

**City of Chilliwack**  
**CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022 – 7:30 am**  
**BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM**

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**Council Members:** Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair

**CPTAC Members:** Karen Brady, Stó:lō Service Agency, SRRMC Land Stewardship Unit  
Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee  
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society  
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club  
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative  
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative  
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative  
Lynda Ferris, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association

**Guests:** Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio  
Debora Soutar, Community Member, ex officio  
Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex officio

**Regrets :** Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair  
Glen MacPherson, Director of Operations  
Karen Bridge, Back Country Horsemen  
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association  
Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program

**City Staff:** Brendan Kurtz, Parks Operations Manager  
Ashley Hunter, Recording Secretary  
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved /     )   That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee  
Seconded   )   meeting of Thursday, August 25, 2022, 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 24, 2022, be adopted as  
presented.

Carried

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

• **2022 Parks & Trails Projects**

Richard Fortin provided a review of the 2022 Parks & Trails Projects to the committee.

Parks and Trails Projects for 2022 are as follows:

- Webster Park upgrade to existing park and new playground added
- New park development for Allan Creek Park in the Eastern Hillside area
- New park development for South Sumas Park in the Sumas neighbourhood
- Trail development for Thornton Creek Trail; Uplands Park to Promontory Road, new City trail connection, upgrade to existing surface, installed signage, installed baffle gates
- Trail development for Thom Creek Trail; Resurface section approximately 1/2km, machine access restriction
- Vedder Greenway Recreational Masterplan
- Reinstatement of the Salmon Ridge Trail
- Watson Glen and The Landing upgrade to add Multi Use Gaming Areas (MUGA's)
- Park upgrade to The Landing accessible play Bill Kelly Park completed in 2022
- Upgrade to the Pump Track with novice pump tracks installed with Rotary cost sharing
- New park development for Pebble Park in Webster block neighbourhood
- Amenity upgrades; 2 urban washrooms installed downtown and 6 drinking fountains installed throughout the City
- Meadowbrook Park parking lot upgrade completed in 2022
- Construction for the new Vedder Mountain Park currently underway
- New park development for Westview Park
- 2022 upgrades for swing replacement program with 10 swing sets in 2022 and 10 more in 2023
- Construction has started for Little Mountain steps and trail connection to the Little Mountain Green Belt

Allison Colthorp joined the meeting at 7:33 am

Karen Brady retired from the meeting at 8:56 am

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

**Hopedale Pedestrian Bridge Update**

The application to install a pedestrian bridge at Hopedale crossing over the Vedder River was submitted to the Province of BC as the bridge would eliminate pedestrians from using the rail bridge to cross. At this time the City is still currently working to receive approval from the Province.

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

As there are still concerns of conflict between different user groups when using the trail, the 'Vedder Greenway Recreational Master Plan', which is intended to identify solutions to conflict issues, is due to go to final public consultation and then to council. Once the plan receives endorsement from council, staff will be able to plan budget/funding to implement changes and solutions. The plan will provide information on components such as the use of e-bikes and user accessibility. A policy regarding the use of e-bikes on the trail is currently being considered as another source to improve user experience. Staff have also opened up the trail more in different areas, blind corners for example, to avoid user collisions.

### **Vedder Mountain Park Trail**

The question was posed by Marissa Klassen on what is being done to entice small children to want to use the trail systems in Chilliwack, specifically the Vedder Mountain Park Trail. One item that was used as an opportunity was the 'snail village', which the trail had to be re-routed around. Although the snail village cannot be accessed, along the trail near the village will be an adult sign and kids sign providing information on the snails. Another item intended to entice any user are the approximate 280 degree viewpoints overlooking Chilliwack. The City is dedicated to working with First Nations groups to develop, design, and install information signs on Indigenous history and cultural significance specific to the area. The idea of interactive books was also proposed.

### **Little Mountain Greenspace**

Multiple committee members expressed high regard for the ongoing preservation of the Little Mountain Greenspace. With the opportunity to have a greenspace on the north side of Chilliwack, the hope is that this will be just as highly received by residents in the area. Having this greenspace in the middle of the city will also provide points towards becoming carbon neutral.

### **Vedder Mountain Railway Grade**

Gary Baker inquired if there are plans for the Vedder Mountain Railway Grade Trail to connect to Vedder Mountain Park as the grade going up the mountain on the trail is perfect for walking and cycling. The trail also connects to the Vedder Mountain Trail, the Duck Farm Loop, as well as to Cultus Lake making it a key piece of land. Richard spoke on this subject advising that the City of Chilliwack owns only a portion of the property that the trail is on, not all of it. However, with already owning a portion of the land the trail is on, this is the first step for the City looking to regain more connectivity along the trail. A storyboard will also be installed on the City owned portion explaining the history of the Vedder Mountain Railway Grade.

### **Blueway & Kayak Update**

The Chilliwack area has multiple bodies of water considered blueways that are continually being worked on and improved. The City is working from the Blueway Access Strategy as a tool for improving blueway access.

Operations staff are looking into possible locations for kayak practice and competition in the blueways, with nothing yet coming up as the ‘perfect’ location due to depths of water. A new location is required to replace the existing practice location along Highway #1 as the club utilizing that blueway would like to get away from the highway and vehicle fumes. The Hope River Slough is being looked into, but this location only works during certain times of the year due to low water levels.

**Valley Rail Trail Concerns**

It was brought forth by Christina Vugetveen that there are fears of safety from citizens who are not wanting to use the Valley Rail Trail due to who may or may not be on the trail at given times of the day. It’s been noted that this corridor is being used by people who may not want to be seen while trying to get across town. Councillor Mercer shared that the City has purchased e-bikes for Bylaw to travel the trail more accessibly than by foot to provide more of a presence for citizens to feel safe. There has also been the issue of encampments being setup on private property next to the trail in which a letter was needed from the Government of Canada to give Bylaw the authority to be able to remove these encampments. These steps need to be taken for legality reasons as this is a very complex social matter. Debra Soutar enquired if environmental design for crime prevention is an option that has been explored. Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CEPTED) encourages the use of design to eliminate or reduce criminal behavior with the intent of reducing your risk to becoming a victim. CEPTED reports have revealed that high visibility areas and areas that require a higher degree of effort to access are generally less appealing to get to. Councillor Mercer advised that CEPTED is being brought forward and mentioned in first steps of new developments and the same for parks.

On the Valley Rail Trail at Knight Road it was noted by Gary Baker that this intersection can be quite hazardous for cyclists attempting to cross. He enquired if the stop sign that is west of the tracks could be moved to the east side and if a green pathway could be installed. Richard Fortin will follow up. There is no flashing crosswalk installed at this time, however the Engineering department is currently looking into railway crossing upgrades.

**Future of the CPTAC**

Councillor Mercer provided an updated on the future of the CPTAC after the next elections. Following the next elections, the Chair of the committee, along with the input from staff and Glen MacPherson, will discuss what the makeup of the committee for the next four years will look like. Historically most members of the committee remain the same, although some members do leave, giving staff an opportunity to reach out to others to fill those positions.

**CPTAC Meeting Start Time**

The committee was in agreeance to keep the meeting start time of 7:30 am as is.

<b>6. BUSINESS ARISING</b>
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**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 8:59 am.

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Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair