

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, June 27, 2012

10:00 AM

(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

DELEGATIONS

Motion to receive late delegation.

MINUTES

3-5

Minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held March 28, 2012

Motion to approve Minutes.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

6-11

Monthly Update – Community and Regional Parks and Trails - April 2012

12-18

Monthly Update – Community and Regional Parks and Trails - May 2012

Henry Morgan Community Park - Construction Update (verbal)

2012 Budget highlights – Community Parks Electoral Area H (to be circulated)

Five Year Project Plan 2012-2015 (to be circulated)

Detailed project Plan 2012 (to be circulated)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Area H Beach Accesses

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 25, 2012 10:00am
Lighthouse Community Centre

Distribution: B. Veenhof (Chairperson), R. Leontowich, D. Seydel, N. Robertson, B. Ellis, M. Little, V. Weismiller,
T. Osborne, D. Palidwor, E. McCulloch

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012
10:00 AM

Attendance: Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board
Marguerite Little
Dagmar Seydel
Barry Ellis
Richard Leontowich
Val Weismiller
Nancy Robertson

Staff: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Veenhof called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

MOVED B. Ellis, SECONDED V. Weismiller, that D. Seydel is nominated for Secretary.
CARRIED

MINUTES

MOVED B. Ellis, SECONDED V. Weismiller, that the minutes from the August 25, 2011 meeting be approved.
CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED V. Weismiller, Seconded M. Little to receive the following:
M. Procter, Re: Thank You Term on Commission.
CARRIED

REPORTS

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects May–August 2011.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for May-August 2011.

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects September 2011.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for September 2011.

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects October 2011.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for October 2011.

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects November 2011.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for November 2011.

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects December 2011 – January 2012.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for December 2011-January 2012.

Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects February 2012.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community and Regional Parks and Trail projects for February 2012.

Zoning Amendment Application – 2900 Leon Road (Dias).

Ms. McCulloch gave a verbal update on the Deas Road rezoning application. Parkland dedication is not required but the developer is offering a \$20,000 amenity contribution which will stay in the immediate community. These funds may be used in the future upgrades to Dunsmuir Community Park.

Henry Morgan Community Park – Community Recreation Grant Update

Funding for the Phase 1 park development will come from a Provincial Community Recreation Grant (\$85,000) and from Area H Community Park reserves (\$75,000). When the subdivision adjacent to the park is constructed, the developer is required to construct Esray road as an emergency access road therefore, the proposed park parking lot for the park on Esray road is temporary. Future park parking will likely be accommodated along the new internal subdivision road along the east park boundary.

Henry Morgan Park will be the first natural playground in RDN and will be built to meet accessibility standards. Construction is to begin in late summer. The plans cannot be changed much as it is grant specific. Additional trail connections to Esray Road will be constructed as part of a future phase. Trail along Esray Road to provide linkage to the village center will be considered as part of the first phase if additional funds can be found in the 2012 budget. Director Veenhof may submit an article in the Beacon about the park.

Proposed Cash-in-lieu of Park Dedication in Conjunction with Proposed Subdivision 6620 Island Highway West and adjacent property to the north

The Committee was in favour of taking cash in lieu as opposed to park land dedication although it was discussed that we need a plan of what we want when we take cash in lieu.

The Committee would like to encourage RDN staff to define future park space in area 'H'

Moved B. Veenoff, SECONDED V. Weismiller take cash in lieu on plan 6620 as opposed to park land dedication.

CARRIED

Five Year Project Plan 2012-2013

Tabled to next meeting

Detailed Project Plan 2012

Tabled to next meeting

MOVED , V. Weismiller, SECONDED N. Robertson, that the reports be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Lions Club Highway Sign Kiosk

The Lions Club is working with MoTI to install a sign kiosk at the intersection of Highway 19A and Lions Way. Director Veenhof will inquire if the RDN will pay for the regional trail sign. Mr. Leontowich will contact Ms. McCulloch to provide sign specifications.

BEACH ACCESS

The committee would like to do some beach access planning as a group in the future to discuss potential sites, costs and maintenance. Ms. McCulloch is to provide the Committee with copies of the Beach Access inventory binder at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED N.Robertson, SECONDED D.Seydel, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Chair

TO: Dean Banman
Acting General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: May 14, 2012

FROM: Dave Palidwor
Manager of Parks Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

For the month of April 2012 staff has been involved with the following projects and issues:

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Staff responded to mapping requests concerning the Trans Canada Trail, Morden Colliery and other trail corridors.

Staff prepared two concept plans for the proposed cartop boat launch on Quennell Lake. The public was invited to an Open House on April 17th to discuss the concept plans with RDN Parks and Provincial Fisheries staff. A questionnaire was distributed to those that attended the open house and was also made available to the wider community through the RDN website.

Area B

Staff worked with VIHA to correct their paperwork on the Rollo Concession operation and clarified that the RDN does not operate it, but permits others to do so. Also investigated concession fridge ownership and repair.

At Rollo McClay Community Park a number of maintenance items were attended to, including replacement of eaves-trough downspouts, installation of a new vent screen at the portable, fencing repairs on the ball diamond backstops, seed and fertilizer were delivered and spread on both fields, and an inspection of the pond liner completed. An engineered plan for the replacement of the pond liner has now been ordered from Levelton Engineering Ltd. Well-head area fencing repairs are also underway.

Staff also made a site visit to Rollo McClay Community Park with Water Services staff to examine the water treatment and delivery system. Maintenance responsibility for drinking water provision at the park is being transferred to RDN Regional and Community Utilities.

Staff worked with the Gabriola Recreation Society and the East Vancouver Bike Polo Association to conclude a permit for a bike polo event Easter weekend at Huxley CP. Event was successful and passed without incident.

A hazard tree was removed at Blue Heron Community Park, and several hazard trees were removed at the community park off the east end of Queequeg Turnabout.

Two handrails were added to the existing bleachers at Huxley Community Park.

Aeration of the ball fields has been completed, and mowing of the ball fields and four Whalebone area parks has begun for the season.

Area C

An arborist report was received regarding two fruit trees at Extension Miners Community Park.

Staff consulted with area kayakers and VIU/NALT Nanaimo River group to confirm a name for the new community park located on Nanaimo River Road and known for decades as the A-frame after an old Boy Scouts camp structure. The recommended Park name is Nanaimo River Canyon CP, in recognition of the unique terrain now serviced by viewing trail.

East Wellington/Pleasant Valley

Mowing has begun for the season at Meadow Drive Community Park.

The RDN has received title to a new community park on Jinglepot Road, that was donated as part of the Olesen estate. The park is to be named Anders Dorrit Park. Staff are assessing the condition of the house and grounds and attending to any hazardous conditions prior to allowing public access.

Area E

In response to community requests, the SD69 has reinstalled the garbage can at Jack Bagley Community Park so this will result in less clean up in that area by RDN staff.

Staff is monitoring reports of unauthorized vehicle access to a section of the Schooner Ridge Path in Fairwinds and are planning to place a vehicle barricade at the entrance.

Area F

Staff prepared all materials and advertising for the first Meadowood Community Park Workshop held on April 28. Input was received on vision, principles, issues and preliminary park elements. Over 20 people/stakeholders participated. A summary of input received from the Workshop participants and the online questionnaires will be produced following close of the survey in mid-May.

Staff worked with the POSAC to determine a name and logo for the first ACT Trail: group concluded on Errington School Trail.

Staff worked with the Area Director, POSAC, School, PAC and Arrowsmith coordinators on the ACT 1 trail opening event. Staff also worked with Errington Elementary School Principal on gathering and training a crew of student nature guides and singers for the official opening. The event was attended by approximately 60 people.

Area G

Staff conducted several meetings with consultants, partners, and an adjacent property owner in the course of planning work for an upcoming bank stabilization project at Miller Road Community Park. Legal documentation with the prime contractor, BC Conservation Foundation, is nearing completion. A

site visit to a recent, similar project on the same water course was also conducted. Work is scheduled to begin in mid-July.

An invasive plant species sweep of the Miller park property saw the removal of a large volume of Giant Hogweed throughout the park. Additional, supporting work was also conducted on neighbouring properties by Friends of French Creek Society volunteers.

At Hawthorne Rise Community Park staff completed brushing along the trails and boulevard.

Area H

At Dunsmuir Community Park staff painted over graffiti covering a toilet surround and cleaned up garbage and debris.

At Franksea Road (a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure beach access) staff responded to a complaint regarding dumping and trespass by adjacent property owner and resolved the problem.

Parks staff reviewed the rezoning application for 2900 Leon Road (Dias). Due to concern regarding the impact of land clearing on the subject parcel in relation to the trees located in the linear park adjacent to the subject property, parks staff requested an arborist report. Staff reviewed the arborist report and recommended that the identified hazard trees in the park be cleared at the time of land clearing on the subject property. Due to the difficulty of coordinating the removal of the trees in the park, the applicant has provided cash-in-lieu and parks will proceed with the hazard tree removal when required.

Vegetation management activities were undertaken at McColl Road Community park.

Staff met with Ministry of Forests staff to discuss urban interface fire risks and abatement options within RDN park properties.

Staff worked with the Lions and Hall Board representatives regarding the Hwy signage and a proposed new lane connection between the Hall and Community Park properties. New Highway sign will include a panel for the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail.

Regional Parks and Trails

Arboretum

A steel forestry gate was installed at the Arboretum entrance.

Beachcomber Regional Park

A portable washroom and cedar surround was installed including new stairs.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff continued to monitor beaver debris, pond leveler and water level of the marsh.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

New siding was installed on the park office and skirting repair was also completed.

Staff worked with RDN Water services staff to develop an emergency response plan document for the water system and to apply for a new drinking water permit .

Staff received the 2011 year-end report and occupancy statistics from park operator. No significant change from previous years.

Staff initiated Oceans Day planning with park operator.

Englishman River Regional Park

Staff responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees.

Park staff cut and removed several trees that came down on the main access road and trails.

Park staff installed new trail marking signs.

Staff met with BC Hydro regarding revegetation planning for the riparian area.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Park staff removed the old generator building.

Staff assisted with an ATV vandalism incident at Southpark. RCMP has been provided with video showing people burning a picnic table. RCMP is being encouraged to undertake more ATV patrols.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Staff developed detailed drawings for the improvements to the parking area and trail surfacing. A tender package will be distributed to contractors in mid-May. The official opening of the trail is set for June 23.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Parks staff removed an old section of fence along the boundary because of damage from 'king' tides. The old T-bar posts and wire were removed from the area. This section was measured and new fencing material has been ordered for the repairs.

Staff met with the Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries Society in order to review a draft agreement in support of Canada Goose research at the Little Q and Englishman estuaries.

Staff worked with legal counsel to finalize a 99 year lease with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Staff prepared all materials and advertising for the first Workshop held on April 28. Input was received on vision, principles, issues and preliminary park elements for both parks. Over 20 people/stakeholders participated. A summary of input received from the Workshop participants and the online questionnaires will be produced following close of the survey in mid-May.

Moorecroft Regional Park

Staff prepared for the Advisory Committee meeting in early May. Consultants provided a preliminary draft of management policies and action items for review.

Park Operations staff carried out the following works at Moorecroft Regional Park:

- Fence built to protect rare coastal wood fern along Vesper Point.
- Removal of old windows and bedframes from under Stringer Hall
- Septic fields were tested and it is affirmed they are still useable
- Pruned back shrubs along the main road into the park.

Morden Colliery Trail

Staff received notice from the Province of the registration of NCID's water line SRW across the trail. Amendments to the SRW agreement in order to better protect trail interests were included as requested.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Staff arranged a site meeting with The Land Conservancy Executive Director and Vancouver Island Land Manager, Ministry of Forests research scientists, propagation specialists and parks staff in order to review the history and status of the various research plantations at the park. Forestry staff will develop a limited harvest proposal so wood strength can be tested; they will also provide the stories behind the plantations for use in interpretive signage.

Park staff has installed two split rail fence sections along the river to keep the public away from the eroding river bank.

Parksville Qualicum Links

Staff hosted the second quarterly cycling working group meeting of 2012 with representatives from the Oceanside Cycling Coalition, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. Reviewed Bike to Work Week plans, and developed a game plan for adding way markers to the PQ Links route. Bike to Work Week will be used to test some painted symbols within the Town and City.

Staff met with local cyclists to discuss safety issues with the Barclay Crescent Bridge railing and will be adding a 'rub' rail along the bridge.

Other

Staff updated the park inventory (two new Area C community parks officially transferred to the RDN).

Recreation and Parks staff met with Information Services mapping staff to vet previously collected GPS field data and to prioritize/schedule future collection sites.

Improvements were made to the operations shop, including items stemming from a health and safety inspection. Safety equipment was organized and a Work Safe BC facility inspection was conducted.

Approving two park use permits for DFO with regard to a 2011 coho smolt count on the Englishman River, and bolstering of the south side of the beaver pond in order to prevent side channel water and fish from entering the main stem.

Staff met to discuss aspects of future parkland dedication through the Fairwinds project. A list of items to consider/request of the developer was generated for further review.

RDN parks staff met with City of Nanaimo staff and a representative from the Nanaimo Mtn. Bike Club to review desired future biking connections in the City and region, as well as to receive an overview of correspondence between the MBC and other agencies/organizations to date.

Staff met with Bylaw Enforcement staff to review the Province's off-road vehicle initiative.

Recommendations

That the Parks Update Report for April 2012 be received as information.

Original signed by D. Palidwor

Original signed by D. Banman

Manager of Parks Services

Acting General Manager Concurrence

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: June 12, 2012

FROM: Dave Palidwor
Manager of Parks Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

For the month of May 2012 staff has been involved with the following projects and issues:

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Staff removed large Cherry tree at Thelma Griffiths Park and cleaned debris from playground equipment.

Staff reviewed the questionnaire feedback for the Quennell Lake Boat Launch and prepared a summary report of the results.

Area B

Park and community volunteers completed pressure-washing and maintenance work at the twin tennis courts at Huxley Community Park. Assistance also came from the Gabriola Fire Department with the use of a large, portable water reservoir.

At Rollo McClay Community Park water system maintenance and pest control work was undertaken.

Mowing and irrigation system maintenance work continued both at Rollo McClay Community Park and at several waterfront parks in the Whalebone area. Magnesium chloride was applied to both parking areas to control dust.

Staff conducted a site visit to assess culvert and trail development options for a community-built trail along an undeveloped Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road right of way.

Staff attended a tour of the Mudge Island water accesses in preparation for the upcoming public consultation process.

Staff updated the Electoral Area 'B' Five-Year Project Plan , the 2012 Detailed Project Plan and the 2012 Budget Highlights report.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 29th POSAC meeting agenda, and attended the meeting.

Staff continued to prepare the final signage plan for the 707 Community Park.

Area C

East Wellington/Pleasant Valley

Staff conducted preliminary site assessments at Anders Dorrit Community Park. Site meetings with a building moving contractor and RDN Building Inspection staff were part of the research that is currently underway to determine logistics and costs for two options for the site- either keeping or removing the vacant residential building on the property.

At Meadow Drive staff performed an inspection of the planted trees to ensure good health, and removed branch debris from the park. A playground inspection was also completed.

Extension

At Extension Miners Community Park staff contacted a neighbor regarding a complaint about park trees, and provided them with a copy of a recently conducted arborist report. Staff also performed routine tree pruning and extensive weed eating.

Area E

Staff followed up with the Ministry of Forests, Range and Natural Resource Operations for an update on the status of DL33 as regards potential trail development there. The Ministry will explore once harvesting has concluded.

Staff is monitoring reports of unauthorized vehicle access to a section of the Schooner Ridge Path in Fairwinds and is planning to place a vehicle barricade at the entrance.

Staff met with Property Resource staff from DND regarding the location of beach access stairs at Ainsley Road Community Park. A portion of the stairs trespass onto adjacent DND lands. Permission for the continued siting of the stairs was granted with the caveat that the Recreation and Parks Department note their location in a letter to DND. Any future reconstruction of the stairs will see their placement wholly within the community park property.

Garbage collection and site clean-up was conducted at Jack Bagley Community Park.

At Nanoose Road Community Park staff responded to a park neighbor's report of a fallen tree, removing the tree and repairing the fence.

At Stone Lake Drive Community Park staff performed extensive vegetation maintenance work.

Staff conducted pruning and a clean-up at both Park Place and Blueback Community Parks.

Following a report from a local stewardship group, staff removed Hogweed from an undeveloped park on Harlequin Road.

Staff updated the Electoral Area 'E' Five-Year Project Plan, the 2012 Detailed Project Plan and the 2012 Budget Highlights report.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 4th POSAC meeting agenda, and attended the meeting.

Area F

Staff held a site meeting at Errington Community Park with representatives of the Errington Hall Board and Farmers Market in order to review operations, facilities and active parties at the park in preparation for drawing up a formal operating agreement with the Hall Board. It was noted that the Errington Community Park will turn 100 years old in 2015, and a celebration will be in order. A number of park improvements desired for 2015 were identified.

Staff removed branch debris at Veteran's Memorial Community Park, left by BC Hydro line clearing operations, and performed considerable trail brushing and clearing throughout the property.

Vegetation and garbage removal was undertaken at Harris Crescent Community Park.

Staff prepared the Phase 1 Engagement Summary for Meadowood Community Park Master Plan planning process (online survey #1, workshop #1, and stakeholder consultation). Staff also reviewed the draft concept plans, vision, principles and design goals and prepared a draft agenda for workshop #2 for discussion by the LQRRP/MCP Advisory Committee.

Staff updated the Electoral Area 'F' Five-Year Project Plan, the 2012 Detailed Project Plan and the 2012 Budget Highlights report.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 14th POSAC meeting agenda, and attended the meeting.

Director Fell and Staff provided a tour of Meadowood Community Park and presented the development plans for the park to Minister Ida Chong.

Area G

A required Section 9 application (Changes In and Around a Stream) under the Water Act was submitted to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for planned bank stabilization work on French Creek at Miller Road Community Park. Consultation with an adjacent landowner resulted in an access agreement for allowing construction vehicle access to the site. Permits from DFO are still being sought. Staff has also consulted with the Marion Baker Fish Hatchery, who is the downstream streamkeeper group, in order to coordinate the project with their upcoming release of over 20,000 salmon fry into the creek. Further community and partner consultation will occur in June leading up to the proposed start date in July. Staff also ordered and received safety signage for in-stream woody debris development, mandated by Marine Transport Canada, to be installed at the time of construction. A site meeting with an arborist was also held to determine hazard tree requirements prior to construction.

The parking lot at Top Bridge Community Park was graded.

At Lee Road Community Park staff performed a hazard tree inspection.

At Dashwood Community Park staff conducted brushing and trail maintenance work, and posted 'no motorized vehicles' signs.

Staff contacted a memorial bench donor following a vandalism and theft incident, and ordered new plaques, to be installed in June.

Following a report from a Dalmatian Community Park staff pruned a Douglas Fir tree on the property boundary and repaired a damaged fence.

Staff attended a meeting with Planning Staff and the developer regarding the proposed re-zoning and future subdivision of 691 Wembley Road.

Area H

Staff issued a park use permit for the 2nd Annual Lighthouse Bluegrass Festival (over the July 1st long weekend) after meeting with the Lions Society to discuss emergency exit options out for potential use by overnight Festival campers. In time, a gate will be added.

Staff worked with the Lions and Lighthouse Community Hall board on the installation of a controlled access between the Community Park and the Hall property. The new access will improve circulation between the two public properties during large events like the Fall Fair and Bluegrass Festival.

Staff worked with the Lions Society on their community information sign at the corner of Hwy 19A and Lions Way. The sign will advertise all the community agencies and facilities in the vicinity of the Community Hall including the Lions Community Park and the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail.

Staff worked with the family and friends of park champion Alice Antonelli on a small commemoration at Wildwood Community Park where the main trail is being named Alice's Trail. Trail signs ordered and installed.

Staff responded to various complaints from residents and the Fire Department about a neighbour misusing the Franksea water access and arranged for intervention by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Staff met on site at Oakdowne Community Park with Ministry of Forests staff to discuss urban interface fire risks and abatement options within RDN park properties.

Staff attended a site meeting at a proposed new Community Park on Leon road to conduct a hazard tree assessment including consulting with the adjacent property owner.

Staff conducted brushing work at several area beach access and community park sites.

A park clean-up was completed at Illusion Lake Community Park.

Staff attended a project meeting with the consultant regarding the preparation of final working drawing and tender documents for Henry Morgan Community Park.

Director Veenhof and Staff provided a tour of Henry Morgan Community Park and presented the development plans for the park to Minister Ida Chong.

Regional Parks and Trails

Arboretum

Staff worked with the volunteers in their efforts to refurbish and update the historical Arboretum.

Benson creek Falls Regional Park

Park staff installed directional signs on the Jameson Rd entrance through the VIU woodlot.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff continued to monitor beaver debris, pond leveler and water level of the marsh.

Staff worked with legal counsel on the final legal paperwork for the acquisition of the park.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

Staff conducted park inspections. Tents were delivered for Oceans Day festivities.

Staff assisted the Park Operator with promotional materials including a 2012 Oceans Day poster and 2004-2011 occupancy statistics for the park.

Englishman River Regional Park

Park Staff carried out routine inspections of Englishman River Regional Park and Top Bridge Park. Staff responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees.

The gate at the end of Allsbrook Road is now opening at 7 am and closing at 9 pm during the summer months. Park staff emptied the deep bin garbage cans and the parking lot was graded.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Park staff removed the old generator building and recycled the old fuel tank.

The water treatment system was commissioned in May and has met Vancouver Island Health Authorities standard.

Staff worked with the Park Operator on a park use permit for the Learn to Fish Program. The free 2-hr Program will be delivered at the Park on three Fridays over the summer.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Staff prepared drawings, details and contract documentation and issued a Request for Quotations for drainage and accessible surfacing works at the Lioness Blvd trailhead and trail to the E&N. Staff recruited some local medi-scooter users during the design phase in order to refine some of the details. The successful contractor is completing the works in time for the June 23rd official Lighthouse Country Trail opening. Planning for the June 23rd official opening of the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail started with the assistance of a number of community groups including Area H POSAC, Lions Society Senior Housing Manager, Fire Department, area trail users, Oceanside mobility and sight impairment groups and a local Para-Olympian. Irene Wilson (Wilson Woodlot) was invited to act as official ribbon cutter with public officials.

Staff applied for an updated permit for works on Lioness Blvd from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Staff assisted the Lions Society with promotion for the June Prostate Cancer walk.

Staff met with Parksville Councillor and RDN Board Member Mark Lefebvre to discuss ways of marketing Lighthouse Country Regional Trail to assisted living and long-term care facilities.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Staff finalized the Ducks Unlimited Canada/ RDN 99-year lease and Section 219 covenant to be forwarded to the RDN Board for approval.

Staff met with the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers on site to review their invasive plant removal and disposal strategies and with the BC Conservation Foundation regarding their proposed works to restore the spit fish channel.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Staff met with representatives from several stakeholder groups for input into the LQR management plan and the Meadowood park design. Stakeholders included: Mid-island ATV Club, Ozero Sand & Gravel, Wicklow West Holdings, BC Parks, BC Hydro. A meeting with the Dashwood Fire Dept is scheduled for mid-June. Staff has prepared all materials and advertising for the second Workshop, planned for June 16. Focus will be on the draft concept plan for the regional park, the draft vision, goals, and objectives. Ongoing work on the management plan will continue through the summer.

Moorecroft Regional Park

The second Advisory Committee meeting occurred May 2 and included a presentation from the Archaeology Society of BC with an update to the archaeologically sensitive areas at Moorecroft Regional Park. An action item from the meeting was to meet again with the Nanoose First Nation to clarify ideas around a long house/learning centre and other partnership ideas that have resulted during the planning process. The Nanoose Area Director, his Alternate, staff and consultants met with the First Nation representatives June 1 to begin to form this relationship around Moorecroft, and other potential opportunities within the RDN.

Park Staff carried out the following works at Moorecroft Regional Park:

- Memorial bench on Cooks point was secured
- Porch was replaced on the caretaker house for safety reasons.
- Power poles and lines were assessed and decommissioned where necessary.
- Septic fields were assessed for performance and a quotation for repair work obtained.
- New signs were installed in the parking area.
- A secondary access road at the main entry was tested, using a school bus, to see what improvements are required for buses to use this route in order to free up parking space in the main parking area.

A storage building and the boathouse were broken into resulting in the loss of a minor piece of equipment. This was reported to RCMP.

Morden Colliery Trail

Provided letter to property owner flanking both sides of Crown corridor that confirms no vehicular access is permitted across the Regional Trail.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff conducted trail maintenance and installed new directional signage at the Douglas fir growth and yield study site.

Parksville Qualicum Links

Staff responded to a community request to modify the Barclay Crescent Bridge railing to make it safer for bicyclists.

Top Bridge Regional Park

Park staff conducted spring trail maintenance.

Trans Canada Trail

Update provided to the TCT BC/National on the status of the Timberlands Rd trailhead project and planning for a Nanaimo River Crossing. TCT advised of the appointment of new Vancouver Island TCT Director Clive Webber and Director at Large Dan Brown.

Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail

Obtained an update from the Ministry of Forests, Range and Natural Resource Operations about their bid to give s.56 status to the trail: the staff supported bid is with the Minister for formal approval. Once obtained, the Crown and the RDN can conclude an operating agreement for the trail.

Other

Some park staff attended various park and trail sessions at the annual BC Recreation and Parks Association Symposium held in Victoria including trail and park projects in the Cowichan Valley.

Staff provided assistance to various community groups including:

- Oceanside Cycling Coalition in planning and promoting Bike to Work Week 2012.
- CFB Comox with climbing locations for their SAR people
- local cyclists with their effort to see improvements made to the Hwy 19A bridge over French Creek
- Campbell River Rotary with planning recreational bridge development
- Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club with base mapping and to discuss coordinating organized access to private, Crown and VIU woodlot lands west of Nanaimo

Staff also assisted other RDN staff on various initiatives:

- Recreation Programmer with the locations Golden Shoe parks
- Communications Coordinator regarding videoing at the two campground parks for upload to HelloBC
- Long Range Planner requesting input about covenants and other means of increasing environmental sustainability in rural residential zones

Recommendations

That the Parks Update Report for May 2012 be received as information.

Original signed by D. Palidwor

Original signed by T. Osborne

Manager of Parks Services

General Manager Concurrence