

# 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.*

## Second Quarter Report, 2019



### Mt. Thom Summit Bypass Trail



A new 560m connector trail between Karver’s Trail and a lower part of Thom Creek Trail was completed to allow users to bypass some of the steeper sections of Thom Creek Trail. The work involved using a mini excavator to clear and cut in trail on a slope that exceeded 50% in places and required cuts into the hillside of up to 2m. The trail follows an easier grade throughout and will be at least 2m wide along the whole length of the trail. The new trail offers spectacular views of the valley along with a gentler grade that will attract users to Mount Thom Park who otherwise may have been put off by the steep grades found on both Karver’s Trail and Thom Creek Trail. A trail counter has been installed to gather user data to see the initial user volume. The data will be retrieved and reviewed at the end of July. Mount Thom is the second most used trail network in the City’s system with only the Vedder Rotary Trail remaining more popular.

### Lower Thom Creek Stair Removal

As the stairs from the beginning portion of Thom Creek Trail at the base of Thom Creek Drive were beginning to show rot, they have been removed and replaced with a gravel 2m wide path that has been lengthened to reduce the grade. Removing the staircase has increased safety and accessibility while lowering maintenance and associated costs.



## Yale Road Downtown Greening

As part of the City of Chilliwack’s greening initiative, five garden beds along Yale Road from Spadina Avenue to Kipp Avenue were replaced. Each of the garden beds were raised high above the sidewalk and had overgrown trees that were raising the surrounding sidewalk bricks and creating dangerous tripping hazards. The gardens, trees and surrounding brick were all replaced. The brick was replaced with a new concrete sidewalk and the garden beds were lowered back down to sidewalk height. All gardens received a new planter pole, flowers, shrubbery and an ornamental tree.



## Additional SaniDump Location Added



The SaniDump facility at Heritage Park was constructed in 2001 and since then has seen a steadily growing number of customers. By 2013, there were weekends with a queue of RVs waiting out onto Luckakuck Way, causing major traffic congestion. In 2014, works were carried out to double the size of the facility to allow two RVs to dump simultaneously. By the summer of 2016, the increased use of the facility again began to line up out onto Luckakuck Way. Staff carried out a survey to determine what other SaniDump facilities were operating in the Fraser Valley and how many of those offered free use. The majority of sites were charging a usage fee of at least \$5, so it was decided that the same should be applied to the City’s site, in order to sustain the operating and maintenance costs, as well as potential future capital costs. It was determined that it was time to give the users an alternate location to reduce the RV lineups at Heritage Park, and these collected funds were substantiated recently with the construction of an additional site at the Yale & Evans roundabout. Staff identified this location as being convenient for access with minimal disruption to neighbouring properties and existing traffic patterns. The site was constructed in the spring with the intention of being available for the summer camping season. As well as providing this alternate location, it was also determined that it was time to increase the dumping fee to \$7. Following these changes, staff have already seen a good distribution of usage between the two sites and a 63% overall increase in revenue.

## Annual Reservoir Cleaning

The City's water distribution system includes 18 strategically located reservoirs in the hillside areas of Mount Shannon, Chilliwack Mountain, Promontory & Marble Hill. Reservoir tank capacities range from 250,000 litres to a massive 19,000,000 litre tank on Mount Shannon. The tanks are constructed out of either concrete or steel and over a span of several years the tanks see a buildup of sediment that dissipates over time from the water in the tank and settles onto tank walls and floors. Each reservoir tank in the system is drained, cleaned and refilled once every three years on a rotational cycle. Tank cleaning not only helps to maintain high water quality, the process also allows the structural components of the tank to be inspected for cracks or other defects once the tank is empty and staff can safely enter. Each of the City's reservoir tanks is equipped with various styles of mixing systems which are designed to agitate or mix the water to prevent stagnation of water and to promote lower water temperatures. This spring Operations Department staff completed the cleaning of all reservoirs in the Promontory area: four tanks in total. The tanks were found to contain very little sediment and no structural issues were noted. The tanks were refilled and returned to service for another three years.

