

Moorecroft Stewardship Committee Report

May, 2013

Moorecrofters' Update - Fund-raising:

Our **\$50 bird nesting boxes** are selling well, with over half of them already sold. We are hearing great reports of birds moving in and have had several people wanting a second box for themselves or as a gift for others. Please read the attached information, outlining the special features of our nesting boxes which are specifically designed for Pacific Northwest native bird species. Thanks again, to Lynne Brookes who organized this very successful and very appropriate fund-raiser.

The bird nesting boxes are available at the Parksville's Visitors' Centre at Craig Bay, at the NALT Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery, 3145 Frost Road, Cassidy and at the NALT Stewardship Centre, #8-140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo. They are also available from Vicki at vlknight@telus.net or Jo at jograham5@gmail.com. Money raised will be used for restoration work on Kennedy Lodge.

RDN / Moorecroft Regional Park Update:

From Margaret Paridaen, Regional Parks Planner: Moorecroft Parks' main trail and parking lot are now fully re-opened to the public. The program of removing unsafe buildings over March and April is now completed. Several unsafe buildings were removed and some of the building sites were rehabilitated with over 1000 native plants. The public is welcome to walk the trails and see all of the changes that have been taking place at the park. Please remember that dogs must be kept on leash at all times on park property!

Moorecroft Regional Park is open daily from 7 am to 11 pm with gates closing at 9 pm.

Camping, fires and off-road motorized vehicles are not permitted.

Contact the RDN with any questions or concerns | [1-888-828-2069](tel:1-888-828-2069) or [250-248-3252](tel:250-248-3252) | www.rdn.bc.ca/parks

The Community Parks and Trails Strategy for Electoral Area E is being developed by the RDN and is scheduled to be completed in September 2013. **Information** is available at <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=2933>. *A synopsis: Community Parks* provide local residents with small parcels for active recreation, habitat protection and/or water access while *Regional Parks* are primarily large, ecologically sensitive lands with some trail use. The tax base for regional parks and trails is spread throughout the region while the Community parks and trails are the result of new development and are paid for through local taxes in each Electoral Area. The survey for Electoral Area E is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BXHJVJ6Z> and should take about 15 minutes to complete. The deadline for your input is May 27th.

Native Plantings in Moorecroft Park were completed under the direction of Richard Wahlgren of Streamside Native Plant Nursery along with Margaret Paridean, Regional Parks Planner and Chris Van Ossenbruggen, Regional Parks Operations Coordinator.

**Operations' Crew members: Jonathan Lobb, Travis Oman. Dave Wheldon

**Steven Godfrey: The Nature Trust and

**Volunteers: Hugo Sprenger, Dianne Anderson, Terri and Peter Smith, Alana Buchanan, Deirdre Lott, Liz Holme, Diana Young, Mary Bendsen, Carolyn Dodd, Jo Graham and David and Pam Helem. The RDN gives a BIG thank you to those cheerful, hardworking volunteers who helped to plant over 1000 native trees and shrubs onto the old building sites.

**Special thanks to Shawn Flynn, GreenMax Enterprises, Manager of the woodlot next to the park, who gave us access to woody debris needed to naturalize the planting sites.

**Thanks also to Quality Foods for providing snacks and beverages for the workers.



Native plant species were chosen for their heartiness and appropriateness to the sites:

For Dry Forest with Shade: Grand Fir, Douglas Fir, Big-leaf Maple, Dull Oregon grape, Salal, Saskatoon berry, Huckleberry, Snowberry

For Moist Areas: Lady Fern, Salmonberry, Maidenhair fern, Skunk cabbage, Ocean Spray

When walking in the park, please check out the newly planted areas naturalized with woody debris and mulch. If you notice signs of deer browsing the new plantings, please contact the RDN.

For information about using and purchasing native plants suitable for your garden, contact **Streamside Native Plant Nursery** in Bowser

http://members.shaw.ca/nativeplants/streamside_home.html or **NALT's Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery** in Cassidy http://www.nalt.bc.ca/index.php?p=1_24_Native-Plant-Nursery.

Guy and Donna Monty report specific signs of regeneration of native plants in the fenced areas at Vesper Point.

Invasive Plant Removal: The Coastal Invasive Species Committee will host a 4 hour invasive plant training session/work session on Wednesday, June 5th from 10:00 – 2:00 at Moorecroft Park's Kennedy Lodge. This will provide volunteers with knowledge and skills to identify and to properly remove invasive plants. Snacks, a light lunch and beverages will be provided. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear. Consider long sleeves and pants and bring work/garden gloves to protect your hands and loppers if you have them. Some tools will be available. Participants will be covered by RDN insurance. We will need a minimum of 10 participants for the session to go ahead. If you would like to attend, please contact Jo at jograham5@gmail.com as soon as possible.



The **Kennedy Lodge** assessment report is yet to be received. With the focus on the demolition of buildings and on infrastructure in the park, there are no plans at this time for volunteer activities involving Kennedy Lodge.

A Reminder:

Donations to Moorecroft Regional Park can be made directly to the **RDN** by cash, cheque or credit card or through **NALT** (www.nalt.bc.ca). Donated funds are deposited into a designated Moorecroft account. A tax receipt can be requested for donations of \$20 or more.

RDN by mail: Regional District of Nanaimo, Department of Finance, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2

RDN by phone to the RDN: [250-390-4111](tel:250-390-4111); [1-877-607-4111](tel:1-877-607-4111)

RDN in person: at the RDN Nanaimo office or the Parksville Parks Office: 2nd Floor, Oceanside Place, 830 West Island Highway, Parksville, BC V9P 2X4

NALT information can be found at www.nalt.bc.ca.

Quality Foods' points can be donated to Moorecroft Regional Park.

Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.

The Moorecroft Stewardship Committee

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