
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:** February 4, 2019

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

SUBJECT: Parks Update Report – October-December 2018

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report – October-December 2018 be received as information.

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

A summary of key projects undertaken between October and December is provided below. The attached spreadsheet provides details on parks projects.

Planning and Capital Projects – Key Highlights

Mount Benson Parking Facilities RP-S4-1.20

The new parking lot for Mount Benson Regional Park was tendered in late 2018 and awarded at the January 22, 2019 Regional Board Meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin early spring with project completion this summer.

Huxley Park Projects RP-S4-1.2

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 by summer 2019.

Phase 2 and 3 Construction Drawings

The design consultant continues to work on completing Phase 2 Construction drawings to 100% completion and Phase 3 Construction drawings to 50% completion. Cost estimates will be provided. A Geotechnical Engineer has provided an evaluation of the site, the results of which are being incorporated into the design drawings. A Development Variance Permit for the skatepark has been submitted to the Islands Trust.

Grant Applications

The Regional District of Nanaimo is submitting two grant applications under the Federal/Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: the Community, Cultural and Recreation (CCR) Grant to complete Huxley Park Phase 2 which includes a new skatepark, parking lot, park entrance, perimeter fencing; and the Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Grant, to complete Huxley Park Phase 2 and 3 which includes both the construction of the skatepark, parking lot and fencing, as well as the replacement of the tennis courts and sports court bleachers.

Trail from Horne Lake and Heritage Designation RP-S4-1.12

The Deputy Registrar, Land Titles Victoria, recommends creating a right of way plan for the 1911 Gazetted Horne Lake Road in order to provide certainty as to road location for all parties. The RDN will obtain full boundary identification as opposed to just a centre-line traverse, and surrounding landowner Island Timberlands will gain future subdivision options. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) supports pursuit of this ROW plan. Consultation with Island Timberlands will proceed in early 2019, with a view to achieving a marked ROW and rough footpath on the ground in the fall of 2019.

Staff will meet with Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District staff in early 2019 to develop a framework for engagement with First Nations having interest in heritage designation of the traditional cross-Island passage.

TCT Trail Parking and Trail Realignment RP-S4-1.21

Land access licences were concluded with Island Timberlands and a private landowner for parking area and new access trail to the Haslam Creek Bridge. Phase I parking area and trail signage installation was completed in December 2018. This phase was supported by a \$30,000 grant from BC's Rural Dividends Program. The final phase, including horse trailer parking arrangements worked out in partnership with the mid-Island Back Country Horsemen of BC, will be completed in early 2020.

Anders & Dorrit's Community Park Design RP-S4-1.5

An application for non-farm use to the Agricultural Land Commission was made as the property is in the ALR and will involve the construction of a small (9-stall) gravel parking lot. The Agricultural Advisory Committee attended a site visit and discussed the project. At their December 7th meeting, it was moved that no comment be provided to the ALC on the project. Once a response from the ALC is received, next steps for the project can be refined.

Errington Community Park – Master Planning Process RP-S4-1.6

The Concept Master Plan for Errington Community Park and Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate was completed in December 2018. The year-long process involved community engagement, preliminary concept designs, phasing considerations, and preliminary costing. A staff report regarding proceeding to Detailed Design and Class B Costing is being prepared for Board review.

Moorecroft Washroom Construction and Cabin Removal PR-S4-1.10

A new double-vault toilet building has been completed at Moorecroft Regional Park and the portable toilets have been removed from the Park's entrance area. Ms. Moore's cabin site has been restored with native vegetation and a bench was constructed on site from the chimney and

wooden beams that were salvaged during the cabin's removal. Park staff have been in communication with Nanoose Bay Elementary School about the creation of painted tiles that can be placed on the site to represent Ms. Moore or other aspects of the Park's history or ecology. The tiles and an interpretive sign are planned for 2019.

Little Qualicum River – Crossing Design RP-S4-1.11

Detailed Design and Class B Costing for the Little Qualicum River Regional Park Bridge Replacement project were completed in December 2018. The consultant completed Tender-ready drawings as part of their submission and provided costing for a 2020 construction timeline. A report regarding proceeding to tender in 2020 is being prepared for the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee in February 2019.

Jack Bagley Park – Court Placement PR-S4-1.16

A site survey was completed in late 2018 and planning for the possible integration of a racquetball court on the property will begin in 2019. The project will involve user-group and stakeholder consultation and preliminary conceptual design to establish what elements to include and where they could be located. It is expected that detailed design of a preferred option would follow.

Village Way Path

Preliminary revised engineered drawings involving simple asphalt curb and drainage system have been accepted by MoTI. The preliminary design is currently being costed by the retained engineering firm. It is anticipated that approval drawings will be submitted to MoTI in early 2019. Preparation of tender ready documents would follow successful project review, confirmation of development budget, and confirmation of permit approval approach by MoTI.

Benson Creek Falls Facilities RP-S2-3.7

Upon final Board approval, a grant application will be submitted under the Federal/Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: the Community, Cultural and Recreation (CCR) Grant for the bridge over Benson Creek, the descent to Ammonite Falls and a parking lot on Weigles Road. A grant application will also be submitted to the Island Coastal Economic Trust's Economic Infrastructure and Innovation Program.

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

The Meadowood Community Centre Class B cost estimate for a prefabricated metal building that would serve as a community recreation centre in the Meadowood Community Park on Galvin Road has been received and reviewed. Activities are now focused on achieving a third party operating agreement that needs to be in place prior to advancing the project to tender.

Driftwood Beach Access Development RP-S4-1.1

Trail improvements, including a new aluminum staircase, have been completed at the Driftwood Road Beach access under permit with the MoTI. The stairs now provide a safe descent to the beach. Native vegetation has been planted on site to restore and decommission the steep eroded access that was historically used.

Little Qualicum Hall Renovation RP-S2-3.6

Consultants have completed the drawing package for the Little Qualicum Hall renovation and the building permit process is underway. RDN Parks will continue with Project Management for the demolition of the existing kitchen and washrooms and the construction of the new addition. The start of construction for the new kitchen and washroom addition is slated for 2019.

Dunsmuir Community Park Development RP-S4-1.7

Substantial Completion has been issued for the construction of Dunsmuir Community Park, Phase 1. Further fine grading and drainage works and plantings are planned to be completed in the spring of 2019.

Registry and Mapping

Parks and GIS staff continue to improve park property fields and detail shown in the RDN Web Map, notably accurate and uniform property size data. Draft acquisition maps for Area C and E were produced. Improved coordination between Planning, Parks and GIS is underway regarding 'statutory right of way for park use' acquisitions created through the development process.

Operational – Key Highlights

General Service Calls

The wind storm on December 20, 2018 resulted in the closure of several community and regional parks due to fallen trees. Some areas received extensive damage including parks on Mount Benson (Mount Benson Regional Park and Benson Creek Falls Regional Park), Area F parks (Malcolm and Harris Road Community Parks) and the Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail (ACPRRT). Staff spent the last days of December visiting sites and assessing the damage. In January, staff will prioritize the work and begin clearing the parks. It is expected that it will take most of January to deal with the storm damage. The ACPRRT, due to the remoteness of the site, will take longer.

Park Inspection and Service Software RP-R2-4.6

In 2018 staff carried out and documented 866 inspection elements, through 296 visits, at 215 park properties including trails and water accesses; and are working towards full compliance with the Park Inspection policy. An enhanced focus on park inspections is proactively identifying potential problems and helping identify conditions for future budget consideration or other improvements in a timely manner.

Parks Programming

Programs in our parks were successful in the last part of the year, with none being cancelled. A Geology Tour ran out of Nanoose Bay, touring through Beachcomber Regional Park and Blueback Community Park in October and was full, with nine registrants. The Amazing Race at Horne Lake Regional Park had four teams and allowed more than 15 people to complete challenges throughout the park. We will continue to improve this program with feedback from participants. The clear weather also allowed us to offer a hike up Mount Horne in October, which ran with five registrants, instructor and volunteer assistant. In November, the Secrets of Salmon Nature Tour guided registrants through parts of Big Qualicum River Regional Trail and the Big Qualicum Fish Hatchery.

Park Use Permits

Area A – Initial work started with the BC Cetacean Sighting Network to develop site specific Whale Trail signage for posting at the Nelson Road Community Boat Launch. The sign will show what can be sighted from there and encourage folks to report all cetacean sightings.

Area B – No permits this quarter.

Area C – No permits this quarter.

Area E – No permits this quarter.

Area F - Permit given to Corcan Meadowood Resident's Association for their 8th annual Halloween Event, taking place partly in Meadowood Community Park and including fireworks.

Area G - Parks Use Permit denied to Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute for a geocache at Top Bridge Regional Trail. It was deemed that the park and trail is already very well used, and has multiple geocaches already in place.

Area H - No permits this quarter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects outlined in this report have funds identified in the 2019 Budget. Electoral Area projects are funded through the associated 2019 Community Parks Budget and in some cases are supplemented by Community Works Funds or grant funding. Regional Parks projects are funded through the 2019 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.



Reviewed by:

T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks

P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Parks Work Plan – Fall 2018