

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**ELECTORAL AREA 'F' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 2015
7:00 PM**

(ARROWSMITH HALL)

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 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held June 10, 2015.

Motion to approve Minutes.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6

2015-2019 Work Plan – Updated

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Motion to receive Communications/Correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

7-14

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects- May 2015

15-25

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Project- June-August 2015

Arrowsmith Community Trail (ACT) Update – Price Rd (verbal)

Meadowood Community Park Portable Update (verbal)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

ACT Trails sub-committee meeting (Thursday, November 26, 2015)

POSAC Member Term Expiry 2015 (A. Jablonski, B. Smith, E. Billingsley)

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

NEXT MEETING

TBD

Distribution: J. Fell, D. Edgeley, C. Anderson, A. Jablonski, B. Smith, E. Billingsley, R. Nosworthy, T. Osborne,
W. Marshall, E. McCulloch

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE AREA 'F' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (POSAC)
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
7:00PM
AT THE ARROWSMITH HALL, COOMBS**

ATTENDANCE: Julian Fell, director RDN Board, Chair
Alfred Jablonski
Barbara Smith
Reg Nosworthy

REGRETS: Earl Billingsley
Colin Anderson
David Edgeley

STAFF: Wendy Marshall
Elaine McCulloch

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fell called the meeting to order 7:05 p.m. .

DELEGATION

N. Mongeau – Errington Community Park Playground Proposal

N. Mongeau spoke on behalf of the Errington War Memorial Hall Society. She stated that Errington Community Park needs a Playground for younger children; an Adventure Playground for youths; and a beginner/intermediate small skate park for older children who are just learning skateboard and BMX skills. She understands that this is potentially a very expensive project. She requested further information on what the process is to pursue this idea, how to focus down onto the design and costing, gathering feedback from the Community and generating alternate funding sources.

J. Diewold – Errington Community School Trail Update

Elaine McCulloch presented the update for J. Diewold, who was not present. The interpretive signs have been made and will be installed along the trail by June School year-end.

MINUTES

MOVED R. Nosworthy, SECONDED A. Jablonski that the Minutes of the Electoral Area F Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) dated March 11th, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

B. Smith advised that she will continue to contact the Nanoose First Nations about the Silver Spur Riding Club's s.57 Application on the Little Mountain Crown Lands. R. Nosworthy questioned the notation that staff provided parks' comments to RDN Planning regarding a rezoning application. E. McCulloch confirmed that the POSAC could comment about subdivision applications, but not rezoning.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Fell had received an email from the School District 69 Board that they would be listing for sale three of the lots comprising the old Errington Elementary School.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trail Projects – Jan-April 2015

Ms. McCulloch referred to the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects report for March 31, April 15th, and May 20th, 2015, provided to the committee. E McCulloch advised that the directional signage has been installed at Malcolm Community Park.

Meadowood Community Park Opening (verbal)

A. Jablonski advised that an Architect was designing the upgrade to the Meadowood Community Park portables. There will be a formal park opening on June 22 starting at 3:30 pm. The park is currently open for public use.

Arrowsmith Community Trail (ACT) Update – Price Rd (verbal)

W. Marshall updated that a contractor has been hired to tidy up the (ACT) Price Road Trail.

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED R. Nosworthy to receive the Reports.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE DELEGATIONS

MOVED R. Nosworthy, SECONDED A. Jablonski that the RDN staff be directed to provide preliminary guidance to the Errington War Memorial Hall Society on what steps are necessary to plan a Playground at Errington Park.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Grafton/Cranswick Flooding

Chair Fell reported on the issues centered on the Grafton/Cranswick Flooding. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has studied the area but has made no decisions regarding what to do about the flooding in the area.

2015 – 2019 Work Plan

E. McCulloch handout a sheet outlining the 5 Year Project Planning Worksheet. Added to the high priority for 2016 will be the Errington Playground planning. No amount assessed as yet. Reference was made to the French Creek School Community Park planning; the property is a recent addition to the park inventory. The 2016 Arrowsmith Community Trail (ACT) planning and construction needed clarifying to refer to the specific number - 3.

2015 Budget Summary

The handout referred to the total revenue in 2015 of \$151,711, which includes a carry forward surplus of \$27,711 from the prior year.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED B. Smith to adjourn at 9 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson

RDN Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks

5-Year Project Planning: 2015-2019

PLANNING WORKSHEET

October 2015

A suggested schedule for completion of each phase of the process is presented in the following chart. This schedule is provided for planning purposes only and is subject to change to accommodate staff and funding constraints.

		Budget Notes	General Notes
current year project			
✓ completed projects			
Ongoing Projects			
	Administrative support for Electoral Area 'F' POSAC		in-house: staff time
	Create a Developers package (CPTS-2014)		in-house: staff time
	Create a Volunteer Policy & Guidelines (CPTS-2015)		in-house: staff time
	Develop a Memorial Bench Policy		in-house: staff time
High Priority Projects (2015-2016)			
✓	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): Price Rd	\$11,000	2015 Community Works Fund
	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): Carrothers	\$1,500	culvert, rip rap, signage, tree work?
	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): review of next steps	-	
	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): private land agreements	-	in-house: staff time
	Errington Community Park: Operator Agreement	-	in-house: staff time
✓	Errington Community Park: maintenance upgrades & 100th anniversary	\$10,000	
✓	Meadowood CP: drainage works	\$6,000	
	Errington Community Park: playground planning - work with volunteers	-	in-house: staff time
	Errington Community Park: Parking upgrades	\$12,500	\$10,000 from amenity contribution + \$2,500 from CP budget
2016	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): planning & construction (Cranswick?)	\$15,000 -\$25,000	\$10,000 CP Budget + Community Works Funds?
2016	French Creek (school) CP: garbage can	\$1,000	
2016	Errington Community Park: playground design	\$10,000	CP Budget
Medium Priority Projects (2017-2018)			
2017	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): planning & construction	\$10,000	(\$2,000 planning/survey + \$8,000 construction)
2017	French Creek School: porta-potty and surround	\$7,500	
2017	French Creek School: Planning		
2017	Errington Community Park: Playground construction phase 1	\$10,000	CP Budget (possible top up with Community Works Funds)
2018	Errington Community Park: Playground construction phase 2	\$20,000	CP Budget (possible top up with Community Works Funds)
Low Priority Projects (2019)			
2019	Meadowood Community Park: Phase 3 trail & signage upgrades	\$10,000	order of magnitude estimated cost; not based on official estimate (for planning purposes only)
2019	Arrowsmith Community Trails (ACT): planning & construction	\$10,000	order of magnitude estimated cost; not based on official estimate (for planning purposes only)
Additional Project Suggestions			
Community Parks and Trails Strategic Plan			
	Romaine Rd Community Park: work with community re: potential bike skills park		
	Investigate feasibility of URL trail from Longmoor Rd to Chatsworth Rd.		
	Investigate feasibility of a bridge connection from Errington to the Englishman River area		
	Consider disposition of three surplus parks		
	Investigate improvements to Errington Community Park		
	Meadowood Community Park: Phase 3 (pump track) construction	\$20,000 - \$25,000	order of magnitude estimated cost; not based on official estimate (for planning purposes only)
Completed Projects			
2014	Meadowood Community Park: Phase 1 construction	\$141,036	2014 budgeted amount (includes \$54,750 Provincial Community Recreation Grant funding)
2015	Malcolm Community Park: signage plan & installation		
2015	Meadowood Community Park: Phase 2 grading & seeding		

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation & Parks

DATE: June 10, 2015

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Park Services

MEETING: D69 Recreation Commission –May 21,2015
All POSAC’s, RPTSC

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects- May 2015

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report for May 2014 be received as information.

Regional and Community Parks and Trails

During May staff have been involved with the following projects and issues.

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Park staff reviewed design work for a possible information and seating kiosk at Cedar Plaza in collaboration with a community designer and builder.

Due to another incident at the Cedar Skate Park a large volume of graffiti was removed. This is two months in a row the department has dealt with similar vandalism at the site. Staff provided a summary of expenses for the construction of the Cedar Skate Park to the Province, a reporting requirement of the Community Recreation Grant.

Site brushing, garbage collection and maintenance work was carried out at three beach access sites (Nelson Road, Ritten Road, and Pylades Road).

A new Community Park located on Mac Millan Rd in Cedar was officially transferred to the RDN on April 16th.

Area B

Staff prepared a board report and associated documents supporting a 30-year renewal of the licence of occupation from the Province for Joyce Lockwood Community Park. The renewal was supported by the Board.

Staff completed a review of community park names, and prepared a report for the POSAC on naming protocols and some suggested name revisions for Area B.

Water delivery/supply and chlorine monitoring work was ongoing at Rollo McClay Community Park. The field mowing contract continued, and summer fertilization of the field took place. Park and field user data was collected to better determine/schedule water delivery requirements for the park.

Staff liaised with community members regarding a proposed playground development for Rollo McClay Community Park and worked with a playground distributor to develop playground design options and cost estimates.

Staff worked with the Gabriola Island Lion's Club to prepare and submit a Coop Community Spaces grant application for the proposed playground at Huxley Park. A damaged fence was repaired at the Park.

Area C – Extension

Park staff conducted a park inspection at Nanaimo River Canyon Community Park. Access (key) was granted by TimberWest's Couverdon Real Estate department for RDN staff to access the site on the existing road which travels through Timberwest property. RDN staff and Couverdon met to discuss a joint venture for management of their property and the park.

Area E

At Nanoose Road Community Park staff brushed all walking trails and the playground area.

At Collins Crescent Community park staff removed garbage from the park and responded to a call from a neighbour about motorcycle and bicycle jump construction. This site will be monitored for additional development in the coming months.

Staff continued to work with the Landscape Architecture consultant to refine the concept plan for Blueback CP.

Staff prepared and distributed the May 27th Electoral Area E POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes.

Area F

At Meadowood Community Park staff completed playground, parking lot, and park development work, and installed several signs. Tree watering was also conducted throughout the month on new plantings. The park was opened for public use on May 29th. Recreation and Parks staff started planning the Meadowood CP Grand Opening event scheduled for June 22nd.

At Errington Community Park a large volume of trail surfacing and development work was completed, and the former tennis court area was cleared. Parking lot grading and improvements were also completed.

Contracted tree falling and brushing work was completed at French Creek Community School. The playground equipment was inspected and pressure washed.

Area G

Parks staff attended a meeting with the RDN Planning Department, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the French Creek Residents Association to hear from the Association on some of the concerns they have with the form and character of subdivision and transportation planning in their

community. The meeting clarified some of the constraints and parameters within which subdivisions, roads and greenspaces are planned in the Regional District context and that it is quite different than in a municipal setting. There was a strong desire for greater community input to these processes. Intent to hold bi-annual meetings was discussed and may be a first step in continuing open dialogue between the Association, MOTI and the RDN.

Trail and park brushing work was carried out at Barclay Crescent Bridge, Miller Road Community Park, Lee Road Community Park, Hawthorne Rise Community Park and Boulton Community Park.

Staff liaised with RDN Utilities regarding upcoming broom removal work at River's Edge Community Park.

Area H

Staff continued to work with the Director and area volunteers on the mapping of non-RDN trails in Qualicum Bay – Bowser.

Staff worked with MoTI staff to confirm that their records of old RDN water access permits are complete.

Two pedestrian footbridges were constructed at Islewood Community Park.

Park maintenance including garbage removal, pressure washing, and trail brushing was conducted at Deep Bay Community Park, Henry Morgan Community Park, McColl Road Community Park, Rose Park, and several MOTI beach access sites.

Two hazard trees were removed at the Ocean Trail/Thompson Clarke Trail.

Staff provided display material for the H Parks Open House held on May 10th.

Staff prepared and distributed the May 20th Electoral Area H POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and provided the meeting minutes.

Community Works Projects

Area B

Design work is nearing completion for the Village Trail project. Following design completion, a pre-construction cost estimate will be prepared and will provide an indication of whether construction phasing over time is required. The project's construction schedule will be determined following any phasing decisions and MOTI's approval.

Area C – East Wellington

Since the improvements to the Benson Meadows Path were completed in February, the Parks Department has received a number of complaints from residents that motorized vehicles (ATVs, dirt bikes) were using the trail. As per the RDN's Park Use Bylaw No. 1399, motorized vehicles of this type are prohibited from all RDN Parks and Trails. Signage on the trail informs users of this rule. With input from the RDN's Bylaw Department, Parks Staff distributed a letter to the neighbourhood reiterating this message. Park staff monitored use on the Benson Meadows Path and due to complaints regarding ATV usage and overall trail safety, barriers were placed to stop ATV's from speeding on the path.

Area F

Staff clarified the development plan for the Price Road Trail ACT4 with MoTI and neighbour. Work will now proceed in mid-June.

Regional Significant Gas Tax Project

The Rail Trail project is currently at 75% design completion and work is underway to move towards finalizing design along the entire 10.9km route. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that a phased construction process will be required. Staff will be presenting phasing options to the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee in June. Once a decision is made on which portion of the project to construct first, staff can move forward with acquiring the necessary permits and approvals for that portion of trail construction. A target for tendering that portion of trail can also be established.

Depending on project phasing and funding availability, staff have begun to investigate the option of locating a trail head and parking area on a parcel of Crown land that is situated adjacent to Church Rd and bordered by the rail corridor. The decision to proceed with an application to the province for the use of this land will depend on the Board's direction on overall project phasing.

Staff met with City of Parksville staff to share information on both the RDN Rail Trail project and the City's Water Service project, which plans for trail within the railway corridor from the Englishman River to the City's Springwood Park. Ongoing coordination is required as both of these exciting projects move forward. Staff also continued correspondence with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Island Corridor Foundation on the status of the trail design.

Regional Parks**Arboretum**

An existing kiosk in the Arboretum is currently standing empty. Staff have drafted information that could be posted on the vacant sign and intend to review the information with the volunteers who have been very active with the site over the last number of years. The future vision for the site has yet to be confirmed, pending a meeting between the RDN Parks and Solid Waste Departments to establish a clear park boundary that can be brought forward for park planning purposes. Planning of the property, located in the City of Nanaimo, will need to abide by City zoning and regulations. Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance.

Beachcomber Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance.

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance. Staff monitored the illegal parking issue on the Jameson Rd, Creekside Place corner. Illegal parking is still occurring but at a lesser rate. Park staff are directing the public to contact the RCMP as this is an infraction of the Motor Vehicle Act. RDN Bylaw are also monitoring the situation.

Big Qualicum Regional Trail

Park staff conducted trail inspections.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections. A new trail has been located by staff on the south side of the wetland. The trail is to be built this year once it has been reviewed by Natures Trust staff.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

Staff prepared the Oceans Day 2015 event poster and buttons, and assisted the Park Operator with event gear. Event notices were posted on the RDN web site and scheduled into Facebook and Twitter.

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.

Park staff installed more barriers to prevent ATV's from entering the park. Staff also repaired a vandalized sign.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Staff worked with MoTI and an applicant for a driveway permit along Lioness Blvd and across the 1950 Gazetted Highway on conditions for development and sharing of the road allowance with the Regional Trail. Site meeting held and plan determined which should see little major change to existing Regional Trail development at the Lioness parking lot and trailhead area, with any major change to be completed at the cost of the driveway applicant. Park staff conducted trail inspections and trail maintenance.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Final report from the Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries on a Canada Goose management plan strategy accepted and last payment of \$10,000 released to the group. Park staff conducted park inspections.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections. Staff continue to repair vandalized signs at the closed bridge. Fortunately the pins on the gates are still securing access and the concrete barriers remain in place.

Moorecroft Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance.

Morden Colliery Regional Trail

Park staff conducted trail inspections and maintained trails.

Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park

Staff joined Russ Moir and Mike Hubbard from the Alpine Club of Canada Vancouver Island (ACCVI) on a hike to review the erosion issues on the Judges Route. A volunteer team went up to define and repair a section of the route the following day. Staff followed up on the outcome of the work party and worked with the ACCVI members and the RDN Finance Director on clarifying the nature of the RDN's volunteer insurance package.

Mount Benson Regional Park

Staff prepared a report summarizing the outcome of the Mount Benson Regional Park Management Plan Five-Year Review meeting that was held in February between RDN Staff and Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Staff. Major accomplishments in the park over the last five years are noted as well as upcoming projects planned for the next five years. Suggested refinements to the wording of two of the management policies (Policies 1 and 7) and an updated Park map are also presented for Board approval. These proposed revisions stem from a need to improve the clarity of these two policies as they are reflected in the draft Covenant document that has also been prepared by the RDN and NALT for the property.

Work continues on the draft covenant. Staff worked with the RDN lawyer, forwarded the new draft to NALT, discussed new revisions with the lawyer and then met with NALT to discuss outstanding points of disagreement. There are one or two outstanding points to be worked out. The final park covenant document will be ready for Board consideration in the fall.

Park staff conducted park inspections. GIS and parks staff GPS'd trails and signs on Mount Benson. Park directional signs have been produced for NALT to install in June.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance. Staff repaired a vandalized split rail fence which was erected for public safety and to prevent further erosion.

Parksville - Qualicum Links

Park staff conducted trail inspections.

Top Bridge Regional Trail

Staff provided input for an article on the Regional Trail to be published in Eyes on BC.

Trans Canada Trail

Park staff conducted trail inspections and removed hazard trees along the Pipeline trail.

Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail

Staff repaired expanded metal which was bent due to a dirt bike.

Fairwinds Lakes District - Regional Park Management Plan

An Open House was held on May 13 to receive feedback from the public on the draft management plan. Park staff coordinated final plan revisions based on feedback received at the Open House and through an online public survey (available on the project website from May 1 to May 22). The plan will be submitted to the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee and the Regional Board for review in June.

Miscellaneous

Numerous park inspection visits and maintenance projects were conducted throughout the district including garbage removal, brushing and trail maintenance, new sign layouts and installations, and sign maintenance, and several information requests were received from the public. Gas venting was installed in the Parks Operations workshop.

A few staff attended the Regional District Parks pre-BCRPA Symposium meetings in Victoria and a couple also attended the Symposium.

Staff provided input on trail data for the Regional Growth Management Strategy Review.

Website and Communications

Staff clarified temporary trail closure information and link to Island Timberlands blog on RDN web site. Staff initiated work on parks content for Fall/Winter Active Living Guide.

Operational and Efficiency Review

Staff continued to work on recommendations and final edits to the final report

Workload Distribution Meeting

Staff met to discuss a new format for division of work across the RDN Parks and Trails network. Currently, staff time is allocated to either Regional or Community Parks & Trails. However, for several reasons (e.g. high demand at the Community level, lack of one point of contact for each community on all park related questions, etc.) the idea to divide workload by Electoral Area was proposed through the Operational and Efficiency review. Staff met to discuss how this change might unfold in the coming months.

Project Summary Sheet

Staff have prepared an Information Summary Sheet as a means to track key information about Park projects and to help with information sharing between projects of a similar nature. The sheet is in draft form and needs to be tested with a project to check its usefulness and make any edits that might arise from a trial run.

Park Use Permits and Events

Staff worked with the RDN Finance Director on subscribing to the new event insurance program on offer from the Municipal Insurance Association.

Parks permits approved and in process include:

Area A

- Worked with the Nanaimo Skateboard Association on a September fundraiser at the Cedar Skate Park.
- Park use permit to the RCMP for underwater search training extended to include an additional session in May. Site considered excellent for training purposes. Final training session scheduled for September.

Area B

- Approved a park use permit to the Local Island Trust Committee regarding a public meeting to be held at Sea Fern Lane Community Park on Mudge Island.
- Worked with the Legislative Coordinator and the Gabriola Softball Association on a permit for a mid-June ball tournament (including beer garden) at Rollo McClay Community Park; permit approved.

Area C

- Worked with RDN Water Services on permit for a proposed upper watershed weather station and snow pillow monitor to be installed at Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park by the Province.

Provided information concerning a 2009-12 weather station at the Park that was permitted to the Ministry of Forests.

- Continued to assist the BC Competitive Ride Association with event planning along the Pipeline Trail section of the Trans Canada Trail.

Area E

- Assisted bride-to-be with September wedding ceremony plans involving Beachcomber Regional Park or Brickyard Community Park.
- Worked with a seniors group looking to host a picnic at Moorecroft Regional Park.

Area F

- Worked with the Arrowsmith Community Recreation Association on a permit for the 35th Coombs Community Picnic, to be held at the French Creek School Community Park in June.
- Concluded work on a park use permit to Corcan Meadowood Residents Association for Canada Day celebrations (including beer garden and fireworks) at Meadowood Community Park. Permit approved subject to permission from Coastal Fire in respect of fireworks.

Area G

- Assisted the Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society with event preparations for the fifth annual River Run at Englishman River Regional Park; park use permit approved.
- Reviewed the park use permit application from the Silver Spur Riding Club for the 17th annual Vancouver Island Memorial Ride, which for ten years now has been held at Englishman River Regional Park and also involves the Rivers Edge community parks and Top Bridge.

Area H

- Continued work with the Mid-Island Bluegrass Society on a Festival permit for the end of June at Lions Community Park.



Manager of Parks Services



General Manager Concurrence

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation & Parks

DATE: September 10, 2015

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Park Services

MEETING: EA 'A' PRCC , D69 Recreation Commission –
September 2015
All POSAC's, RPTSC

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects- June, July, August 2015

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report for June, July and August 2015 be received as information.

Regional and Community Parks and Trails

During June, July and August staff have been involved with the following projects and issues.

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

At the Cedar Skate Park staff performed weekly watering of newly planted trees, pruned trees and removed weeds in the beds. Brushing and weeding work was completed along the Morden Colliery Trail and throughout the Cedar Plaza area. At Nelson Road boat launch staff removed garbage and cleared blackberry. Planning for a privacy surround for the portable toilet at this site was also begun. At Pylades Road beach access staff cleared the trail performed beach access stair maintenance work. At Ritten Road Boat Launch staff conducted brushing work and removed illegally dumped garbage.

Staff toured a number of MOTI water access sites with Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission members to review potential development opportunities to improve public access to the water.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 17th Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes.

Staff coordinated conceptual design work and preliminary cost estimates for a future kiosk structure at the Cedar Plaza entrance to the Morden Colliery Regional Trail. A surveyor was contracted to complete a legal and topographic survey of the existing plaza in order to move forward with final design and engineering work. In August, staff met with the project designer and Herold Engineering to begin engineer design work on the future kiosk structure for Cedar Plaza.

Area B

Water delivery/supply and chlorine monitoring work continued at Rollo McClay Community Park throughout the summer. The field mowing contract remains underway. Dugout benches were replaced at the ballfield, and the concession building and dugouts were painted.

Regulatory parking signage was replaced at El Verano boat launch following a theft/vandalism incident, and beach access stairs at several sites were inspected for damage and wear and tear.

At Hummingbird Community Park staff removed and rebuilt the landing for the beach access stairs. Site assessment and signage planning work was started for the parks and trails in the Whalebone Parks area. Survey work will be ordered in September to clarify property lines along some sections of the trails connecting the parks.

Illegally dumped garbage was removed from Huxley Community Park.

Staff worked with a Landscape Architect consultant to prepare detailed construction drawings and costing for the proposed phase 1 construction / upgrades for Huxley Park and prepared a grant application for the Canada 150 Infrastructure grant. If the grant application is successful Phase 1 construction would include the replacement of the sport court perimeter dasher boards, tennis court resurfacing, a new community plaza and site preparation for the playground.

Staff assisted the Islands Trust with an inquiry regarding waterfront at the bottom of Brickyard hill. Staff also assisted an Islands View Drive waterfront resident with undeveloped road allowance and trail bisecting property. GaLLT contacted and dealt with landowner to rectify erroneous community directional signage to access.

The Licence of Occupation renewal (30 years) for Joyce Lockwood was received from the Province and processed for signature.

Area C – Extension

At Extension Miners Community Park staff completed trail brushing and clearing work. At Nanaimo River Canyon staff made several site visits, removing garbage and a rope swing. GIS staff GPS'd the park trails and a park regulatory sign was also installed.

Staff met with a representative from the Extension Recreation Commission to discuss potential site layout options for the installation of new playground equipment next to the Extension Community Hall. RDN Parks holds a Permit to Construct Works with MOTI as the playground will be located on undeveloped MOTI road allowance. The Commission has already purchased the equipment and will be doing the installation. Park staff along with GIS staff relocated the boundary pins for the work area.

Staff investigated a water storage tank proposal by the Cranberry Fire Department, including a site visit and meeting with the fire chief. Proposal review will continue following formal plan submission by the fire department.

A final draft of a memorial sign commemorating the opening of Extension Miners Community Park was completed by staff in August with approval from the area director. The sign will be printed in September and installed in October 2015.

In August, final approval from the federal and provincial governments was received on a draft plaque recognizing Community Works Fund contribution for improvements completed in Extension Miners Community Park in 2014. The plaque will be manufactured in September and installed in the fall.

Area C – East Wellington / Pleasant Valley

Trail brushing, tree pruning, garbage collection, and sign replacement work was carried out at Ander's and Dorrit's Community Park.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 22nd Electoral Area C POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes.

Staff met with horticulture contractor at Anders and Dorrits Park in June and August to discuss required weeding of ornamental flower beds and pruning of trees and shrubs to be completed in late summer and autumn.

In August, design options and cost estimates for an outdoor toilet in Meadow Drive Community Park were compiled by park staff for presentation to POSAC in October.

Area E

Staff carried out a large volume of trail brushing, clearing and garbage removal work at Park Place, Blueback, Jack Bagley, Stone Lake Drive, and Brickyard Community Parks.

Staff continued to work with the Landscape Architecture consultant to refine the concept plan for Blueback CP. Staff met with MOTI staff regarding the planned reconfiguration and expansion of the existing parking area and worked with a civil engineer to design a drainage system for the park. The brushing of the blackberry bushes from the site was completed. Park Staff conducted bird surveys prior to brushing blackberry at the park. Stems that were missed by the contractor due to their proximity to stumps and rock were weed-wacked by Park Staff. Garbage was also removed. A plant restoration plan was completed by staff in August with planting by a contractor anticipated in October 2015. The plan includes approximately 20 Douglas-fir and 20 native alders for forest regrowth.

Area F

At Meadowood Community Park staff performed weekly watering of newly planted trees, installed two new cedar picnic tables, painted the basketball court key and installed new park signage. Throughout the summer the Recreation and Parks Department dealt with numerous and significant vandalism issues. Damage to the playground, toilet, privacy surround, fencing, signs and picnic tables is being regularly sustained and then repaired by staff and contractors.

Along Arrowsmith Community Trail staff completed brushing and clearing work.

At Errington Community Park (and Farmer's Market) staff installed numerous new trail identification signs, conducted hazard tree removal work, and brushed and cleared walking trails. Staff also met with a contractor to get a quote on improving the roadside parking along Veterans Rd.

A significant amount of trail brushing work was completed at Malcolm Community Park. Garbage removal, new signage installations and site inspections were carried out at the newly-acquired French Creek School Community Park.

Staff met with a teacher volunteer to review the proposed interpretive trail signage plans for the Errington School Trail. The project was spearheaded by the Errington Elementary School and was funded through their successful grant writing campaign. The signs were designed and installed by local community volunteers.

Staff attended and helped with the Meadowood Community Park Official Opening Event on June 22nd.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 10th Electoral Area F POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes.

Area G

At Neden Community Park staff removed old fencing along Neden Road, and installed an arbour/entrance and new cedar split rail fence along Neden Road and Wembley Road. The original, volunteer-built park identification sign was removed, sanded, refinished and reinstalled.

Regular park and bike jump inspections and garbage removal work was conducted at Columbia Drive-Community Park. At Lee Road Community Park trail brushing and tree pruning and removal work was carried out. Fence repair and maintenance was also dealt with. At Miller Road Community Park staff cut and decommissioned a drainage pipe adjacent to French Creek, and conducted trail brushing and clearing. At Barclay Bridge staff brushed the trail and conducted bridge maintenance work. Trail brushing, improvements and garbage removal work as completed at Dashwood Community Park.

Staff met with BC Hydro on site at River's Edge Community Park to discuss removal of a large amount of Scottish Broom along the utilities corridor adjacent to the park's northern boundary.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 29 Electoral Area G POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes.

Area H

A seating bench was repaired and refinished at Baywater Road beach access. A new concrete slab is scheduled for installation in the fall

Staff continued to liaise with Ministry of Forests Coastal Fire Base regarding the ongoing forest fire abatement project underway at Oakdowne Community Park. Several new signs were installed at the park, to replace vandalized/stolen ones. Trail brushing and inspection work was also carried out.

Sill and approach work/improvements were carried out adjacent to the two new pedestrian footbridges recently constructed at Islewood Community Park, along with signage installations.

At Henry Morgan Community Park a new portable toilet and privacy surround wall was constructed. Logs and timber frame components at this playground were refinished/restained.

Trail and site brushing and garbage removal work was carried out at Sunnybeach Road, Wildwood, Crane Road, Rose Park, and Nile Road Community Parks. At Shoreline Dr. new stairs were constructed and are now being protected by lock blocks.

At Leon Road staff responded to a neighbor complaint regarding tree removal, upon visiting staff inspected property pin location and determined no violation was committed.

Staff reviewed existing signage at the following Area H water access sites: #47 (Deep Bay Dr), #42 (Shoreline Dr), #36 (Buccaneer Beach Rd), #31 (Bowser Rd), #24 (Nile Rd), #23 (Crane Rd), #18 (Sunny Beach Rd), #17 (Baywater Rd), #11 (Alert Rd). Park staff also designed public access signs and installed them at 9 existing accesses.

Park staff created signs for volunteers to install at the Big Qualicum River Hatchery. Staff worked with the Electoral Area H Director, community trail volunteers, Woodlot manager and MFLNRO Recreation Officer on community trails project. Community trail operations on Crown lands was clarified.

Staff prepared and distributed the June 9th Electoral Area H POSAC meeting agenda package, attended the meeting and provided the meeting minutes.

Staff corresponded with the Lighthouse Slo Pitch Association regarding their desire to improve the fields at the Lions Community Park.

Staff worked with POSAC members to plan the upcoming Centennial Community Park Open House on September 18th. Posters, postcards and other additional advertising material were developed and distributed.

Staff discussed Oakdowne Community Park and Oakdowne Adjunct II trails outstanding licence renewals with the Province. The process for expanding the trails licence over two parcels to full licence over five parcels was explored.

Community Works Projects

Area B

Staff continued to work with Village Way contractors on the project design. Additional survey and civil engineering was obtained. A site meeting was held with contractors and the Electoral Area Director to review plans for the 1.5 km path course, in particular as concerns drainage from North Road. Another site meeting was held with the Director and the Village Vision group in regard to community participation in the second phase of project involving amenities. Ongoing meetings were held with the contractor and the civil engineer. The draft final design has been received.

Staff worked with the Gabriola Island Softball Association to plan a new playground at Rollo McClay Community Park. The RDN will provide matching funding of \$12,000 for the project through the Electoral Area B Community Works Fund.

Area E

Park Staff conducted bird surveys prior to thinning the corner of Claudet and NW Bay to improve intersection sight lines.

Area F

A resolution was prepared for Board approval of funding to carry out Price Rd Trail (Arrowsmith Community Trail 4).

Regional Significant Gas Tax Project

E&N Rail Trail

Work continued with the planning for the trail. It was clarified that the scope of the trail from Springwood Park to Coombs will end at Station Rd in Coombs. Staff worked regularly with the project management consultant on plan development and conclusion on approach to the Romney Creek crossing (gabion wall). A Statutory Right of Way required for the trail was concluded and registered with Land Titles. 'Ready for approval' drawings were received and reviewed. Plan review and the final approval process was initiated with SVI/ICF, MoTI, RDN Planning, MFLNRO and the ALC. Staff Prepared for and attended meeting with Area F and G Directors in regard to project financing.

Regional Parks and Trails

Arboretum

Park staff conducted park inspections, removed garbage, removed an old fence and conducted trail maintenance.

Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail

Further to direction from Island Timberlands, the trail was closed to the public through July and August.

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance and installed bridge number signs.

Benson Regional Trail

Staff liaised with the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club on the planning of trail to link Westwood Lake Park in the City of Nanaimo with the Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail trailhead (which connects to Mount Benson Regional Park) and the Ammonite Falls Regional Trail (which connects to Benson Creek Falls Regional Park). Staff met with the Club to review their proposed alternate route. Staff liaised with Planning on a s57 referral from MFLNRO for the Club's route and the City of Nanaimo regarding the club's proposed water crossing on City property.

CPR Regional Trail

Park staff installed a new kiosk at the CPR trailhead to replace the old kiosk.

Big Qualicum Regional Trail

Park staff conducted trail inspections and met with DFO staff regarding trails. Signs have been designed and produced.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff visited the park to assess the location of a future trail along the south side of the lake. The plans for the trail were discussed with the Natures Trust and approval for the trail needs to be obtained from staff at the ECO gifting program. Once approvals are in place, construction will begin.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

Staff delivered RDN tents for Park Operator's 7th Annual Oceans Day and provided event posters and keepsake buttons.

The 2014 financial and occupancy report was received from Park Operator and reviewed. Staff met with the Operator and obtained a more detailed expenditures report for the last five years for use in the upcoming Park Operator RFP.

Staff arranged for a reprint of the park brochure and worked with the Park Operator to clarify how specific sites are booked.

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. Staff worked with the volunteer park warden, Bylaw Services and Animal Control Services on pursuit of dangerous dog complaint.

Staff worked with the Hatchery Manager/Park Caretaker and DFO to see extra flow and temperature monitoring conducted in the side channel given the severe drought conditions. Staff liaised with BCCF regarding low main stem water levels and exposed large woody debris structures. The Hatchery Manager/Park Caretaker dealt with a break in at the Hatchery buildings and theft of small equipment.

A contractor conducted service road improvements as the hatchery bridge has now been closed by the means of a bollard.

Park staff installed bridge number signs.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections. Staff installed barriers to stop ATV traffic and new Bear proof garbage cans were delivered to site.

Staff installed a bollard in South Park (Ridgeview trail) and filled potholes throughout park as requested by RLC

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Park staff conducted trail inspections and trail maintenance. Park staff installed bridge number signs. Staff responded after storm events, clearing large fallen tree across trail and removed debris from trail.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Staff liaised with BCCF, QB Streamkeepers and DUC on watering and monitoring of vegetation plantings along the fish channel. Staff provided QB Streamkeepers with honorarium for assistance at spit with watering as well as invasive species removal.

The draft report on Canada Geese (CAGO) was received from the Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries. The Guardians are invited to present findings at the September Board. Staff investigated, obtained and reviewed detailed background material on CAGO work within the Capital Regional District.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Staff continue to repair vandalized items and remove fire rings in the park. Fortunately the pins on the gates are still securing access however the concrete barriers have been removed allowing access once again. Staff will replace missing barriers.

Moorecroft Regional Park

Park staff met with a representative from the Moorecroft Stewards (a five-member community group working to promote Moorecroft and support RDN initiatives), to provide an update on park projects.

In August, staff met with the curator from the Parksville Museum to discuss the possible relocation and/or management of Ms. Moore's Cabin by the museum. The proposal will be reviewed by the museum Board in September.

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance. Park staff have built a couple of split rail fences, one is for safety at Mrs. Moore's and the other to protect the ecologically sensitive area at Skipsey Lake.

Morden Colliery Regional Trail

An application for a 30-year Lease of the seven Crown parcels that constitute the Morden Colliery Regional Trail was completed on July 31 by park staff. The application required the submission of 25 files including a management plan outlining proposed development within the MCRT, location maps, detailed site plans, photos, legal surveys, title searches and First Nations correspondence.

Mount Benson Regional Park

Further to a May meeting with NALT and with feedback from the lawyer, staff updated the draft covenant. Staff worked with the GIS department on a covenant map and submitted the updated covenant to NALT for review and discussion in September.

Staff met with the volunteer park warden and provided him with a digital camera to use on almost daily trips up the mountain.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff conducted park inspections and trail maintenance. Staff removed large piles of broom from random volunteer efforts.

Ammonite Falls Regional Trail

Trail signage was installed in June.

Trans Canada Trail

Staff liaised with MoTI concerning upcoming changes to the property management of the DL 20 gravel pit property through which runs TCT route.

Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail

Staff removed graffiti from the kiosk.

Fairwinds Lakes District - Regional Park Management Plan

The final Management Plan for the Fairwinds Lakes District Regional Park was completed by staff and submitted for Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee and Board review in June along with a staff report. The plan was officially approved in principal on June 23, pending submission of the final Enos Lake Protection and Monitoring Program (Appendix E of the management plan) by the developer.

Miscellaneous

Numerous park inspection visits and maintenance projects were conducted throughout the district including garbage removal, brushing and trail maintenance, new sign layouts and installations, and sign maintenance, and several information requests were received from the public.

Seasonal campfire/smoking and hazard warning signs were posted, in accordance with notifications received from Ministry of Forests and local fire protections agencies. Staff prepared media notices, Park page updates and social media posts regarding the wildfire risk, the ban of campfires at both campgrounds, the smoking ban at all parks and trails, and the closure of the TCT and Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail due to wildfire risk. Staff researched the approach that other local governments were taking to deal with the wildfire risk in their parks and participated on an RDN committee regarding the dry summer.

Staff attended internal training on Sharepoint, the new budgeting software and participated in a webinar on Emergency Planning for large events.

Park staff worked with GIS staff to create printable PDF's on our website. This is being reviewed before making it open to the public. Park Staff and GIS staff continued to collect data for mapping purposes and Community Park inventory purposes.

Park staff began developing the 2016 budget. The year-end projections were calculated and staff assembled the work plan for 2016. Budget development will continue through the fall.

Parks and IT staff have met and begun the work of moving Parks files to Sharepoint folders. Staff are currently cleaning out old files and will merge the two existing parks filing systems: the parks operations folders and the folders that were used for Oceanside Place staff.

Staff prepared park pages for the Fall/Winter Active Living Guide and assisted Recreation staff with the Island Timberlands Blog and adult hike program planning. Staff worked with Eyes on BC writer on article about Top Bridge area trails and arranged for distribution of the Regional Parks and Trails Guide to Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum Beach Info Centres, along with Ravensong and OP.

A template for a Project Information Sheet was completed by park staff in June as a way to standardize organization and documentation of tasks, responsibilities and budgeting for each park project. Completed sheets will also serve as a quick reference to staff members unfamiliar with the project.

Staff continued work on the community park name and civic address confirmation project. Statistics were updated for community parks.

Staff prepared a letter of support for Tourism Vancouver Island in their bid to ICET for funding to support Phase II of the VI-Sunshine Coast Trail Project.

Staff continued to work on acquisition files for both Regional and Community Parks. Potential parkland was visited and assessed, meetings were held, agreements were drafted and future investigations were initiated on several files.

Park staff ordered road signs for some of the parks. Permission was obtained by MOTI via permit.

Park playground inspections were carried out to meet Canadian Standards Association requirements.

Park Use Permits and Events

Parks permits approved and in process include:

Area A

- Held site meeting with the Nanaimo Skateboard Association regarding the September fundraiser at the Cedar Skatepark; concluded on permit conditions and approved permit.

Area B

- Approved a park use permit for a wedding at Descanso Bay Regional Park.

Area C

- Concluded permit with MFLNRO for a hydro-climatic monitoring station at Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park; obtained actual location information.
- Worked with Nanaimo group on permit for a Nepal fundraiser involving Westwood Lake and a run up to the top Mount Benson.
- Concluded work with Backcountry Horseman group on permit for Pipeline section of TCT; permit approved.
- Dealt with and approved a permit for the National NDP party in regard to a media event at the park entrance sign for Benson Creek Falls Regional Park.
- Addressed and declined a permit request by the Mid-Island Velo Association to set up a bike course at Anders and Dorrit's CP for a series of evening events. Group referred to POSAC to discuss such a use.

Area E

- Concluded park use permit for QF's annual Teddy Bear Picnic at Jack Bagley Field. Liaised with Legislative Coordinator regarding associated permits.
- Worked with seniors group on permit for use of Vesper Pt picnic area; permit approved.

Area F

- Concluded permit for Arrowsmith Community Recreation Association and Coombs Community Picnic at French Creek School Community Park; assisted group with site access.
- Concluded work on a park use permit to Corcan Meadowood Residents Association for Canada Day celebrations (including beer garden and fireworks) at Meadowood Community Park. Permit approved subject to permission from Coastal Fire in respect of fireworks.

Area G

- Arranged park use permit with Nanoose Heart and Stroke for park and hatchery visit.
- Liaised with Hatchery Manager regarding WaterSmart Gr IV/V classroom visit.

Area H

- Approved permit for Mid-Island Bluegrass Society's Festival at Lions Community Park; liaised with Legislative Coordinator for additional permits.



Manager of Parks Services



General Manager Concurrence