

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA 'F' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2013

4:30-5:30PM

(ARROWSMITH HALL)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome new Committee Member

DELEGATIONS

3

Elaine Peligren, President of Corcan-Meadwood Residences Association, RE: Phase II & III of the Meadowood Community Park Process.

Motion to receive late delegation.

MINUTES

4-6

Minutes of the Electoral Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held November 19, 2012.

Motion to approve Minutes.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Motion to receive Communication/Correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

7-13

Monthly Update of Community and Regional Parks and Trail Projects – November, December 2012

14-18

Monthly Update of Community and Regional Parks and Trail Projects – January 2013

Arrowsmith Community Trail (ACT) Update (handout)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Park Land Classification (handout)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Community Parks and Trails Strategy Open House to follow – 5:30-7:30pm

NEXT MEETING

Monday May 6, 2013

4:30-5:30pm

Errington War Memorial Hall

Distribution: J. Fell (Chairperson), R. Nosworthy, A. Jablonski, S. Donald, B. Smith, S. Chomolok, C. Anderson
T. Osborne, W. Marshall, E. McCulloch



Corcan-Meadowood Residents' Association

Elaine Peligren - President - Phone 250-729-7099 (ext. 234)

www.meadowoodresidents.com

February 26th, 2013

Attention: Area "F" Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Delegate – Elaine Peligren, President of the Corcan-Meadowood Residents' Association at the March 6th, 2013 POSAC Meeting

Our Association would like to address the Parks and Open Space Committee on March 6th, 2013 regarding the process required to continue with Phase 2 and Phase 3 of our Meadowood Community Park. We are pleased with the progress being made on Phase 1 and we would like to ensure that future funds and Parks and Recreation staff support and time are allocated in 2014 for the continued development of Phase 2 of our Community Park.

If you require any additional information you may reach me at (250) 729-7099 (Work) or (250) 816-3130 (Cell) or by e-mail at epeligren@dominionlending.ca. Our mailing address is 1625 Meadowood Way, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, V9K 2S3.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Elaine J. Peligren
President

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'F'
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (POSAC)
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012 7:00 PM
AT ERRINGTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

ATTENDANCE: Julian Fell, director RDN board, Chair
Reg Nosworthy
Skye Donald
Alfred Jablonski
Steve Chomolok
Barbara Smith

STAFF: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner
Wendy Marshall, Manager of Parks Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED R. Nosworthy that the Minutes of the Electoral Area F Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

R. Nosworthy requested clarification of the reference to 'Act 1, 2, 3 – 5, and 6' on the RDN Map of the Proposed Low-Traffic Road and Trail Route for Coombs-Errington. Ms. McCulloch advised that the ACT designations were provided to the Ministry of Transportation last year as part of a funding application for the Errington School Trail; this map is no longer operative.

Ms. Michel, Parks and Trails Co-coordinator, has been in contact with Steve Cross' family regarding the proposed trail in his name in Malcolm Park. This matter will be followed up on in the spring of 2013.

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Parks And Regional Parks And Trail Projects

Ms. McCulloch summarized the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects reports for May, July to August, September and October.

Ms. Marshall reviewed the process necessary to obtain a Park Permit for private commercial purposes, with the intent to collect fees. S. Donald requested that Ms. Michel provide information to POSAC regarding fireworks certification in a Park.

2012 Electoral Area F Detailed Project Plan – November 2012

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the 2012 5-year Project Plan Working document.

Arrowsmith Community Trail (ACT) Update:

Ms. Michel, Parks and Trails Coordinator, will attend the first POSAC meeting in 2013 to update the Committee on the Arrowsmith Community Trails, including how volunteer assistance can be used in the advancement of ACT.

David Lundine Trail – there is continued interest by neighbours in reviving the David Lundine Memorial Trail in Errington. S. Chomolok suggested that there had been a great group of helpers involved in the creation of the original trail and possibly could be called upon to assist again. This will be added to the list of potential trail development projects.

Cranswick Trail - B. Smith asked whether the surveys had been completed on the Cranswick gazetted right of ways and was advised by Ms. McCulloch that it will be done this winter when there are no leaves left on the trees. B Smith suggested that \$10,000 should be budgeted for trail survey fees as identified in previous Project Plan Working Documents.

S. Donald questioned where the unspent parks development allocation goes and whether we could use it to further projects in 2012. Ms. Marshall advised that the funds are added to the surplus which is carried forward to fund future years.

At S. Donald's request, Ms. McCulloch reviewed the reasons why the development of Romaine Park was postponed to a future year.

S. Donald questioned whether the Meadowood Park plans should take precedence over other expenses i.e. picnic tables in existing parks.

MOVED S. Donald, SECONDED R. Nosworthy that the Phase #2 of the Meadowood Concept Plan be deprioritized in favour of a review with reprioritization of all Park and Trail projects.

CARRIED

R. Nosworthy commented that 3 POSAC meetings are not enough to adequately deal with the issues and suggested that the committee members meet on an Ad Hoc basis without RDN staff. This meeting was set for the 23rd of November at a place to be determined.

Further discussion on the 5-Year Project Plan will be postponed to a future POSAC meeting.

Meadowood Way Community Park Concept Plan

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Meadowood Way Community Park Concept Plan.

MOVED R. Nosworthy, SECONDED S. Donald, to support the Meadowood Concept Plan as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED S. Chomolok, SECONDED R. Nosworthy to receive the Reports.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Community Parks and Trails Strategy – Northern Electoral Areas

Ms. Marshall reviewed the Community Parks and Trails Strategy (CPTS) – Northern Electoral Areas of E, F, G and H.

Committee Appointments to the Community Parks and Trails Strategy Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee along with staff from the RDN will be tasked with providing direction regarding the acquisition/protection, development and management of Community Parks and Trails.

B. Smith questioned whether there had been any new Parkland acquired through the subdivision process. Chair Fell commented that the larger lot sizes precluded the operation of the parkland allocation.

MOVED J. Fell, SECONDED A. Jablonski that Barbara Smith will be the 2013 Area F Appointment to the CPTS Committee.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED R. Nosworthy that the meeting be adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Parks Functions Report

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: January 16, 2013

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

During November and December staff have been involved with the following projects and issues.

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Weeding, pruning and trail brushing was completed at both Woodridge Community Park and the Morden Colliery Trail entrance.

At Nelson Road staff removed storm debris from the ramps while at Pylades Road staff inspected the park for tree issues and cleared the trail. A damaged picnic table was repaired at Thelma Griffiths Community Park.

Staff prepared and distributed the November 21st PRC Commission meeting agenda package and attended the meeting. Staff prepared an Area A Parks work book and provided a parks tour to most of the Community Parks to Commission members at the November 4th PRC Planning Session.

Area B

Major works were completed for the replacement of an irrigation pond liner, and renovation of the interior of the pump house at Rollo McClay Community Park. Additional plumbing and fencing work is required to complete the project. A large, in-ground garbage can was also installed by the concession, and tree pruning along the hydro line was completed.

Staff prepared a webpage and online survey regarding Water Accesses on Mudge Island. A notification of the survey was mailed to all island residents. Residents were able to participate in the survey until December 10th and then extended until January 7th, 2013. Staff answered questions and took comments on the survey. Approximately ten survey responses were mailed in and inputted by staff.

Beach access stair replacement work was begun at South Road Community Park. Completion of this project is expected in mid-January.

The volunteer-constructed entrance sign at Huxley Community Park was removed and refinished. Installation will be carried out this winter.

Several large hazard trees were removed along a section of the Whalebone area trails.

Staff assisted the RDN Emergency Coordinator with park and trail mapping requests from the Gabriola Emergency Preparedness team.

Area C - Extension

Staff attended a site meeting with the applicant and their agent for a subdivision application on Myles Lake.

Area C – East Wellington

Site clearing and removal of fences and out-buildings was begun at Anders and Dorrit's Community Park. Hydro service was also reinstated at the house. Creek crossing and additional clearing work will continue into January.

Staff prepared and distributed the November 26th EW/PV POSAC meeting agenda package and attended the meeting.

Area E

Staff prepared a webpage and online survey regarding the Blueback Community Park public consultation process. Residents of Electoral Area 'E' were able to participate in the survey until December 10th. Staff organized; coordinated advertising for; and attended an Open House at the park on Saturday, November 24th. Approximately 25-30 people attended. Staff continued to answer questions and take comments on the Blueback Community Park online survey throughout December. The deadline for the online survey was extended until January 7th, 2013.

At Nanoose Road Community Park staff removed tree blow down and debris from trail. BC Hydro line clearing work was also carried out, to be completed in January. This involved the removal of two large arbutus trees along the road frontage.

Stair replacement work was completed at Jack Bagley Community Park. Staff installed additional parking signage at Nanoose Place and at Ainsley Road staff cleared the trail and stairs and repaired the approach.

Staff prepared and distributed the November 5th Area 'E' POSAC meeting agenda package and attended the meeting.

Staff attended a Fairwinds rezoning meeting with Planning Staff and the applicant's agent.

Area F

Results from the final Open House in October and online survey were summarized and were included in the final report. The Phase 1 design plan is being finalized with a target date of early 2013 for construction tender and park construction in the summer. Staff are also working with community volunteers to source labour and materials that could be used towards completion of Phase 1 construction.

Staff met with board members from the Errington Hall Society to discuss the operation agreement for Errington Community Park.

Trail maintenance and clearing work was carried out along the Arrowsmith Community Trail.

Staff prepared and distributed the November 19th Area 'F' POSAC meeting agenda package and attended the meeting.

Area G

At Dashwood Community Park downspout and eaves trough maintenance and repair work was completed.

At Miller Road Community Park staff repaired stairs impacted by erosion and staff conducted trail maintenance work along the Stanhope Trail.

A community built sign was refinished and remounted on new posts at the entrance of Maple Lane Community Park following damage to one of the posts.

Staff reported to the board on the state of several large Cottonwood trees at Boulton Community Park in response to a park neighbour complaint. A hazard tree report was investigated at Riley Road Community Park.

Staff prepared and distributed the December 10th Area 'G' POSAC meeting agenda package and attended the meeting.

Staff attended a meeting with Planning staff, the developer and their agent regarding the rezoning application for 691 Wembley Rd (Yellowbrick).

The works at Miller Road are complete. Monitoring the structures after rain events has confirmed their integrity. Final report is expected in December.

Area H

Public tender for the construction of the park closed on November 30th and the proposals were evaluated in December and the RDN has begun negotiating a final contract with IWC Excavating. The bid was over budget so the scope of work is being reduced to fall in line with the budget. Building and Development Permits have been received. The Hydro poles have now been moved out of the Park. Request for Quotations for the design/build of the pump track component were received November 5th and Jay Hoots was the successful candidate. Sports and playground equipment was ordered for the park.

At Sunnybeach Road staff removed storm debris. At Crane road staff removed storm debris and reported to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans following the discovery of a dead sea lion. At Thompson Clarke Trail the ditch and trail was cleared of debris.

Staff prepared and distributed the November 28th Area 'H' POSAC meeting agenda package and attended the meeting.

Community Parks and Greenways Strategy

Staff continue to work on Phase 1 research. Staff has created and posted a dedicated web page on the RDN website. Work continues on the draft plans and preparations for the first Advisory Committee meeting in January.

Regional Parks and Trails

Beachcomber Regional Park

Park staff inspected and maintained the trail and upgraded signs in the park and conducted trail maintenance.

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

Park staff cleared winter storm debris off trails.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff assisted with the old barn demolition. Staff also cleaned the pond leveler for the winter months and removed some old barbed wire in the park.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

Park operator removed old barriers in the day use area and installed split rail fencing. Fencing was also installed along the cliffs on the points.

Englishman River Regional Park

Park Staff carried out routine inspections of Englishman River Regional Park and Top Bridge Park. Staff responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees. High river signage was installed and winter storm debris cleared from trails. A sign inventory was also conducted.

Trail construction signs were posted to inform the public about what is happening over the next 6 months. The Community Fisheries Development Centre work crew built a new bridge at the beaver pond and pedestrian only signs were posted. The Community Fisheries Development Centre work crew are also developing a new trail.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Park staff removed the old life preserver stands on the beach and replaced them with no lifeguard on duty signs. Staff built stairs for the fuel tank. Park staff continue to monitor and trouble shoot the water and power system.

Parking lot improvements were carried out and the South road was graded.

Park staff photo inventoried the park (data collected includes signs, facilities and fire pits).

Staff prepared and issued an RFP for park operator 2013-2018. The mandatory site visit was held with participation by RDN Utilities and Regional Parks Operations Coordinator. Four companies participated in the site visit and three submissions were received by the RFP deadline. The successful proponent was RLC Parks Services, the same firm that operates most BC Parks on Vancouver Island. The five-year operator agreement with RLC was developed and it included clarification of standards, processes and expectations. Staff organized the first meeting between RDN Parks and RLC. Staff worked with outgoing park operator on picnic table inventory and registration history.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Construction of the accessible parking area and installation of two portable toilets, surrounds and signage and parking lot improvements are completed.

Terms of Reference were developed for an interpretive sign program for Lighthouse Country Regional Trail Pilot. Preliminary design concepts were received from the consultant.

Park staff emptied the deep bin garbage cans and maintained the trail.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Staff worked with BC Conservation Foundation on terms of reference for a vegetation plan at the spit to be cost shared. The plan will include specific directions regarding invasive removal that can be carried out by volunteer assistants QB Streamkeepers.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

The Little Qualicum River Regional Park Management Planning process is now in its final phase. Results from the October 13th Open House and online survey were summarized as part of the final submission to the RPTSC December 4th meeting for their consideration. The Management Plan will be before the Board for final approval at their January 22nd meeting.

Moorecroft Regional Park

The Draft Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan was reviewed at the December 4th RPTSC meeting and will go before the Board at their January 22nd meeting. Signage about park improvements and changes was posted in the park in conjunction with construction of split rail fencing at Vesper Point (for protection of Garry Oak habitat). Staff met with the Moorecrofters in December to discuss volunteer possibilities in the park.

Park Staff carried out the following works at Moorecroft Regional Park:

- Staff installed two double bear proof garbage cans (One at Vesper Point and one in the parking lot)
- Ballenas Secondary School class is installing a split rail fence at Vesper Point to protect the sensitive rare Gary Oak ecosystem
- Staff delivered split rail fencing material for the students
- Staff installed expanded metal on the new boardwalk for traction
- Staff removed garbage from the barn
- Staff conducted trail maintenance
- Staff checked all of the cabins stairs to determine if they were a safety concern. Stairs on cabins 3B and 9 were removed.
- Parking lot loop road was repaired

Morden Colliery Regional Trail

Park staff inspected and maintained the trail.

Mount Benson Regional Park

The trailhead kiosk was completed as well as parking lot improvements. The trailhead sign board is being designed and will be installed in the spring. An emergency access bollard with signs is being fabricated and will be installed by the spring.

Park staff finished GPSing the Mount Benson trails. The City of Nanaimo located their boundary at the Witchcraft parking lot and removed a couple of trees where the new kiosk will be installed in December.

Staff participated in a meeting with the NALT Covenant Committee to provide feedback on their draft covenant. It was agreed to work together to produce a simpler document.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff conducted trail maintenance and emptied the deep bin garbage can on Frey road

Top Bridge Regional Trail

Park staff conducted trail maintenance.

Trans Canada Trail

Damaged signs for Extension Ridge Trail were removed and one sign replaced as requested by Island Timberlands.

Parksville - Qualicum Links

Staff worked with Parksville, Qualicum Beach and MoTI to conclude on a way-marking scheme for the Links Route. All signage to be installed during the last two weeks of March 2013 in advance of Bike to Work Week with MoTI paying for the RDN's share of road signage.

Miscellaneous

Staff attended a district Joint Health and Safety Meeting.

Numerous park inspection visits and maintenance projects were conducted throughout the district including garbage removal, brushing and trail maintenance, new sign layouts and installations, and sign maintenance, and numerous information requests were received from the public. A lift gate was ordered for one of the fleet vehicles.

Staff attended an International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Trail Care workshop held in Nanaimo. This was a great refresher course on trail layout and building techniques.

Park staff designed and produced fire and emergency signs for Parks that fall under the MoF Fire control cost sharing agreement.

Staff received MoTI's engineering study of the Hwy 19A bridge over French Creek and cost projections to fix the inadequate side-passage shared by pedestrians, medi-scooters and cyclists. Staff liaised with the Oceanside Cycling Coalition on the review process.

Staff attended the BC Hydro Distribution Line Services workshop on vegetation practices.

Park Use Permits and Events

Staff liaised with the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club regarding pursuit of permit for mountain bike trail along the Harrow undeveloped road allowance. MoTI supports the plan given RDN holding a permit for the works. The Club will initiate exploration of the route including GPS, with a view to the RDN pursuing permit from MoTI in 2013.

Assisted North Island Film Commission with land information and contacts regarding TV filming at the base of the Saddle Route up Mount Arrowsmith.

Recommendation

That the Parks Update Report for November and December 2012 be received as information.

Original copy signed by W. Marshall

Manager of Parks Services

Original copy signed by T. Osborne

General Manager Concurrence

Parks Functions Report

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: February 19, 2013

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

During January staff have been involved with the following projects and issues.

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

At the Nelson Road boat ramp improved parking signage was installed by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and storm debris was removed from the boat ramp.

Repairs were made to the toilet building at Pylades Drive beach access. At Ritten Road a garbage clean-up was carried out. A culvert was installed at Whiting Way Community Park, on a damaged section of causeway trail across the pond.

Area B

At Rollo McClay Community Park plumbing, electrical, roof repair, painting, and fencing work is underway around the irrigation pond. A hazard tree assessment was ordered following a report from a park neighbour.

Beach access stair replacement work continues at South Road Community Park. Completion of this project is expected in mid-February.

Area C – East Wellington

At Meadow Drive Community Park staff cleared garbage from the park and inspected the playground and swings. A hazard tree inspection was also carried out.

Site clearing and bridge replacement work continues at Anders and Dorrit's Community Park.

Area E

Staff investigated potential parkland dedication opportunities at a property on Dorcas Point Rd by attending a site visit and through discussions with Planning staff and the potential future applicant.

At the Fox Run end of Schooner Ridge Path Community Park staff installed a new anti-vehicle bollard and large boulders to control unwanted access. Golf cart access for community members has been preserved at the site.

Staff conducted garbage clean up at Jack Bagley Community Park and at Brickyard Community Park staff cleared the trails and removed garbage. At Ainsley Road staff cleared the trail and stairs and repaired the approach.

Staff met on site to discuss requested tree removal and transplanting options at Nanoose Place in preparation for the possible development of the adjacent private lands.

Area F

Trail planning and assessment work was carried out for the Arrowsmith Community Trail network. Staff reviewed the Carrothers Rd trail (ACT 2) and arrangements were made for an assessment of hazard trees by a professional faller. Fifteen trees were identified for removal and once the cost estimate is received a MoTI permit application will be submitted. Staff also completed an evaluation of Cranswick Rd (ACT 3) and the area is ready for volunteers to carry out initial trail blazing in 2013. Staff provided MoTI with a written brief on ACT progress.

Staff assisted local equestrians with an introduction to the Crown Lands Recreation and Trails Officer who provided both with RDN Crown lands mapping.

Area G

Staff attended a meeting with Planning staff and Ministry of Transportation representatives to discuss the road and pedestrian network along Wembley Rd and Yellowbrick Rd in relation to the rezoning application for 691 Wembley Rd.

Staff cleared the trail and inspected newly installed bank stabilization works at Miller Road Community Park. Staff conducted a park clean up and trail clearing work at Columbia Drive Community Park.

Following one in December, another hazard tree report was investigated at Riley Road Community Park, resulting in the tree's removal.

Area H

The tendering process for Henry Morgan is complete. IWC Excavating was selected as the contractor for the construction of Phase 1 works including play elements, pathways, landscaping, sport court, and temporary parking. Work has begun on sourcing materials and preparing the rootwad features. Clearing and grubbing is expected to take place during February if the weather conditions are favorable. The RDN has also hired Hoots Inc. to design/build the bike pump track. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

Staff visited Leon Rd/Marshall Rd parks to assess the feasibility of developing a trail/bridge connection through the parks.

Staff also visited Dunsmuir Community Park to look at future improvements. Staff liaised with a service contractor regarding ongoing vandalism issues at porta potty sites.

Community Parks and Greenways Strategy

Staff continued to research and assemble information on parks and land use in the four Electoral Areas. The first Advisory Committee meeting was held in January. Based on a Committee recommendation the public engagement process has been expanded to include Open House sessions in each of the four Electoral Areas. The first Open House is scheduled for the end of February in Electoral Area H. A survey will be available on the RDN website prior to the Open House date. A second round of Open Houses will take place in May.

Staff coordinated and set the 2013 meeting dates for the Electoral Area A Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and the Electoral Area B, East Wellington Pleasant Valley, E, F, G, and H Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee as well as the Open House dates for the Community Parks and Trails Strategy.

Regional Parks

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

Staff completed the Terms of Reference for the development of a 10-year management plan (2013-2023). The Terms of Reference and Staff Report will be forwarded to the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee meeting on February 5th and for to the Board for approval late February.

Park staff completed a sign inventory and replaced a post and sign along the trail. Park staff also cleaned up garbage that was dumped in the parking area.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

The extent of the wetland has increased in recent years due to beaver activity which has resulted in increased water levels on an adjacent property. Parks has hired a consulting firm to assist with environmental approvals and engineered flood protection measures to control the flooding of the neighbour's land. Once the design and approvals are in place, the work will be scheduled for this summer during the dry season.

Englishman River Regional Park

Park Staff carried out routine inspections of Englishman River Regional Park and Top Bridge Park and responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees. Park staff removed danger trees along the trails, cleaned up metal from the burn pile and maintained vegetation around the Allsbrook kiosk. As well Park staff installed split rail fence at the Middlegate ATV barrier.

The Community Fisheries Development Centre work crew continue to develop new trail connecting the park to the Top Bridge Trail.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Staff continue to work on the transition to a new contractor at Horne Lake. Staff worked with the outgoing park operator on the termination of services at the end of January, final payments, clearing out of goods, and transfer of operations to the new, incoming park operator, RLC Parks Services.

Numerous meetings were held on and off site with the new operator to get them familiarized and established at the park. Topics included reviewing requirements and proposals, and negotiating operating plans and systems. Staff also met with RLC, RDN Building Inspection, and Fortis on the set-up and location of operational structures at the park entrance. Staff met with RDN Utilities to clarify and correct their records and reports, and confirm water related processes as per VIHA requirements. A surveyor was hired to confirm flood covenant level at the park entrance and to update the survey record there and fire equipment inspection was conducted with the Fire Center. Staff continues to work on details of the five-year Agreement with RLC and has begun updating the HLRP pages on RDN web site.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Staff liaised with MFRNRO regarding erection of a Douglas-fir protected area zone sign at an RDN park/trail site in Bowser area. The sign is to be added to an existing post at the entrance to Wildwood Community Park and Lighthouse Country Regional Trail (north loop).

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Park staff inspected and repaired the western section of fence which was knocked over during a king tide event.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

The 2012-2022 Little Qualicum River Regional Park Management Plan was approved by the Regional Board on January 22nd. The final plan will be posted on the RDN website.

Moorecroft Regional Park

The 2013-2023 Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan was approved on January 22nd. The web page will be updated and the final management plan posted. Information and regulatory signage about fencing for environmental protection, dogs on leash and trail closures are being further developed. A temporary park entrance sign is being planned to inform visitors of the upcoming changes in the park. Staff have also been working and communicating with the Moorecrofters on possible volunteer opportunities.

Park Staff carried out the following works at Moorecroft Regional Park:

- Ballenas Secondary School class installed a split rail fence at Vesper Point to protect the sensitive rare Gary Oak ecosystem
- Staff delivered split rail fencing material for the students
- New trail closure and park regulation signage was installed throughout the park
- Staff used steel wool and expanding foam to fill holes in Kennedy Lodge to keep mice out
- Doors and windows were repaired on Kennedy Lodge. Gutters were also installed.
- Structural Engineers assessed two buildings in the park

Mount Benson Regional Park

Four large trees were removed from trail just across the boardwalk at Witchcraft Lake. A new post and a no skating sign was installed by the lake

Staff met with the NALT conservation covenant specialist to discuss broad directions for a park covenant. It was clarified that the RDN intends to join NALT as a covenant holder, and the value of using the management plan process to underpin a covenant. More meetings will be held over the next few months to develop the covenant.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff completed a sign inventory. New posts and park regulation signage was installed throughout the park. Park staff inspected and maintained the trail.

Top Bridge Regional Trail

Staff received notice and photos of elaborate bicycle jumps within DL129 near the Trail. Staff contacted the landowner, advised of concerns, and made another attempt to hold a joint site meeting to review the trail in general. The jumps were removed swiftly by the landowner who appreciated the notice.

Trans Canada Trail

Staff conducted an assessment of damage to the Spruston Road TCT kiosk and a contractor will provide estimate for repairs. The damage was caused by the tree falling on the kiosk.

Parksville - Qualicum Links

The way-marking signage has been installed in Parksville and staff confirmed the way-marking signage plan for the Area G section with MoTI, who will complete the works for the RDN by the end of March.

The quarterly meeting of Cycling Working Group was held and a presentation made on Community Parks and Trails Strategy. A tentative Saturday date in mid-April was identified for a pedestrian-cyclist event to mark the official opening of the way-marked route, and an event planning committee established.

Miscellaneous

Numerous park inspection visits and maintenance projects were conducted throughout the district including garbage removal, brushing and trail maintenance, new sign layouts and installations, and sign maintenance, and numerous information requests were received from the public.

An ordered lift gate was received and installed on one of the parks operations vehicles, and hands-free systems were installed in all three parks vehicles to facilitate safe cellular phone use.

Park Use Permits and Events

- Staff assisted Nanaimo Search and Rescue with identifying site for survival skills training workshop and directed them to the VIU Woodlot manager.
- Staff received and approved a park use permit for MFRNRO to use the Park for boat launching as part of steelhead monitoring in the Englishman over the winter and spring.

Recommendations

That the Parks Update Report for January 2013 be received as information.

Original copy signed by W. Marshall

Manager of Parks Services

Original copy signed by T. Osborne

General Manager Concurrence