

TO: B POSAC, EW/PV POSAC, E POSAC, F POSAC,
G POSAC, H POSAC, EA A Parks, Recreation and
Culture Commission, D69 Recreation Commission,
Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee

MEETING: January 28, 2019

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

SUBJECT: Parks Update Report. – July - September 2018

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report - July - September 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.

BACKGROUND

A summary of key projects undertaken between July and September is provided below. The attached spreadsheet provides details on park projects.

Planning and Capital Projects – Key Highlights

707 Parkland Additions

The Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee has approved Bylaws 289 and 290, amending the Gabriola Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw and allow the transfer of 136 hectares of parkland adjacent to the 707 Community Park to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) in exchange for the creation of up to 25 lots on the properties between Cox Community Park and the Village Core. The new parkland is located between 707 Community Park and Coats Marsh Regional Park. With this transfer, 707 Community Park on Gabriola Island will increase from 707 acres to 1,043 acres, providing increased ecological protection to Coats Marsh and important trail connections for the island. Until the 707 Community Park Management Plan is updated, the new parkland will be managed as an extension of the current park management plan. In the short term, the RDN has set aside funding to provide basic park amenities such as signage and park access gates.

Mount Benson Parking Facilities RP-S4-1.20

The design of the new parking lot and trail head for Mount Benson Regional Park is nearing completion and the project is expected to go to tender in November 2018. Construction would begin in the late-winter/early-spring 2019, with the goal of having the site open for summer 2019.

Huxley Park Projects RP-S4-1.2

The design consultant continues to work on developing construction drawings and costing for the Gabriola Skatepark to be completed in 2018. A development Variance Permit application will be submitted to the Islands Trust this fall requesting a relaxation on side-yard setbacks for the skatepark. Staff continue to provide support to the *Keep on Pushin'* community fundraising campaign to raise \$72,000 towards the construction of the facility

Big Qualicum River to ACRD Regional Trail RP-S4-1.12

The Victoria Land Titles Deputy Registrar recommends creation of a right of way plan to dedicate the 1911 Gazetted Horne Lake and Alberni Road, with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and Island Timberlands signing off. Once established, the titled road corridor will be available for the regional trail. MoTI supports the proposal and discussions will be held with Island Timberlands to resolve final issues surrounding road location and pave the way for survey work to create and register a plan of dedication. A request for qualifications will be issued to identify potential design-builders of the trail. Planning meetings will continue with ACRD as well additional meeting with the First Nation communities within the ACRD and the RDN areas will be arranged to review and confirm the trail's location.

Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail

Work has been completed this past October to repair the section of trail flooded in January 2018. The repairs include raising the trail and installation of additional piping and a manhole. The repair area involved fish bearing Morningside Creek requiring Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Section 11 approval before works could begin. Island Corridor Foundation approval was also obtained for trail redesign intended to mitigate the risk of future inundation. Concerns about upstream land development and related surface drainage as well as MoTI maintenance of Hwy 4A culvert and ditch around Morningside Creek have been relayed to the Ministry and to RDN Bylaw Services for action.

Village Way Path

Revised preliminary plans have been submitted to MoTI for review. If MoTI accepts the proposed solution to road drainage, detailed plans will be completed and costed, information meetings will be arranged with landowners fronting the North Road path, and a public open house will be scheduled to bring the community up to date.

Benson Creek Falls Facilities RP-S2-3.7

A report recommending that the project proceed with detailed design of a recreational truss bridge across Benson Creek and improved access to Ammonite Falls by way of a stairs and trail combination was reviewed by the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee in October. The recommendation has been forwarded to the RDN Board for approval. Detailed design would occur in 2019 with construction to follow as early as 2020.

Meadowood Way Community Park – Community Centre Development RP-S3-1.7

The Detailed Design and Costing have been completed by Herold Engineering Ltd. and presented to the Electoral Area Director and the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association (CMRA). An Operation Agreement is underway for the CMRA to run the facility once constructed. A board report is to follow.

Blue Water Community Park Restoration

Two rounds of vegetation management have been completed (spring and fall 2018). Goats were used to clear the park of invasive plants. The trees have been planted, funded by a BC Hydro grant, and revegetation seed mix has been provided in targeted areas in the park. Further vegetation management and restoration efforts are planned for 2019.

Driftwood Beach Access Development RP-S4-1.1

Installation of a culvert is complete and stair construction is underway to improve access and provide a safe descent to the beach. The project is permitted through the MoTI. Construction will be completed this fall.

Little Qualicum Hall Renovation RP-S2-3.6

Initial renovation plans were completed in-house and have been presented to representatives of the neighborhood association. Herold Engineering Ltd. is currently working on the detailed design and will be acting as the Coordinating Registered Professional of Record for this project. Permit application is expected this fall with construction to commence early in 2019.

Dunsmuir Community Park Development RP-S4-1.7

Dunsmuir Phase 1 construction is underway and is expected to be completed in December.

Registry and Mapping

GIS has created web map acquisition layers for parks, trails and water accesses in Areas C, E and F, and individual acquisition maps for Areas C and E, paving the way for the creation of property registration forms as completed for Areas A and B. Area E Planning Map has been created, which will reflect a recent Fairwinds development addition to that Area's portfolio. Various RDN permitted water accesses that had never been GPSed are now captured in the web map; missing MoTI water access permits have been obtained. The Parks and Trails Finder was updated and edited.

Operations – Key Highlights

Service Software RP-R2-4.6

New service software is now in use for Parks Operations staff. The program schedules inspections, provides digital input screens for use in the field, creates follow up tasks for maintenance issues found during inspections and provides documentation of inspections. Staff can create work orders for any task including requests from residents. These requests will now be documented and follow up actions recorded. The software also creates reports summarizing the number of inspections, resident calls and site visits that were completed during a given time frame.

General Service Calls

- 508 documented inspections were completed over 147 sites, resulting in 48 work-order items for follow-up actions or repairs.
- Sixty resident requests were received including: Tree complaints, vegetation management requests, dumping and garbage complaints, animal related complaints, graffiti, vandalism, and signage requests.
- Operations staff routinely provide support to the delivery of many ongoing projects and improvements throughout the park system in addition to their regular maintenance tasks.

Parks Programming

Nine programs, both new and returning, were offered in parks this fall. Two sessions of the Amazing Race, a Hiking Information Session (free for Active Aging Week), Wesley Ridge Hike, Geology Tour of Nanoose Bay (including stops at Beachcomber Regional Park and Blueback Community Park), and Salmon Tour (at Big Qualicum River Regional Trail) all had or will have enough registration to run. Paddling Adventures at Horne Lake and the Mt. Horne Hike were cancelled due to low registration and a Stand Up Paddleboard program was cancelled due to weather.

Park Use Permits

Area A – A (non-exclusive) permit was granted to Cedar Elementary School (SD 68) to use Addison Way Community Park for an outdoor learning space. In addition, a permit was granted to Cedar Elementary and First Neck Point Scout group to do volunteer cleanup (removal of garbage and some debris) from Addison Way Community Park to prepare for use by the school.

Area B – Gabriola Softball Association was granted a permit to run a softball tournament September 22-23, 2018.

Area C – No permits this quarter.

Area E – A permit was granted for a wedding (<50 people) at Beachcomber Regional Park September 15. Nanoose Bay Elementary School (SD69) was granted permits to visit Moorecroft Regional Park as an outdoor learning space, and for use of Nanoose Road Community Park for their Mountain Bike Club to access trails. VIU Education Program was granted a permit to bring student teachers to Moorecroft Regional Park to teach sustainability and outdoor education.

Area F - Corcan Residents Association was granted a permit for their 8th Annual Halloween event, including fireworks, at Meadowood Community Park.

Area G - No permits this quarter.

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.



Wendy Marshall
wmarshall@rdn.bc.ca
December 3, 2018

Reviewed by:

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

Attachments:

1. Parks Work Plan – Fall 2018