

## News Release

### **City of North Vancouver Celebrates Completion of North Shore Spirit Trail Now Open to the Public**

July 20, 2018

The City of North Vancouver is celebrating a major milestone with the completion of the City's final section of its portion of the award-winning **North Shore Spirit Trail**.

The completion of the Spirit Trail Mosquito Creek Marina is a reflection of the ongoing commitment and collaboration between the Squamish Nation and the City of North Vancouver. The new section provides a key connection between Bewicke Avenue and the existing Squamish Nation Waterfront Greenway and is officially open to the public as of today. "This is a major milestone many years in the making and reflects the partnership between the City and Squamish Nation. This achievement of collaboration and feat of engineering delivers to the community a vital connection and spectacular section of our Spirit Trail to be enjoyed for many decades and beyond," says Mayor Darrell Mussatto.

Also this week, members of the Squamish Nation, Mayor Mussatto, members of Council, and guests participated in the unveiling of two Coast Salish sculptures, and a blessing ceremony to prepare the trail for public access.

The new sculptures are featured on the Mosquito Creek Marina section of the Spirit Trail. At the Bewicke entrance, Jody Broomfield (Sinám̓kin) has created a colourful gateway feature entitled, 'We Hold Our Hands Up to You – Wa chet ƙ'ayáchtntumi'. Further along the trail, there is now a five-ton basalt stone sculpture carved by local artist Xwalacktun. The sculptures welcome trail users and reference the land's ancestral history and present day life.

The Spirit Trail Mosquito Creek Marina project received funding support through the provincial government's BC Bike program. The \$400,000 grant supports the City's mandate to improve the bicycle route network and provide facilities to encourage cycling.

The North Shore Spirit Trail is a waterfront-oriented, multi-use and fully accessible greenway that will provide pedestrians, cyclists, and people with wheeled mobility aids access across the North Shore, from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove. The Spirit Trail is a collaboration between the City of North Vancouver, Squamish Nation, North Shore municipalities, the BC government and other agencies.

Now complete, the City's portion of the North Shore Spirit Trail is 6.5-kilometres long and represents the City's vision to build a sustainable community providing healthy, accessible, alternative transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.