

Report from the Inner Arbor Trust

Ice 'n Fire, the Trust's 1st annual winter festival, opened on Nov. 30 with an incredible Frosty Fun Run. With over 600 participants and the support of the Community Action Council and Girls on the Run, we exceeded expectations. This event, as we expand and improve it, will be a major component of the Trust's earned income, as it has the potential to attract major sponsors. Our first weekend brought in over \$16,000.

This year, even hampered by uncertainty about access issues, we are able to produce an inaugural version of what will be a spectacular winter event. We have lights, Santa, an unbelievable human Christmas tree, a human snow globe, Elsa and Anna, fire pits, hot chocolate, mulled cider, carolers, etc. This is a pedestrian event that, with paths, more lighting, and other improvements that will be in place in 2020, can evolve into a signature Columbia experience.

The merger talks continue and we still have not addressed the land and capital issues associated with combining the DCACC and the Trust.

Construction on the CA-funded path is scheduled to begin in January. We had hoped to combine it with the County funded path but, without IMA signing the agreement with the County to designate a specific weekend for Wine in the Woods, the funds are still on hold.

The Trust continues to reach out to regional groups and, with the support of our partners, is planning some exciting events for the next 2 seasons.

The shared bathrooms, on hold for 3 years, may be constructed in 2020. If not, the Trust is considering building them. This "temporary" situation is no longer an option.

The Trust continues to be grateful for CA's support in developing a true community park.

Lin Eagan
Chair, IAT