## PHASE 1

- ① Bridge for Safe Crossing of Small Brook
- ② Park benches
- ③ Drinking fountain
- ④ Parking/Staging Area

## PHASE 2

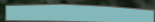
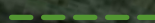
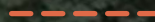

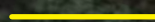
- ① Playground Improvements
- ② Seating
- ③ Small Brook Enhancements & Naturalization
- ④ New Accessible Pathway
- ⑤ Gazebo

## PHASE 3

- ① New Washroom Building
- ② Connectivity to the Overall Parks and Trail Systems.

### Potential Future Priorities:

- Ensuring meaningful recognition of First Nations in the park, including development of interpretive elements and hul'qumi'num language.
- Improve overall accessibility and connectivity between park amenities through pedestrian access.
- Park identification/dedication.
- Education of the water system, native plants and ecological restoration.
- Utilizing existing 'passive' and 'active' areas.

-  Creek
-  Park Boundary
-  Walking Trails
-  Bike Trails
-  Entry/Proposed Entry

# Detailed Phase Descriptions

## PHASE 1 1-2 YEARS

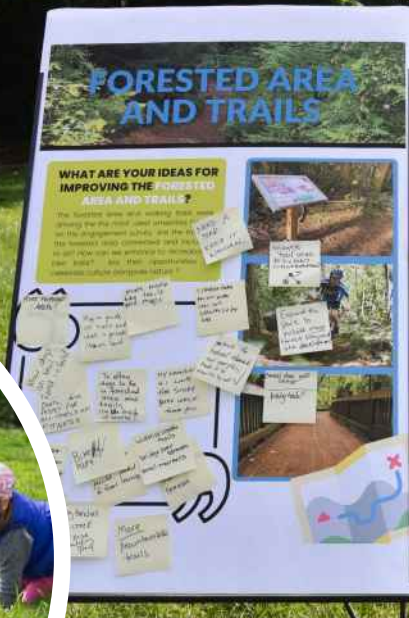
- Accessibility Audit.
- Park Benches (with arm rests located at playground, and perimeter trail park benches).
- Bike rack/repair station.
- Walking bridge over brook along main foot path in forest.
- Introduce naturalization and protection of the brook.
- Complete Recreational Bike Trails Skill Development section.
- Drinking fountain.

## PHASE 2 2-3 YEARS

- Tree planting & native vegetation.
- Gazebo/picnic shelter.
- Accessible walking path around the perimeter of park.
- Continue naturalization of the brook with information on the water cycle with interpretive signage.
- Natural exercise options in the forest along main trail.
- Natural log benches along edge of brook for viewing.
- Swing for older children and accessible swing set.

## PHASE 3 3-5 YEARS

- Signage and connectivity to the overall Town and Regional trail system.
- Naturalization of the western edge of the open space.
- New washroom building.



# Park Amenity Priorities & Timeline

The following amenities are included in the Phasing Plan, with each identified as a high, medium or low priority and with an estimated timeline and order of magnitude cost. Some items are a high priority, but due to the potential high costs are not likely to be feasible in the short term.

- HIGH** Items identified as a safety concern, must have through the community engagement integral to the success of the park.
- MEDIUM** Lower risk items identified through the public engagement process that would enhance the park.
- LOW** Park amenities that are desired but not integral to the success of the park.

Amenity	Priority	Timeline
Accessibility Audit	HIGH	PHASE 1
Addition Park Benches	MEDIUM	PHASE 1
Community Garden	FOR CONSIDERATION	
Bike rack and repair station	MEDIUM	PHASE 1
Walking bridge over brook along main foot path in forest	HIGH	PHASE 1
Introduce naturalization and protection of the brook	MEDIUM / ONGOING	
Complete Recreational Bike Trails Skill Development section	MEDIUM	PHASE 1
Adding drinking fountain/water bottle fill station	HIGH	PHASE 1
Add Hul'qumi'num translation for Hilltop Park	FOR CONSIDERATION	
Tree planting & native vegetation	MEDIUM	PHASE 2
Gazebo/picnic shelter	MEDIUM	PHASE 2
Accessible walking path around the perimeter of park	HIGH	PHASE 2
Continue naturalization of the brook with information (interpretive signage) on the water cycle	MEDIUM / ONGOING	
Natural exercise options in the forest along main trail	MEDIUM	PHASE 2
Natural log benches along edge of brook for viewing	LOW	PHASE 2
Add swing for older children (e.g. friendship swing)	MEDIUM	PHASE 2
Add accessible swing set	HIGH	PHASE 2
Signage and connectivity to the overall Town and Regional trail system	MEDIUM	PHASE 3
Naturalization of the western edge of the open space	MEDIUM	PHASE 3
New washroom building	HIGH	PHASE 3

# Public Engagement Event

This event was an opportunity to inform the community of the park planning process and to invite their input and engage them in a discussion to identify all the positive aspects of the existing park, identify potential opportunities and to identify any existing challenges and solutions to these. Many great ideas were shared and although it would be desired to accommodate them all in the plan, key priorities were identified to be included within the plan. Below is a list of all the comments from this session that were captured through comments and on idea boards.

## Forest Area

- Circuit training course through forest for all levels of fitness.
- Leave trails as natural as possible – perfect for forest learning.
- More mountain bike trails.
- Bridge over stream.
- Bike park.
- Wider, accessible trails.
- Bridge over stream.
- Trail markers.
- Allow dogs on trail and in field.
- All dogs to be in the forest area and trails (on leash of course)
- More forested areas.
- My grandkids and I love the Storybook Walk. Thank you.
- Map or guide of trails and what is private/Town land.
- Make more bike trails and maps.
- Need a map.
- Keep it natural.
- Small disc golf course
- Bike trails!
- Bicycle 'tool' area to fix bikes (like at Rathtrevor)
- Climbing things, tire swing, zip line on top of trail.
- Expand the park to include more forest beyond the development.
- Protect the natural elements. Not everything needs to be accessible by all.
- Log benches by the creek for ease of watching play.
- The trails are already pretty awesome. General trail upgrades?
- More, bigger trails? Bridge over brook? More wheelchair accessible?
- We are so grateful for the Storybook Walk.

## Green Space

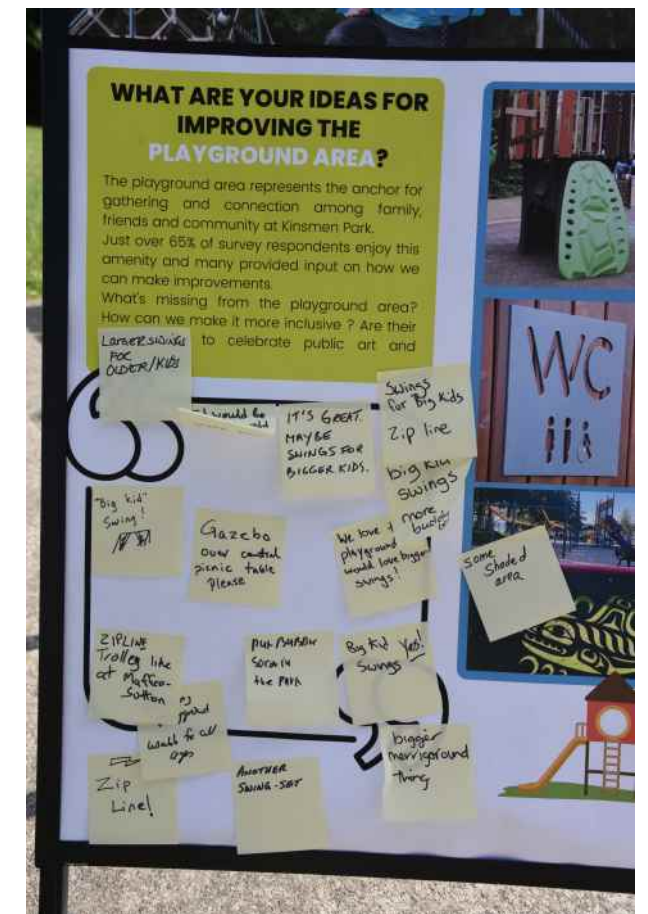
- Having more 'utilities' and support infrastructure – drinking water fountain, covered picnic area.
- Mini splash park for kids.
- Second bathroom and spray park.
- One of the best multi-usage parks around.
- Maintain the creek as an amenity.
- Leave a natural gathering space for different impromptu activities – Frisbee, football, picnics etc.
- Revegetate the stream area more.
- Covered eating area.
- Keep natural, keep open space.
- Shelter and water bottle fill station.
- Water is great.
- Not all parks and their spaces need to be 'developed.'
- Let it be as wild (as possible).
- More benches.
- Cover the creek or put up a fence.
- Gazebos.
- Picnic shelter.
- Water fountain.
- Water park, water feature.

## Open Space

- Creek great for nature learning.
- Leave nature in its natural form as much as possible.
- Leave the open field. We use it a lot. Perimeter benches.
- It would be great to have an area where dogs are allowed to be too.
- It would be great to add a water park.
- Allow dogs in the open field.
- Additional access gate at end of park near crosswalk.
- Small shelter/eat space like Transfer Beach.
- Trees on the far side provides shade for those who want it.
- Signage for leashed and voiced controlled dogs in the field.
- Two soccer goals with nets.
- Dog park area.
- Spray park.
- Community Garden.
- Leave a book, take a book.
- Fenced off leash area for dogs.
- Proper pump track at the back of the field (with maybe a mountain bike skills park).
- No dogs – leave big field for free play / multi-usage.
- More features like 'big rock' (Saltair).
- Dogs leashed under verbal control should be allowed on the field at off peak hours. It's a great space for pups.
- Love the open field and brook for open nature-based play.
- The hills are great for sledding in the winter.
- Theatre in the park for entertainment. Invite dance studios to perform at musical venues.
- Some park benches to rest and enjoy scenery and picnic tables too.
- Leashed dogs allowed (no off leash)
- Disc golf course.
- Goat farm where you can pet them.
- Water park.
- Multi-seasonal usage – sledding, leaf-play, etc.
- Dog park area.
- Picnic tables with big space for sports.
- The open green space is nice for kites, Frisbee, whatever.
- Some 'improvements' to the brook. Fruit trees along shore, little more accessible, replace culvert with a bridge.

## Playground Area

- Larger swings for older kids.
- Amazing playground – usable for all ages.
- Zip line.
- Another swing set.
- Bigger merry-go-round.
- Zip line trolley like at Maffeo Sutton.
- Gazebo over central picnic table, please.
- We love the playground but would love bigger swings.
- Some shaded area.
- Big kid swings.
- It would be great to add swings for older kids.
- Swings for big kids. Zip line.
- It's great. Maybe swings for bigger kids.
- Big kid swings. More buddy benches.
- Big kid swing.
- Put (inflatable) bubble soccer in the park.







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