

**City of Chilliwack**  
**CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 – 7:30 am**  
**BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM**

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**Council Members:** Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair  
Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice Chair

**CPTAC Members:** Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee  
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society  
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative  
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative  
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association  
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative  
David Hanson, Accessibility and Mobility Representative  
Victor Froese, Community Representative  
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club  
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Mobility Representative

**Guests:** Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio  
David Urban, FVRD, ex officio

**Regrets :** Karen Brady, Stó:lō Service Agency, SRRMC Land Stewardship Unit  
Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program

**City Staff:** Glen MacPherson, Director of Operations  
Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations  
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning  
Ashley Hunter, Recording Secretary

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and gave an Indigenous Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee  
Seconded ) meeting of Thursday, February 23, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Carried

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved / ) That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory  
 Seconded ) Committee meeting of Thursday, February 2, 2023, be adopted as  
 presented.

Carried

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### • Parks & Trails Projects

Richard Fortin gave a presentation Parks & Trails Projects

A Year in Review for 2022/23

- Trail development for Thornton Creek Trail was completed in 2022; Uplands Park to Promontory Road, new city trail connection, upgrade to existing surface, installed signage, installed baffle gates
- Trail development for Thom Creek Trail was completed in 2022; Resurfaced section approximately 1/2km, machine access restriction
- Accessibility upgrades identified in the Vedder Greenway Recreational Master Plan were completed in 2022; Strategic locations, Rotary Grant (\$25k), Rotary work bee day
- Park upgrade of two new Multi User Gaming Areas (MUGA's) were constructed at Watson Glen and The Landing in 2022
- Park upgrade of a barrier free playground at Bill Kelly Park was completed in 2022
- Park upgrade of a novice pump track at The Landing was completed in 2022
- New park development of Pebble Park was completed in 2022; 2-5 years of age playground, pathways and guardian area
- Installation of 6 drinking fountains throughout the City and 2 urban washrooms installed in the Downtown were completed in 2022
- Meadowbrook Park parking lot upgrade was completed in 2022
- Upgrades for the swing replacement program with 10 swing sets completed in 2022
- Phase 1 of the Little Mountain Nature Park Steps and trail connection to the Little Mountain Greenbelt was completed in 2023; Staircase to trail network, connection to existing trails, future trail development, Greenspace Plan recommendation
- Yarrow Pioneer Park Green Gym upgrade completed in 2023; 6 new units on existing concrete pads

Projects to Be Completed in 2023

- Qoqó:lem Park on Vedder Mountain Phase 2, trail to Vedder Mountain Railway Grade Trail and upper day use area
- Reinstatement of the Salmon Ridge Trail; Resurface section approximately 1/2km, removal of old bridge, installation of new clear span bridge
- New park development for Westview Park; Phase 1 – CSA 2-5 year old area, pathway, guardian area and Phase 2 – CSA 5-12 year old area, per greenspace recommendation

**New Projects for 2023**

- Park upgrades with 5 swing sets to be replaced in 5 parks
- Park upgrade of Yarrow Pioneer Park playground
- Mr. Scoop statue to be added to the Bill Kelly Park
- Trail development at Wilson Rd, Bridge and Trail; QEP required, DFO approval required
- Park development at Yarrow Community Hall/Park of an addition of 32 parking stalls
- Trail development of the Vedder Greenway and Experience the Fraser with Grants through Tourism Ch'illiwack; First Nations partnership, historical vignettes/kiosks, upgrade all signage (maps, wayfinding)
- Trail development; Walden to Paula Park, Little Mountain trail development, Crimson Ridge trail with playground development, MacSwan trail with playground
- 2023+ Blueway Access; Budget – upgrade existing access points, develop new access points, improve parking, improve accessibility
- Park development for Crimson Ridge Park; trail nodal area, small DOL area, view point (to the north)
- Park development for Weeden Park; CSA 2-5 year old play area, 2 guardian areas, trail connection, greenspace plan recommendation
- Park development for Stoneview trail node
- Park development for playstreets from 2023-2026; South Sumas Park, Pebble Park, Webb Ave Park, Little Mtn Park, Walker Creek Park, Nixon Road Park, Crimson Ridge Park, MacSwan Park, Forest Gate Park, Townsend Park
- Park upgrade of a playground addition to Sardis Park; CSA 2-5 year old play area, accessible play, rubber surface, 2 guardian areas, upgrade around existing equipment, greenspace recommendation

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:32 am

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

- Councillor Mercer announced that this meeting will be Glen MacPherson's last meeting with the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee as he will be retiring in April. Joe Koczur will be taking his place on the committee as staff liaison.
- There was a reminder from Councillor Mercer that if there are items you would like discussed at committee meetings to please bring them forward by sending to Ashley or Joe so they can be added to the agenda.

**Qoqó:lem Park on Vedder Mountain**

There was an enquiry regarding what the trail system at the new Qoqó:lem Park on Vedder Mountain will look like once it is open. Richard shared that the trail is almost complete and is approximately 3km up the hillside. Starting from the parking lot, which has around 40 parking stalls, there is an accessible walk which is approximately 400 meters and leads to a viewing area to the north. The grade of the first section is 5 – 8%, beyond is 0 – 23% and it totals about 70 switchbacks altogether. Upon reaching the Vedder Mountain Trail rail grade, there is a rest area with an information kiosk on where you are. There is a final climb after that to the day use area where there will also be a urine-diversion toilet and picnic tables available. The trail is a multi-use trail, but excludes horses due to the use of others and the limited parking spaces available. There are plans to connect the trail

beyond into Cultus Lake, though not immediately, to the west. The new Qoqó:lem Park trails above the Vedder mountain Rail Grade Trail are currently not accessible for all users due to the steep terrain and frequent switchbacks. Staff commented that different gravel use or possibly paving of certain sections could be looked into as a possible upgrade in the future.

Marc Greidanus advised that the Chilliwack Parks Society was approached to build a trail system of loops on either side of the new main trail built by the City. Working with First Nations youth, just under 1km of the trail has already been completed and another is currently underway. The goal is to loop everything to separate traffic which will help minimize trail user traffic conflicts. Mike Woods added that approval has been received from the Cultus Lake Parks Board and positive responses have been received from the Province to build onto the trail system to connect Qoqó:lem Park with Cultus Lake . A grant was applied for and a response will hopefully be received in March on whether the application was successful or not. The plan is to build the trail to adaptive standards, being machine built, making the trail wide and the corners a certain degree, in order to allow adaptive transportation such as a bowhead bike, on the trail.

#### **Vedder Mountain Trail Equestrian Access**

Richard will look into the City owned greenspace off of Karson Rd to see if it could be a parking lot/access point for horses to enter the trail system on Vedder Mountain, however, the new trail connection to the Duck Farm loop is too steep and difficult for horses.

#### **Hopedale Pedestrian Bridge Update**

Currently, the City is working with the Province of BC to secure tenure of land to allow construction of the supporting abutments for the bridge. There is funding in the budget for construction in 2023, however, it won't be spent at this time as the provincial land tenure application can take 1 – 2 years.

#### **Vedder Greenway Trail Use Protocol Development Update**

Right now, protocols are still being developed, however, there are a few components that can be addressed sooner such as improving the experience of the Greenway with improved and immersive signage funded by the Tourism grant that was received. There will be a restriction on the trail which will regulate the use of e-bikes and a policy for that is being developed. Some areas of the trail may be restricted to pedestrian use only due to the narrow width of the trail and heavy traffic. The draft 'Vedder Greenway Recreational Master Plan' will be shared with the public for input and consultation prior to receiving endorsement from council and being adopted.

#### **Dog Off-Leash Area from Webster to Lickman**

There was a question asking if there are plans to extend the off-leash area further west from where it ends at Lickman Rd. Unfortunately, there have been complaints of dogs chasing livestock so there are no plans to extend the off-leash area at this time.

#### **Little Mountain Stairs**

Marc Greidanus started off by commending the completion of the Little Mountain Stairs. The trail has received a great deal of positive feedback from the community and is being used very frequently. Marc noted that new gravel will be added in the coming days to start graveling the main loop and that picnic tables will be added to the far corner of the property. He also mentioned that the United

Church has offered their parking lot as overflow parking. Finally, the BC Parks Foundation received a \$125M donation which is intended to fund the opening of nature parks in BC. The Foundation is calling the project '25 x 25', meaning to open 25 new nature parks by 2025. They feel that the Little Mountain area would be a good fit for this funding. Staff from the City will look into this.

**Vedder Greenway Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage Project**

Allison Colthorp updated the committee that this project is progressing nicely. In about 2 weeks' time, a draft proposal will be provided to First Nations to make sure that is aligned with their vision. From there it will be brought forth to the City and other involved stakeholders for review. An extension has been added so that the funds can now be used until August.

Allison also mentioned that through Mike Woods, the Chilliwack Parks Society, and the Kootenay Adaptive Society, funding has been applied for through the Destination Development Fund to create a program for accessible fishing locations. A letter of support for the funding application was provided by Tourism Ch'illiwack.

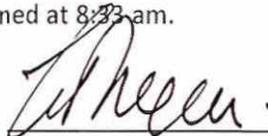
**6. BUSINESS ARISING**

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 am.



Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair