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**TO:** Parks Committees and Commissions **MEETING:** September 17, 2018

**FROM:** Wendy Marshall  
Manager, Parks Services

**SUBJECT:** Parks Update Report – Summer 2018

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the parks update for Summer 2018 be received as information.

## SUMMARY

Parks staff continue to work on projects identified in the 2018 Parks Work Plan and the RDN Operational Plan.

### *Planning and Capital Projects – Key Highlights*

#### **Mount Benson Parking Facilities**

Site design is progressing. A permit application to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) will be submitted in August along with the 80% design package. Project tender is anticipated for late 2018.

#### **Errington Community Park**

The conceptual design and costing for the Master Plan is underway. Phasing considerations for construction will be considered once Order of Magnitude costing is reviewed. The formal Public Engagement portion of the project is complete, with a final plan drawing of the conceptual Master Plan available for display in late September after EA F POSAC review. A survey and geotechnical review of the proposed area of the park for the project is underway.

#### **Huxley Park Projects R+P-34-2016**

##### Sports Court

A contractor has been hired to paint new pickleball lines on the sports court. The work is in the contractor's queue to be completed this fall (weather permitting).

##### Skatepark

A design consultant has been retained to complete construction drawings and costing for the Gabriola Skatepark to be completed in 2018. Staff continues to provide support to the *Keep on Pushin'* community fundraising campaign to raise \$72,000 towards the construction of the facility.

#### **Trail from Horne Lake and Heritage Designation R+P-31-2016**

The Horne Lake Strata membership received the project brief and did not provide comment. In July, MOTI agreed that the RDN and Island Timberlands can revisit the 1911 Gazetted Road plan in order to correct errors, and identify a mutually agreeable long-term trail corridor from

Horne Lake Regional Park to the ACRD border. Technical meetings are underway with MOTI and will be initiated with Island Timberlands in the fall.

### **Village Way Path**

In May, MOTI and the RDN met to re-examine the stalled November 2015 design in light of a softening of the Ministry's position regarding non-vehicular infrastructure within the developed road allowance. An approach involving asphalt curb and raised path without catch basin system for drainage was identified. The project engineer is now updating design plans and confirming that a simpler drainage approach will work. Once approved by the Ministry, a schedule of quantities will be created and the design costed.

### **Morden Colliery Bridge and Trail R+P-27-2015**

The RDN's August 2017 request to the Agricultural Land Commission to reconsider its July 2017 decision to bar trail and bridge development along the old rail corridor has proven successful. In early July 2018, the Commission advised the RDN that trail development would now be permitted on condition that the trail works are fenced and a vegetative buffer installed, passages are created for farm workers and machinery to cross the trail, and all works are completed by July 2021. The reconsideration decision remains subject to review by the Commission Chair and appeal by the landowner who opposes the trail project.

### **Benson Creek Falls Regional Park Facilities R+P-33-2017**

The conceptual designs for improved access to Ammonite Falls and across Benson Creek were reviewed by the public from February 9 to March 16, 2018. A summary of feedback is posted on the RDN Get Involved website. Both bridge options (truss vs. suspension) received equal support. A new trail or combination of trail and stairs were the preferred options for descent to Ammonite Falls, while some preferred a staircase at the existing descent site. Input from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has been requested. The park is leased crown land and these projects will require Provincial approval due to proximity to Benson Creek.

### **Dunsmuir Community Park Development**

A contract has been awarded to Leuco Construction Inc. for Phase 1 park construction (a new sports court and parking lot). Construction began in August and was scheduled to be completed by the end of October. With the extreme fire hazards the project was put on hold late August until cooler temperatures return. A community groundbreaking was held August 10, 2018.

### **Meadowood Way Community Park – Community Centre Development**

The consultant retained to provide Phase 1 Detailed Design and Costing is Herold Engineering with de Hoog Keirulf Architects. The design work and costing is underway. Staff met with the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association early July to inform and consult on the current design requirements for the Centre.

### **Blue Water Community Park Restoration**

The restoration of the park will require many seasons to be complete. The initial vegetation management with Goats on the Hoof was completed in May 2018 and they will return in the fall for a less intensive round of management. This will be followed by seeding and tree planting.

The tree planting is funded by a 2018 BC Hydro grant of \$2,700.00 and must be complete by year end.

### **Registry and Mapping**

Area B's community park portfolio has been fully registered. A set of park maps with registry information tables along with an updated planning map were provided to the Area B POSAC. Missing Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure permits were obtained for various uses of undeveloped road allowance in Area A, the new Driftwood Road Beach Access registered, and an updated map set distributed to the Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. Area C parks and planning maps near completion. Property acquisition names for Areas F and G parks, trails, water accesses and open spaces were clarified, thus completing that task for the electoral areas and assisting GIS in the labelling of community park properties on the web map.

### ***Operations – Key Highlights***

#### **General Service Calls**

Operations staff were busy in the spring and summer time trimming vegetation, brushing out trails, and responding to hazard tree issues. Staff responded to routine complaints including; vandalism, graffiti, uncontrolled dogs, and dumping. Increasing popularity of some parks is placing additional demand for toilet service and garbage collection frequency.

#### **Glynneath Road CP**

Hazard tree removals commenced in June following contractor selection. The work is being carried out in two phases, with the first phase to be completed in 2018 and the second part in early 2019. The Contractor is following a work plan set forth by Parks Operations and based on an Assessment Report produced by Strategic Natural Resource Consulting for this site.

#### **707 Community Park**

Work was completed to improve Fire Department access to key areas of the park. Work included trail brushing, road grading, and a new gate was installed at the North Road entrance to the park.

#### **Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail**

Parks has entered into an agreement with the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia for their member club the Island Mountain Ramblers to carry out trail improvements on a portion of the trail named "Straight to the Top". The agreement is a two-year pilot project. Logistical work is now underway between the Club and Parks Operations to facilitate this year's work.

#### **Boultbee Community Park**

Staff replaced the deteriorated playground containment border with a much improved cedar border.

### ***Parks Programming***

Successful Spring programs included hikes on the CPR Regional Trail, Mount Cokely, and Mount Arrowsmith. The Spring Break GO Wild Camp at Moorecroft Regional Park was a success with 16 children registered. Paddling Adventures on Horne Lake, Night Walk in Englishman River Regional Park, and Amazing Race in Englishman River Regional Park were cancelled due to low registration.

### **Park Use Permits**

#### Area A

- Park Use Permit given to VIU Horticulture Department (partnered with International Education) to harvest Wild Ginger from Nanaimo River Regional Park April 9, for propagation. Replanting to happen in Fall 2018.
- Runners of Compassion, Nanaimo Chapter, was given a permit for TCT- Extension Ridge trail for Fletcher's Challenge, a trail running race, held on March 30.

#### Area B

- Park Use Permit granted to Gabriola 4-H Club for concession at Rollo McClay Community Park (ball fields) from April-September 2018.
- Park Use Permits granted to GaLTT for free guided walks throughout parks on Gabriola during Spring and Summer 2018, and for broom cutting in May at 707 Community Park.

#### Area C

- Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club received a Park Use Permit for partial use of Benson Creek Falls Regional Park for a cross country mountain bike race held on May 26.

#### Area E

- Park Use Permits granted for weddings at Moorecroft Regional Park (June 3, June 11, 2018). Permits for school field trips to Moorecroft Regional Park (2) granted to two elementary schools in D69.
- Park Use Permit granted to CUPE Local 3570 for Family Picnic at Jack Bagley Community Park held on May 12.

#### Area F

- VIU granted a permit for the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region BioBlitz at Englishmen River Regional Park April 21. Results of this study to be forwarded to RDN in the Fall 2018.
- Errington Therapeutic Riding Association was granted a permit to hold part of their "pledge ride" on the Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail June 24, 2018.

#### Area G

- BC Conservation Foundation was granted a permit to do a tour in the Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area April 5, 2018, during the Brant Festival.

#### Area H

- No permits this quarter.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The projects outlined in this report have funds identified in the 2018 Budget. Electoral Area projects are funded through the associated 2018 Community Parks Budget and in some cases are supplemented by Community Works Funds or grant funding. Regional Parks projects are

funded through the 2018 Regional Parks Operational Budget or the Regional Parks Capital Budget.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Projects in this report support the RDN's strategic priorities for Service and Organizational Excellence and Focus on the Environment:

- Delivering efficient, effective and economically viable services that meet the needs of the Region;
- We will fund infrastructure in support of our core services employing an asset management focus;
- As we invest in regional services we look at both costs and benefits — the RDN will be effective and efficient;
- We recognize community mobility and recreational amenities as core services; and
- We will have a strong focus on protecting and enhancing our environment in all decisions.



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August 21, 2018

Reviewed by:

- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Parks Work Plan – July 2018