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

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

SUBJECT: Parks Update Report – January to March 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report – January to March 2019 be received as information.

SUMMARY

Parks staff continue to work on projects identified in the 2019 Parks Work Plan and the RDN Operational Plan.

Planning and Capital Projects – Key Highlights

Regional Parks and Trails

Mount Benson Parking Facilities RP-S4-1.20

Parking lot construction is underway with good progress made to date. Site clearing and blasting work are complete, common excavation work, fill placement and storm drainage works are ongoing. Rock blasted from the site will be re-purposed in the design for slope armoring, land-scape features and further processed to become suitable fill material. Variable subgrade conditions were expected and clearing the site did expose areas of unsuitable subgrade soils. Removal and replacement with suitable materials was necessary and a project contingency is in place for such an occurrence. Substantial project completion is anticipated for the end of June 2019.

Benson Creek Falls Facilities RP-S2-3.7

A grant application was submitted to the Economic Infrastructure and Innovation Program for the parking lot, bridge and decent to the falls. The Stage 1 submission was approved for funding up to \$103,125. However, the project now has to be approved under Stage 2 which requires more detailed information. The deadline for the Stage 2 application is September 30th.

TCT Trail Parking and Trail Realignment RP-S4-1.21

Curb stops were added to parking stalls in Phase I Timberlands Rd parking lot. Work continues with BC Hydro on obtaining approval for erection of map sign at the Phase I parking lot. Design of the Phase II parking lot (includes horse trailer parking) and Fortis BC gas line drainage channel crossing will be concluded in the spring and in time for 2020 budget planning. Note: the Trans Canada Trail is now known as The Great Trail (TGT), and work will take place in 2019 on the replacement of all signs along approximately 22 km of TGT.

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

Staff are awaiting Island Timberlands' response to a meeting request to initiate work on dedication of the 1911 Gazetted Horne Lake Road. Recent amalgamation of Island Timberlands and TimberWest operating staff into Mosaic Forest Management has contributed to the delay.

Staff will meet in the spring with Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District staff to explore an approach to engagement with the range of First Nations having potential interest in heritage designation of a traditional First Nations passage across Vancouver Island via Horne Lake.

Community Parks and Trails

EA B - Huxley Community Park Projects RP-S4-1.2

Sports Court

The line painting contract has been issued. User groups have been contacted for review of proposed line layout and colours. Work is anticipated to occur the last week of April, weather permitting. The court will be closed for approximately 5 days. User groups will be notified of the temporary closure and notices will be posted at the park and on the RDN website.

Phase 2 and 3 Construction Drawings

Final construction drawings have been received and are with staff for review, pending approvals from the Islands Trust for a Development Variance Permit.

EA B - Village Way Path

MoTI has confirmed it will support the RDN's revised approach to path design. Final drawings and updated costing will be produced once project budget is refreshed. Work is beginning on an operating plan to establish how the path will be funded, regulated, maintained and replaced. The operating plan is to form part of a MoTI licence to develop the path. It is forecast that a report will be forwarded to the Board in the fall of 2019 concerning acceptance of a MoTI licence, funding of path construction and advancing to tender phase.

EA EW/PV - Anders & Dorrit's Community Park Design RP-S4-1.5

Additional information was provided to support the Non-Farm Use Permit application for parking lot construction previously submitted to ALC. No decision has been made by ALC at this time.

EA E - Jack Bagley Community Park – Court Placement PR-S4-1.16

The Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) closed on March 11, 2019. A preferred proponent has been recommended and a fee proposal and scope of work is currently being formalized. It is anticipated that the successful proponent will start the work for the Redevelopment Planning project by the end of April.

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

The Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) was issued on March 1, 2019 and closed March 15, 2019. Proponent evaluations are underway. The preferred proponent will be recommended by mid-April 2019; fee proposal and scope of work will be formalized by end of April 2019. Detailed design and costing to be complete by end of August 2019.

EA G - Little Qualicum Hall Renovation RP-S2-3.6

The Building Permit for upgrades to the hall was issued on March 19th and preparations for construction are underway.

EA H - Dunsmuir Community Park Development RP-S4-1.7

Construction deficiencies will be completed this spring including planting and fine grading.

General Updates

Registry and Mapping

Shape files for all community park acquisitions have been completed with work continuing on the creation of Regional Park and trail shape files. Community Park planning maps have been completed for all electoral areas and are being distributed to POSACs over the course of winter-spring 2019. The park acquisition registry system is now serving development of the RDN's asset management system.

Operations – Key Highlights

General Service Calls

Staff was heavily involved with clean-up of areas impacted by last December's windstorm. Clean-up of some areas extended into March due to weather conditions. Work on the Arrowsmith CPR Trail is still required due to earlier snow conditions.

Resident request calls and emails resulted in 10 work orders relating to hazard tree issues that required staff investigation, assessment, and in some cases removal of trees.

Park Inspection and Service Software RP-R2-4.6

Inspections were conducted at 147 park properties during the period of this report. Faults discovered during an inspection are often rectified at the time if minor or moved into the work order system if additional follow-up or other resources are necessary. Inspections help to identify items for future budget considerations and monitoring the condition of park assets.

Parks Programming

Trail Running program slated for February 24 was rescheduled to April 7 due to snowy and icy trail conditions.

Programming for Spring and Summer 2019 completed, with the Active Living Guide featuring three pages of parks information and Outdoor Recreation programs.

Park Use Permits

Area A – No permits issued for this quarter.

Area B – No permits issued for this quarter.

Area C – No permits issued for this quarter.

Area E – No permits issued for this quarter.

Area F – DFO was issued a permit to do road and side channel (Clay Young Channel) maintenance on March 21, 2019. Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society was issued a permit to do a tour of the Clay Young Channel on March 25, in conjunction with the Brant Festival.

Area G – BC Conservation Foundation was issued a permit to do an educational tour of Little Qualicum Estuary Regional Conservation Area in conjunction with the Brant Festival.

Area H - No permits issued for 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.



Wendy Marshall
wmarshall@rdn.bc.ca
April 16, 2019

Reviewed by:

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

Attachments

1. Parks Work Plan – January to March 2019