

**THE VIEW****Varsity View Community Association**Website:  
[vvcasaskatoon.com](http://vvcasaskatoon.com)**“Making Dreams a Reality in Varsity View and Grosvenor Park”**

Hello residents,

VVCA is excited to announce that we are considering our next major project(s) for Grosvenor Park/ Varsity View neighbourhoods. On the heels of our success with the playground improvements in President Murray Park and energized by a strong core of volunteers, we are eager to gather feedback from residents about what projects would best benefit our community and fulfill our mandate of improving quality of life for our residents.

Within the themes of promoting active lifestyles, building positive aesthetics, and engaging young families, we have come up with a number of potential projects for our community. Projects should bring our community together, provide a long-term asset to our community, and build pride in the great community we live in. Several of the projects have potential partners or grant opportunities we can utilize to maximize the success of the project.

**How You Can Help:**

The projects proposed are listed on the next pages with a short write up of how they are envisioned at this point. As residents in our neighbourhood have a wide array of worldly experiences and skills, we ask that you comment on which projects resonate the most with you and for ideas on how to make them world-class. We will be taking comments at our next registration night, January 21<sup>th</sup>, and gathering feedback via our website ([vvcasaskatoon.com](http://vvcasaskatoon.com)). After a period of public consultation, VVCA will announce our next major project(s) at our annual Louis' event in the spring.

It is an exciting time to be living in our community and I am eager to hear each of you share your best and brightest ideas!

*James Perkins, President*

**VVCA on Facebook or Twitter:**  
**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/VarsityView](https://www.facebook.com/VarsityView)  
**Twitter:** [@VVCASaskatoon](https://twitter.com/VVCASaskatoon)  
Email newsletter signup: <http://eepurl.com/D5GQj>

## Proposed Projects:

### 1. Heritage Trail and Recognition Signage in VV and GP

A Heritage Trail would serve to celebrate the history and heritage of one of the oldest and most distinct neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, while

encouraging conscious and active lifestyles. The trail would flow through quiet side streets, area parks and other neighbourhood corridors, potentially building on/improving existing street, sidewalk, walkway, alley and park infrastructure, with the opportunity to build site enhancements along the path route as desired. Such enhancements may include identifying signage, special trail lighting, water features, gardens, educational/activity sites for children, seating or picnic areas and bike

medians/lanes to encourage alternative transit modes. The trail may receive best use from alternative traffic modes if situated diagonally across our communities, running from the southeast corner of Grosvenor Park to the Northwest corner of Varsity View (to McKinnon Ave and College Dr or Munroe Ave and College Dr).



### 2. Brunskill School Playground Renewal

The play structure in the school yard at Brunskill School was last updated in 1999. Since then the population of the school has steadily increased to its present capacity of 450 students. Brunskill School is the only Elementary school located in the Varsity View/Grosvenor Park area. Due to the number of children outside at recess time the structure is used only by the younger grades up to Grade 4. The playground is also regularly used by the children residing in the Varsity View area after school hours. The administration at the school would be very interested in partnering with VVCA and pursuing the possibility of an addition or replacement of this structure to improve the quality of the students' recess experience. This project would have a very large impact on the play and enjoyment for the residents of Varsity View and the students at Brunskill/KCC Elementary School.

### 3. Multi-Use Court

The idea of a multi-purpose court is to incorporate a wide mix of sport and game activities into one court space, allowing a large cross section of the community to play their game of choice. Currently, the city of Saskatoon has no multi-use outdoor sport facilities, and a large (and still growing) demand for such space. While tennis is very well served, basketball, futsal, volleyball, ball hockey, badminton, bike polo and roller derby enthusiasts are all lacking in public sporting space that would allow them to play in Saskatoon parks. This project would make the chosen park a destination location for

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the city of Saskatoon, and the project could easily pair up with several community groups who are keen to improve the public access to active spaces for both children and adults.



#### 4. Litter Receptacles and Awareness

The walk-ability and proximity to the University of Saskatchewan results in a high-volume of both vehicle and foot traffic throughout the neighborhood, and particularly closer to College drive, and other main thoroughfares such as Clarence and Cumberland. With increased use can also come litter. Our community does not currently have a strategy in place to help deal with litter, and offer pedestrians and motorists alike options for waste disposal. As a result, litter can be a problem in these high use areas, and has an impact on our neighborhood aesthetics. Providing more waste disposal options for both residents and passers-by would go a long way to keeping our neighborhood beautiful.

#### 5. Albert Rec Unit Replacement

Albert Recreational Park borders on Nutana and Varsity View communities. It is a unique park - fully fenced, divided in half with paddling pool and play apparatus on one side, basketball court and play structures on the other. With the city's continuing growth the upgrade for this park keeps getting pushed back and safety has become an issue. In partnership with Nutana Community Association (NCA), VVCA and NCA could bring this park back to life!

#### 6. Dog Park

Our community enjoys a number neighbourhood parks, many of which are underused for many months of the year. A site suitable for dog owners to take their pets to within the community to walk, run and play in an off-leash setting has been raised by a number of community members in past years. This proposal recognizes that the City of Saskatoon has numerous off-leash parks, however none within walking or cycling distance of either Varsity View or Grosvenor Park. Such a site could feature low-maintenance rubber pellet or natural prairie landscaping (for minimal operating expense) within a fenced/hedged perimeter to enclose the space, minimizing noise disturbance to neighboring homes. A park would be complete with pet waste and water-

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ing depots, sun shelters/trees and seating areas for owners to visit with one another. Rod V. Real Park has been identified as one possible site for such development.

### 7. Climbing Area/Skateboard Park

Although VV and GP have spaces for young children, teens have few recreational opportunities close by in VV&GP. This project would construct an all ages climbing area of natural stone for children and children at heart to enjoy coupled with a skateboard park. Areas of increasing difficulty would allow children to practice their dexterity while developing coordination in a unique climbing environment. Teenage residents would enjoy skateboard features to practice their skills close to home.

### 8. Public Art, Functional Public Art (i.e., Chess Boards)

Art is fundamental to our humanity, ennobling and inspiring us. Public works of art foster a sense of community and public space as being more than merely functional; they help us express our values, build inter-cultural bridges, and open up the everyday and mundane to re-examination and small moments of wonder. They make our neighborhood more welcoming, beautiful, and more lively. Public art can also be practical and interactive. For example stone chess boards along public walkways encourage non-sporting park use, and musical swings <http://vimeo.com/40980676#> (musical swings link) allows playground equipment to be a multi-player instrument.



### 9. Zen Garden/Meditative Garden

As hustling neighbourhoods, Grosvenor Park and Varsity View have few spaces one can sit and escape from the world. This project envisions a restorative space within an existing public space that creates tranquility and reflection.



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR COUNCILLOR



Dear Varsity View residents

Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had a good Holiday season. In this update I will touch on the 2014 Budget and the Infill Guideline situation.

### Budget 2014

We completed the budgeting process in early December and passed the highest tax increase that I have seen – 7.4%. This will result in about 108\$ more per year (9\$ a month) in property tax for a home worth \$300,000. I don't take it lightly that we introduced this increase. I believe that the increase in investment is needed to avoid paying even higher costs down the road if we allow our infrastructure to deteriorate further, but I also think that it compels us to make changes to how we do things to avoid these kind of increases into the future.

This will mean doing a meaningful review of our operations through empowering our staff, utilizing technology, and being willing to rethink our services

in order to make the best of the resources we already have. The recent street sweeping overhaul was one example of how we can improve things.

Second, as I have said before, we have to change the way we are growing our City. Our own analysis is showing very clearly that right now growth is not paying for growth. The new neighbourhoods we are adding to the outside edges of the City simply don't cover the costs of what it takes to provide transit, fire, police, street sweeping, park maintenance, and transportation infrastructure it takes to keep them vital. Channeling growth into a more compact form and building a transportation system that provides convenient alternatives to residents will be crucial to curtailing tax increases into the future.

I am as convinced as ever that we won't be able to both keep taxes low and build urban sprawl. I see no benefit in pitting suburban neighbourhoods against urban neighborhoods, this is not my intent. What we need to do is take a look at these real costs and figure out as a whole City what the best growth model will be into the future. This will be the focus of some very crucial planning over the next year as part of the "Growing Forward: Shaping our City" planning process. More information can be found on my website or the City of Saskatoon website.

### Infill Guidelines

The Infill Guideline process is moving forward and we have received the report developed with recommendations on guidelines for how to ensure new builds in old neighbourhoods fit in better and cause less harm to surrounding residents. The document contains several key recommendations for protecting existing trees, ensuring that proper drainage plans are established, reducing the height of the sidewalls of new houses, and a number of other recommendations about the form that a building could take. The report also recommends that garden and garage suites be allowed on a case by case basis after consultation, and that the City consider allowing up to 4 units to be developed on corner lots.

Now that the recommendations have been received, the details need to be worked out and formed into a bylaw. There is a plan for a public meeting in the New Year to give people a chance to understand and discuss the recommendations further. I have put a link to the whole report on my website at [www.charlieclark.ca](http://www.charlieclark.ca)

If you want to get information on when this meeting will be or about other issues affecting Ward 6 and the City, please consider signing up to my E-newsletter which I send out about 3 times a month. You can sign up easily through my website at [www.charlieclark.ca](http://www.charlieclark.ca)

All the best!

Charlie Clark  
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## **2013-14 VVCA Executive**

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Secretary	Marcus Prebble <a href="mailto:markprebble@hotmail.com">markprebble@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Josh Marko <a href="mailto:tammyjosh@shaw.ca">tammyjosh@shaw.ca</a>
Coordinators: Basketball/Football	Robert Peterson-Wakeman <a href="mailto:rob@wakeman.ca">rob@wakeman.ca</a>
Community Garden	Rebekah Bennetch <a href="mailto:rebekah.bennetch@usask.ca">rebekah.bennetch@usask.ca</a>
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Social Media	Victor Das <a href="mailto:victor.p.das@gmail.com">victor.p.das@gmail.com</a>
Website	Rebekah Bennetch / Roger Williamson
City of Saskatoon Liaison (Feb 1, 2014)	Mark Campbell <a href="mailto:Mark.Campbell@Saskatoon.ca">Mark.Campbell@Saskatoon.ca</a>
Members at large	Anu Bhargava, Will Robbins, Linie Varde & Allan Wong

## MESSAGE FROM INDOOR COORDINATORS

Hello Everyone, Sure hope you had a healthy and happy break! With all those New Year resolutions people make consider joining one of our winter programs!

It is time to mark JANUARY 21, 2014 on your calendar cell phone or any other device you use for our winter registration from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Brunskill Multi Purpose Room!

There are a few NEW programs!

**Bike Polo** – More similar to pick up hockey on bikes than the original game of Polo. Bike Polo is a fun, fast paced, (slightly rough around the edges) team sport without set teams. The game is played with two teams of three players each (throw rules apply for each new game). Players of all skill levels are welcome, any bike can be used (no mark indoor tires and helmet required) and mallets will be provided. We'll spend the first several weeks introducing new players to the basics of the game then it's all fun, all the time. For a complete list of rules and sense of how play functions, check your local internets for Hard court Bike Polo.

**Beginner Boot Camp** – a short but intense circuit that keeps your heart rate up, burns calories (lots), and tones your whole body. The idea is everyone goes at their own pace and gradually works towards a goal. No equipment is needed. A lot of our body weight, push ups, squats, lunges burpees jumping jacks, walking, running etc.. 30 second intervals building up to a minute.

**Play and Sign** – A program for Sign Language and Literacy Development. Play and Sign is a family oriented twelve week course for young children to explore communication and expand vocabulary through games and activities with a parent /adult. Early sign language development has proven to be the best way to develop early literacy and social skills. Through play and sign participants will learn how to listen with their eyes and pick up non-verbal cues, read and express body language and develop tools to communicate in noisy environments with deaf peers. This is a joint initiative by VVCA and Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (SDHHS).

**Brick 4 Kidz- 5-12 yrs** One hour classes exploring architecture engineering and technology concepts following the Bricks 4 Kidz motto We Learn We Build We Play with.... LEGO Bricks.

We Learn – Instructors provide a 5-10 min themed lesson

We Build – Students build the model of the day with simple step by step instructions

We Play- Students explore their own creativity through free play time

**Little Builder 2 1/2 – 5yrs** - Reinforce essential preschool skills with run, new approach based on the time tested popularity of LEGO bricks! Introduce your preschoolers to the fun of learning building and playing the Bricks 4 Kidz way! Children gain a greater awareness of the world around them as they talk about topics like fish, gardens, keys, or other everyday objects.

A few changes from the Leisure Guide

**Cardio and Muscle sculpt** – This class will not be starting till Feb 26 and therefore the fee will be \$75.00. a ten week course

**Romp N Read** – This class will start @ 10:30 and run till 11:30

**Play and Sign** – This class was not listed in the Guide

**Bike Polo** – This class was not listed in the Guide. For persons interested in seeing how it is played you can go watch starting the first Saturday in January to get an idea and then register at registration

**Learn to Skate** - This class was not listed in the Guide. The fee is \$25.00 If you are interested in signing up your child please contact Barb @ 306-652-0279 and I will get you registered. Helmet and skates required

Outdoor Competitive soccer registration will be at a later date! We will keep you posted!!!!!!

Here is to a fun filled winter to make it go by quicker!!!!

*Barb & Maya, Indoor Coordinators*

## VARSITY VIEW PROGRAMS

Registration is Tuesday, January 21, 2014 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Brunskill School-Gym, 101 Wiggins Avenue North. A membership fee of \$5/individual, \$10/family per year is required to participate in programs and must be presented at the time of registration. A fee of \$10 will apply to late registrations. Please consult the community association newsletter or visit [www.vvcasaskatoon.com](http://www.vvcasaskatoon.com) for further program details. Varsity View Community Association honours other community association memberships. **\*\*Please note that most programs run for 15 weeks\*\***

### ADULT & CHILD

Play & Sign	2-6 yrs + Adult	Brunskill School-Library	06:00 PM-07:00 PM	Th	Jan 30-May 01	\$50/Family
Tae-Kwon Do-Advanced	10 yrs - Adult	Brunskill School - Main Gym	08:00 PM-09:00 PM	W & F	Jan 22-May 30 & Jan 31-May 30	\$150
Tae-Kwon Do-Beginner	6yrs-Adult	Brunskill School - Main Gym	06:30 PM-07:15 PM	W & F	Jan 22-May 14 & Jan 31-May 30	\$90

### ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Tae-Kwon Do-Intermediate	6yrs-Adult	Brunskill School - Main Gym	07:15 PM-08:00 PM	W & F	Jan 22-May 14 & Jan 31-May 30	\$120
Badminton	Adult	Brunskill School - Main Gym	08:00 PM-10:00 PM	Tu	Jan 28-May 20	\$45
Badminton	Adult	Brunskill School - Main Gym	08:00 PM-10:00 PM	Th	Jan 30-May 22	\$45
Beginner Boot Camp	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	08:00 PM-09:00 PM	Tu	Jan 28-May 20	\$100
Cardio & Muscle Sculpt	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	08:00 PM-09:00 PM	W	Feb 26-May 14	\$75
Conversational Spanish	Adult	Brunskill School-Library	07:10 PM-08:10 PM	Tu	Jan 28-May 20	\$120
Conversational Spanish-Beginner	Adult	Brunskill School-Library	06:00 PM-07:00 PM	Tu	Jan 28-May 20	\$120
Yoga—Introductory, Gentle, Restorative	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	06:15 PM-07:45 PM	Th	Jan 30-May 22	\$120
Yoga – Multi level	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	06:15 PM-07:45 PM	M	Feb 03-Jun 02	\$120
Yoga – Multi level	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	06:15 PM-07:45 PM	W	Jan 22-May 14	\$120
Zumba	Adult	Brunskill School - MPR	07:00 PM-08:00 PM	Tu <b>OR</b> F	Jan 28-May 20 <b>OR</b> Jan 31-May 30	\$100
Bike Polo	Adult	Cosmo Civic Centre	12 noon-02:30 PM	SAT	Jan 24 – March 29	\$150

### CHILDREN/YOUTH

Bricks 4 Kidz	2.5-4 yrs	Brunskill School-Art Rm	06:00 PM-06:45 PM	M	Jan 27-Apr 07	\$80
Bricks 4 Kidz	5-12 yrs	Brunskill School-Art Rm	06:45 PM-07:45 PM	M	Jan 27-Apr 07	\$100
Exploration in Art for Children	5-8 yrs	Brunskill School-Art Rm	06:00 PM-07:00 PM	W	Jan 22-May 14	\$120
Romp N Read	2-5 yrs & Adult	Souris Hall	10:30 PM-11:30 AM	Tu	Jan 28-Apr 08	FREE
Soccer Recreation	3-4 yrs	Brunskill School - MPR	06:00 PM-06:45 PM	Tu <b>OR</b> F	Jan 28-Apr 08 <b>OR</b> Jan 31-April 11	\$30
Tae-Kwon Do- Pre-Beginner	3-5 yrs	Brunskill School - Main Gym	06:00 PM-06:30 PM	W	Jan 22-Mar 26	\$50
Tae-Kwon Do- Pre-Beginner	3-5 yrs	Brunskill School - Main Gym	06:00 PM-06:30 PM	F	Jan 24-Mar 28	\$50
Learn to Skate	5-8 yr	Brunskill Rink	10:00AM-11:00AM	SAT	TBA	\$25

**Parents are reminded to walk their children in to class to make sure the school is open and the class is still on. As well, children must be picked up immediately after class is over.**

Remember that VVCA is sensitive to the needs of families facing financial hardships, and may partially fund, or fully fund participation fees in various activities. Subsidization is only to cover the cost of programs and will not include membership in VVCA. Please contact one of us at registration night. We are more than willing to be of assistance in a very confidential manner. In addition, assistance may be available through KidSport.

*Barb & Maya, Indoor Co-ordinators*