

## **Future Site Identified for Joint Elementary School and Park in Coquitlam**

**COQUITLAM, BC, Monday, October 20, 2014** – The City of Coquitlam and School District 43 have announced their intent to purchase land in the Smiling Creek neighbourhood as the future site of a joint elementary school and park.

The 7.5 acre site located in the Smiling Creek neighbourhood is one of several school and park sites proposed in Coquitlam's Citywide Official Community Plan (OCP).

This joint initiative allows both the City and the School Board to maximize the value of their funding while avoiding asset redundancies, such as parking and washrooms. It also allows for the provision of a higher quality and broader mix of public amenities at a single site.

Once the land acquisition receives Provincial approval and is finalized, planning for the joint facility will begin.

In addition, School District 43 and the City of Coquitlam have also reached an agreement on a portion of Victoria Park, which is currently owned by the School District. This land will be acquired by the City in exchange for lands in the future joint Smiling Creek School / park site. The planning process for the redevelopment of Victoria Park will be re-initiated and is targeted for completion in 2015.

To learn more about Coquitlam's Citywide Official Community Plan visit [www.coquitlam.ca/cwocp](http://www.coquitlam.ca/cwocp).

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