

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**May 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Pamela Carroll; Elise Cote; Peter Haddon; Wyatt Matthews; Dex Owen; and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development; Becky Goodall, Park Planning Designer; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Ted Austin; Daryl Dagneault; and Lyndsay Edgar

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by S. Yao and Seconded by P. Carroll: “That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 8, 2019 be adopted as circulated.”**

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC WASHROOM STRATEGY**

Becky Goodall, the Park Planning Designer, provided the committee with an overview of the Public Washroom Strategy (the strategy) that is currently under development. The following was highlighted:

- The Active Transportation Plan and Older Adult Strategy both recognize the importance of a good parks and trails systems.
- Public washrooms are an important component, as they influence where people will visit, and how long they can stay there.
- Parks has initiated a washroom strategy to determine how best to provide washroom facilities to enable the greatest number of people to use our parks and trails.
- The strategy outlines a ten year plan for the efficient provision of these facilities for parks and trail users.
- It is important to note that washrooms are not necessary or feasible in all of Saanich’s parks
- The strategy has 4 focus areas where the facilities will be most effective:
  1. Highest-use Parks: Data analysis has identified that 1 facility is necessary for these high-use parks.
  2. Popular Easy Walking Trails within Parks: Data analysis has identified that these trails, mainly slower walkers, require a washroom facility every 45 minutes, or 1.25 kilometers.
  3. Walking / Cycling Trail Segments in High Population Areas: Data analysis has identified that these trails require a washroom facility every 1.5 hours, or 6 kilometers.

4. Saanich Wide Cycling Trail System: Data analysis has identified that these trails require at trail every 24 kilometers.
- The strategy propose to share existing facilities (sports teams, community facilities, private property – if willing), as opposed to building new ones, wherever possible.
  - There are several types of facilities available at varying price points, including:
    - Portable Toilets: Single toilet within a compact enclosure.
    - Shared: Those flush toilets currently unavailable to the public. Subject to use agreements and will proceed on a trial basis.
    - Pit Toilets: Single toilets, no water within a roofed enclosure. There are currently no pit toilets in Saanich Parks, but are commonly found in Capital Region District (CRD) parks.
    - Washroom Buildings – Purpose built buildings with sewer and water servicing flush toilets and sinks.
  - Staff have identified 24 locations where improvements are needed. The type and number of facilities being proposed are:
    - 9 Shared (3 more to be considered in the future)
    - 1 Portable
    - 5 Pit Toilets (2 being installed by the CRD)
    - 6 Washroom Buildings

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- Private facilities, such as the Saanich owned heritage property located on Gorge Rd., as well as community spaces could be considered for shared use. Shared facilities would have outside facing doors in order to minimize the impact on the facility and their users.
- There are prefabricated, standard design options available. The CRD utilizes this type of product.
- Where appropriate facilities will include two separated, universal and accessible rooms.
- The District will put out a Request for Information (RFI) with regard to requirements, costs and design.
- Pit toilets will be considered for those parks and trails located outside the sewer service area, or areas that do not have ready, or convenient access to sewer and water servicing.
- Pit toilet facilities are not actually bare earth pits, but rather holding tanks that are emptied approximately 2/3 times per year (or as needed).
- Washroom facilities will be open from 7a.m – 11p.m. Saanich will continue to employ a contractor to open and close (lock) the facilities each day.
- The majority of these facilities will be open year round. A small number (3) will be open from May – October only.
- Facilities will be constructed over a 5-10 year period.
- The strategy will double the amount of flush toilets, and result in a 160% increase overall.
- A location map as well as the detailed timeline of the [Parks and Recreation Washroom Strategy](#) is available on the Districts website.
- Washrooms are a vital to increased participation and utilization of Saanich's parks and trails.

## GORE PEACE MEMORIAL PARK UPDATE

Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development provided the committee with an update on the Gore Peace Memorial Park Improvements, the following was highlighted:

- Gore Peace Memorial Park was dedicated on July 19, 1919 to honour the Saanich residents who did not return from WWI.
- The park is 100 years old and is the oldest in Saanich.
- The park was a component of the Shelbourne Memorial Street project and was the original home of the cenotaph (installed in 1957) prior to its relocation (due to limited capacity for memorial services) in 1970.
- The park is one of the few public spaces along Shelbourne; however, it has remained relatively inaccessible for area residents – overgrown, few amenities and lack of linkages to pedestrian facilities.
- Park enhancements were undertaken in 2017 and 2018, including:
  - 2017 – Removal of overgrown hedging, new fencing (both supported by a financial contribution from the neighbouring McDonalds), new planting and irrigation and the restoration of the commemorative plaque.
  - 2018 – Small plaza seating and interpretive panels installed to animate the history of the park and the memorial street.
- Public engagement has included 2 meetings with the local community association, 2 pop-up events and information on Saanich's [Park Project webpage](#).
- Improvements for 2019 include: New pathway connections, installation of new pavers (to delineate the plaza space) a water feature (to mask road, and traffic noise), garbage cans, a bike rack and five new trees.
- They area is predominantly high-density seniors housing, the intended goal is to make this a destination place for local residents.

Committee Discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Partnering with community to adopt/maintain parkettes and pocket parks is an option; however, there are numerous matters to consider before this becomes a viable policy option.
- There was an allocation of \$50,000 in the 2019 Capital Budget.
- The proposed (and completed) improvements are demonstrable examples of place making
- The improvements are congruent with the goals of the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan.
- There are a significant number of healthy London Plain trees lining the North section of Shelbourne; however, there are very few remaining along the southern section leading into Victoria.
- The London Plain is an excellent urban tree species, as it is pollution resistant and has a value of approximately \$20,000 – \$50,000 when mature.
- Locating new areas to plant London Plain trees is proving difficult as the species is difficult to integrate with infrastructure.
- Staff could consider options to provide additional screening for the enclosed dumpster area located at the rear of the McDonalds' parking lot.

- The project is scheduled to be completed by the early fall of 2019, and will be ready for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on November 11, 2019.

### **DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION**

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the February Parks Division Update report dated, April 16, 2019.

### **DIVISION UPDATE PARKS**

The Senior Manager – Parks provided and overview of the February Parks Division Update report dated, May 2, 2019.

### **DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the February Community Services Division Update report dated, April 16, 2019.

### **2019 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES – PLANNING SESSION**

The Committee undertook a visioning exercise facilitated by the Senior Manager of Recreation. The exercise was intended to identify and prioritize areas of interest to committee members within the context of the committee's mandate.

The Senior Manager of Recreation will bring forward a summary report to the May 23, 2019 meeting.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The committee discussed potential topics for inclusion on future agendas

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2019

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary