



NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday
March 14, 2012
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

3:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

		<u>Pages</u>
3:30 p.m.	<u>START OF MEETING</u>	
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	1 – 2
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
	M1 Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting of May 25, 2011	3 – 5
3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>	
4.	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
5.	<u>REPORTS</u>	
	R1 Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, regarding 2012 Planning and Construction Program	6 – 8
	R2 Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, regarding "Adopt-a-Trail" application by the Chemainus Rotary Club	9 – 10
	R3 Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding request to install Geo-cache Sites along the Cowichan Valley Trail	11 – 12
	R4 Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding Friendship (siye'yu) Trail to Cowichan Commons – Maintenance Request	13 – 16
	R5 Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent, regarding Kinsol Trestle Finishing Elements	17 - 18
6.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
7.	<u>INFORMATION</u>	
	IN1 Times Colonist news article of February 19, 2012, "Region's Parks Attract Record Numbers"	19 – 21

IN2 Thank-you certificate received from Shawnigan-Kinsol Half 22
Marathon & Half a Half – October 30, 2011

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **QUESTION PERIOD**

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

12 **ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website
www.cvrld.bc.ca**

Director M. Dorey, Chair
Director G. Giles, Vice Chair
Director L. Duncan

Director I. Morrison
Director M. Marcotte
Director L. Iannidinardo

Director M. Walker
Director J. Lefebure
Director R. Hartmann

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
 Director Ian Morrison, Vice-Chair
 Director Brian Harrison
 Director Dave Haywood
 Director Lori Iannidinardo
 Director Loren Duncan
 Director Klaus Kuhn
 Director Phil Kent
 Director M. Marcotte

Absent: Director Ken Cossey
 Director Gerry Giles

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
 Warren Jones, CAO
 Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning and Development Department
 Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division
 Laura Gale, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted changes to the agenda, which included one item of New Business.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda, be amended with the addition of the following item of New Business:

NB1 Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area Trail Use

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

M1 - MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of September 14, 2011, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Director M. Dorey, Chair thanked the Committee and Parks and Trails Division for their hard work and dedication over the year.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

STAFF REPORTS

R1 – VI (Vancouver Island) Spine Request for Endorsement

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division – VI (Vancouver Island) Spine Request for Endorsement.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the efforts of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) to facilitate the development of the Vancouver Island (VI) Spine Trail, a proposed 700 kilometer trail from Victoria to Cape Scott be formally recognized and endorsed.

MOTION CARRIED

R2 – Cowichan Commons Multi-use Trail Maintenance Request

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division – Cowichan Commons Multi-use Trail Maintenance Request.

General discussion ensued.

R3 – Trail Counter Data from Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reviewed staff report prepared by Dan Brown, Parks and Trails Technician, dated November 2, 2011, regarding Trail Counter Data from Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area.

R4 – Sansum Point Acquisition Fundraising Update

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reviewed staff report dated November 3, 2011, regarding Sansum Point Acquisition Fundraising Update from Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the report regarding Sansum Point Acquisition Fundraising Update be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

R5 – Cowichan Valley Trail Use Compliance

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reviewed staff report dated November 4, 2011, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Use Compliance from Brian Duncan, Manager, Inspections and Enforcement Division, be received and filed.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the report regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Use Compliance be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 – Stocking Creek Park

E-mail correspondence dated August 5, 2011, from Kathleen Fenner – Bike Trail from Stocking Creek Park to N. Watts Road

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – Cobble Hill Mountain

Letter dated November 1, 2011, regarding Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area use.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the letter regarding report regarding Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area use be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

To be announced.

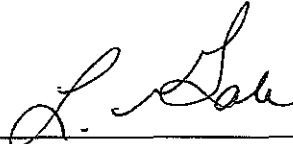
ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded
That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Chair



Recording Secretary



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF, MARCH 14, 2012

DATE: March 14, 2012 **FILE No:**
FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Planning Technician Parks and Trails Division
SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail – 2012 Planning and Construction Program

Recommendation/Action:

That this report be received for information.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Promote Individual and Community Wellness – Promote pedestrian and cyclist friendly roadways and trails between communities and neighbourhoods.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

Background:

2012 will prove to be a busy year for development of the Cowichan Valley Trail between Duncan and Ladysmith both from a planning and construction perspective. Existing major capital funding, gas tax funding, and other grant funding will enable further development of the Chemainus Rail with Trail. In addition, detailed route planning will be taking place between Duncan and Chemainus to determine how best to achieve completion of this vital connection beyond 2012.

2012 Proposed Construction:

Construction in 2012 will focus on furthering development of the Chemainus Rail with Trail between Elm Street in Chemainus and Area G's (Saltair) Stocking Creek Park. Top priority is to complete the one kilometre section between Chapman Road and Cook Street. This trail section will provide safe, off-road transportation for not only recreational trail users but also for schoolchildren attending Chemainus Elementary.

Any available funding beyond the cost to construct this section will be utilized to push northward towards Old Victoria Road and the eventual connection with the existing section of trail at Stocking Creek Park.

2012 Planning Exercises:

The remaining sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail route each present unique challenges that require careful planning to fully understand. This increased understanding will allow for more accurate cost estimating, work planning, and the ability to relay this information to the public.

Having shelf-ready information for projects is also extremely helpful when being considered for grant funding initiatives, as many organizations require detailed project information.

In order to assist in design efforts, staff will apply for available funding through the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, which covers 50% of trail design work and 100% of bridge design work. This funding is available under the TCT's 2012 – 2017 Completion Initiative.

In 2012, CVRD Parks and Trails staff will focus on planning exercises for the following areas:

Duncan to Chemainus Connection: from the Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, there are currently two options being considered by staff as the future Cowichan Valley Trail; the active E&N Rail corridor and the Catalyst Waterline corridor. Both routes will be investigated in detail to determine which option will provide the most ideal balance between the end user experience and financial implications for construction.

CRD/CVRD Connector Route: CVRD Parks and Trails staff will be active in working with CRD staff to plan the trail route that will connect the Cowichan Valley Trail at Sooke Lake Road to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

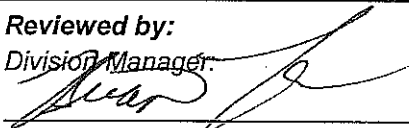
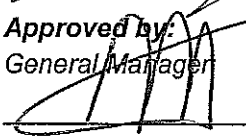
Chemainus Rail with Trail Connection: In order to provide accurate costing information for completion of this section, staff will commission detailed plans for the connection between Stocking Creek Park and trail that is constructed in 2012.

Submitted by,



Dan Brown, Parks Trails Planning Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/mca
Attachment (map)

Reviewed by: Division Manager: 
Approved by: General Manager: 

Cowichan Valley Trail 2012 Planning and Construction

Cook Street to Stocking Creek Park
- Detailed Planning

Chapman Road to Cook Street
- Trail Construction

Existing Chemainus Rail with Trail

Mays Road to Chemainus River
- Detailed Route Assessment

2012 Construction

Future Proposed Route

Existing Trail

N

0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Meters



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF, MARCH 14, 2012

DATE: March 14, 2012

FILE NO:

FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Planning Technician Parks and Trails Division

SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail – "Adopt-a-Trail" Application: Chemainus Rotary

Recommendation/Action:

That staff be directed to develop an "Adopt-a-Trail" program for the Cowichan Valley Trail.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Promote Individual and Community Wellness – Promote pedestrian and cyclist friendly roadways and trails between communities and neighborhoods.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: *N/A*)

Background:

The Rotary Club of Chemainus has approached CVRD Parks and Trails with a proposal to "adopt" the section of Cowichan Valley Trail between Crozier Road and Henry Road in Chemainus (see attachment). The Rotary Club has offered to pick up garbage and debris, which would complement the current trail maintenance program administered by the CVRD Parks and Trails Division as well as providing trail use monitoring (eyes and ears on the trail), and acting as trail ambassadors.

This generous offer has inspired CVRD Parks and Trails staff to consider a formal "Adopt-a-Trail" program, which would provide opportunities for other interest groups such as clubs, schools, sports teams, families, etc., to assist the CVRD in managing sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail. These groups would be recognized through signage installed on the section they "adopt", which not only recognizes the hard work of the volunteers but is also a method of promoting the program and deterring vandalism.

"Adopt-a-Trail" programs are utilized by many jurisdictions across the country and provide great benefits to the local community and trails. A CVRD "Adopt-a-Trail" program would be managed in conjunction with the Volunteer Trail Warden program and Volunteer Trail Maintenance program to create a broad range of opportunities for residents interested in improving their local trails.

Submitted by,

Dan Brown, Parks Trails Planning Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/mca
Attachment

Reviewed by:

Division Manager:

Approved by:

General Manager

Rotary Club of Chemainus
PO BOX 297
Chemainus BCX V0R1K0

Cowichan Valley Regional District

The Rotary Club of Chemainus is proposing to the Cowichan Valley Regional district that we take the slogan "Adopt A Highway" and apply it to the Cowichan Valley Trail as it runs through Chemainus. We believe that this proposal will be beneficial to both parties in the following manner.

Cowichan Valley Regional District will have the benefit of having eyes on the trail to report problems, damage and any concerns that users may have. The Rotary members will clean the trail of any debris that has accumulated on a regular basis. Rotary members will also be available to assist the Regional District staff on larger clean up projects such as the annual fall leaf clean up.

Chemainus Rotary will receive benefits in that their members will get out and enjoy the trail, gain some exercise and participate in the maintenance of a well used addition to the community.

There will be no cost to the Cowichan Regional Valley District for this proposal. Signage indicating that the trail has been adopted by Chemainus Rotary Club will be at the club's expense.

The Rotary Club of Chemainus does not wish to assume the regular duties of the Regional Valley District staff but wishes to enhance the use of the trail by providing a service to the District.

Thank You for your consideration of this proposal.

Richard Nelson, President
Rotary Club of Chemainus.



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2012

DATE: March 7, 2012 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks & Trails Division

SUBJECT: Request to install Geo-cache Sites along the Cowichan Valley Trail

Recommendation/Action:

That the request from Island Spirit 2012 to install and maintain "Legacy Geo-caches" along the Cowichan Valley Trail be approved and that a \$700 contribution from the 2012 regional parks and trails budget be provided to Island Spirit 2012 for the purchase of medium size geo-cache containers to be used along the trail.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Viable economy – promote tourism – support policies and initiatives that strengthen the local economy.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

Background:

On July 7, 2012, a geo-caching event is being hosted at the Cowichan Exhibition by Island Spirit 2012, which is expected to attract upwards of 1000 participants who will mostly be traveling here from outside the region. As part of this event, the organizers are planning to establish a series of "Legacy Geo-caches" throughout the region. Geo-caching is an outdoor sporting activity in which participants use a handheld global positioning system device (GPS) to locate precise co-ordinates on the ground where a small container is located, which confirms for the participant finding the GPS coordinate. Typically within the small containers, a logbook is maintained in which the "geo-casher" enters the date they found it along with their name or assigned code name. Such containers might also contain small trinkets for trading. Geo-caching is often described as a game of "high-tech hide-and-seek".

For the Island Spirit 2012 event, the proposed "Legacy Geo-caches" are aimed at creating three loops within the region (a southern loop from Duncan to Shawnigan Lake, a northern loop from Duncan to Ladysmith, and a Valley Loop from Duncan to Cowichan Lake). They are proposing upwards of 200 geo-cache sites using medium-sized containers that would be fairly easy to find (see attachment). At this time they are requesting the support of the Cowichan Valley Regional District to include geo-cache sites along the Cowichan Valley Trail as part of creating these loops. Specific locations would be co-ordinated with parks and trails division staff to ensure that sensitive areas and operational requirements are appropriately addressed. The organizers have also indicated that they would continue to maintain these geo-cache sites as an ongoing legacy, and furthermore that they would work to reduce and/or eliminate non-sanctioned geo-caches that currently exist along the trail.

In summary, organizers of the Island Spirit 2012 geo-caching event are requesting the following:

- CVRD approval to place high quality geo-caches along the Cowichan Valley Trail
- Financial support in the order of \$700 towards the cost of purchasing the proposed 200 geo-cache containers
- CVRD parks promotional items that can be placed within the geo-caches
- CVRD parks and trails brochures for all event participants (upwards of 1,000)

The draft 2012 regional parks and trails budget has \$2000 for program supplies in the Cowichan Valley Trail budget, of which \$700 could be allocated to the purchase of the geo-cache containers. There is a ready supply of CVRD parks and trails brochures that could be made available to event organizers. At this time, however, the CVRD Regional Parks and Trails program does not have small promotional items that can be made available as requested.


Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Approved by:

General Manager:



BTF/mca
Attachment



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2012

DATE: March 12, 2012

FILE NO:

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division

SUBJECT: Friendship (siiye'yu) Trail to Cowichan Commons Maintenance Request

Recommendation/Action:

Committee direction is requested on this matter.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Promote individual and community wellness – Promote pedestrian and cycle friendly roadways and trails between communities and neighborhoods.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)

Background:

Attached is a letter dated January 23, 2012, from the Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan formally requesting that the newly dedicated Friendship (siiye'yu) Trail, constructed between downtown Duncan and the Cowichan Commons mall, be maintained as part of the CVRD Regional Parks and Trails system. The Parks Committee previously engaged in discussion on a similar request at its November 9, 2011, meeting. A copy of the staff report from the November 9, 2011, Parks Committee agenda on this matter is attached.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Farquhar".

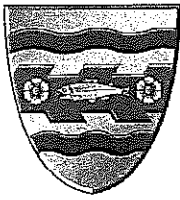
Brian Farquhar, Manager
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/mca
Attachment

Approved by:

General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Smith", written over a horizontal line within a rectangular box.



Municipality of North Cowichan

7030 Trans Canada Highway
Box 278, Duncan, BC V9L 3X4
PH: (250) 746-3100 • FX: (250) 746-3133
www.northcowichan.ca



City of Duncan

200 Craig Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1W3
Phone: (250) 746-6126
Fax: (250) 746-6129
www.duncan.ca

January 23, 2012

Mel Dorey, Director
Electoral Area 'G' – Saltair/Gulf Islands
Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear Director Dorey

Re: Friendship (siiye`yu) Trail to Cowichan Commons

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan that the newly-dedicated Friendship (siiye`yu) Trail that has been constructed from the City of Duncan to the Cowichan Commons be maintained by the CVRD Regional Parks system.

This new multi-use trail offers a connection from the Cowichan Valley trail via various routes into the City of Duncan. This trail, constructed to Cowichan Valley Trail Standards, will connect neighborhoods and natural areas, provide alternatives to driving, and offer easy ways to exercise and stay healthy.

The recently-adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan refers to the value of these connecting trails, and the proper maintenance and care of this trail will ensure its continued use and enjoyment for our valley residents in the years to come. We hope the CVRD's Parks Committee will support this request.

We would be pleased to provide you with any additional information you may require and can be contacted as noted above.

Sincerely

Jon Lefebure, Mayor
Municipality of North Cowichan

Phil Kent, Mayor
City of Duncan

pc D. Devana, CAO, North Cowichan
M. Frame, Director of Finance, North Cowichan
E. Mansueti, Director of Parks & Recreation, North Cowichan
T. Ireland, CAO, Duncan
P. de Verteuil, Director of Finance
W. Jones, CAO, CVRD
B. Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, CVRD

cowichan



CVRD

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

DATE: November 3, 2011 FILE No:
FROM: Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks & Trails Division BYLAW No:
SUBJECT: Cowichan Commons Multi-use Trail Maintenance Request

Recommendation/Action:

That staff be directed to work with North Cowichan and Duncan to determine an annual operations and maintenance cost for the Cowichan Commons trail for consideration of incorporating into the 2012 Regional Parks budget and that the report be brought back for committee consideration as part of the 2012 budget planning process.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Promote individual and community wellness – promote pedestrian and cycle friendly roadways and trails

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: (N/A))*

Background:

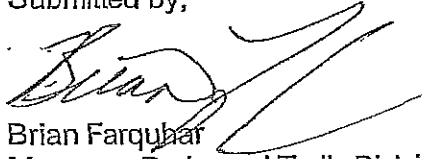
The Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan are requesting the Cowichan Valley Regional District assume the ongoing maintenance and operation of the Cowichan Commons trail from just north of the Duncan train station to Green Road, a distance of approximately 2 km (see attachment). The Cowichan Commons Trail is connected to the Cowichan Valley Trail to the northwest of Duncan via several different routes. As such, it can be considered part of the regional trail network linking communities across the Cowichan region. This is reinforced through the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, which identifies key regional trail connections linking with the Cowichan Valley trail, inclusive of a multi-use trail within the E&N railway corridor through North Cowichan and the City of Duncan.

Funding for construction of the Cowichan Commons Trail has been provided by grant funding and existing resources of the two municipalities. As work is continuing on the completion of this trail project, the CVRD Parks, trails division, has not yet had the opportunity to assess estimated annual costs to maintain this trail corridor. Also, the trail maintenance standards for this section of trail would need to be determined given it is a more urban trail than other sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail. This may have implications on the frequency of maintenance with respect to garbage collection and vegetation management. It is recommended that Parks and Trails division staff be directed to meet with representatives of the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan to determine trail maintenance requirements and expectations.

..../2

Based on this additional assessment work a staff report could be prepared for consideration by the Parks Committee as part of the 2012 budget planning process, which outlines annual cost implications associated with the Regional District assuming maintenance of the Cowichan Commons trail under a maintenance agreement.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar
Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Approved by:
General Manager:

BTF/mca
Attachment



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2012

DATE: March 14, 2012 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Ryan Dias, Parks & Trails Operations Superintendent

SUBJECT: Kinsol Trestle Finishing Elements

Recommendation/Action:

That the following finishing works for the historic Kinsol Trestle project be endorsed:

- parking area at Glen Eagles Road
- site furniture and access stairs
- interpretive signage and donor recognition kiosk shelter
- new north and south viewing platforms

With application of up to \$100,000 from the draft 2012 Regional Parks Capital Budget and assistance from in-kind contributions towards completing the works.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Safe and Healthy Community – Provide exceptional recreation, cultural and park services.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)

Background:

Core rehabilitation work on the Historic Kinsol Trestle structure was completed in September 2011. Since the official opening on July 28, 2011, the trestle continues to be a major attraction for local residents and visitors to the Cowichan Valley, both on weekends and weekdays.

Promotion and directional signage to the Kinsol Trestle is aimed at directing visitors to the existing Glen Eagles Road parking area off Renfrew Road in Shawnigan Lake. This parking, on the south side of the trestle, has direct access from the Trans Canada Highway and involves paved roadways to the site. The parking area provides space for approximately a dozen cars; however, both staff and feedback from local residents have noted that this parking area is regularly full, with additional vehicles parked along Glen Eagles Road. Even over the winter months, it has not been uncommon to have 20 to 30 vehicles parked in this area.

The increased demand for parking has created challenges for both residents on Glen Eagles Road as well as the two residences adjacent to the parking area; their driveway access passes through the centre of the existing parking area. As part of the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation project, a location between the Cowichan Valley Trail and Glen Eagles Road was identified just north of the existing parking area where a formal visitor parking lot could be constructed on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure property adjacent to the trail, with a capacity for thirty (30) plus cars. Preliminary design plans have been completed for this parking lot and environmental assessment work is currently being done, as there is a seasonally flooded area from Glen Eagles Road runoff that would need to be addressed.

During rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle, the removal of the public viewing platform at the north end of the trestle, as well as the temporary closure of the small viewing platform at the south end of the structure, was required. While the small southern viewing platform was re-opened towards the end of the project, the northern viewing platform has not yet been replaced. Similarly, several picnic tables and benches at the site were removed prior to the project starting, and design plans for new picnic tables and benches throughout the site incorporate use of recycled timbers from the trestle. A visitor kiosk is also required to incorporate site interpretive signage, funded by the Heritage Branch of British Columbia, and recognition of project contributors, inclusive of project donors, through the Cowichan Foundation's Kinsol Trestle fundraising campaign. Efforts continue to be made to secure additional contributions, whether cash or in-kind, to complete the above finishing elements at the historic Kinsol trestle site. The following provides a summary of the site finishing works, inclusive of estimated costs and recommended priority order to complete, based on resources available:

1. Parking Area at Glen Eagles Rd	\$100,000
2. Site Furniture and Stairs	\$ 15,000
3. Interpretive Signage and Shelter	\$ 30,000
4. New North and South Viewing Platforms	\$ 40,000
TOTAL	\$185,000

The above priority order recognizes the current challenges and impacts of existing parking limitations on Glen Eagles Road and the need to provide for safe off-road parking for trestle visitors, inclusive of an area for a pullout for one to two tour buses.

Currently there is \$100,000 identified in the draft 2012 Regional Parks Capital Budget that could be applied towards completion of these site finishing elements. The Parks Committee is requested to provide direction on the prioritized list of site elements required to complete the Historic Kinsol Trestle finishing works with respect to the draft 2012 budget and continued effort to secure in-kind contributions to assist in completing these works. Works that are not completed in 2012 would be brought forward for consideration in the 2013 Regional Parks budget.


Submitted by,



Ryan Dias, Parks & Trails Operations Superintendent
Parks & Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department


Reviewed by:

Division Manager:



Approved by:

General Manager:



RD/mca

Region's parks attract record numbers

BY JEFF BELL, TIMES COLONIST FEBRUARY 19, 2012



Joggers exercise on a trail between Elk Lake and Beaver Lake this week. Such trails are proving increasingly popular.

Photograph by: Lyle Stafford, timescolonist.com (Feb. 2012)

High-tech counting devices showed that regional parks and trails attracted visitors in record numbers last year.

Led by the Galloping Goose Trail with 1,660,594 visits, the Capital Regional District's outdoor offerings were used 5.45 million times in 2011 - up by 4.6 per cent over 2010. All told, CRD Regional Parks is responsible for 13,000 hectares contained in 33 parks and trail systems spread across southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

The rest of the top five areas, after the Galloping Goose, are Elk/Beaver Lake (1,229,256 visits), Lochside Trail (1,023,271 visits), Thetis Lake (405,690 visits) and Island View Beach (325,768).

While the CRD has been monitoring park and trail use the past 11 years, new technology has been making the process easier and more efficient since an equipment upgrade in 2009-10, said Janette Loveys, manager of park operations for the CRD.

There are currently 36 traffic counters and 28 counters on trails and in parks.

"We are actually generating a full 12 months of really good data," Loveys said. "It helps with so many things."

She said the counters on trails and in parks use infrared beams to count passersby.

"We know, too, if there's equestrian use or mountainbiking use because we can tell by how the infrared beam is being broken.

A good counting system makes a big difference to parks staff, Loveys said.

"We get to understand trends, when people are in parks and on trails."

It also helps to deal with large-scale park-management issues, she said.

"We actually have been able to pull the numbers we get into our operational planning. We're really thankful for the tools we have."

INDONESIAN STUDY RECOUNTED

Resistance is not the only avenue to social change, according to cultural anthropologist Eben Kirksey.

In the Indonesian province of West Papua, where he has done considerable research, collaboration is the key to bringing about desired transformation, Kirksey said.

Joining with "unlikely allies" such as foreign governments or big corporations has served the West Papuans well, he said.

Kirksey, who works at City University of New York, is coming to Victoria as a guest of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the Pacific Peoples' Partnership.

"Eben has been privy to witness the extraordinary history and struggles of the indigenous Papuan peoples," Partnership executive director April Ingham said in a statement. "In addition to his own experiences, he has gathered firsthand accounts of people from all walks of life."

Kirksey is giving two public presentations Monday, the first at the University of Victoria, where the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives is based. He will be in room D101 in the MacLaurin Building at 12: 30 p.m. speaking about his soon-to-be-released book *Freedom in Entangled Worlds: West Papua and the Architecture of Global Power*.

The talk is part of the centre's free Lunch and Learn Series.

At 7 p.m., Kirksey will be at the Alcheringa Gallery (665 Fort St.) talking about how the West Papuans have maintained a sense of hope despite occupation and violence.

Admission for the evening talk is by donation, with proceeds going to the Pacific Peoples' Partnership, whose objectives include promoting understanding of Pacific Islands inhabitants and helping them to establish links with Canada's First Nations groups.

HOSPITAL CHARITY CLOSE TO TARGET

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation is closing in on its goal of raising \$595,000 to help purchase 94 vital signs monitors for the Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Eighty per cent of the money has been raised.

The monitors will help with the care given to thousands of cardiac and general-surgery patients every year. The units can display such information as blood pressure, respiratory rate and pulse, as well as heart activity measured by an electrocardiogram. They also provide wireless-communication alerts to healthcare workers when a patient's vital signs change.

The patient-care centre opened last March. Donate to the Victoria Hospitals Foundation at victoriahf.ca or phone 250-519-1750.

HOLOCAUST DISPLAY OPENS

North Saanich Middle School continues to host its third annual Holocaust and Human Rights Museum this week, with 6 to 8 p.m. openings from Monday through Thursday.

This year's museum, set up inside the 10475 McDonald Park Rd. school, happens to be in place just weeks after vandalism at Victoria's Emanu-El Jewish Cemetery raised concerns about racism and anti-Semitism.

Past versions of the museum have been widely praised. This year's effort involves nearly 250 students and six teachers - about twice as many people as in 2011 - and features another collection of insightful, well-researched exhibits that tell the story of the Holocaust and examine human-rights issues.

From 60 to 70 people have visited the museum each night it has been open.

A book is being put together to chronicle the museum's first year.

Book a tour online at northsaanich.sd63.bc.ca. Admission is by donation.

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Kelly Schellenberg
Race Director

Ray Billings
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