

Operations Department



The Operations Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the City's water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, road and dyke infrastructure, as well as the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), over 100 parks and sports fields and the City's recreational trail network.

First Quarter Report 2020



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

New Playground Installed Downtown



Identified in the Greenspace Plan as an opportunity to increase play service levels, the newly constructed Mellard Park uses a previously underutilized area of City owned land located in the fork between Reece Avenue and Mellard Avenue. This new park space features brand new playgrounds for all ages with other amenities such as guardian seating areas, chain link fence between the road and the park for safety, and paved walkways to connect the park to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Vedder River Campground Revitalization

In partnership with the Fraser Valley Regional District, the City connected the Vedder Rotary Trail through the Vedder River Campground. This project also revitalized the campground to modernize and improve the entrance area to create a wider entrance for large vehicles, and provide a larger parking area for campground and trail users.

Work included constructing approximately 400m of fresh trail alongside the Vedder River, with fencing and planting running along the trail to separate the area from the campground. At the campground entrance, the older design was removed and fresh paving, gates, parking and landscaping were added to improve both the functionality and appearance of the campground near the gatehouse.



Chainsaw Training at Operations



Moving from winter to spring, weather patterns can bring high levels of wind and rain in the Fraser Valley. These storms can leave broken branches hanging overhead and trees lying across roads. These hazards must be removed safely and in order to be prepared, the safe operation of chainsaws is a key training tool for Operations staff. In March, 20 staff members successfully completed Chainsaw Operations and Safe Practices, both as new learners and renewals. This specialized curriculum offers important information on the correct usage of a chainsaw from carrying it and worker positioning while in use, to avoiding dangerous actions such as kick-back. The essential worksite hazard and risk assessment is also reviewed, ensuring our workers understand the importance of what to look for before using a chainsaw in order to create a safe working environment for themselves and the public. Half of each training day included practical demonstrations and the evaluation of each worker in a variety of cuts and techniques relevant to work which they may complete.

Mt. Shannon Reservoir Repairs



During the first quarter, Electrical Mechanical staff carrying out routine inspections discovered a leak in one of the metal water reservoir tanks on Mt. Shannon. The leak required urgent repairs. The valves to the tank were closed and the tank was drained for detailed inspection. The internal tank inspection revealed that the tank had several deficiencies. The tank was repaired, refilled and is now back online to supply drinking water to the residents of the Mt. Shannon area once more.

Air Valve Replacement Program

Air release valves are an important component of the City's pressurized utility systems, sanitary sewer force mains and water distribution pipes. As liquid is pumped through a pipe, an amount of air is inevitably drawn into the system. The air creates "pockets" at high points in the system and it is at these locations where air release valves are located, to vent the air out of the system. Air left in a pipe can cause pumping problems, add to hydraulic hammer and pipe damage, and in the water system it can cause water to become milky white and discolored. Since implementing the Air Valve Replacement program in 2019, City staff have completed 52 inspections on sanitary sewer system air release valves and 70 inspections on water system air release valves. There are 125 water air release valve inspections left to complete and only a handful of sanitary valves, which will require traffic control and/or confined space procedures to carry out inspection. Staff have replaced two sanitary air release valves with a new style of valve that is designed to reduce maintenance requirements and to eliminate confined space entries. If proven to be effective, the new style of valve may become part of the City's engineering standards and bylaws. This thorough air valve audit has also enabled staff to cross reference the City's GIS mapping system while enhancing the operational efficiency of both the water distribution system and sanitary sewer collection system.



Patterson Rd & Prairie Central—Old Sewer Air



Patterson Road—Old Sewer Air Valve



Patterson Rd & Prairie Central— New Sewer Air



Patterson Road—New Sewer Air Valve