

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, September 27, 2018, from 7:00PM

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - May 24, 2018
2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
3. **PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**
4. **SUMMER CAMPS / PLAYGROUND WRAP-UP**
5. **MARKET ANALYSIS UPDATE**
6. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
7. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Parks
8. **NEW BUSINESS**

*** Adjournment ***

Next Meeting: October 25, 2018

**In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 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 Mt. Douglas Park
May 24, 2018 from 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll, Daryl Dagneault, 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; Jillian Tuson, Natural Areas Practitioner and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Absent: Ted Austin, Elise Cote, Connie Laroche, Ann Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: None

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and seconded by D. Marecek, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 26, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed the committee members to Mt. Douglas Park. Prior to turning the floor over to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Chair advised the committee that the June 26, 2018 meeting will be canceled. The Clerk will circulate formal notice.

The Director of Parks and Recreation introduced the Natural Areas Practitioner, Jillian Tuson, who will be leading the walk through Mt. Douglas Park. The Director noted that the timing of the walking tour was perfect as staff had recently completed much of their spring work in the park.

The Director of Parks and Recreation then provided the committee with updates on several ongoing files. The following highlights are noted:

- Haro Woods
 - Discussions on park usage have been extended.
 - On-line survey remains open.
 - There will be additional meetings and facilitated discussions.
 - The report to Council will reflect these ongoing discussions.
- Cedar Hill Park Planning
 - Working Group discussions are ongoing, continuing to receive feedback.
 - Some concern that not all the information is accurately being disseminated/reported back to community groups by their representatives

- The ALC denied the District's application to use a portion of the golf course's clubhouse for health services (physiotherapy, chiropractic services and general wellness programs).
- The Strategic Facilities Master Plan was approved by Council. An internal working group for the public works/parks yard has been struck.

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated May 16, 2018.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The (A) Senior Manager – Recreation provided an overview of the Recreation Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated May 24, 2018.

WALKING TOUR – MT. DOUGLAS

The committee, led by the Natural Area Practitioner and the Sr. Manager of Parks embarked on a walking tour to the South Ridge Trail and to the head of the Glendenning Trail. The following highlights are noted:

- Churchill Dr.
 - Churchill Drive is closed to vehicles until noon each day to promote an active, enjoyable leisure experience for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - The newly installed gates on Churchill Dr provide ample room for bicycles and strollers to travel through the middle unobstructed, thus minimizing the impact of people travelling off trail to bypass them.
- Southridge Trail
 - Significant erosion has occurred in various areas along the South Ridge trail.
 - Staff have undertaken mitigation efforts, including signed trail closures, the installation of large rocks to fill cavities and the installation of cedar rail fencing to prevent access to significantly damaged areas.
 - In an effort to mitigate the impacts of water runoff and erosion along the trail network, staff have installed a series a large in-trail wooden diverters, and rocks. The diverters are angled in a manner that is meant to divert the flow of runoff away from the trails.
 - Staff have restored the area around a young Garry Oak by installing a natural rock retaining wall and backfilling with some of the eroded materials.
 - The root structure of several Garry Oaks have been undermined by long-term trail running and walking. Staff have made repairs around the root systems and have closed trails in order to allow the area to return to a more naturalized state.
 - Staff installed a small staircase and trimmed two lower branches of a Garry Oak in effort to redirect traffic from a sensitive area.
- Upper Glendenning Trail
 - Staff continue to monitor significant damage and erosion along Glendenning trail.

- Heavy winter/spring rains combined with sandy trail mediums and heavy trail use has resulted in significant erosion along the upper portion of the Glendenning trail.
- Several trees in the area have experienced significant erosion to their root systems and are considered at risk.
- Staff are developing a restoration strategy for the area and will begin implementing it over the summer.
- Materials are being transported from the Blenkinsop side of the park. As with Southridge restoration work, staff will utilize a powered, tracked wheelbarrow, to transport rocks up to the restoration areas. Cedar rails and other materials are being transported by hand.
- Staff are utilizing recovered soil from the impacted areas in their restoration efforts.
- Other items of interest
 - The committee observed a culturally modified Cedar along the Harrop trail.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

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

From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 9/20/2018

Subject: September 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 recent Recreation Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

In the spring of 2018, the Saanich Tennis Program delivered in-school tennis classes to over 700 students in the Municipality at Doncaster Elementary, Frank Hobbs Elementary, Colquitz Middle School, Glanford Middle School, Lansdowne Middle School, Cedar Hill Middle School, and Arbutus Middle School. We received excellent feedback from the teachers and many schools are looking forward to participating in the program next Winter/Spring

Cedar Hill also supported the South Vancouver Island Tennis League Society by providing outdoor court time, registration and meeting space for the 2018 League. The league uses public courts across the Capital Region and consists of men's and women's teams playing at all levels, from novice to elite. Over 79,000 games were played by 464 players. Clearly, tennis is thriving on the South Island!

Community Services

In February 2018, we had 144 accepted Volunteers on file and by July 2018, we have grown to 193 accepted Volunteers. Dedicated volunteer, Emily, starts Medical School this month, having gained invaluable experience with the Take Heart Cardiac Program for the past 2 years. Her supervisor reported: "Four of our clients cried because she was going! It has been so special seeing her learn and grow with us, and move on to this next exciting phase of her life. She will be so missed." From the volunteer herself, "It means a great deal to have such a positive volunteer and work experience to look back on. It's been an absolute pleasure being with Saanich, so thank you for your hard work. I wouldn't be here without my time as a Saanich volunteer and employee!" This summer, 20 new Volunteer Shadow Guards for SCP were registered, trained and orientated.

July 21st was BC Parks Day. In celebration we partnered with the BC Parks Foundation and offered a family walk in Gowland Tod Park. 6 families attended.

July 28th was our latest Muslim Womens' swim at Gordon Head Recreation Centre. We expected less numbers as it is summer, so we were happy to have 75 swimmers enjoy themselves.

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

Early Childhood and School-Aged Camps: Summer 2018 was once again a huge success with 1400 plus participants taking part in camps at Gordon Head. Camps ran at an 81% fill rate and we only cancelled 1 of 92 programs. A 99% success rate! Summer always has its' challenges, but the instructors and programmers did a great job as usual. We had many new leaders this year, some who stepped up into more responsible roles, and received excellent coaching and mentoring from the programming team. One of the unique services we provide through Saanich Recreation, is that we 'grow' leaders. For example, our Skateboard Camp Program Assistant for the last two summer moved into the lead role as Program Leader 1 this summer, so his new Program Assistant was new to Saanich and the role. Each day these two young men brought so much to this very active group of boys and girls, and maintained their energy, interest and smiles throughout 8 weeks of Saanich camps. All our camps, particularly outside camps, dealt with the ongoing heat throughout the summer, and then finished up with two weeks affected by air quality issues in Victoria due to the BC Wildfires. Plans were quickly changed to ensure more indoor program time, and communication provided to all our families.

Aquatics was hopping at GHRC this summer. The fun, no cost Friday swims were well attended with over 1550 in attendance over the summer. Our inflatables are enjoyed by all ages and were programmed three times/week in the summer. Our Fun Leaders did a great job engaging kids of all ages and exploring games in and around our pool. Our Water Safety Instructor Courses were popular, offering both level 1 and level 2, while our free lessons at the end of August were bursting at the seams.

Fitness: Patrons appreciated the cleanliness and new layout in the weight room, after shut down. Additionally, we replaced the calf raise machine, satisfying many patrons. Our fitness classes maintained their numbers throughout the summer months. We welcomed new staff to Gordon Head.

June's Shut Down at GHRC: We had a successful shut down the last two weeks of June. We now have a brand new sauna, a new steam generator for the steam room, two new Tots Pool and Leisure Pool pumps, tile repair and grouting throughout all four pools, re-finished benches in the change rooms, re-grouting in the change rooms, replaced the underwater LED and overhead lighting in the main pool area, replaced the medea (silica sand) in all the filters, added a new filter to the shower system, installed a new air handling unit in the Dance Studio, replaced two accessible lifts in the change room and on the pool deck, added sound panels around the air-source heat pump, and general maintenance including valve replacements, replacing chlorine/acid lines and injectors, flush out solar system, stripped and waxed all the floors throughout the building, moved all the equipment in the weight room and scrubbed the floor, and painting and touch ups throughout the building. Whew! Our team worked efficiently to accomplish a great amount of work in a two week period.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

Another successful round of summer camps and programs came to a close at GR Pearkes and Colquitz School. Registration remained high once again this season.

During the summer months, we were able to finish a fitness (upper level) and field-house shutdown for planned maintenance, deep cleaning, and general upkeep. On the upper level in the fitness centre, we completed a deep clean of the space, moving all the equipment, and repositioning the pieces. In our multipurpose rooms we focused on floors, painting and general maintenance of fixtures, while in the field-house, we completed a "rolling" shut-down of the space, (patching, painting and changing lights) to ensure rental groups and programs were unaffected.

As many are aware, we had a Police Incident at Pearkes on August 31. At approx 9PM a man called into Police from our pay-phone and stated he had a weapon. Police then called our front desk and spoke to our Receptionist, who initiated staff and patrons to go into lock-down. The incident was brought to a safe conclusion just after 10:30pm, with all unharmed, and the person in custody. As with any emergency, a debrief was conducted and in conjunction with Saanich Police, we are updating revising procedures.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

Summer continued to be above average drop-in attendance. Weekdays consistently saw numbers between 1200 and 1800 participants. Summer was quiet for High Performance Clubs who only hosted 2 swim meets and a water polo boot camp. SCP also played host to the annual Jewish Girls camp sleepover. Other highlights included the Filming of an ad for the Chicken Farmers of Canada featuring SCP Olympian Hillary Caldwell.

The annual shutdown occurred September 4 -16. Painting the dive tower and change rooms, re-grouting of the pool deck, installation of new pool sound system, replacement of front desk work stations and a complete top to bottom scrub were the big ticket work items this year. Staff were on site 24/7 during this time period to complete this work.

Infrastructure work has been ongoing through summer and into fall with replacement of telephone and data lines as well as discovery work for the boiler and air handling work beginning 2019.

Prepared by: 
Kelli-Ann Armstrong Senior Manager, Recreation

Approved by: 
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: September 27, 2018

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – September, 2018

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

Maintenance – EI-2 With the damp warm weather now here everything is growing quickly again and our turf crews are working hard to keep the sports fields and passive turf under control. Irrigation has been minimized or shut off in most of our parks now that the rains have returned.

The Regina Park encampment stretched our staff capacity and minimized some of the tasks we would usually do over the summer. We continue to work closely with Saanich police to enforce the parks bylaw in regards to overnight sheltering in parks.

Maintenance is continuing to provide core services. Soccer season is now in full swing and all fields are being cut and lined and are in amazing condition. Fall ball at some of our baseball fields is ongoing and is supported by mowing and lining. We will continue to improve sports fields that need some aeration, thatching and topdressing as well as seeding to continue to provide the best fields possible.

Seasonal washrooms and portable toilets will be open until end of October. The parks refuse truck continues to deal with high capacity and illegal dumping in parks. Roadside mowing is continuing to work on visibility complaints and getting through the trail side mowing.

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

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

- 1 Layritz Park parking lot** – aim to complete end of September.
- 2 Rosedale Park Playground Project** - mobilization will commence this week with demolition of the existing playground starting next week.
- 3 Lambrick Accessibility Project** - includes extensive pathway improvements and new sections of asphalt trails to be built, beginning in mid-October.
- 4 Other projects** – numerous smaller projects including new park ID signs, interpretive signs, commemorative signs, park furniture renovations were completed recently.

* more detailed information about the above projects are in the Projects, Planning and Design section of the update.

Horticulture – EI-2 – Horticulture crews continue to maintain seasonal display beds and mow turf in parks and at municipal facilities. Staff assisted with cleanup activities at Regina Park. Preparations are underway to begin turf renovations to a number of sites as mowing slows down at end of the month. Capital projects to renovate some cul de sac traffic islands and streetscapes will begin in late September and continue through October and November.

Displays were especially stunning this summer.



Urban Forestry – EI-1-3 – Urban Forestry – EI-1-3

The Request For Service volume has increased significantly over the last several months. While initial site visits occur within a few days; the back-log for completion of work orders is currently 12 weeks. All work is being triaged with all hazardous, development-related and inter-departmental work taking priority. All other requests are being scheduled around that.

Arborist supervision is being provided to Engineering and Public Works for several high profile projects.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5



Working with the Public Works Creeks & Waterways crew, a large section of Swan Creek (off Columbine) has had significant work done to increase flow and improve the habitat for fish spawning. Several yards of spawning gravel was placed in the creek bed plus a small section of large boulders and stumps were added for bank stability and fish habitat.

Crews have also been adding spawning gravel and building rock crests along a portion of Colquitz Creek (From Mann Ave to Wilkinson).



The Pulling Together Volunteers continue to be very active in many parks and we continue to support them with pile pick-ups, mulching and

invasive removal. Now that school is back, many youth and school groups are requesting work parties to help remove invasives with the Pulling Together Lead Stewards and Saanich staff. We are currently putting together our Restoration Planting list and many of the ~20 sites are where Pulling Together volunteers have been removing invasives. We will try to plant them with the volunteers as well as with some of the youth groups that we work with.

The crew is gearing up for stage two of the Glendenning Trail restoration in Mt. Douglas. Stage one saw the completion of two sets of stairs and a complete trail re-build to help control water erosion and the high foot traffic that also erodes the loose sandy soils.



Crews will be treating English Holly & Hawthorne trees in several parks over the next months. The Knotweed treatment program is mostly complete for this year.

Crews have been doing small tree maintenance including; mulching, pruning, weeding and digging standard size tree rings.

The first large tree order has been placed to our supplier for ~350 trees; we will begin our planting program later this fall, concentrating on 6-7 large park planting projects that include: Rainbow, Rosedale, Braefoot, Francisco, Layritz, Lambrick, and Glanford (site of this year's Tree Appreciation Day on November 3rd).

We are celebrating Parks 60th anniversary on National Tree Day on September 26th. Sixty Garry Oak trees will be planted in parks throughout Saanich to celebrate 60 years of Saanich Parks. The first planting will be at Bruce Hutchinson Park. Fifteen trees will be planted at this work party; the other 45 Garry Oaks will be planted at Falaise, Braefoot, Konukson, Glanford, Layritz, Camrose, and Cedar Hill Parks.

Projects, Planning and Design

Haro Woods Management Plan – Parks has implemented short-term measures to educate visitors and address environmental damage in Haro Woods, including:

- Park signs at main entrances and main trail junctions.
- Educational signs identifying damage caused by unauthorized digging and jump-building, and related restoration projects.
- Protective split rail fencing to protect specific trees as required.
- Property lines have been surveyed and flagged.
- Monitoring Program - Parks Natural Areas crews have been conducting bi-weekly inspections. Damage to trees, vegetation and soils caused by unauthorized activity associated with the construction of bike jumps are recorded and repaired. Activity in the UVic or CRD parcels are reported to the appropriate authority.
- Volunteer Monitors – 9 Volunteer Monitors have come forward and are helping to ensure that damaging activity is noticed early and responded to promptly. Monitors do not engage in enforcement or confrontation.

Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project –Staff continue to work on Phase 2 which entails writing the first draft of the Management Plan. It is expected that a DRAFT Plan will ready for review by Stakeholders and the broader community in the late fall.

Layritz Park Parking Lot Upgrade – The parking lot is on track to be opened by the end of September with full completion of the project by the mid-October.

South Valley Trail Wayfinding Signs – The wayfinding signs for the South Valley Trail will be installed over the coming months. These signs will help connect the Galloping Goose Regional Trail at Belgrave Road to the Colquitz River Centennial Trail just north of Chesterfield Road.

Bike Racks – New bike racks are planned for Ambassador Park, Hampton Park and Beckwith Park to help encourage using alternate forms of transportation to these busy parks.

Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams” – Four interpretive signs are now complete and will be installed just prior to the Rededication Ceremony scheduled for September 29.

The sign topper symbolizing Shelbourne Street as a memorial avenue is also complete and installation has begun. All 30 signs will be installed by the Sign Shop in time for the Rededication Ceremony.

Community Development Section

Sport-user groups support:

Soccer:

Soccer season has begun, so we've met with our all our four soccer groups (Gorge, Fusion, Lakehill and Bays) to discuss the 2018-2019 season. These meetings are a good opportunity to share information and improve communications. Mainly we are focusing on ensuring the natural turf fields are not overplayed and that the soccer frames (nets) are stored safely when not in use. We are also confirming the soccer season (September 1 to March 31) so that Saanich Parks can ensure we are able to continue supporting our various clubs during their regular seasons.

Fall Ball:

Many of our our ball teams have requested to play “fall ball.” To balance staff capacity to support soccer, the growth in popularity of fall ball and our ability to get on the natural turf fields to maintain them, Saanich Parks has agreed to issue permits up until the Thanksgiving long weekend. We will endeavour to mow the outfields and support ball club activities during the fall season, while also supporting the soccer season.

Football:

The new field at Copley Park is complete. We continue to support the Greater Victoria Football Association to get the field ready for the fall/winter season, including the clubs applications for new lights, as the old ones were at the end of life and were removed due to safety concerns.

Partner Projects:

Various park partners continue to submit their project ideas to Saanich Parks for approval. Since the last update, some of the projects that Parks is considering or in the process of supporting:

Tyndall Park:

Light standard replacement project. The Fusion soccer club raised over \$230,000 to replace their lights with more efficient ones. The major work was completed by the third week of August so Fusion Soccer Club has new lights for the 2018/2019 season.

Layritz Park:

Layritz Little League applied for their 2020 Championship Legacy Project which will be some stands (bleachers) with built in storage underneath. Estimated project value is around \$35,000.

Glanford Park: Light bulb replacement and inspection and possible replacement (or readjustment) of one light standard. Estimated project value is \$4,500 to replace the light bulbs and the cost of the light standard correction will be determined as per an engineer's report.

Park Ambassador 2018 Pilot Project in Mount Douglas Park Update:

The project began right before the May long weekend, and the program ended up with 17 volunteers, including one family unit of 3. While the official end date is anticipated to be the end of September, several volunteers have expressed interest in continuing their duties for the rest of the winter. Parks will recommend to Council that the remaining budget be allocated to continuing support. Mayor Atwell attended a volunteer recognition event to thank the volunteers.



Park Ambassadors at Mount Douglas Park for our mid-season check in and First Nations Ethnobotany training in July

McKenzie Interchange/Cuthbert Holmes

Over the summer, the Ministry's contractor has been preparing the base of the berm. Parks staff attended the site with community members in late August and noted that a number of the silt fences were in disrepair and that the slope of the berm in one area was too steep. As a result of the community and Parks alerting the Ministry about their concerns, the Contractor repaired most of the problem areas in the silt fence.

Staff attended the site with Ministry staff on September 12 and noted that a number of silt fences were repaired (see photos below). One additional area was requested to be repaired.

The steep slope area was reviewed with Ministry staff. Ministry staff noted that the slope of this area would be flattened during restoration treatment. Much of the bottom edge of the slope of the berm will be restored using a "rough and loose" method developed by a restoration professional. This will include the placement of large logs and spreading alder seeds. Parks staff have agreed that this will be a good transition to the existing natural area south of the berm.

Staff also noted that a rock pit had been installed as requested by the District at the outfall of a stormwater pipe. This is to slow water flow and minimize ditching during intense rain events. That pipe pictured below, carries storm water from the neighbourhood to the north of the highway and does not contain water from the highway. The pipe was pre-existing, however, it was previously set back allowing for water to disperse through a greater grassy area.

The Ministry continues to work on the plans for mitigation for the removal of Garry oak and trembling aspen and also for the compensation for the encroachment into the 30 m buffer at the west end of the site.



Silt fencing repaired, Sept 12, 2018



Silt fencing repaired, September 12, 2018



Rock pit to manage storm water flow from other side of highway, September 12, 2018.