



2022 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR ACTIVE TRAIL USER GROUPS

Please note:

At its September 27, 2022 meeting, the Board passed the following motions:

That funding to eligible active trail user groups to carry out trail maintenance and upgrades within the Regional District of Nanaimo be considered as follows:

- 1. The Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club - Outer Bypass Trail Project be approved in the amount of \$15,000 from the Regional Parks Budget.**
- 2. That the proposed community trail projects from the Lighthouse Country Recreation (\$3,000 – Electoral Area H Community Parks Budget) and Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (\$500 – Electoral Area B Community Parks Budget) be forwarded to the Electoral Area Services Committee for approval and that the 2022-2026 Financial Plan be amended accordingly.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That funding to eligible active trail user groups to carry out trail maintenance and upgrades within the Regional District of Nanaimo be considered as follows:

1. The Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club – Outer Bypass Trail Project be approved in the amount of \$15,000 from the Regional Parks Budget.
2. The proposed community trail projects from the Lighthouse Country Recreation (\$3,000 – Electoral Area H Community Parks Budget) and Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (\$500 – Electoral Area B Community Parks Budget) be forwarded to the Electoral Area Services Committee for approval and that the 2022-2026 Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

BACKGROUND

At the February 23, 2021, Board meeting, the following motion was passed:

It was moved and seconded that the Board direct staff to convene a meeting of active trail user groups to discuss opportunities and objectives for trail enhancement and maintenance in the Regional District of Nanaimo and for that meeting to inform any potential funding requests for the 2022 budget.

Following this motion, groups of trail users began meeting to discuss trail building, use and maintenance issues in the City of Nanaimo and Regional District context. Meetings were organized by the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT), with RDN parks staff in attendance, in June 2021 and November 2021 to engage in a respectful

conversation about how to support each user group in responsible recreation on the trails. Representatives from environmental organizations, hiking groups, running groups, rock climbers, mountain bikers and horse riders were in attendance. Discussions from these meetings indicated a need for funding to be made available to the organizations for trail maintenance and improvements.

On June 1, 2022, RDN Parks conducted a meeting with identified active trail user groups to discuss opportunities for trail enhancement and maintenance within the RDN, funding opportunities available to user groups and terms of reference related to acquiring funds.

An application form with the following funding criteria was then circulated to the user groups:

1. Funding will be considered for individuals or groups.
2. Funds must be used for RDN trails, or trails that link to an RDN trail or park.
3. Funds must be used by Dec 31st, 2022.
4. Funds may not be used for honorariums, wages or other professional fees, personal equipment, or individual membership fees.
5. Priority will be given to the following applications:
 - a. Accessibility of users (serving a vast array of users)
 - b. Representative of community and/or district-wide needs
 - c. Improvements that would encourage use from underrepresented groups

A total of three applications were received, as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Active Trail User Funding Applications

Applicant	Project	Area	Amount Requested	Suggested RDN Contribution	Comments
Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club	Upgrades to the Outer Bypass Trail	Regional Trails	\$15,000	\$15,000	Application meets criteria. Trail links Mt. Benson Regional Park and Benson Creek Falls Regional Park
Lighthouse Country Recreation	Coburn Road Trail Maintenance	EA H	\$3,000	\$3,000	Application meets criteria but is a community trail. Trail is one of the only connections from the commercial centre of Bowser to the Jaimeson Road subdivision, Bowser Elementary and Deep Bay.
Gabriola Land and Trails Trust	Enhancement of the Jeanette Ave Trail	EA B	\$500	\$500	Application meets criteria but is a community trail. Enhancements to the

					trail and the addition of resting stops will allow people with limited mobility and stamina to access the park.
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The upgrades to the Outer Bypass Trail proposed by the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club can be funded by the Regional Parks budget. A total of \$15,000 is available in the 2022 Regional Parks Budget for these upgrades.

The Coburn Road community trail upgrades proposed by Lighthouse Country Recreation Society can be funded by the Electoral Area H 2022 Community Parks Budget through the reallocation of operating funds in 2022. A project to improve a water access site in the Bowser area will not be proceeding in 2022 due to permitting issues associated with the location and nature of the proposed work. As such, the \$5,000 allocated for this project could be used to fund the proposed trail improvements to Coburn Road trail.

The Jeanette Avenue Community Trail could be funded by the Electoral Area B 2022 Community Parks Budget by reallocating some of the funds allocated for the installation of access gates in Cox Community Park. The 2022 Budget has \$10,000 allocated for the installation of the gates which will not be proceeding in 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.

REVIEWED BY:

- Y. Gagnon, Manager, Parks Services
- M. Manhas, Acting Director, Finance
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- D. Homes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022 Active Trail User Funding Application Form
2. Applicant Submissions