

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Wednesday, September 18, 2019, from 7:00 p.m.

- Pg. 1
1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - June 27, 2019
 2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
 3. **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - UPDATE**
 - Presentation from the Manger of Transportation and Development Services
 4. **FRIENDS OF CUTHBERT HOLMES**
 - Community presentation
 5. **SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE**
 - Updates by the Sr. Manager of Recreation & Manager of Community Services
- Pg. 7
6. **INCLUSIVE SERVICES UPDATE** (attachment)
 - Report for information
 7. **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN PARKS**
 - Committee discussion
 8. **DIVISIONAL REPORTS**
 - Recreation (attachment)
 - Parks (attachment)
 - Community Services (attachment)
- Pg. 10
- Pg. 14
- Pg. 21
9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

* Adjournment *

MINUTES
PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
G.R. Pearkes Recreation Center
June 27, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Ted Austin; Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Peter Haddon; Dex Owen; and, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Cristina Caravaca, Manager Community Services; and, Jeff Keys, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Lyndsay Edgar; Wyatt Matthews; and Elise Cote

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Caroll and Seconded by D. Dagneault: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 23, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked the members for attending the joint ENA/PTR walking tours of Mt. Doug and Colquitz/Cuthbert Holmes, noting that they were fun and informative sessions.

The September meeting of PTR will include a presentation from a community organization. Due to a conflict with the annual UBCM meetings the September the meeting will need to be rescheduled. The date has yet to be determined. Dates being considered are September 18 and October 3, 2019. The clerk will advise members when the date is confirmed.

BIKE PARK UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided the committee with a status update of the youth bike park planned for development on the Tripp Substation lands. The following was noted:

- Staff are in the process of completing the lease agreement with BC Hydro.
- The lease agreement is conditional on the park being for youth use only.
- The project charter will lay out the process for public engagement.
- Engagement, and park planning/design initiatives, will commence in Fall of 2019.
- Construction is slated to begin in 2020.
- No trees will be removed from the site.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Parking capacity in this area could be an issue.

- The immediate community has been subjected to numerous infrastructure and road work projects over the past few years; accordingly, it is reasonable to assume that there may be a heightened sensitivity towards construction work in the area.
- The Capital Region District is installing a pit toilet near Mann Park and will be accessible to the youth park users.

PARKS AND RECREATION CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

The Senior Managers of Parks and Recreation provided the committee with a high-level overview of the Parks and Recreation’s Climate Adaptation Strategy.

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an overview of the division’s initiatives with regard to sustainability and climate adaptation. The following was noted:

- The Natural Saanich Environmental Policy Framework proposed work plan was tabled at Council on June 10, 2019.
- The proposed framework is a result of direction from Council to implement interim measures after the repeal of the Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA).
- The framework will help to ensure the sustainability of our parks and natural areas.
- Identified themes for Parks initiatives include:
 - A park within 499m of every house in Saanich.
 - Smart Planting: Increased support for community gardens; drought resistant shrubs; right tree in the right place initiatives; and, further development of rain gardens in both parks and streetscapes (Layritz parking lots).
 - Water Conservation: Updating irrigation systems; eliminating irrigation for passive lawns; installing drip irrigation for newly planted street trees; and, converting sand based sports fields (Glanford 2019, Braefoot 2020) to a sustainable growing medium requiring less watering.
 - Continuous Improvement: Natural area restoration; allowing select lawn areas to grow wild; field testing of electrified maintenance equipment such as leaf blowers, mowers and trimmers.
 - Making Connections: Building community resilience, trust and wellbeing one person at a time; fostering volunteerism (Pulling Together, Mt. Doug Ambassadors, Boulevard Tree Partnership Program and School-Park Partnerships).
 - Building Natural Intelligence: Every Saanich resident actively enhancing our natural world by 2025.

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The Senior Manager, Recreation provided an overview of the division's initiatives with regard to sustainability and climate adaptation. The following was noted:

- The average temperature in 2018 was 9% hotter than 2017.
- Despite the significant increase in temperature in 2018, GHGs were reduced by 100 TC02e (tonnes) over 2017.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place, G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre and Gordon Head Recreation Centre are the highest GHG emitters amongst Saanich's building inventory. Accordingly each of these facilities have undergone (or is planning) work that will improve energy efficiency and significantly lower their carbon footprint(s).
- G.R. Pearkes:
 - A REALice system was installed in the Gold Arena in 2016, resulted in savings of over 45 TC02e per year.
 - A installation of a REALice system for the Green Arena is being planned for 2019.
 - The REALice systems eliminate the need for hot water when building and/or resurfacing ice. Savings from continuously running the boiler to keep the water hot.
 - The installation of energy saving LED lighting in the Gold Arena was completed in 2016 and lighting upgrades in the Green Arena is planned.
 - Low Emission (LE) Ceiling Tiles were installed in the Gold Arena to mitigate the effects of the heat load radiating downward from the ceiling to the ice plant.
 - The installation of LE ceiling tiles is also planned for the Green Arena.
 - The contract for the procurement of an Electric Ice Zamboni has been awarded.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place:
 - LED lighting has been installed throughout the building
 - A renewable biomass heating system will be installed to replace existing fossil fuel boilers. It is anticipated that this will result in a 90% reduction in GHG emissions.

- The purchase and use of renewable/sustainable natural gas (RNG/SNG) is being considered as an alternative fuel source in order to offset the building's remaining (non-renewable) natural gas use making the building 100% renewable.
- Gordon Head Recreation Centre:
 - The installation of a new high efficiency air source heat pump, commissioned in 2018, is expected to reduce GHG emissions by 400 TC02e annually.
 - Solar panels to heat domestic hot water have been installed.
 - A Low Emission exhaust system has been installed
 - LED lighting has been installed throughout the building.
 - Staff are researching updating pool filters from sand to crushed glass. The performance of glass filtration systems result in lower run-times for recirculation, and require less water for backwashing.
- Cedar Hill Arts Centre has also undertaken numerous sustainability and design/build measures (resulting in its LEED certification) including:
 - The building has a partial green roof.
 - The roof system redirects storm run-off into the on-site gardens.
 - Programmable LED lighting has been installed throughout the building.
 - The facility has implemented the regular use of green cleaning supplies and eco-friendly bags.
 - The café facility utilizes a low flow dishwasher, reducing water consumption.

All facilities have:

- On-site Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
- On-site bike repair "kitchens" available to users to help support Active Transportation.

DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the June Recreation Division Update report dated, June 19, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided and overview of the June Parks Division Update report dated, June 27, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Manager provided and overview of the June Community Services Division Update report dated, June 27, 2019.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee discussed potential future agenda items. In addition to the planned presentations from community organizations and associations noted during the Chair's Remarks, members would appreciate updates on:

- The proposed Environmental Policy Framework;
- The King's Road Hydro property; and
- A presentation from Engineering on the provisions of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) as it pertains to the signalization/signage of pedestrian crosswalks – specifically those serving the lower loop of Mt. Douglas.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- On June 15, 2019, members of the PTR committee, along with members of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee, toured the lower loop of Mt. Douglas Park
- Committee members noted that the trail crossing located on Ash Rd. (approximately 150m East of the Cedar Hill Rd. intersection) abutting the Western shore of the Douglas Creek Bridge, is aligned (on a corner) in such a manner that it limits the visibility of both pedestrians and motorists.
- It was noted that a second crosswalk on Ash Road, located approximately 120m to the East of the aforementioned crossing, has the benefit of pedestrian crossing signage and road markings.
- Advanced pedestrian crossing signage, road markings or pedestrian activated signalized crosswalks for this area would enhance the safety for both pedestrians and road users.
- There may be technical restrictions related to signalizing or signing those crossings
- It would be appropriate to request that the engineering department attend a future meeting to provide and update/comment on the matter.
- The Clerk can work with staff to ensure that an update is provided at the September meeting.

MOTION

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee send correspondence to the Manager of Transportation and Development Services (Engineering), regarding possible improvement options for signage, signalization and road markings for pedestrian crossings in Mt. Doug park area."

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date TBC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, 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

From: Cristina Caravaca, Community Services Manager

Date: September 18, 2019

Subject: Report on Inclusion Services Program

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive this report as information and supports staff in going forward with a resource request to Council for the 2020 fiscal year that describes the need for full-time staff and program support funding.

PURPOSE

Parks, Recreation and Community Services is actively working on the creation of an Inclusion Services program housed within the Community Services Division. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview and rationale for this operational change.

BACKGROUND

For over three decades, the District of Saanich has provided Recreation services to the disabilities community by means of the non-profit society Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV). This agency has acted as an intermediary vendor not only for Saanich but also for several other municipalities across the Peninsula. Of all the services advertised on the RIV website, the two most frequently utilized by Saanich are the Leisure Assistant Pass and the Summer Inclusion Workers program. In exchange for direct municipal funding, RIV would provide these two services to the Recreation department. This collaboration was adequate for many years. However, the findings of the 2019 Market Analysis Study, made it clear that Saanich was not keeping up with the demand from its community and that persons with disabilities were experiencing barriers when attempting to engage with Recreation programming.

A CHANGE OF SERVICE DELIVERY

By late spring 2019, the department had arrived at the unavoidable conclusion that it needed to enhance its services by providing direct program delivery, and the idea of creating an in-house Inclusion Services program was born. Because the department believes that inclusion is much broader than just persons with disabilities, it seemed natural to place Inclusion Services within the Community Services Division where it would be supported by related service areas such as Financial Inclusion, Older Adults, Multicultural Services and Volunteer Services. To achieve the creation of this new program, it would be necessary to bring in highly trained, specialized staff with experience in the field of Disabilities Support. The decision was made to end the contract with RIV in order to capture previously committed funds and utilize them as seed money for the development of the new program area.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Even before the change was official, staff began making strides toward the end-goal of a fully realized Inclusion Services program. Notably, we were able to place over a dozen Inclusion Program Leaders in our summer camps programs to provide 1:1 support for children with disabilities. This was the highest level of individual support that had ever been provided by Saanich, and it was accomplished thanks to a partnership with Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health who provided staff training for these temporary summer employees.

The next urgent programming priority was to create Saanich’s version of the Leisure Assistant Pass. Cognizant that any interruption to the highly popular pass would cause great distress to our community, we set about establishing a seamless transition from RIV’s pass to our own. We also took care to coordinate efforts with Panorama Recreation who was undergoing the same conversion away from RIV. By mid-August, a method had been created that allowed customers to acquire a Leisure Assistant Pass right from the Rec Centre of their choice. The requirement to work with an intermediary agency had been completely eliminated. This simple redesign now provides persons with disabilities with the same experience that others in our community have always enjoyed. It is a change toward equity that was long overdue.

While we have taken significant steps, the department also recognizes that there is much more to do in order to create a fulsome Inclusion Program. To that end, we plan to have an Inclusion Services Specialist on staff by October. The role of the specialist is to administer the program and work with community and staff to improve and increase access to Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services programs. This position will also provide accommodation and empathy training to staff, and make recommendations to improve accessibility within the built environment.



First-ever advertisement from upcoming Fall ALG 1

Because there are only funds available to support a half-time position in the current budget, we have identified the following initiatives as immediate priorities:

- Intake of applications for the Leisure Assistance Pass
- Coordination with Volunteer Services to assess and match clients with volunteers who can provide support for adults and children in Recreation programs
- Awareness raising and outreach to the community
- Staff training

DEVELOPING A FULSOME PROGRAM

The initiatives listed above are central to Inclusion Services, but they do not fully answer the requests captured in the Market Analysis. To satisfy the need voiced by our community, the department will have to drive proactive programming and pursue inclusive facility design with a holistic approach.

Excerpts from the 2019 Market Analysis Study regarding disability services needs:

- Centre needs:
 - “Facilities that enable persons with disabilities to swim in a quieter environment.”
 - “Ensure facilities and appropriate equipment are available for physical fitness for children and youth with brain-based and physical disabilities (ParticipACTION, 2018). Communicate with families and communities that children with disabilities are welcome to participate in programs.”
 - “Increased recognition for the need to include sensory friendly areas for children with autism spectrum disorder.”
- Facility design:
 - “In addition, there is an emerging holistic approach to accessibility for physical and cognitive disabilities with the Rick Hansen Accessibility Certification Program which looks to provide “Meaningful Accessibility” above what is simply required by code.”
- Training needs:
 - Staff needs “training for working with children and youth or those with physical disabilities.”
- Programming needs:
 - “Classes for people with disabilities. Social groups, swim groups, exercise groups.”
 - “With more ice surfaces, more programs can be offered. Edge classes to music for teens, kids with disabilities, seniors. Help with mental health & make people feel good.”

CONCLUSION

The operational changes that have been implement so far reflect Saanich’s intention to provide direct Inclusion Services to persons with disabilities through its Parks, Recreation and Community Services department. We recommend that this Committee receive this report and support staff in going forward with a resource request to Council for the 2020 fiscal year that describes the need for full-time staff and program support funding.

Prepared by: 
Cristina Caravaca, Manager, Community Services

Approved by: 
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation
Date: 9/11/2019
Subject: September 2019 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 Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

Cedar Hill hosted a Physical Literacy Event on August 9th to highlight the new pavement markings on the front walk way. The markings were installed as part of a regional Health and Recreation Partnership initiative. funded through an Island Health Community Wellness Grant. Participants were provided a passport and moved through each activity station, as well and an art activity station. They also enjoyed a nutritious snack and received small prizes that promote physical literacy skills. Approximately 115 children aged 8 and up participated in the event.



Gordon Head Recreation Centre

In May-June 2019, a \$1,500 BCRPA After School Program grant funded GHRC to host two free Self Defense sessions for school age children. In total 30 children were able to participate in the 8 week program. Parents were thrilled to give children the opportunity to learn these skill to build confidence, improve physical literacy and make new friends.

During the June shut down the following improvements in the weight room were achieved:

- Three new electrical outlets were installed to accommodate some of the demands with new cardio equipment. The weight room is now at maximum capacity of its electrical panel. All new cardio equipment requires power nowadays.
- An additional treadmill was purchased to keep up with growing demands.
- A new layout for equipment has been initiated to maximize our floor space. Since re-opening on July 2nd, patrons have contributed many positive comments on the improvements.

Camps were a huge success at Gordon Head this summer running 89% full. Program rooms were transformed into summer camp rooms filled with children and their crafty creations this summer. Opportunities to learn new skills were abundant with camp themes such as cooking, soccer, basketball, and skateboarding to name just a few. Children from Mission Possible sneakily solved mysteries, while Camp Sundance celebrated different themes each week from Planets to Rainforest Adventure. In total 1659 children attended camps at Gordon Head this summer.

In Aquatics, we had strong registration for our advanced courses (National Lifeguarding - Pool, Bronze Medallion & Cross, Standard First Aid, and two Junior Lifesaving Camps with 12 or more participants each).

GHRC hosted its second year of 9 very popular Free Swims on Friday afternoons; an average of 136 patrons attending on Friday afternoons throughout the summer!

The GH team came in 3rd place overall in the locally organized lifeguard competition that took place at Oak Bay this summer. Competing in this competition shows exemplary efforts in fitness, rescues, teamwork and first aid. Well done to this team!

This Fall GHRC is hosting Free Drop-in Swim lessons to Seniors, recommended by the Older Adults Strategy and Market Analysis recommendations.



Saanich

FREE

**Drop-In
Senior Swim Lessons**

Every Wednesday at Gordon Head Pool
September 4 - December 18, 2019
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Join one of our swimming instructors during a quiet time in the pool. Whether you are a beginner or just want to brush up on technique, our instructors are here to help. Afterwards, join your fellow swimmers for coffee or tea in our lobby.

*Drop-in on a first come first serve basis. Maximum 10 participants. Sign-in required up to 30 minutes prior to lesson start each week.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

Facility staff have had an especially month with two major closures:

Aug 23 - Library Flood: In the early morning of Aug 23 a pipe burst under the Library. Several inches of water covered the entire library floor, Saanich Archives and several rooms adjacent to the library along the Saanich Neighbourhood Place hallway. With assistance from Public Works the flood was stopped by turning off the water to the facility. Water has since been re-established to the entire centre, and remediation contractors are nearly complete.

The full facility was closed for one day, but the recreation centre areas are now re-opened. However, the Library, Archives and the Queen Alexandra room remain closed. A construction / repair timeline has not been confirmed yet, though the closure will be extensive with early estimates of 3-4 months.

Sept 8 - Ice Plant: Due to a system failure, the Ice Plant was off-line, early morning on Sunday, Sept 8th. Unfortunately this resulted in both ice surfaces being closed for part of the day. Staff and our on-call refrigeration contractor were able to get the system back on-line and working later that day. Ice rentals and programs resumed in the early afternoon.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

It's been a busy summer around Commonwealth Place. Starting with July, a \$1,000 Swim to Survive Grant from the Life Saving Society was used to host a Free, Under 18 Swim to Survive Event on July 24th during Drowning Prevention Week. The event was a huge success as attendees were able to practice survival skills, while under the watchful eyes of our aquatic staff. There were also prizes and games to enjoy.

August brought outstanding performances by some of the High Performance Athletes that train at SCP. At the Pan Am Games. Danielle Hanus won 4 silver medals, the Women's Relay Team won a silver medal, and Faith Nelson won a Bronze. Also competing from Commonwealth Place were Mackenzie Paddington, Jeremy Bagshaw, Jon McKay, Chantel Jeffrey and Eric Hedlin. Eric Hedlin also competed and won the Open Water 5K in the 2019 FINA World Aquatics Championships in South Korea earlier this summer. Also competing in the FINA World Junior Aquatics Championships was Jade Hannah – the 17 year old won 2 gold medals in backstroke. An amazing summer for our Commonwealth Swimmers!

Summer Camps have been a huge success, each week celebrating a new theme. Treasure Island, Spy Kids, Fun Farm and the biggest hits of all Super Hero Week and Disney Days! Not only were the campers participating in these themes, but front end staff, programmers and aquatics staff were also on board - dressing and decorating for the occasion. Commonwealth Camp a camp for 5.5 to 8 years olds - Hosted over 325+ campers between weekly and daily registration in this one camp alone!





The boiler replacement project has been running smoothly and by mid-August we had the 3 new boilers operational and functioning.

We also recorded our highest ever drop in attendance in facility history on August 21st with 2,013 drop in patrons.

On August 26, we hosted a site tour as one of the two finalists to host the Invictus Games in 2022. This is an event that is being applied for by Tourism Victoria. SCP would be the site of some of the aquatic events, should the Victoria bid be successful.

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: September 26, 2019

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: **Parks Division Update – September, 2019**

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

Maintenance – EI-2

Soccer season is now underway and staff have been busy laying out and lining fields. Parks has completed a major renovation of the Glanford Park soccer field which included stripping the field of sod, adding a compost amendment, rototilling it into the sand profile, leveling the field and resodding. This field was a sand based field which required more summer watering and ongoing turf maintenance. With the renovation, we will have a much better surface for play and a better growing medium to provide a premium quality turf which should stand up to wear and tear.

Baseball 'fall ball' has started and maintenance activities such as aerating, mowing, topdressing, over-seeding and infield leveling are continuing to ensure safe play and lay a foundation for next year's season. Work has begun on a major renovation of Diamond 3 at Layritz to prepare the field surface for the upcoming 2020 Canadian Little League championship.

Dust control of the gravel parking lots has been completed.

Roadside mowing and rough mowing programs are continuing. We continue to receive many calls about long grass on roadsides and boulevards. We are helping residents understand their responsibilities under the revised Boulevard Regulation Bylaw.

The irrigation section has been completing small installations and changes to existing systems. We have also completed a drip system for our tree nursery which will allow each tree to be watered and not the surrounding areas helping to keep the stock healthy and saving water. Irrigation staff have been adding quick couplers to our ball diamonds and tennis courts to allow watering down of infields to minimize dust exposure and to allow washing of tennis court surfaces.

We have our weekend refuse/washroom staff in place to add increased summer service to public washrooms and parks refuse collection. Homeless camp clean ups are increasing and they are dealt with as they are reported according to the Parks Management and Control Bylaw. Dumping in parks is unfortunately ongoing and increasing.

The Parks mechanic shop is busy repairing the turf crew equipment as needed.

Construction* – EI-3-3

The Construction Section has been working on the following major projects:

- 1 Parks ID Signage** – New Parks ID signs are being installed as time between major projects allows. To date approximately 20 parks have been completed with 15 more scheduled for this year.
- 2 Quadrant 3 and Quadrant 4 Trail Resurfacing Program** – work is being completed on gravel trails within Quadrant 3 (northeast) and 4 (east). The crew has been most recently working in the Rithet's Bog area resurfacing the trail along Chatterton Way and repairing the trail in other sections of the bog.
- 3 Gore Park Renovation** – Construction is underway. 2019 marks the centenary of the establishment of this park.
- 4 Cadboro – Gyro Park tennis court replacement** – Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of October. The area previously occupied by one of the courts will be repurposed for another active use to be determined in conversation with the community.
- 5 Mount Douglas Park – Whittaker Trail** upgrades were recently undertaken to resolve water issues causing trail erosion and surface damage as well as to limit the water and sediment flow into the storm sewer on Cedar Hill Road. Extensive slope remediation and replanting at the top of the trail is part of this project.
- 6 Reynold's Park** playground replacement project is scheduled to commence in late September and will be continuing through October.

Horticulture – EI-2

Horticulture staff continue maintenance of seasonal display beds and shrubs in streetscapes, parks and at municipal facilities. Display beds are at their peak and will remain until late September or early October depending on weather, after which staff will begin removing plants and preparing to plant fall bulbs.



Turf crews continue maintenance of grass and as September progresses they will also be doing some turf renovations of high traffic areas after a busy summer season. Calls for Service to neighbourhood traffic circles are easing and crews will begin some proactive maintenance of these sites. A small number will be renovated beginning at the end of September.

In recognition of the 75th anniversary of Dutch liberation from occupation our local Dutch Association (Holland House) has graciously purchased 1500 Liberator Tulips which we will be planting at Municipal Hall in locations where they can bloom year after year.

Urban Forestry – EI-1-3

Urban Forestry continues to work with Engineering on plan designs, as they relate to trees. Urban Forestry's role in these streetscape improvement projects is to try to protect trees during construction and to come up with new tree planting locations during the landscape design process. The Request For Service volume for service on public trees remains steady and the crews are doing their best to complete the work in a timely and safe manner.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5



Natural Areas crews working with the Public Works Creeks & Waterways crew, Peninsula Streams and contracted biologist have just completed a restoration of an ~90m section of Colquitz Creek. The section, from the Eastridge Park entrance to the Copley East bridge, has seen extensive boulder and stump bank reinforcement, new crests/riffles, ponds, and spawning gravel placement. What was once a bare creek bed, with very little fish habitat has been transformed. A new viewing platform has been built to allow the public and youth groups to enjoy the

wonderful creek and watch for fish spawning. The entire East bank, from the creek up to the trail has been littered with large woody debris and mulched to add nutrients and moisture to the highly compacted soil. It will be planted over the winter, hopefully with the help of local community members and/or youth groups. The crew is working on the cedar split rail fencing and trail repairs this week.

The natural play “Tinker Town” is almost complete at Mt. Douglas Park. The cedar split rail has been installed to contain the play area and allow for crews to green up the surrounding area with shrubs and trees this winter. Logs, boulders and other debris has been brought in and will be part of the Tinker Town layout to keep the youth groups engaged. This spot has been widely used by many youth over the years; isolating the fun area will help teach youth stewardship of our green space and offer a great destination natural park.



The invasive species crew has been busy with the Knotweed, Purple loosestrife and Poison hemlock programs throughout the summer. Recent news reports have spread concern over “Wild Parsnip” which is an invasive plant in Eastern Canada but is not a concern in Saanich. The native Cow Parsnip is often confused with Giant hogweed. We only have a handful of known Giant hogweed sites in Saanich but the rural ditch lines/fields are full of the native Cow parsnip and Palmate coltsfoot. We also get calls about Queen Anne’s lace and Fennel, which are commonly mistaken as Poison hemlock.

We have supported several keen Pulling Together volunteer groups throughout the spring and summer and are gearing up for all of the others, including school groups to get back into the swing of things. We are putting together our restoration planting list and will be doing another ~30 sites this year. Working with the Planning department, golf course staff and the Cedar Hill Park Pulling Together and Friends of Cedar Hill Park groups, we are mapping out the natural areas surrounding Cedar Hill Park and developing an invasive species removal/native planting, multiyear plan. There are several unique ecosystems and biogeoclimatic zones that have been and will be managed by Saanich staff and Pulling Together volunteers. Cedar Hill Park offers one of our biggest Garry Oak ecosystems of deep soil forest and shallow soil meadows. The opportunity to remove the invasive species such as English holly, hawthorne, & ivy and blackberry and replace it with native shrubs, trees and flowers is an exciting endeavor.

We are looking at several parks to plant more trees and restoration sites to improve bee and butterfly habitat throughout our urban setting. King Alfred Park is topping our list as the 2019 Tree Appreciation Day location. We are planning to plant 25-30 trees as well as create 3 or 4 native restoration sites to help transform this open park. Construction crews recently resurfaced the two trails passing through this park. We will be advertising the November 2nd event to local youth groups including 10th Garry Oak Scouts.



We still have three full time watering trucks watering boulevard and park trees, and restoration sites. The cooler temperatures and moist mornings are helping with the severe drought conditions that we experienced over the past several years. We installed a new irrigation system at the restoration project in Cuthbert Holmes Park associated with the Highway 1 interchange. We have 6 high volume sprinkler heads set up that are covering the area SW of old Burke St. It was planted by Ministry of

Transportation staff earlier in the spring. We will look to plant more trees in the winter to take advantage of the watering system.

Park Planning and Design

Washroom Strategy – The final draft of the Public Washroom Strategy is almost complete. Overviews will be given to committees before being submitted to Council for information this fall.

Cedar Hill Park Management Plan – Staff continue to complete the Draft Management Plan (Phase Two) in preparation for presenting to Council.

Earth Drums: Public Art at Cedar Hill Park – Parks staff assisted the Planning Department with site layout drawings as well as the pathway realignment in order to support the installation of the new public art piece called ‘Earth Drums’ by Carey Newman. The unveiling of the art is being organized by Saanich Planning and is on Sept 27 and 28.

McMinn Park – The bike park project has been delayed due to circumstances beyond Saanich’s control with the contractor. Staff are assessing next steps should the contractor not be available to do the work this fall.

Reynolds Park Playground Replacement – The project is scheduled to start construction.

Gore Park Enhancement – This small park located at Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Road is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Site work is currently underway and the project is scheduled for completion in advance of Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, 2019.

Horner Park Renewal Project –The virtual open house closed at the end of August. At the time of writing this report, 257 people had completed the survey. A public engagement opportunity will be planned for later this fall where options for the park will be presented.



Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams” – Staff continue to work with the Memorial Avenue Committee (MAC) to coordinate the design and installation of four additional interpretive signs (four were completed in 2018) to be placed in various locations along Shelbourne Street. The exact sign locations have yet to be finalized with Engineering, but one will definitely be placed in Browning Park along with the sign placed in that park in 2018.

Tripp Substation Youth Park – Staff have met with the North Quadra Community Association to discuss engaging the community and will begin engagements. The intent is to finalize a design concept by the end of the year. Some capital funding has already been approved.

Mount Douglas Park Pedestrian Bridge – Staff have contracted McElhanney Geotechnical Engineers and AquaTex Environmental to take a closer look at sites for a pedestrian bridge over Douglas Creek to connect the Churchill Trail to the Douglas Trail.

Mount Tolmie Sign Kiosk and Trail Head – A new interpretive sign kiosk, bike racks and improved trail access to the park near the intersection of Gordon Head Road and Cedar Hill X Road is being partially funded by a donation from the Mount Tolmie Community Association. The improved trail connections and plaza will create a better pedestrian experience and orientation prior to hiking in the park.

Community Development and Business Systems Section

Community Projects

Saanich Parks has approved (in principal) the replacement of both electronic scoreboards in the Lacrosse boxes (Braefoot and Lambrick parks). The replacements will be “like for like” so there are no anticipated negative impacts to park users or assets. Saanich Lacrosse secured sponsorship to pay for these new scoreboards at a

value of approximately \$17,500 and as part of their application has requested that their sponsor (Peninsula Coop) is recognized on the scoreboards. Saanich Parks has agreed to this (and is consistent with the Parks Management and Control Bylaw). The scoreboards are on order and will be installed prior to the season (late winter/early spring of 2020).

Tree Protection Bylaw update

Council unanimously approved the recommendations that strengthen the Tree Protection Bylaw on September 9, 2019. The report can be found on Saanich's website (Under the September 9, 2019 council agenda, Reports from Directors). In summary the report's recommendations increase replacement trees, increase the amount of bonding for replacement trees, has several administrative amendments and will create a Reserve Fund specifically to advance the goals of the Urban Forest Strategy.

Park Ambassador Program

The Park Ambassador Program continued throughout the summer with a steady dozen volunteers. Cigarette butts and improperly disposed of dog waste bags continue to be main issues in the park. In July, Saanich Parks hosted a get-together with an ethnobotany (how people traditionally use the plants around them) training with Pamela Spalding. Everyone enjoyed the meeting and learned lots from Pam.



Outreach/education

This summer, we developed some posters and rack cards to help park visitors better understand the ways they can recreate in our Parks with their pets. Park's website has been updated with this information: bit.ly/dogsinparks

(An example of the "Park Pettiquette" Poster is attached on the last page of this update).

PARK PETIQUETTE

...As easy as 1, 2, 3!

Whether you're hitting the trails or heading to the beaches, Saanich parks are even more enjoyable with family – and, for some, family includes Fido! When taking your pooch to these special places, you can help us create a paws-itive experience for everyone by remembering to:

1 Pick up after your dog.

Not only is uncollected dog waste unpleasant to step in, but it can also harm the environment and spread disease in both dogs and humans. Bring your own supplies and dispose of doggy doo bags in garbage containers, not along roads, trail sides, or into trees and bushes!



2 Obey leash laws.

Only a few of our parks have dog restrictions (see below). All others allow dogs that are on leash or under effective control (i.e. within sight and will immediately return to you when called). Look for park signs reminding you where and when dogs are permitted and respect those who are afraid of dogs by controlling your pet.

3 Be mindful of the environment.

Keep your dog on the trails to minimize impacts on nature. Watch to make sure your dog isn't disrupting wildlife or running through areas that are home to sensitive plants and animals.



RESTRICTIONS FOR DOGS

Seasonal restrictions:

May 1 - August 31

- Cadboro-Gyro Park or the Cadboro Bay public beach after 9 a.m.
- Cordova Bay Beach after 9 a.m.
- Mount Douglas Park Beach and adjacent picnic/parking area
- Whitehead Park

March 1 - October 31

- Fenced baseball fields

All-year restrictions:

- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
- Quick's Bottom Park
- Artificial turf fields
- Rithet's Bog other than leashed on the perimeter trail
- Within 50 metres of Kings Pond in Cedar Hill Park, except on a leash on the chip trail

Dogs must be on a leash:

- On school grounds
- Within 10 metres of playground equipment
- In the Royal Oak Burial Park
- On the Lochside Trail within the Blenkinsop Lake area (see CRD bylaws for further trail regulations)
- In Cedar Hill Park, including all trails
- Along the perimeter trail in Rithet's Bog



LEARN MORE ONLINE AT BIT.LY/DOGSINPARKS



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Cristina Caravaca, Community Services Manager
Date: September 18, 2019
Subject: Community Services Division Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of Community Services division activities.

DISCUSSION

Community Services Highlights-

Community Arts: Saanich is pleased to serve as the regional “hub” for this year’s nation-wide Culture Days celebrations, September 27 to 29. Receiving one-time financial support from BC Culture Days headquarters to help offset costs, Saanich has partnered with several arts and cultural groups to host events at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill. A number of free participatory activities and performances are offered as well as “Every.Day.Art,” an exhibition and community art project celebrating arts, culture and well-being. Some highlights include Lekwungen Traditional Dancers, The Al Frescoes painters, Story Theatre Company, Island Illustrators Society, Victoria African Caribbean Cultural Society, Morris Dancers and Shan-e-Punjab Dance. Festivities will also include the official unveiling and a community welcome event for “Earth Drums,” Saanich’s most recent permanent public art piece by Carey Newman, commissioned as part of Saanich’s Canada 150 commemorations. See the Saanich website Calendar or Culture Days website for details.
www.culturedays.ca

**CULTURE
DAYS**

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29 - 28, 2019



Multicultural Services: [Music in the Park](#) had another successful year with great attendance. All eight concerts went ahead despite the early ones having some rain. Community associations did a great job mixing up returning bands with some new acts.



Aug 10th at Beckwith Park was [Punjabi Mela](#) celebrating India's Independence. We were happy to work with Victoria Dian Punjabana group this year to assist with this event for women and children. Musicians, dancers and food were enjoyed by the many in attendance. This event also supported the recommendations of the Older Adult strategy to create more inter-generational multicultural activities.

Older Adult Services: We offered two [Bus Trips](#) this summer as part of the Older Adult strategic plan mandate to create social programming that reduces isolation among seniors. The first trip visited two wineries in the Duncan area. The second trip went to Sidney Night Market. Both trips received very positive feedback by the participants, who were primarily members of the Cedar Hill Social Club program.

The [Older Adult Assistant Card](#) became available as of August 1st, 2019. This card enables an older adult to bring an assistant to help them in their activities. It is intended for older adults with mild conditions who just need a little support in order to participate in their favourite registered or drop-in activities. Applicants only need to describe the assistance they require, they do not need a signature from a healthcare professional in order to receive their card. Seven older adults have registered for the card as of Sept 3rd.

Volunteer Services: We are growing our ranks. In June 2018, we had 169 Accepted Volunteers registered within the Volunteer Impact database. By August 2019, that number had increased to 248 and applications continue to come in as we anticipate placements in our fall programs and events. Volunteers become a valuable part of our service delivery as is evident in this customer testimonial from a recent recreation experience: "Kali was AH-MAZING in Mermaid Camp and also with Lifesaving "Swim To Survive" day. She was friendly, hard-working and approachable."



Youth Services: Youth Services had the opportunity to pilot a new program, [Breakout Adventures](#). It was hosted at the Flipside Teen Centre as an extension for youth who age out of Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program. The new program was offered for youth ages 10-14 and had a 95% fill rate for the summer. It was extremely successful with some youth saying it was the best week of summer camp they had ever had. Our staff did an excellent job of facilitating a camp that was inclusive of each youth's needs. The camp was successful in large part due to its variety of activities including out-trips, cooking, and challenge-by-choice days and swimming.

This summer we hosted seven youth participants in our [Saanich Youth Internship Program](#), which trains and leads youth aged 16-18 through a summer camp leadership program. Interns must apply, interview, and complete training before completing a one month placement at one of our busy summer camps. They receive an honorarium for their successful completion. Intern feedback included "This was the best summer of my life!" and "This mentorship program was

more than I ever expected it to be” all the way to “wow – kids are so exhausting” and “How do parents and teachers do this every day?!”

Special Events: The new and improved [Cadboro Bay Festival](#) took place on Sunday, August 11 and featured several new artistic elements for the 2019 event. In addition to the ever-popular inflatables, club demos, live bands and vendor booths, we also hosted the first-ever Youth Artisan Market, showcasing several of Saanich’s talented kids. The popular “Hand Drum Rhythms”, African drumming workshop returned, and was joined by SKAM Theatre who performed short plays throughout the afternoon.



This year there was a special guest appearance by the legendary Cadborosaurus Sea Monster and their friend The Octopus! These giant puppets are the creations of nationally recognized Victorian puppeteer, Tim Gosley. He and wife, Petra, (with support from Community Arts) also coordinated an art station where kids could create and design their own sea creature mini-puppets.

Of course, sand sculptures continue to be a popular attraction at Caddie Fest. This year we enhanced the competition to include not one but six world-class artists who each created a sculpture. Starting on Canada Day, there was an online contest that gave residents the opportunity to choose the theme that would direct the competition during the festival. “Island Life” emerged as the winning theme, with Phil Olson ultimately taking home the People’s Choice award for his “Lighthouse” design.



Prepared by:  Approved by: 

Cristina Caravaca, Manager, Community Services Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation