

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mt. Douglas Picnic Area/Parking Lot 1 (Shelbourne/Ash intersection)
Thursday, May 24, 2018, from 6:00PM

The committee will meet in the picnic area adjacent to Parking Lot 1 at 6:00PM (see map below). Following the regular agenda the committee will embark on a walking tour of the park's trail network.

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - April 26, 2018
2. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
3. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Parks
4. **WALKING TOUR - MT. DOUGLAS**

**** Adjournment ****

Meeting Location



Next Meeting: June 26, 2018

In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 250-475-5494 ext. 3430 or jeff.keays@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

Go Green!
Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
April 26, 2018

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Ted Austin, Pamela Caroll, Connie Laroche, Dave Marecek, Dex Owen, Chris Spicer and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius Senior Manager Parks; Graham Thomson, (A) Senior Manager Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager Park Planning & Development; Cristina Caravaca, Manager Community Services; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Chris Filler, Programmer II – GR Pearkes Recreation Centre; Julie Wallace – Programmer II (Recreation); Maddie Parks, Programmer I – GR Pearkes Recreation Centre and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Absent: Elise Cote, Daryl Dagneault, Ann Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: Sorcha Collins, Mary Collins, Katrina Madsen, Harry Draege

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Laroche and seconded by C. Spicer, “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held March 22, 2018 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair provided a brief update on Council related activities including the adoption of the 2018 Budget and the amendment to the Parks Management and Control Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw, 2018, No. 9489 to authorize the seizure, removal and disposal of Chattels from Saanich parks.

HARO WOODS

The Senior Manager of Parks provided a brief overview on the status of the Haro Woods Draft management Plan noting that staff and the working group had engaged in further dialogue regarding biking in the park; however, staff were not at the point in the conversations where they felt comfortable bringing forward a final recommendation.

The Senior Manager then turned the presentation over to the Manager of Park Planning who provided the committee with an update on the plan since the last meeting. The following highlights are noted:

- Difficult issues remain since the last committee update:
 - Biking – Cyclists building trails and jumps is a problem.

- Parks staff and members of the Advisory Group held an on-site meeting with representatives from the cycling community on March 15.
 - Riders are diverse group from young kids to older adults.
 - They care about pedestrians and the environment.
 - Riding has been going on in the park for many years.
 - The cycling community would be grateful if allowed to use specific areas.
 - Not all mountain biking is the same.
 - Type of riding taking place in the woods is free riding which is a combination of downhill trail riding and dirt jumping. Each requires different terrain.
 - Haro Woods is attractive to these riders due to the long, gentle downhill slope and varied terrain.
 - Biking does not comply with park zoning (P4N)
- Can Biking be managed?
 - Management practices and tools include (but not limited to):
 - Separate areas for downhill and a dirt jumping.
 - Establish a group of biking volunteers to work in partnership with parks staff on common interests.
 - Jumps allowed in designated areas only.
 - Delineate cycling areas with signage, split rail fencing, and marker posts.
- Trails – The existing trail network is ineffective and confusing to visitors.
 - Community wants to minimize number of trails, their width and the amount of gravel surface.
 - Existing trails are based on desire lines, and are classified rustic multi-use (bare earth).
 - Approximately 68 m of new trails are required to connect loops.
 - 260 m of speciality bike trails are being considered.
- Staff have developed an options matrix for accommodating biking, options include:
 - Do nothing.
 - Allow 'biking' area in N-E lot.
 - Allow 'bike run' in N-W corner.
 - Allow both biking features.
 - Prohibit everywhere.
- The matrix presents the pros and cons for each option.
- Staff do not wish to prohibit recreational and family cycling in the park, not the intent.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following comments are highlighted:

- Biking has been a longstanding issue. Public opinion has not shifted on the matter.
- Consensus has been achieved for the majority of the draft plan.
- Enforcement is an issue as there are only 2 dedicated Bylaw officers in Saanich.
- The makeup of the group is very diverse.

- Staff have reviewed the current inventory of parks for a possible alternate location; however, there is nothing suitable in the immediate vicinity of Haro Woods.
- Noticeable increase in cycling at Mt. Douglas and Madrona Farm.
- Providing the material for building jumps, similar to the Surrey model, is a manageable risk and could help minimize the disruptive and damaging practices of jump building
- The CRD is required to maintain public access across their property as specified by the land sales/transfer agreement with Saanich.
- Attenuation tank project is slated for 2019.
- CRD is not keen on cycling facilities being built over the attenuation tanks. The area is not considered parkland and will be secured post-construction.
- CRD is not opposed to post-construction discussions for trail development in areas outside the underground attenuation tank area.
- Staff could work with the CRD to develop a plan for the entire area post construction.
- UVIC's interest in the area is limited to maintaining access for student research.

Following the committee discussion the Chair invented comments from the guests in attendance. The following highlights are noted:

- The N-E parcel of the Woods is a wetland.
- There has been significant damage to the trees, the (N-E) area needs to be restored.
- Concern with the degradation of the forest area. Restoration is required.
- Biking is impacting the use of the area by local daycares.
- No efforts to manage to the invasive species in the woods.
- Status quo is not acceptable going forward.
- Bikers are emboldened.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OVERVIEW

The Director of Parks and Recreation introduced the members of the Saanich Community Services (CS) team before turning the floor over to Chris Filler, Programmer II who provided an update on the team's initiatives and accomplishments. The following highlights are noted:

- The department facilitates access to recreation programs, parks and facilities, while supporting local initiatives which assist our community to participate in healthy active lifestyles.

The CS department oversees:

- Older Adult Recreation
 - Older Adult Strategy – 2017
 - Cedar Hill Social Club – Opened in January 2018 and provides more social opportunities to the older adult community.
 - Social drop-in – Free social time in Gordon Head, Commonwealth Place and GR Pearkes Recreation Centres.
 - Caregiver Respite Program – supporting caregivers and parents. Expansion of this program planned for other centres and municipalities.
- Youth Services

- Youth Development Strategy – Mid way through the 5yr plan. There are 70+ outcomes with 6 strategic priorities:
 - Increase Participation – marginalized / LGBTQ youth.
 - Collaboration – with schools (administration and teachers) to develop community specific programs: eg. Aboriginal dinner, Artemis place – trauma informed yoga.
 - Risk and Outdoor Play – getting youth aged 12-17 out and into greenspaces to carve out spaces for challenging or risky play.
 - Social Wellbeing – programs aimed at improving social wellbeing, health and sexual health
 - Youth Spaces – unconventional lens, parks, teen centres, gender groups, LGBTQ drop-in programs. Currently no dedicated space at Cedar Hill.
 - Communication – not getting the message through to the audience (youth), not an easy when working with youth. Engagement is mutually beneficial.
- Summer Neighbourhood Playground Program
- Parks Programs
 - Music in the Park Concert Series - Free concerts held in various Saanich Parks from July 3 – August 21.
- Multicultural Services
 - Saanich is home to the largest population of new immigrants in the CRD, programming initiatives for these communities include: Chinese Community Drop-in; SpeakWell Conversation Group and the Muslim Girls Group.
- Access and Inclusion
 - Saanich helps low income residents access recreation services and programs.
 - Leisure Involvement for Everyone (L.I.F.E.).
 - Discounted program registrations and annual memberships.
 - New opportunity: IPAL, Intergenerational Physical Activity Leadership Program.
 - Grant Funding Support: Canadian Tire Jump Start (\$80K in 2017) and Saanich KidsFUNd.
- Special Events
 - 25 plus events per year.
 - Opportunities to connect and celebrate our diversity, showcase our values and highlight local talents.
 - Network with residents, enhance community spirit and pride.
- Volunteer Program
 - Meaningful opportunities, significant benefits.
 - New volunteer coordinator in place.
 - Re-engage and recognize volunteers, re-organize the volunteer database
 - Utilize new platforms and networks to attract positive volunteers.
 - Expand opportunities for youth and older adult volunteers.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following comments are highlighted:

- One of the biggest challenges in programming for youth is the ability to reach the various groups.

- Programming is geared towards meeting the youth where they are at.
- Inevitably when lifting one group up, another drops – this is an ongoing programming challenge.
- Face-to-face and youth leadership efforts are the main points for communication.
- Youth programming is free.
- Cost is not the only barrier to participation across all recreation programs.
- Youth have access to group and club sports.
- Some marginalized youth are not being integrated into the club sports as transportation remains a significant barrier.
- Website and iPads being utilized to provide information in multiple languages at various recreation facilities.

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated April 26, 2018.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights were noted:

- Mt. Douglas Park Ambassador Pilot Program approved by Council. Volunteer recruitment efforts underway on the District's website.
- Rehabilitation of the football field is underway at Copley Park West.
- Rehabilitation of the playground structure and the sport court at Rainbow Park is underway.
- Tennis Courts at Gyro Park closed due to safety concerns, large cracks and uneven playing surface.
 - Staff to undertake design and geotechnical work as soon as possible.
- Park planning projects can be polarizing for communities.
- There is measureable growth in traditional sports like soccer and baseball. Field capacity is becoming an issue

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The (A) Senior Manager – Recreation provided an overview of the Recreation Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated April 17, 2018.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights were noted:

- Community Services –update on the achievements of the departments many volunteers.
- April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week.
- Trans Swim at Gordon Head Recreation Centre (GHRC) – approximately 30 persons attended including young families and youth.
- Repairs made to the benches in one of the saunas at GHRC.
- Assisted chin-up/dip machine replaced in the GHRC weight room.
- Spring break camps at Pearkes ran at, or near capacity. Staff struggled to find qualified leaders as the break did not align with the University break.
- High Performance Sport funding ends in 2019. Bridge funding in place to carry the program through 2020. Conversations with the Province and Federal Govt. are ongoing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Graham Thomson, Acting Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 5/16/2018

Subject: May 2018 Monthly Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Divisions activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Campus

May and June are busy months at Cedar Hill Golf Course with 2 of the biggest annual tournaments occurring. Cedar Hill Open is in its 55th year with 225 pros and amateurs competing. Surplus funds from the tournament are provided to Saanich for course improvements and a daily 50/50 draw raises funds for Junior Golf. This is a 2 day tournament taking place on May 19 and 20.

On June 8, the Ladies Field Day celebrates its 50th year. This is a very social tournament with a full field of 132 ladies from all over Vancouver Island and Salt Spring Island. Since its inception, this tournament has raised over \$150,000 for Hospice through donations, silent auction, used clothing sales and other fund activities. Both tournaments are run by the Cedar Hill Golf Club Men's and Ladies Divisions.

Limelight Youth Artists Exhibition 2018 was another huge success. 10 schools contributed, including Artemis Place Secondary, Esquimalt High School, Glenlyon Norfolk School, Oak Bay High School, Reynolds Secondary, Royal Bay Secondary, Spectrum Community School, St. Margaret's School, St. Michael's University School and Victoria High School. Over 130 artists participated including youth outside of a school setting including Saanich's Art Hive Youth Drop-in. Limelight is made possible through the collaborative efforts of youth artists, teachers, volunteers, Saanich Parks and Recreation and the Victoria Arts Council. Limelight strives to encourage and showcase Greater Victoria youth artists and their work and to showcase the important role of the arts in youth development. It also offers an opportunity for the community to connect with the creative talents and ideas of emerging youth artists in our community. Special thanks to the Oak Bay Band Program, Reynolds Band Program and Slam Poetry teams from Victoria High, Esquimalt and Reynolds for their Opening Reception performances.

Highlights included many words of thanks and positive feedback from participating teachers including:

"Thanks again for inviting us to participate; Royal Bay is looking forward to many years of collaboration:) It was a fantastic event that displayed such talent!"

Next up is the "ONE WORLD: Social Justice Art Show" with Arbutus Global, Cedar Hill, Central and Lansdowne Middle Schools. The show features grade 6-8 students' perspectives on the world they live in and the issues they care about. Reception is Thursday, May 24 6-8pm.

Community Services

Recently, the Coordinator of Volunteers engaged the Spectrum Leadership class to assist at our Cycle Fest special event. Students in Grades 10, 11 & 12 are required to complete 80 hours of community service each year (including summer) in order to graduate, making secondary students very motivated to volunteer with us. Finding and supervising individual opportunities is challenging, but having a group of student volunteers is efficient and effective.



This out-reach pilot involved attending the class, receiving approval to by-pass of the PIC/CRC process as they would be supervised by Saanich supervisory staff, organizing and informing students, receiving waivers, reviewing policies and Child Protection Training and completing the quiz en masse. 10 reliable and enthusiastic students were ready-to-go in time to allow for the addition of The Saanich Experience Game increasing the scope of children's activities and enhancing the event while providing a meaningful role and initiation to our Recreation Volunteer Program. These students will now be invited to register within our Better Impact database, complete and submit their PIC/CRC and sign up for more activities just in time for summer!

Earth Day on the Gorge was held on April 22 at Saanich and Esquimalt Gorge Parks. In partnership with Esquimalt Parks and Recreation, Artemis Place Society, the Child and Youth Health Network and Gorge Tillicum Community Association. This family event had a native plant scavenger hunt, World Fisheries Nature House was open with watershed model demonstrations. We had baby cedar trees and a limited supply of bee houses for those who completed the Scavenger Hunt.

On April 28th we hosted the second Muslim women and girls swim at Gordon Head Recreation Centre. We were expecting similar numbers to our first swim with around 80 on that night. We were extremely happy to see 125 come for this swim. The women have said that this location is great for them and they feel very welcome. The swim was 1.5 hrs and the moms participated in a waterfit class which the youth were playing on the rock climbing wall, monkey bars and the various activities hosted by our fun leader. This is funded through our two year grant to increase access to activities for the Muslim women and girls.

May 13th we offered a mother and daughter skate as part of our programming with Muslim women and girls. This is one of the activities the group had asked to try. We had skate instructors out on the ice to get them comfortable on skates. There were 25 in attendance, all with wide grins and many a laugh.

June 20th is World Refugee Day. We are working with a group of refugee youth who have created a performance theatre with the help of UVic Applied Theatre department. Each youth will perform their life story in one of various performance methods including spoken word, dance and music. The

performance will be at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre at 10am on June 20th in the lounge. This event is open to the public.

Saanich Cycling Festival

Saanich hosted the 8th annual Cycling Festival which took place on Sunday, April 22. An estimated 1400 people took advantage of a beautiful sunny spring day to cycle to the Saanich Hall where a wide range of free family activities took place from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Two live bands played on stage throughout the afternoon including Hung Jury (a collection of local lawyers who recently won a BC battle of bands contest) and the local Celtic group known as Cookeilidh. Families were encourage to stop at any of the seven celebration stations that were scattered through the District to start an event map and collect stamps on their way to the Saanich Hall. The weather for the 2018 was the best it has been in several years which resulted in a much higher level of participation that previous years.



A total 16 different organization participated in the 2018 event including;

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Bike to Work Week | Bikemaps.org |
| BC Transit | CRD Trail Ambassadors |
| Cycles West | Mt. View Community Association |
| Games 2U Victoria | Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition |
| North Park Bicycle Shop | Oak Bay Bicycles |
| U-Bike | Atlantic Programs: Peddleheads |
| Velofix | Saanich Environmental Services |
| Saanich Engineering | Saanich Arts & Heritage Cdn 150 Time Capsule |
| Saanich Fire Department | PISE - Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence |

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

Facility Operations is preparing for our annual pool shutdown in June which requires early capital approval and then budget approval in May, with considerable work with our Purchasing and Facility Operations departments, to source, tender, obtain quotes, order and get equipment on site before June 18. Additionally, on May 9-12, tiles starting lifting in our leisure pool near the River pool, thus causing pool dumps and tile replace/grout and refill. We anticipate the Leisure Pool being closed for a minimum of 4 days.

Two of our long term Reception staff are leaving GHRC – Gail Spiske who many will know is retiring, and Sonia Solberg has been recently hired as the Pro Shop clerk at Saanich Commonwealth Place. Our high quality customer service is dependent on dedicated, knowledgable and friendly staff members like these two, who know our customers by name and welcome them every day into our centre. We wish them all the best in their journeys ahead.

Aquatics supervisors are currently working on their summer schedules for lessons, fun leaders, lifeguards and advanced instructors for their aquatic leadership classes. We are planning meaningful

training for our summer aquatics team with upcoming instructor in-service May 27 and Lifeguarding in-service June 16.

For the past year and a half we have run a Friday night Junior Lifeguard Program with children ages 8 to 13 years. This program promotes safety and leadership skills on, in and around the water. The instructors break down skills using games with aims and build a foundation for the children to work on throughout the program. Testimonial from 9 year old girl participant: "I love doing my timed swim, it makes me feel strong." Testimonial from 12 year old boy participant: "It's weird, I don't feel like I am learning cuz' its fun!" Testimonials from a mother of two participants: "Fridays are working out great for us as a family. Our two younger boys are at JLC and enjoying their class while our older son is across the field playing baseball. It's a win, win for my husband and I. We get to have time for the two of us and watch a little of all the boys activities without running all over town.

Our female Aquatic staff (4 Lifeguards, 1 Team Leader, 1 Aquafit instructor) did a great job supporting our second and very well-attended Muslim Women and Girls swim (April 28). We are pleased to support this female community, some of whom may be isolated, to be together.

We have recently hired new Aquatic Instructor IIs that have began to meld well with our existing staff. In addition, we have brought on a number of Aquatic Instructor II Volunteers, which we have not had in at least a year. This allows us to foster important relationships with the community and allow our volunteers to experience aquatics here at Gordon Head.

In the weight room we have seen an increase in numbers with the regional May pass (\$25) and the recent closure of VI Fitness. People are popping in to "check out" our facility in droves. Most of our regulars are welcoming to the newcomers and helping introduce them to a positive community recreational experience.

A current Request For Quotes has just closed for a few strength equipment pieces and is in the process of being reviewed. We have confirmed one new chest/back fly machine and have posted information for our current users to view.

We have currently hired four new fitness auxiliary staff who can work between all four centres. Fitness has improved the way in which we offer to new staff, we are now offering a position for the one individual at all centres therefore making our hiring much more effective and efficient.

We recently hired a new ECE for our Exploring Our World Preschool Program – Dianne has over 30 years of experience working with preschoolers and she brings many fresh ideas and her passion for children to our program. Our full-year preschool programs are getting ready to wrap up for the year. This summer, we are offering ECO Camps for preschool aged- children at Beaver Lake and Swan Lake – registration is looking steady for these camps and we are continuing to promote them. Our registration for full-year 2018-2019 preschool is looking good right now for the majority of our programs. We just finished up our second round of Open Houses for these programs to continue promoting them. Parent information nights and watermelon socials are booked for June and August for incoming preschool families.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

Facility Operations has been hard at work with our annual ice out process. Each year at Pearkes we take out one sheet of ice to create space for lacrosse groups, and complete minor repairs on the rink, and boards. This month we took the ice out on the Gold arena. In June we will rebuild the ice, for the following season.

As usual our Fieldhouse has been busy in April and May several large scale community events (Pet Expo, Saanich Minor Hockey Year-end Banquet, Toy Show, Quilters show).

As part of North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) an Ammonia leak Emergency table top exercise was conducted in concert with Saanich Fire and Police.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

SCP hosted the Western swim Championships in May and had over 500 participants. This was the biggest biggest ever! Provincial Dive Meet was hosted with 125 divers. WaveMaker Swim Meet had over 350 participants. May will continue with more meets throughout the month.

Staff continue to work with the provincial government to find a solution to the expiring Joint use agreement and trust fund. Currently, the request for dollars is being prepared at the ministry staff level. Swim BC has taken a leadership role with local swim clubs to mobilize them towards solutions.

The gym continues to be oversubscribed. On Mon April 16th every piece of equipment in was use in the weight room at 9 am. Customer complaints are exclusively focused on how busy the weightroom is and the overcrowding. Development of a small group training space is a top priority for staff.

Staff participated in the annual Country Grocer BDay Celebration table – busy, busy, busy! A success! Spring Break Camps and fun swims were a huge success with waitlists in camps again. Due to staffing we were unable to meet all demands. All fall preschool classes are full with waitlists at this time.

A Table top exercise on chlorine leak was held on May 9th 11 am as part of NAOSH week.

Prepared by: 
Graham Thomson
Acting Senior Manager, Recreation

Approved by: 
Suzanne Samborski
Director, Parks & Recreation

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: May 24, 2018

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – May, 2018

The following update is provided for the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee:

Maintenance – EI-2 With the good weather now here it is good to see our parks being used and along with that our maintenance challenges also increase.

Spring is upon us and maintenance crews are very busy trying to keep up with the busy growing season. Park is continuing to maintain and support the last remaining soccer permits. We have almost completed our soccer field rehabilitations and are continuing to do small repairs on our soccer fields and surrounding areas. Baseball season is well underway and parks is working hard to support the baseball clubs. Maintenance is on the second round of field and running track maintenance on all fields to ensure safe play. Some clubs need much more help than others. Weather, staffing and the number of fields to maintain (35) is challenging and we are doing our best. The irrigation section is very busy doing system upgrades. Buildings are all back on line and we are starting to program our 300 plus irrigations systems to ensure correct watering timed for each park/field/boulevard and horticultural display.

Seasonal washrooms are now open and porta-pottis have been put in place in select locations.

Our refuse truck continues to be challenged with higher than normal capacity and illegal dumping in our parks.

Staffing placement and interviews are at the forefront at this time.

The Parks mechanic shop is very busy with all turf trim crews out cutting and all equipment for turf and sports field maintenance being used.

We are continuing to deal with campers in Cuthbert Holmes Park as well as doing regular refuse pick up throughout the park, we are working closely with the police. Gorge Park is also receiving visits to minimize homeless camping and debris.

Construction – EI-3-3 – The Construction Section has been working on the following major projects:

- 1 Football field renovation in Copley Park West** – the stripping of existing turf and installation of new drainage have been completed. Installation of conduit for future field lighting is complete and final grading is nearing completion. Installation of the irrigation system and the laying of sod will be complete by mid-June at which time the field will be fenced for turf establishment to be ready for use in September.

- 2 **Rainbow Park Project** is well underway. Crews are regrading parts of the site, laying out the playground, pathways and sports court areas. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of June.
- 3 **Other projects** – numerous smaller projects including signage, benches and others are also being completed as time permits.

Horticulture – EI-2 – Horticulture crews are now into full time turf mowing and horticulture planting in parks and streetscapes.

Urban Forestry – EI-1-3 –UF supervisory staff continue to assist the bylaw inspector's with the back log of TRP's. We've also seen a steady increase in the boulevard and park tree calls now that the weather has improved. We've continued to provide Arborist supervision services on several Engineering projects through out the Municipality. Our Arborists are actively working on the Requests For Services calls.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5 –

Working with Environmental Services on a new home construction site, at the Whiterock St. beach access, a NA crew just installed a Cedar split-rail fence to protect a small population of Bearded Owl clover (*Triphysaria versicolor*). This species is a red-listed SAR, with less than ten known occurrences in BC. Glencoe Cove Park &



Baynes Rd beach access are two other locations in Saanich. Recent surveys of the Whiterock & Baynes populations show good numbers with the species holding at a steady population. Hopefully the split-rail fence will allow the Bearded owl clover to produce a healthy crop of seed.



The Pulling Together Volunteers continue to be very active in many of our parks and we continue to support them with pile pick-ups, mulching and invasive removal. Many youth & school groups have been active in our parks removing invasives and working hard with the Pulling Together Lead Stewards. As the school season winds down and the weather feels like Spring; we get many requests for work parties and beach clean-up. This month we have work parties with Lambrick Park Secondary, Maria Montessori, Victoria Nature School, Reynolds High School, Strawberry Vale Elementary, St. Michaels University, & Arbutus Middle School to name a few.

The NA crew is gearing up for a major over haul of the Glendenning Trail in Mount Doug Park; similar to the trail restoration on Southridge Trail, we will be controlling the major erosion issues and creating a solid trail system using boulders, Cedar split-rail, Cedar post stairs, and trail blend gravel. We hope to restore the site of the major wash-out to help protect the exposed roots of Garry Oak and Doug



fir trees.

Crews continue to treat invasive plant species such as Poison hemlock, English Holly, Gorse, and Garlic mustard.

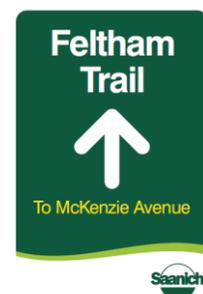
Two boulevard tree watering trucks have been going full-time for a couple of weeks. Over-all, the boulevard & park trees and restoration shrubs are very healthy this year (everything seems so lush and green); we intend to keep it this way. Our Natural Areas watering truck is just getting fired up to start watering/monitoring of all our 70+ restoration sites that we have planted over the past several years. The new Lindsay/Colquitz Trail is getting another 1000 feet of drip line to help with the massive watering task. The trail building contractor (Jacob Bros) will be removing the silt fence along that trail soon. We have delivered watering bags to the many partnership trees and will be using the bags on a few boulevard tree locations (the slow release of 15 gallons of water is much better for the tree).

Projects, Planning and Design

Haro Woods Management Plan – Following our April open house, a public survey about the draft park plan and specifically about biking in the park has been available on line. Based on information we have received to date, staff have identified a need for more community conversations around potential recreation uses, in particular biking, in the park. Staff will continue to hear input and conduct research on this issue. Timing on the final draft plan will hinge on further information and conversations in the community. Find out more at: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/haro-woods.html>

Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project –Staff continue to work on Phase 2 which entails gathering essential technical background information and writing the first draft of the Management Plan. The plan will be centred on the information discussed with the Stakeholder Working Group, as well as comments collected from over 800 members of the public via a variety of public engagement activities. It is expected that a DRAFT Plan will ready for review by Stakeholders and the broader community in the late fall of 2018.

Layritz Park Parking Lot Upgrade – The engineering consultants have nearly completed the final civil drawings and specifications in anticipation of getting the project out to tender soon. Staff will review the preliminary cost estimate prior to tendering the project. While there are a few details and budget considerations yet to be confirmed staff are hopeful to have the project completed by the end of September at the latest. Since parking area will be closed during the summer alternate parking arrangements have been communicated to various park users. Summer is the quietest time in the park for sports groups.



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South Valley Trail Wayfinding Signs – Parks staff have developed a sign plan for the South Valley Trail that will connect the Galloping Goose Regional Trail at Belgrave

Road to the Colquitz River Centennial Trail just north of Chesterfield Road. These signs are the same style as the wayfinding sign posts in Bow/Brodick/Feltham Parks.

Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams” – Staff continue to work on both a) preparing 4 interpretive signs which will be placed in various locations along Shelbourne Street and b) the addition of a symbol to be added to street signs along Shelbourne Street indicating that this road was planted with London Planetrees as a memorial to BC soldiers lost in World War 1. The plan is to have all these signs installed by Remeberance Day Nov 11, 1918 which is the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

Rosedale Park Playground Replacement – Parks received 115 responses from the online survey for the playground upgrade project. The feedback will help inform the type of playground equipment chosen. Key priorities for the community include: fix drainage, provide challenging, fun & safe climbing feature for 2-12, swings, high slide, and natural play elements. Staff are working on a playground concept plan to post for final review in early June. Construction is anticipated to begin early fall.

Park ID Sign Strategy – 5 pilot park ID signs are being installed in Tolmie Park, GlenCraig Park and McMinn Park (3 signs). The sign strategy will implement installation of new Park ID signs in parks missing proper identification and will slowly replace the existing cedar signs over the next 5 years. The new signs are made of recycled plastic posts with metal brackets and an aluminum sign blank that has a reflective vinyl wrap. Additional smaller rectangular signs and directional signs are also part of the strategy. These are a new generation of signs that have a more unique colourful design, are more sustainable and easier and cheaper to maintain and replace if damaged or vandalized.

Stolen Plaques along Gorge Waterway – Staff are working with donors to replace the 12 stolen plaques and fix the vandalized benches. 3 of the plaques are ready for installation in the next couple weeks. Parks is working with the GTCA to identify who the relevant contact people are for these donations that were installed 20+ years ago. Many of the donated benches along the Gorge are the oldest in the community so some of the records are incomplete which makes it more difficult to identify the original donors of the benches.

Community Development Section

Sport-user groups support:

Various Park Partners continue to submit their project ideas to Saanich Parks for approval. Since the last update, most projects have been minor but important as the various clubs are address safety concerns such as repairing fences.

We met with the Lacrosse grou and 12 ball clubs (softball and baseball) this spring for our annual meetings. These meetings are a good opportunity to share information and improve communications. Saanich Parks also used the opportunity to make sure all our partners are adhering to our Bylaws and that the municipality’s legal and liability concerns are addressed. We also introduced and provided a copy of the new Park Partner Project application to each of our user groups in person. We will be hosting a “field day” in the early summer to help better support our partners by educating them on

best practices for field maintenance, which will also include some handouts so they can share the information with their members.

Park Ambassador Program Update:

At the time of writing this update (Wednesday May 16th), Saanich Parks is very excited as we're getting ready to orient our new volunteers tonight for the Park Ambassador pilot project in Mount Douglas Park.

By the time you are reading this, we should have at least seven new Park Ambassadors ready to start hiking the trails and welcoming park visitors, just in time for the May long-weekend! This is really exciting as we now have sufficient numbers to have at least one Park Ambassador present for each day of the week, during the summer. We will keep our volunteer intake open until June 15th so we can plan to have a few extra volunteers to cover holidays, and perhaps offer two shifts on the busier days (weekends).

Please say hello if you see any of our new volunteers in Mount Douglas Park.

If you or someone you know might be interested in the project, feel free to send them to Saanich Parks (250) 475-5522 or Parks.Admin@saanich.ca , or to our website for more information:

<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/events-in-park/park-ambassador-program.html>



Backpacks full of supplies to help our new Park Ambassadors do their great work

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