

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Due to COVID-19 measures, Saanich is unable to accommodate the public for any Council, Committee of the Whole, Advisory, Board or Foundation meetings while maintaining the limits on large gatherings due to the Public Health Order.

As per the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192, public attendance at the meeting is not required if it cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the Public Health Act.

To listen to this meeting by telephone call **(833) 214-3122** and use code **183 025 80#** during the time noted above.

***** Territorial Acknowledgement & Inclusivity Statement *****

- 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - April 28, 2021

- 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- 3. HOUSING STRATEGY TASK FORCE**
 - Staff presentation
 - Housing Strategy Task Force Report: [Housing Strategy Task Force Report](#)
 - Project website: saanich.ca/housing

- 4. NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM**
 - Staff presentation [Natural Areas Overview final.pptx \(saanich.ca\)](#)

- 5. NATUREHOOD MAP**
 - Presentation: [Launching the Greater Victoria NatureHood Map: A Guide to Many Adventures! \(gvnaturehood.com\)](#)

- 6. DIVISION UPDATES**
 - For information (attachments)

*** Adjournment ***

Next Meeting: June 23, 2021

In order to ensure a quorum, please call Tania Douglas at 475-5494 ext. 3505 or tania.douglas@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
April 28, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin, Kathleen Burton, Leigh Campbell, Pamela Carroll, Annie Djitsa (via MS Teams), Lyndsay Edgar (via MS Teams), Amy-Jade Louie (5:21 pm, via MS Teams), Dexter Owen

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning & Development; Rick Hatch, Assistant Supervisor, Natural Areas; Pam Hartling, Senior Planner; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Staff present via MS Teams: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation; Megan Catalano, Communications Manager; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer

Regrets: Pat Danforth, Kyle Danielewicz

Minutes

MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held March 24, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated that the budget discussions are finalized; with an increase of 5.76%. Saanich will hire approximately 21 staff including a new Manager of Urban Forests and Natural Areas. Approval of funding towards climate change initiatives means there is a little more money for planting trees. The budget will be formalized at the next Council meeting.

Dogs is an item many people have written in about recently and there have also been a couple of recent dog attacks. Council has asked committee to discuss.

REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - DOGS

The Chair noted that a letter that had been sent to Council from the Cadboro Bay Residents' Association (CBRA) regarding dogs has been referred to this committee. The CBRA had been previously asked by Council to provide a report which was received for information only.

Committee reviewed recommendations 1-5 noted in the correspondence and the Senior Manager of Parks highlighted a map of the park showing leashed and unleashed areas. She noted dogs are permitted to be off leash all year in one smaller areas on the beach on the northeast side of the beach near Telegraph Bay Road. Presently when people come to the park there is no legal way for an owner to get their dog to the unleashed area of the beach. It is proposed that the Bylaw be amended to allow people to walk their dog on leash through the park specifically to get to the unleashed area.

The following comments were noted:

- As of May 1st to August 31st there are no dogs permitted in Cadboro Gyro Park, nor on the majority of the beach except prior to 9:00 am.
- Council has recently approved food trucks to operate at this park.
- Many people are unaware of the rules in the park. This needs to be clarified as there will be more bylaw enforcement for the area.
- Many of the letters received are about accessibility as people find it difficult to get down to the water. Some letters of concern are from homeowners along the beach, however the northeast section has been established as a dog off leash area.
- It is important to provide pathway access to the beach as there is no legal way to do so during the seasonal restrictions.
- People can gain access to the east side of the beach at the sewer outflow by walking across the grass.
- Clear signage is needed for the area.

Motion: MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by L. Campbell, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council specific wording changes in the Animal Control Bylaw to allow a park visitor to walk with their dog on leash from May 1 to August 31 through Cadboro-Gyro Park to the area of the beach that dogs are permitted.”

CARRIED

Comments:

- Dogs are part of people’s families and this strikes a balance and allows access while still limiting use for dogs.
- This access differs from winter in that dogs are permitted under effective control in the parks and on the whole beach during the winter.
- There still may be challenges for people with accessibility limitations; the sand is very soft on this beach. Staff advised that every year in the summer Parks installs mats to allow people to access the beach.

It was noted that signage that is currently on the beach has received feedback that it was suggested that it could be clearer.

Motion: MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by T. Austin, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that Council request that staff review and replace the dog related signage at Cadboro-Gyro Park to create clarity on when and where visitors may be with their dogs.”

CARRIED

It was suggested Council could send a Letter to UVic asking them to reopen the area off Cedar Hill Cross Road which was previously used by dog owners. As they are not using the area for any buildings at the moment it would be useful to have the space again for the community and their dogs. Dog licences have increased by about 200 since last year and there are over 7,000 licences issued annually.

Motion: MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Owen, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that Council write a letter to the University of Victoria to request a re-opening of the off-leash dog area off Cedar Hill Cross Road, known as the dog park, to help alleviate the increase of dogs in other areas in Saanich.”

CARRIED

It should be fairly simple for the University to reopen this area. UVic had previously closed the Finnerty Gardens but they have since reopened that area.

The Senior Manager of Parks and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services noted:

- Saanich does not have any fenced dog parks; the amount of dogs that family members are bringing into homes has increased, and there has been a lot of interest around fenced dog parks.
- The suggestion from the CBRA regarding fenced parks is appreciated, and some research will need to be done for this. Staff will need to create a long-range plan and propose that in the summer some pop-up dog parks be installed on a short term basis in order to gather data.
- A few locations would have these temporary pop-ups and they would last for one-two weeks. These location would not necessarily be the final chosen location. Ideally, students will gather data and also be on hand to provide education on dog etiquette.
- Making this a district-wide dogs in parks process is important and will be a multi-year process. Until a funded process is in place, staff will need to collect evidence based research that can feed into a larger process.

Committee comments:

- Members appreciate this idea; suggestion made to offer these in more dense or urban area where people with smaller dogs do not have as much access to space nearby.
- Suggestion made that staff may be able to identify where dogs are located based upon licensing information.
- Definition on “leashed” and “under control” require clarification; suggestion made to have someone with dog handling training that could offer advice to the public on how to address dogs that are not under control.
- There may be a way to partner with local business; CRD once had a program where they gave away dog bags to attach to leashes.
- Not all dog breeds would suit this type of park and trail walking may be preferable to some dog owners. Question raised whether trails may be included in this pilot. Staff noted that this would be part of the district-wide planning process.
- Suggestion made that when the report is done, it should be sent to the CRD. They have designated un-fenced dog park at Elk Lake alongside an empty field and there may be an opportunity for the CRD to have some sort of dog program as well.

Motion: MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by L. Campbell, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorses the concept of a research and innovation project, “Paws in Parks – Roving Dog Parks”, to be carried out this summer and requests Council to consider funding this research project from the Council Special Initiative Fund, upon receipt of a staff report on this matter.”

CARRIED

It was noted that a holistic conversation with the community needs to occur regarding leashing of dogs and access to parks. This will take time and resources to do this correctly.

Motion: MOVED by D. Owen and Seconded by K. Burton, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that staff bring forward a report to this committee outlining options on a more comprehensive approach on dogs in the District.”

CARRIED

This would be a large report covering many different topics; Saanich has not previously done a report on this, and it will involve bigger discussions with the community.

A comment was made that commercial dog walkers can cause issues when they let multiple dogs run off leash. They can cause environmental damage in parks and conflicts with dog owners that have their dogs under control. These businesses are not licenced like other businesses and there should be ways to control their actions.

Staff noted they could bring a report on this to committee prior to sending it to Council. Other jurisdictions need to be researched on how they manage commercial dog walkers.

Motion: MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by L. Campbell, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that staff bring forward a report to this committee with options regarding a District-wide approach to commercial dog walkers.”

CARRIED

CORDOVA BAY LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Senior Planner highlighted the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan as it relates to Parks, Trails and Recreation. The following was noted:

- The focus for this committee includes consideration of networks, wayfinding, beaches and honoring First Nations culture
- Thorough community engagement occurred, and meetings with the WSANEC Nation were invaluable in understanding their perspectives, priorities and values.
- The area is well served by parks, community facilities, walking trails and beaches.
- Beach accesses will improve with this LAP. Planning and Engineering staff will work together on these improvements. Upgrades are also planned for Fowler, Lochside and Cordova Bay parks.
- Some trail network and connectivity issues, specifically east to west, need to be addressed as well as improved wayfinding and signage.
- Working with First Nations peoples, staff will aim to educate and increase awareness in protecting ancestral burial sites. A legacy project at ƧEL, IŁĆ / čəlítč is planned.
- A list of priorities was provided to Committee members outlining seven major upcoming projects.

Responses to committee questions are noted:

- The legacy project which is noted as a mid-priority will likely start in the next couple of years with a completion of 3-5 years being realistic. Saanich is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the WSANEC First Nation.
- There are five beach access road ends, and there are four parks in the area.
- Accessibility issues have been discussed with the Parks department and access will be installed where it is appropriate. Each access has different characteristics and Agate and Parker parks have the most potential.
- There will be ten more crosswalks installed along Cordova Bay Road for beach accesses.

Motion: MOVED by A. Djotsa and Seconded by K. Burton, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee supports the draft Cordova Bay Local Area Plan as presented by the Senior Planner, and approves of the future beach accesses and accessibility amenities included in the Plan.”

CARRIED

TRIPP BIKE PARK CONCEPT DESIGNS

Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning & Development provided information on the youth park planned for the George Tripp Hydro Station off Lochside Drive. The following was noted:

- A background of the youth park with the bike park component was given.
- Public engagement is occurring at the moment. Workshops were done with students from several middle and secondary high schools. Students are excited about potential art opportunities for the project. The public engagement ended on May 10th.
- There are display panels installed near the site along the Lochside Trail as an alternative to hosting a public (in person) open house which was not permitted by Island Health.
- The bike park designer has been hired; he is an ex-professional BMX cyclist and very experienced in designing bike parks.
- Three concepts have been developed and input is being received on these through the virtual open house on the Saanich website.
- This is a one acre site with a nice buffer of vegetation on two sides. There will be jump trails and bike skills course and it will be good for all abilities.
- There has been some concern expressed from the housing complex nearby.
- The transition into a youth park should help move along transient campers.
- The Saanich Police have been involved with the project and advised on CEPTED (crime prevention through environmental design).
- Parking management strategies have been discussed with Engineering staff who are receptive to making some changes to the existing parking situation on Lochside in particular. There are many parking spots on Lochside Drive but there is no time limit so one idea is to designate some with a 3-hour limit. It is not felt that traffic issues will be significant since the majority of park use will be on weekends and evenings. The exception will be July and August. Signage will also be installed in the area.
- Some road markings and curb improvements will be done for safety. Staff have not yet spoken with Don Mann about the project.
- It is hoped that construction will commence early to mid-June.

Responses to committee questions was noted:

- The maximum capacity of the park is not known; it will not be controlled, and it is felt riders will sort themselves out.
- It is thought that there is a Block Watch, and neighbours will keep an eye on the property.
- The park will not be lit, upon request from neighbours, and the area will not be fenced.
- There will be signage installed to describe appropriate activities and park etiquette. Split rail fence will be installed in some areas of the bike park to provide safe barriers and rest areas for riders and pedestrians.
- Staff have applied for a grant that would be used to purchase ten bicycles that would be made available for youth who do not have bikes. The specifics of this still need to be considered. Partnerships with other agencies are being looked at.
- Staff have tried to be as inclusive as possible in terms of community consultation.
- Discussions have been had with key community organizers and Pearkes Recreation staff with regards to bike programs to be run in the youth park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Councillor Brownoff, 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

From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services

Date: May 26, 2021

Subject: Community Services Division Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the 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

Older Adult Services: *Staying connected.* We remain committed to connecting with Older Adults as the first round of vaccinations reach our community. Older Adults are not only facing a physical divide of keeping space, doing their part not to gather at this time, but additionally face a compounding digital divide. Much of our community has gone online but where does that leave those with barriers to access or familiarity in how to connect online? This is why the District of Saanich has partnered with The City of Victoria, Silver Threads, Island Health and Westshore Recreation and been awarded in partnership, the Government of Canada New Horizons Grant for Seniors (\$23,000). This will fund a twelve week program that provides Older Adults in our communities with an iPad or tablet to use (if they do not have one) and, in a group social setting, build confidence and familiarity navigating devices, internet safety, online health, recreation and wellness opportunities (including intergenerational). It will provide them with ongoing technology coaching and bridge the gap so that they can reach connection and opportunities online where many of their community programs and health partnerships are operating at this time.

Community Arts: *Hearts Together:* Three new [HeArts Together Community Art Project](#) installations were added at Tolmie Park, Reynolds Park and Copley West Park. Planning is underway to install an outdoor mosaic of 500 hearts made by community at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre in early June. Recently, Saanich and the project has been featured in The Philanthropist Journal in the article: "[Making the most of it: Turning to arts and crafts through the pandemic](#)".



Diversity and Equity: On April 9th, in partnership with SD 61, SD 63 and our Youth Services team, we co-hosted an online workshop on Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Newcomer Youth with a focus on what is happening in Greater Victoria. 45 school councillors, teachers and admin joined our youth team for the presentation by Vic PD Special Victims Unit member and a Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion Program (CRED) councillor.

Financial Assistance: These financial wellbeing programs continue to bridge the gap for those living on a low income. With current restrictions due to COVID-19, capacity limitations are also affecting LIFE participants.



Gratefully our after school programs have been able to continue to operate with funds and support from previous grants received through the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program and BCRPA. These after school programs, under strict COVID guidelines, are assisting sixty children each week at Tillicum Elementary School. Each child has the opportunity to attend one 2-hour after school program per week focusing on outdoor physical literacy.



Child and Youth Services: Youth Services hosted a **Youth Employment Readiness Program** for youth 14-18 in partnership with Beacon Community Services, to provide training and practical tips on how to navigate the wild world of finding and keeping a job as a young person in today's job market. Youth with resumes in hand came ready to learn and discuss the challenges

they are facing unique to them.

Upside Teen Centre Programs are continuing to increase in participation. As the weather becomes nicer, the Teen Centre is able to offer more programming outside, therefore families are more comfortable with allowing youth to attend in group settings.

The Upside Teen Centre and the SCP Aquatics team have partnered to offer unique Youth Programs; a Craft & Swim and Sport & Swim program kick off the second Spring Session. This pool space is a hot commodity in the community right now and youth are really looking forward to going for a swim.



A **Youth Art Workshop Series** held at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre brings together youth artists to try their hand at skill building craft and design. Held weekly on Friday evenings, the youth have been trying needle felting, watercolors, drawing, paper mache, and sticker + button making.



The Pearkes community is still accessing programs despite the loss of access to the Flipside. Outdoor Adventure Club and Girls on the Go are continuously full. The Outdoor Adventure Club has been learning sawing, hammering and shelter building along with wide games. Currently the group is learning about angles and physics with a giant sling shot! Youth have been participating in team games launching them across the field from different heights and catching the balls with different objects such as tarps, buckets and baseball gloves.

Girls on the Go has created several dynamic crafts, learned a variety of sports and yoga activities in the field house and are starting a series on public speaking. Recently we partnered with SNP and hosted a card making workshop. Staff are keen to get the girls active and outside. The group spends many program hours in Cuthbert homes and Gorge Park.

Child & Youth Services is happy to announce the return of our Leadership Programs for Summer 2021. Applications have opened for our **WYLD (Willing Youth Leading Diverse Communities) 2021 Summer Placement Program**. Youth aged 14-18 will join us for a meaningful mentored placement in one of our outdoor summer camp programs. While working closely with our leadership coordinators they will learn to teach and play all of the best games, gain confidence in leading activities with groups, and cover all of the important aspects of working in a team environment. This program is an excellent



stepping stone for individuals who are considering a future in the fields of Early Childhood Education, Teaching, Child & Youth Care, Social Work, Counselling, Recreation and Health Education and Human Services.

Saanich GeoQuest launches on Earth Day: Stay Local, Stay Safe! The Saanich GeoQuest is an outdoor scavenger hunt that residents can do safely with their families on their own schedule. Participants are encouraged to use active transportation to explore Saanich to find a series of 20 locations in parks, on trails, and at community facilities.

Some of the highlighted locations include the Saanich Cenotaph, Camas Trails and Garry Oak ecosystem in Playfair Park, various Public Art installations, the new Fitcore Extreme Obstacle Course and accessible playground upgrades at Horner Park, the Historic Dodd House, the Solar Hot Water Panels at Gordon Head Rec Centre, the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse at Kosapsom Park, HeArts together community art displays in Majestic and Rainbow Parks, and the Commemorative Rock at the Leaf Gate Entrance to Mt. Doug to name a few. All locations will be posted on the Saanich website and Facebook page starting on Earth Day, Thursday April 22.



Participants who take photos of themselves visiting each location can enter to win a variety of prizes including; an \$800 Gift Card to Cycles West and themed baskets valued at approximately \$250 each. Basket themes including Covid friendly activities such as Gardening, Golf, Family Games, outdoor Health & Fitness as well as an Emergency Preparedness Kit.



PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committee

DATE: May 26, 2021

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – May 26, 2021

The following update is provided for Committee:

Community Development and Business Systems

Park user groups

Parks are busy with outdoor spring sports starting up under current COVID 19 protocols. Due to Public Health Officer (PHO) orders, only youth sports and limited adult sports are running in groups of 10 or less. All groups have returned this year, where some didn't last year, so sports are busier. If the PHO loosens sport restrictions and gathering and event limits then demand on park assets will be extremely high.

There is new demand for park spaces as Saanich Recreation and SD61 / SD63 need to move operations outdoors as much as possible for safety during COVID-19. Saanich Parks continues to work closely with the community and internal programs for safe operations with the following achieved since January 1, 2021:

- **Resumptions:** Received and reviewed more than 50 COVID-19 safety plans from external user groups,
- **Permits:** The Parks Division has created more than 110 permits, for internal groups (Recreation and Community Services), external groups and SD61 and SD63 school programs,
- **External user group email updates (“Park Partner updates”)** 5 updates sent.

There have been reports of (non-sanctioned) adults playing on Saanich fields and in the lacrosse boxes. Saanich Parks has refreshed signs with updated messaging. Any gatherings or adult-sports should be reported to the Parks office during regular office hours or to police non-emergency during evenings and weekends.

Park Stewardship Update & Parks Volunteer Programs

Community volunteers are busy stewarding Saanich Parks while adhering to Covid-19 protocols. There are a few reports outstanding, but so far the first quarter of 2021 (Jan-March) is approaching an incredible 3,000 volunteer hours! This is just with our regular volunteer groups, as we are not able to accept new or drop-in volunteers at this time.

The Parks Stewardship Coordinator continues to support 44 Pulling Together projects, with 62 lead stewards and their community volunteers. Spring is a season of rapid vegetation

growth, but also fragile with flowers blooming and birds nesting. Volunteers show great care by moving their invasive removal activities to less sensitive areas minimizing impacts during this time. We are supporting at least one school stewardship group per week, in parks such as Haro Woods, Feltham and Marigold Parks.



Bur Chervil
Anthriscus caucalis



Knockan Hill volunteers protecting the Camas meadow from a Bur Chervil invasion

11 Park Ambassador Volunteers continue to volunteer at Mount Douglas Park. It is challenging for the volunteers to fully engage park visitors with Covid-19 distancing protocols. However, these valued volunteers do continue to be important eyes and ears on the ground in a very busy and well-loved park.



Greater Victoria NatureHood Map: New!

Over the last year, Saanich Parks was a key partner to producing this new map, *Nature in the City: Guide to Many Adventures*. The Greater Victoria NatureHood, a collaboration of many local agencies including Saanich Parks, designed this map as a Nature Canada initiative. The map's launch was just in time for World Migratory Bird Day, on May 8.

The Greater Victoria Nature Hood , a committee made up of of local governments, NGOs, community organizations and freelance creative talent, made this map to highlight the importance of 'Natural Intelligence' and 'Nature in the city'.

The project's map committee consists of individuals from the District of Saanich, the Capital Regional District, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, and the Victoria Natural History Society.

The map committee was honoured to work with SENĆOŦEN Language Revitalist, ŚW,XELOSELWET Tiffany Joseph and Erich Kelch First Nations Relations, Community Engagement Coordinator, CRD. The map's design tells stories of urban habitats, captivating species and local parks to explore. Information is woven together with original artwork by Kristi Bridgeman and designed by a team of community partners.

Maps are available in multiple venues in Saanich and through our partners. The map can also be viewed here [Nature in the City: Guide to Many Adventures. A future edition of this map hopes to see an interactive digital map.](#)

Park Planning and Development

- **George Tripp Youth Park** – Public engagement under current Covid-19 health regulations are twofold. Preliminary design concepts and other project information is posted on the project website and display panels are posted along the Lochside Regional Trail adjacent to the George Tripp Hydro Substation complete with links to the feedback survey. The survey was open for just over three (3) weeks and closed at midnight Monday May 10th with 384 surveys completed. 28% of which indicated they were under the age of 25. Staff are now reviewing the written comments. Preliminary results indicate an overwhelming support for the project among the respondents. Construction is anticipated this summer.
- **Mount Douglas Park Pedestrian Bridge** – Riptide Manufacturing (Parksville) was the successful bidder for the manufacturing of a 4' wide 36' long aluminum bridge that will cross Douglas Creek via a new trail. Trail construction is scheduled for mid June with the bridge installation following in July. Interpretive signs are being planned for the project as well.
- **Food Truck Pilot Program**
On April 26, 2021 Council cleared the way for the Food Truck Pilot Program to proceed at Cadboro-Gyro Park, Beckwith Park, and Gorge Waterway Park. From July 1 – September 8 a total of 5 spots will be available for food trucks - 2 at Beckwith Park, 2 at Cadboro-Gyro Park, and 1 at Gorge Waterway Park. 10 vendors will be accommodated in the Pilot, names will be chosen in a random draw at the end of May.
- **Curtis Point**
Curtis Point has become a very popular sunning and swimming destination in recent years. The Natural Areas crew will be installing low split rail barriers in strategic locations to protect thin soils and vulnerable vegetation before the summer starts.
- **Normandy Park Playground Replacement Project** –A final round of consultation between two play equipment options provided a clear winner for Option B with 67% of the votes whereas Option A received 33%. Construction of the new playground and natural play trail at Normandy Park is underway and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

- **Cedar Hill Park Management Plan**

Natural Areas Plan – staff are working at hiring a contractor to prepare an inventory and to provide restoration recommendations for the Natural Areas in the park .

- **Allenby Park Playground and Sport Court Replacement Project** – The online survey received 97 responses about the proposed playground and sportcourt improvements. A play equipment concept plan is being developed from the feedback and will be posted on the website for final review. Construction is anticipated to start this summer with completion later in the fall.

- **Paws in Parks – Roving Dog Parks Pilot Project:**

Parks staff have prepared a report to Council requesting approval for the recommendations made by the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee in April (PTR) for various dog related initiatives in parks including the Paws in Parks project.

- **Bearded Owlclover Interpretive Sign**

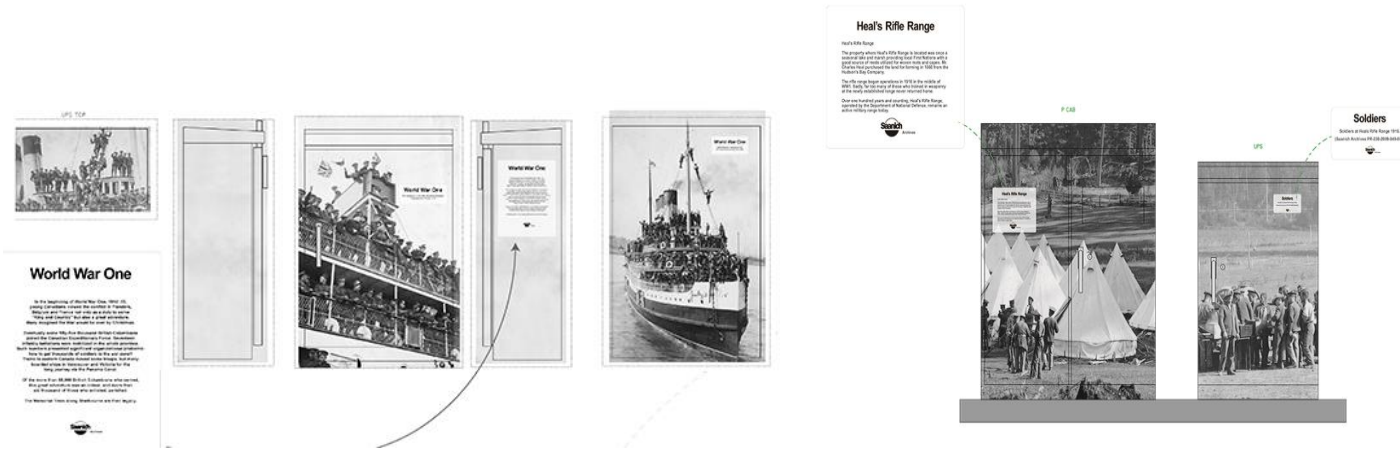
Parks and Environmental Services staff have been working together to prepare a sign about the endangered Bearded Owlclover plant. Once finalized this sign will be placed at the Baynes Road Beach Access at 10 Mile Point. This 12” x 18” sign template was designed so that it can be utilized for other signs in the future – featuring other rare and endangered species.



Bearded Owlclover sign - Draft 2

- **Shelbourne Street of Unfinished Dreams (Memorial Avenue)**

Utility Box Wraps – A second signal box wrap has been approved and will be installed during Shelbourne Street improvements at the corner of Blair and Shelbourne. Work has started on sourcing images for a third wrap.



Wrap 1 at Felthm and Wrap 2 to be installed at Blair/Shelbourne

Gateposts - Parks and Engineering staff have been working with City of Victoria engineers on selecting sites and designs for the gateposts to be placed at either end of Shelbourne Street. It is anticipated that these will be installed before October 2 of this year in recognition of the 100th anniversary of when the first of the London plane trees were planted. The site that staff are currently investigating for Saanich's installation is at the corner of Cedar Hill Road and Shelbourne (just south of Mount Douglas Park).

Construction

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

- **Horner Park** – As mentioned previously, all major components of the Horner Park renewal project have been completed and the park is fully open to the public. Some general landscaping work remains to be completed. Washroom building renovation is under way.
- **Playgrounds Improvements Project** has just been completed. This project included four existing playgrounds in Mount Douglas, Braefoot, Hycinth and Brydon Parks. It included construction of concrete accessibility ramps, some new equipment and most importantly replacement of sand surfacing with Engineered Wood Fibre/playchips making these playgrounds safer and more accessible.
- **Parks ID Signage** – The crew has been installing new park ID signs across the Parks system. We are planning on completing a total of 25 new park ID signs in 2021 with two parks completed so far. With addition to installing new park ID signage we have also worked on updating many parks and beach accesses regulatory signage as well as directional and wayfinding signs at many locations throughout Saanich.
- **Hampton Park** – Work which began in March on the renovation to the main parking lot off Hampton Rd is nearing completion. The project includes enlarging the existing parking area as well as an additional exit/entrance to improve traffic flow.

- **Normandy Park** – Work on replacing of the dated playground has just commenced.
- **McMinn Park** – Work on the new Bike Skills Park has just commenced last week. The Golden Dirt Trails – company contracted by Saanich Parks is expected is carrying out this project.

Park Operations

Maintenance Section

Maintenance is continuing to support core services:

- Washrooms are being cleaned daily and have been receiving a lot of graffiti. Our washroom strategy will go into effect this summer and we will be opening more washrooms to the public thanks to support from Council.
- Refuse is very heavy due to the volume of Park users and the fact that all restaurants are mainly takeout at this time. Dumping in parks has increased substantially. Maintenance is continuing to deal with camping in parks and cleaning up debris and garbage abandoned.
- Parks shop is busy repairing equipment and supporting all Parks sections.
- Baseball season is now in full swing (with Covid restrictions) and we are busy keeping all fields safe and playable.
- Mowing and Tennis court maintenance are a couple more of our priorities.
- Irrigation section is busy doing repairs across the Saanich Parks system.
- The conversion of Lochside allweather field is in full swing and should be completed by the end of June.

Horticulture Section

Horticulture staff are busy taking down spring bulb displays and rototilling beds in preparation for planting summer annuals in late May going into early June. Turf crews are mowing grass in Parks, Facilities and streetscapes. Staff continue to handle a normal volume of Calls for Service to neighbourhood traffic circles and provide support to our dedicated volunteers at Playfair and Outerbridge Parks.

Urban Forestry Section

With the warmer drier weather, Urban Forestry (UF) staff have been able to get equipment into parks to start on much needed proactive tree pruning around playgrounds. This program focuses on abating tree hazards around our 50+ playgrounds. Our boulevard tree planting program wrapped up for the season in the middle of April. That crew has now shifted their attention to the backlog of stump grinding calls, and our small tree maintenance program (STM). Our boulevard tree watering program began on April 26th. We have two watering trucks out making over 2500 watering stops a month. Supervisory staff continue to review Engineering drawings for tree impacts, and provide onsite arborist supervision for Public Works projects. It's also been a busy 1st quarter of the year reviewing Telus Fibre Optic and Fortis gas service alignments for tree impacts.

Natural Areas Section

For Earth Day, on April 22, 2021, Parks Natural Areas crews visited 12 park sites across Saanich to place buckets of tree seedlings. The message was simple, Grab a seedling, get your hands dirty, plant, celebrate Earth Day, and spread the dirt (#Nilbucketoftrees). Each bucket contained 30 Western red Cedar



and 15 Douglas fir seedlings. Several youth groups including: Victoria Nature School, Lambrick Park Secondary, and Arbutus Global Middle School also received seedlings. Over 600 seedlings were given out to celebrate Earth Day.



The “Homes in Holmes” bird nesting program in Cuthbert Holmes Park has been a great success. The Great-horned Owl nesting platforms, that were installed in early February, caught the attention of Ollie (male) and his new mate Madonna; they quickly chose one of the nests within days of them being installed. The Dedicated volunteers have been recording the entire courtship for several months now with some fantastic photos

and videos. For several weeks, it looked like two owlets were being raised but just recently a third has popped its fuzzy face into view. A video diary of this amazing story is being worked on by 10th Garry Oak Venturer Scouts and will be distributed later this spring. Check out the latest *Our Backyard* for a story on the “Homes in Holmes – for our feathered friends.”

Crews have been installing post and rope habitat protection fencing in Mount Tolmie and Knockan Hill Parks to minimize traffic through sensitive Garry Oak rocky outcrops and meadows. There are many undesignated trails running through these parks that are disturbing and disrupting important plant and animal habitat. Little Mount Douglas is the next site that will get this protective fencing prescription.



Staff continues to manage invasive Lesser Celandine, Garlic Mustard, Poison Hemlock, and Shiny Geranium throughout parks and other public spaces. Crews continue to support the Pulling Together Volunteer program with work party support, mulch drop-off, and invasive pile pick up. Our restoration watering truck is now running full time and will continue into September. Two of our bigger restoration sites include the Mount Douglas beach parking lot Tree Appreciation Day site and the Columbine/Swan Lake pathway restoration. We have several large sites that are irrigated including the Quick’s Bottom site (off Wilkinson), Lindsay Trail, and the planting area in Cuthbert Holmes Park close to Admirals Bridge.



One of the projects that Naturals Areas has started, to help celebrate the UN Decade on Ecological Restoration, is the Garry Oak Dripline mini restoration projects. We hope to restore five to six sites per year in parks over the next ten years. Our goal is to not only restore dozens of small Garry Oak sites but to also educate and challenge property owners to do the same. We want to showcase the various techniques that can be used to restore Garry Oak ecosystems. This year we have sites in Hyacinth, Knockan Hill, Fairburn, and Braefoot Parks picked out so far. We hope to engage youth groups to help with these restorations including Maria Montessori School adjacent to

Fairburn Park. Recently, staff joined a Girl Guide Sparks work party crew at Braefoot to begin the invasive Blackberry removal. The Sparks are invited back later this year to help with mulching and planting.

A temporary Parks Worker 2 has been hired to help implement the large restoration projects funded by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure mitigation funds to restore several Garry Oak and Trembling Aspen sites. The restoration work will take place over ten years but resource spending will be top heavy for the first five years. The Garry Oak polygons are at Layritz and Vic Derman Parks and the Trembling Aspen restoration is in Cuthbert Holmes Park.

Projects coming up include:

- Mount Douglas Summit split-rail fencing to delineate some natural areas for restoration,
- Continue restoration work in Cuthbert Holmes Park along Colquitz Creek,
- Bare earth trail repairs,
- Lesser celandine surveys and treatments,
- Continue with Shiny geranium treatments,
- Supporting Pulling Together volunteers and Park Stewardship Coordinator,
- Working with Public Works Storm and Wastewater crew to plan for creek work during the 2021 fisheries window,
- Removing Blackberry and mulching along the stream at McMinn Park to prepare for the Tree Appreciation Day planting event in November,
- Curtis Point cedar split-rail fencing project to delineate areas for people and areas for conservation,
- Carry on with Garry Oak Dripline projects.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

REPORT

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Tiana Solares, Senior Manager – Recreation
Date: 5/15/2020
Subject: May 2021 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

Recreation – General

Registration for summer camps kicked off on May 14 and in the first 2.5 hours alone, over 9,542 participants were registered across all centres, accounting for over \$900,000 in registration fees. 99.57% of those registrations took place online, with the remainder over the phone. By the end of the day, over 11,069 registrants were signed up, with 90% of all those registrations happening online.

To compare, in 2020 Recreation saw 5,525 registrants on the first day of registrations and in 2019 (pre-COVID), there were 7,483 registrants on the first day.

Outdoor Programs

The number of outdoor programs has expanded across all recreation centres to enable adults to access fitness classes; they range from barre classes to yoga to spin, and all are in line with the Provincial Health Order directives.

Cedar Hill Campus

Now that the weather is lovely, Cedar Hill Golf Course has been experiencing tremendous demand. With approximately 300 tee times available per day, all will book within minutes of the online booking process opening at 6:00pm each day, leading to frustration for many would-be golfers. Messaging has been updated online to make golfers aware of the excessive demand.

Gordon Head Community Recreation Centre

The two small construction projects of Chemical Room Addition and Administration Office Expansion with Kingsview Construction have progressed quickly with anticipated completion end-June 2021. A pool deck acoustics paneling project to reduce the noise levels on deck will be installed during the June 2021 annual maintenance shut-down along with setting up the new Chemical Room for operations.

GHRC and SCP Aquatics supervisors are piloting a new hiring process for summer staff. Even though the two pools have similar and unique requirements, they are working collaboratively with Saanich Human Resources to pool together their leadership resources and time for an efficient spring/summer hiring.



GHRC has welcomed back Pacific Coast Swimming – Lightning Fast Swim Series. This coached program is focused on introduction to and competitive swimming. Protocol for this rental group includes a separate external entrance/exit to the pool, no access to change rooms, swimmers bringing their own equipment, and typical PHO protocol being followed.

Not only has COVID affected *how*

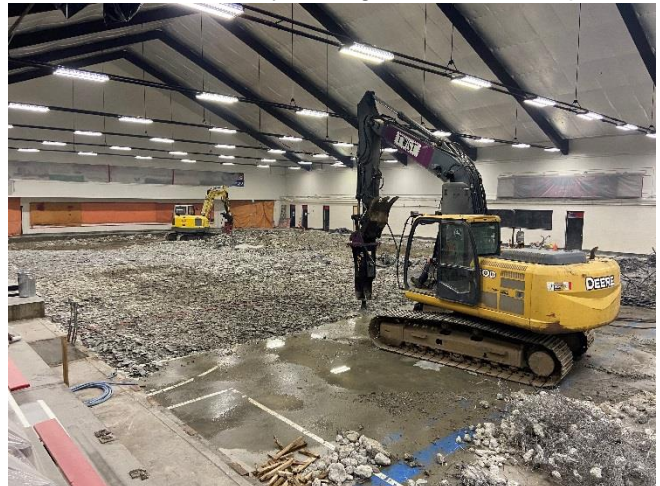
Recreation offers programs but also *where* the programs are delivered. As of our Spring fitness programs have moved outdoors, staff are also using non-traditional outdoor spaces to do so. When you are strolling through Lambrick Park, you may now see a TRX class in the lacrosse box, or a parent and child music program in the outfield of a baseball diamond. Programmers have been very resilient in coming up with new ways to keep our services running, within the PHO restrictions.



G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre

GR Pearkes has remained a vibrant site, with construction, sport, fitness and community services continuing.

The Arena Slab and Elevator Project has continued on schedule. Demolition began in the early part of April, and is ongoing. Recreation Pearkes staff engaged local residents, and community groups early in the process notifying them of the increased levels of sound in the community during the demolition phase. Pearkes Fire station remains in the Youth centre, with Fire Fighters operating out of the centre. During elevator renewal, the Change rooms Fire has been using will be inaccessible, and Fire will need to move to another Change room/Shower facilities in the building. Pearkes staff are currently working through options to minimize impact to community patrons.



The Green Rink remains in operation, and will continue to be throughout the Gold Rink project. Ice Programs, and Public Skating remain over-subscribed. Additionally, Community Sport Youth groups continue to heavily utilize ice time as restrictions allow youth sport to continue (with modifications).

Saanich Commonwealth Place

SCP is hosting its second Virtual Dive meet May 20/21 – The 2021 Junior Qualifiers for the National Championships. They will be streamed for viewing onto the Diving Canada website. While the buzz of hosting a crowd of athletes and spectators will be missed, it is so great to see that sport, competition and athletes can continue to thrive under the current limitations.

Several Programming and Administrative staff joined in on the Virtual Recreation Facilities Association of BC Conference and BC Recreation and Parks Association Symposium the week of May 3rd. With a large variety of sessions from communication and leadership, to new approaches to rec design and site safety, there was something for everyone. Everyone who attended returned with a few new tools and ideas for their toolboxes.

Opening Soon....Six new EV charging stations have been installed, these will help meet the public demand on currently sought after two stations.

Outdoor Fitness is off to a roaring success and Mother Nature has approved as well. Spring sessions have nearly sold out and the summer sessions are filling up fast. Our Health and Fitness programmers and instructors have worked quickly to adjust programming and protocols to continue to provide safe programming to accommodate all fitness levels.



The kids in the Kiddie Capers program at Commonwealth were surprised to come back to the Friendly Forest after an adventure to find these fun carvings left behind by the Saanich Arborists!

Prepared by: _____
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Approved by: _____
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation