



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET PROCESS

Each year the SCRD Board, CAO and staff work together to develop an annual budget. The budget process, and the decisions that must be made on how to best lead the development of a safe, vibrant and sustainable Sunshine Coast, are supported by the SCRD's Strategic Plan.

The budget serves as an outline for how the monies that come into the Regional District should be spent. As the SCRD is limited by the amount of resources available, the budget helps in determining which objectives have the highest priority and will produce the greatest positive impact in the community.

Regional districts are required by law to adopt an annual five-year budget—called a five-year financial plan. The financial plan must set out the proposed operating and capital expenditures and revenue sources for each service during each year of the five year planning period.

Prior to adopting the five-year financial plan, the Board undertakes public consultation on the proposed plan. A series of meetings are held to give the public the opportunity to be part of the budget process. The budget has three rounds with the first round typically considering a wide range of projects and costs, the second including a further review by the Board and amendments where necessary, and the third refining and adopting the budget.

The public is invited to be part of the process:

Round 1 Budget Review

January 16, 17, 18 and 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Round 2 Budget Review

February 13, 14 and 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Round 3 Budget Review

March 5, 6 and 7 at 9:30 a.m.

1975 Field Road, Sechelt
Board Room

Together we can be the change we want to see in our community!

The Sunshine Coast is a community of communities creating a sustainable way of life through a collaborative decision making process. We are committed to an enhanced natural context, local control over local resources, a vibrant economy and an enriched cultural fabric.

To receive this information electronically, go to www.scrd.ca and click on "Sign up for our newsletter".

Planning for Success

The SCRD Strategic plan identifies three key strategic directions that the Board and staff want to achieve in the next two years. One of these directions includes the renewal of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The renewed Plan will provide a vision for the future and strategies for the next 10 years to achieve that vision. It will focus on park and trail development, recreation facilities, and recreation programs.

A comprehensive public consultation plan is a key component of the Plan development process. Below are a few community-based initiatives that took place in 2011.

Community Wide Survey

In June, 2011 a community wide survey was conducted and 432 people participated in a random telephone survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide up-to-date information on the recreation behaviours and priorities of Sunshine Coast residents. The results of the survey will be used to inform the vision and strategies of the Master Plan, while recognizing that the many competing needs, wishes and priorities of residents must be evaluated. The needs, wishes and priorities of the public must be considered in the context of prudent financial decisions and the overall mandate of the Regional District, as well as its role in providing parks and recreation services.

Public Meetings

In October, 2011, 20 informal meetings were hosted in locations throughout the region. More than 200 people attended who helped to add depth to what was learned from the community wide survey. The meetings with community members focused on different age groups, special populations, and the geographic areas within the region. Meetings were also hosted with different sectors such as, health, education, police, tourism, community services, local governments, private businesses, sports, arts, culture, etc. Meetings with non-users of recreation services were also hosted in order to seek their advice on how the health and wellness of our region can be improved and how we can work more collaboratively.

Next Steps

In the Spring of 2012 a draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be prepared and open houses will be held in order to seek feedback.

To learn more about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, visit www.scrd.ca/Parks

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