

## MEDIA RELEASE

### DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH HONOURED WITH AWARD FOR PARKS EXCELLENCE

April 30, 2026 (Vancouver, BC) BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has proudly announced the District of Squamish as the recipient of the [2026 Parks Excellence Award](#) for **Sp'awk'us Feather Park**. The award was presented at BCRPA's Symposium conference.

BCRPA's Parks Excellence Award recognizes outstanding design and development of park spaces that utilize natural elements or repurposed materials, reflect community culture, enhance accessibility for all, and encourage engagement with nature. Winning projects must positively impact the well-being of the community and the recreation and parks sector.

Located at the head of Howe Sound, Sp'awk'us Feather Park is an 11-acre oceanfront destination park that transforms a former industrial site into a vibrant waterfront gathering place. The park features public beaches, a restored intertidal marsh, plaza and event spaces, slackline posts, an Indigenous-designed playground, and cultural storytelling elements co-developed with Squamish Nation youth and knowledge holders.

Delivered through a partnership between the District of Squamish, Matthews West, and the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, Sp'awk'us Feather Park has quickly become a hub for community events, including festivals, gatherings, polar bear swims, and the annual Sp'awk'us Feather Shakedown. This vibrant park has created a destination that supports recreation, tourism, and year-round community use.

"Sp'awk'us Feather Park reflects the powerful role parks play as essential social infrastructure, bringing people together, strengthening connection to land and culture, and supporting healthier, more resilient communities," said Katie Fenn, CEO of BCRPA. "It is an example of reconciliation in action, whereby community-driven spaces can strengthen belonging and well-being for generations to come."

The Parks Excellence Award is one of four Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium, held this year in Vancouver. Each award is presented on behalf of BCRPA's more than 5,700 members across the province who work to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

## ABOUT BCRPA

BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) convenes, educates, and empowers professionals who transform lives. With a network of over 8,500 professionals who support more than 95% of British Columbia, we champion policy, empower and educate leaders, train fitness professionals, and deliver programs that create safe, active, and inclusive communities where everyone belongs. Through this essential work, communities across the province grow stronger, healthier, and more connected.

Learn more about how BCRPA is working with their members, fitness professionals and community partners in its work of shaping healthier futures at [www.bcrpa.bc.ca](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca).

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