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The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Mayor and Council
From: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: 1/19/2017
Subject: Mount Douglas Park Disability Parking

RECOMMENDATION

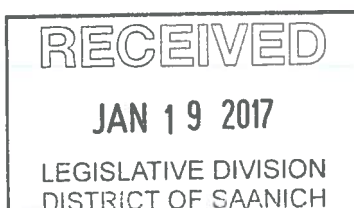
That Council endorse staff's recommendation to utilize the existing Parking Permit Program administered by the Victoria Disability Resource Centre and to provide disability-parking stalls in Mount Douglas Park based on the following formula:

- Summit Lot – retain the existing two (2) disabled persons parking spaces;
- Churchill Lot – allocate one (1) existing parking space to a single disabled persons parking space near the new portable toilet;
- Beach Lot – define two (2) disabled persons parking spaces, one (1) near the washroom building in an area currently unlined for parking spaces and one (1) near the trail to the beach;
- Glendenning Lot – add one (1) disabled persons parking space keeping the existing five (5) spaces intact;
- Blenkinsop Lot – retain parking as defined as this lot services the Blenkinsop Trail that has a difficult (black) rating and is generally undesirable for persons with mobility challenges.

The above formula would produce four (4) additional disabled persons parking spaces throughout the Park for a total of six (6) spaces marked for persons with a disability.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is twofold; one is to advise Council on the Disability Parking Permit Program already in place on Vancouver Island and to make a recommendation to Council for the provision of disability-parking stalls within Mount Douglas Park as per the November 28, 2016 motion from Council. The above recommendation is based on Saanich's Zoning Bylaw for off-street parking and the recently completed Mount Douglas Park Access Study.



DISCUSSION

Parking Permit Program

Vancouver Island has an established program in place to provide disability-parking permits to people who meet certain conditions. These conditions may be permanent or temporary and must be verified by a medical doctor. The Victoria Disability Resource Centre administers the program and has three local offices; Victoria, Sidney and Langford. Permits can also be obtained by mail. It is widely recognized that visitors using parking spaces designated with the blue and white sign with a wheelchair logo must display a valid disability-parking permit to use those spaces. Staff recommend using the existing, well-recognized provincial program for disability-parking permits.

Disability-Parking Spaces

The Saanich Zoning Bylaw does not specifically identify parks in Section 7 – Off Street Parking. However, the requirement for Disabled Persons Parking Spaces (7.4(b)) can still be applied to Mount Douglas Park. The inventory of available parking spaces conducted in the Mount Douglas Park Access Study indicates there are approximately 175 parking spaces within the Park, two of which (at the Summit) are marked for persons with disabilities. Although there is not a parks category in the Zoning Bylaw, the two disabled persons parking spaces in the Park would satisfy the Bylaw requirements. Because parking in Mount Douglas Park is spread over five lots and the two marked spaces are only at the Summit, this application of the Bylaw may not be sufficient to adequately meet community needs.

Timed Parking

The introduction of additional disability parking spots essentially eliminates the need for timed parking. Further, current District capacity makes timed parking nearly impossible to enforce. However, recognizing Council's desire to support more residents being able to access the park, staff are in the process of creating a respectful parking template that encourages residents to limit their parking to no more than two (2) hours at the popular Glendenning and Churchill lots.

Older Adult Strategy

The Department of Parks and Recreation is currently in the midst of developing an Older Adult Strategy for the District. One of the emerging themes of the study is to ensure the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities for those residents who have mobility and vision issues. This could involve an audit of Saanich Parks and Trails and subsequent mapping for a brochure similar to the one Westshore Parks and Recreation and CRD Parks produced a few years ago. The resulting *Guide to User-Friendly Trails* brochure is a huge success even garnering awards for its insightful and complete information.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Council endorse the recommendation as outlined in the staff report.
2. That Council receive this report for information; in essence supporting that the current provision for disabled persons parking spaces in the Park meets the Saanich Zoning Bylaw requirements and no additional spaces are needed.
3. That Council refer the provision of disabled parking spaces to the Older Adult Strategy currently underway in the District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The staff recommendation to provide four (4) additional (6 total) disabled persons parking spaces in Mount Douglas Park is proposed to be funded from established budgets in the 2017 financial plan. Keeping the status quo would have no significant financial implications. Cost to create the space in Glendenning would be less than \$2,000 and would be funded from the Parks Operations budget. Referring the provision of disabled person's parking spaces to the Older Adult Strategy may require additional resources and/or funding from an existing program or may be a new item depending on the recommendations.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Providing additional disabled persons parking spaces aligns with C1 of the current Strategic Plan by supporting active living opportunities for all ages and abilities. This also fits within the Parks Division existing workplan as directed by the Mount Douglas Park Access Study Council approved recommendations (November 2016). Leaving some of the Park's popular parking areas unmarked for disabled parking spaces does a disservice to members of our community that rely on these spaces for their health and well-being.

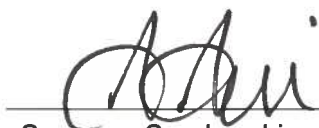
OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Note that allocating a disabled persons parking space in the Churchill parking lot will effectively reduce the number of spaces from 28 spaces to 26 spaces plus one (1) disabled space. At the Glendenning parking lot, staff believe the disabled person's parking space can be added to the existing five spaces without any disruption to the current configuration of the parking area (Appendix 1). This new space is created where vehicles are currently parking illegally. A large stump would need to be removed and some additional gravel placed. If the designation of one of the existing five spaces were to be allocated to a disabled person's parking space, the lot would effectively be reduced to three (3) spaces plus one (1) disabled space.

CONCLUSIONS

Results of the Mount Douglas Park Access Study and through conversations with the community including previous Council discussions have led to the recommendation in this report. Providing additional disabled persons parking spaces aligns with the current Strategic Plan and can be achieved through existing budgets.

Prepared by 
Mike Goldsworthy
Park Planner/Designer

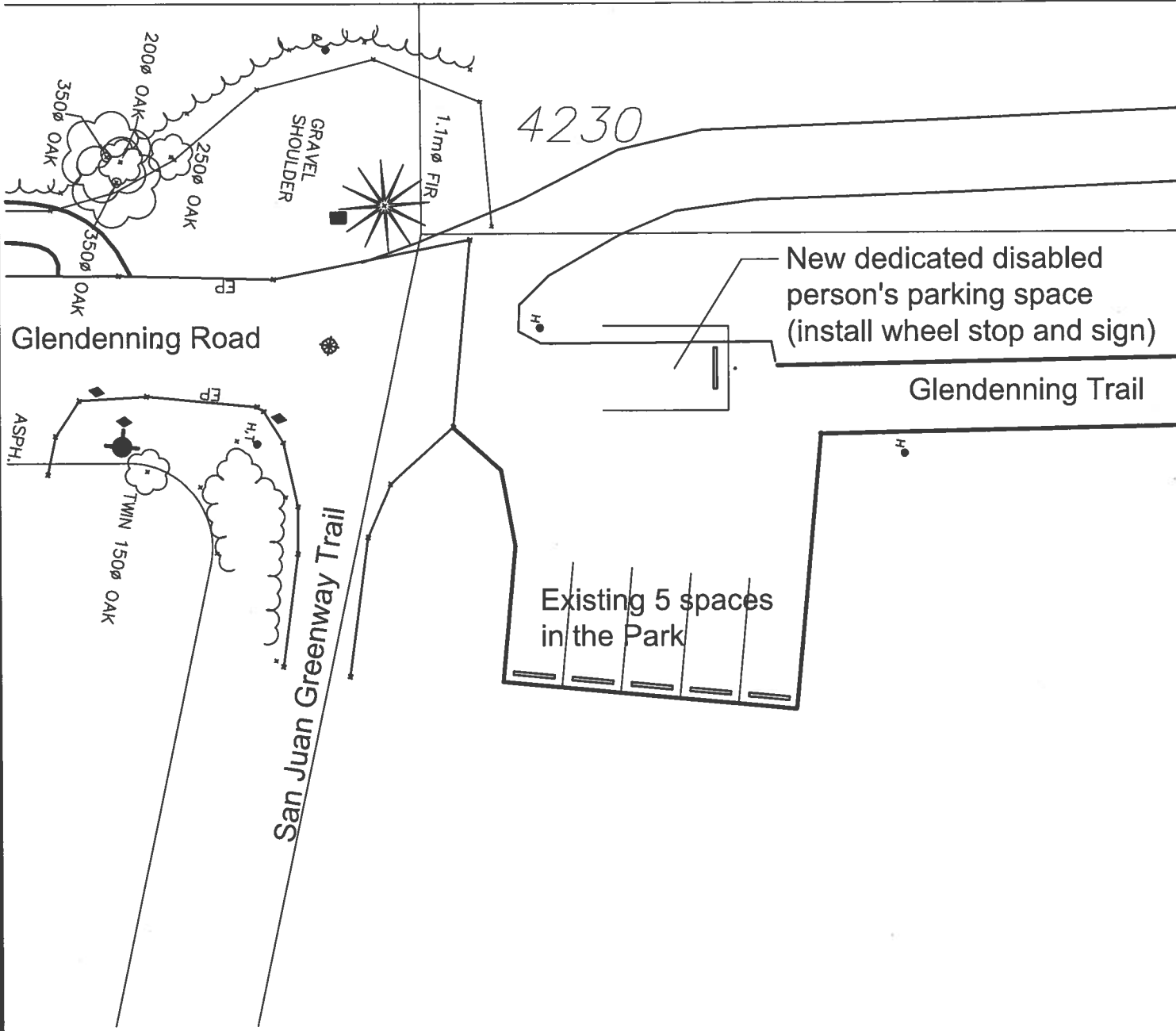
Approved by 
Suzanne Samborski
Director of Parks and Recreation

MG/mg

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Parks and Recreation.


Administrator



Saanich Parks and Recreation

Mt. Douglas Park

Glendenning Disability-Parking Plan

DATE: Jan. 2017
 DRAWN: M.G.
 APP'D.
 SCALE: not to scale

APPENDIX
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