

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 – 7:30 am
VIA ZOOM

Council Members: Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair
Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair

CPTAC Members: Karen Bridge, Back Country Horsemen
Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative
Brent Purves, Community Representative
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative
Vanessa McRae, Community Youth Representative

Guests: Michael Vorhies, Urban Systems
Mathew Wilson, Destination BC,
Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio
Debora Soutar, Community Member, ex officio
David Urban, FVRD, ex officio
Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex officio

Regrets : Carrielynn Victor, Stó:lō Nation
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club

City Staff: Glen MacPherson, Director of Operations
Rhianna Millman, Recording Secretary
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning
Joe Koczkur, Deputy Director of Operations
Kevin Pollard, Supervisor – Roads, Transportation, Drainage and Dyking
Andrew Pipke, Traffic Technician

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and gave a Territorial Acknowledgment.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Seconded) meeting of Thursday, October 21, 2021, be adopted with the addition of a
) late agenda item presentation for Parks Operations 2021 Year in Review.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory
Seconded) Committee meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

Marc Greidaus joined the meeting at 7:35 am

Karen Bridge joined the meeting at 7:37 am

• **Active Transport Plan - Pedestrian Plan**

Andrew Pipke, Traffic Technician from the City’s Engineering Department presented the Active Transport Plan to the committee. Active transportation includes any form of human powered transportation “Active transportation includes any form of human-powered transportation, including walking, cycling, or rolling using a skateboard, in-line skates, wheelchair, or other wheel-based forms of human-powered transportation; also includes winter and water based active modes.

Chilliwack’s Active Transport (AT Plan) includes Cycle Vision Plan, Parks Recreation and Culture Master Plan, Greenspace Plan, Trail Network Plan. This document serves as an active planning tool to assist in identifying, prioritizing and implementing improvements to the active transportation network. As well, to focus on transportation principles relating to road safety for all users. Includes provisions for a robust walking network and to prepare a financial strategy to support the recommended improvements.

Guiding principles are to ensure equity in mobility and access for all citizens, to encourage active transportation, healthy living, active living in suburban neighbourhoods, provide alternate modes of transportation and increase accessibility of public transportation. Urban Systems was awarded the contract, some of the areas of focus are; review and assess the network, develop prioritization criteria, review and assess the City’s Land Development Bylaw, accessible design standards and pedestrian crossing control standards.

Community engagement and consultation was acquired through online web-based tools and in person pop up events/surveys. Review and assessment of the pedestrian network has indicated that of the 620 + km of roads in Chilliwack, over 70% don’t have any sidewalks on the roadways. Recommendations from the review of Land Development Bylaw is to standardize terminology between the land development bylaw and planning documents (ie: Cycle Vision Plan, Greenspace Plan, Transportation Strategic Plan) for consistency purposes. Update the design guidelines to match best practices and accessible design review as per BC Active Transportation Design Guide. As well, recommendation to update pedestrian crossing standards to align with Transportation Association of Canada Crossing Guide.

The final consultation and report for adoption is estimated for winter 2022.

- **Vedder Greenway Master Plan Draft Update/Review**

Jim Ryan retired from the meeting at 8:25 am

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:27 am

Bob Audet retired from the meeting at 8:31 am

Michael Vorhies of Urban Systems presented the draft Vedder Greenway Plan. Since the looping of the Vedder Greenway the usage has increased drastically. The 10-year goal of the plan is to improve the Vedder Greenway and make it more user friendly for all user groups, reduce user conflicts and review accessibility. The document will provide recommendations to meet current and future users' needs. The planning process was done in two phases, key next steps are; completing the second community engagement survey by November 2021 and final completion of the Master Plan. The guiding framework of the plan had five objectives; accessible, inclusive, safe, connected and ecological. The Vedder Greenway Plan was divided into four overarching themes 1) trail network, 2) accessibility, equity and user experience, 3) greenway access and 4) ecological function.

Theme 1 – Trail Network:

- The plan identifies new proposed walking, cycling, equestrian and multi-modal networks to reduce user conflict.
- Widening of existing trail segments to address pinch points.
- Review and assess the feasibility of adding new trail segments.
- Close and restore unsanctioned and dead-end trails.
- Increase trail connectivity between the north and south trail networks.

Theme 2 – Accessibility, Equity and User Experience:

- Implement the recommendations outlined in the Accessibility Audit to address accessibility concerns.
- Provide additional washrooms, seating and other amenities along the Vedder Greenway.
- Improve the experience for equestrians (and equestrian interactions) along the Greenway.
- Develop a signage and wayfinding strategy for consistency.
- In consultation with the People of the River Referrals Office, review trail and place names within the greenway to reflect Indigenous knowledge and sense of place.
- Review and update trail maintenance standards.
- Address problem of electrical shock risk along the dyke trail.
- Improve Greenway monitoring and enforcement.
- Apply an intersectional, equity focused lens to the design and implementation of all future Greenway improvements.

Theme 3 – Greenway Access:

- Coordinate with the Chilliwack Cycle Plan and Active Transportation Plan to improve walking and cycling access to the greenway.
- Develop and implement an e-bike policy.
- Improve transit integration with the Vedder Greenway.
- Improve parking policy and access.

Theme 4 – Ecological Function:

- Develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Vedder Greenway.
- Consult First Nations to identify culturally significant plants and habitat.
- Develop a Greenway Forest Management Strategy.

- Restrict access and trail development in areas of sensitive habitat through signage, fencing and educational campaigns.

Implementation of the plan is broken down into short (within 3 years), medium (3-7 years), and long-term (10+ year) timeframes.

An implementation plan strategy has been created to facilitate the process as well as a monitoring guide to measure success.

***Note:** The CPTAC is asked to email operations@chilliwack.com by November 4, 2021 with their feedback, comments, concerns about the draft Vedder Greenway Master Plan. *

Kevin Pollard and Andrew Pipke retired from the meeting at 8:48 am

Debora Soutar, Christina Vugteveen and Vanessa McRae retired from the meeting at 8:54 am

- **Parks Operations – 2021 Year in Review**

Richard Fortin presented the following 2021 accomplishments to the committee:

- Downtown streetscaping and aesthetics works included urban greening, installations of posts, irrigation lines and hanging baskets, weed control and removal, traffic island painting, sidewalk power washing and repairs and an increase in street tree lighting.
- The “Portland Loo’s” will be installed in late 2021/early 2022 in two Downtown locations, one at the Library and one at Young Road, between Victoria Avenue and 5 Corners.
- A total of 20 utility kiosk wraps were completed in 2021, the program will be completed in by November 2021.
- Rosedale Skate Park was upgraded with new concrete construction and lighting.
- The Pump Track was completed this year and some upgrades were made after its opening to reduce vandalism and user conflict by implementing site security.
- New park development completed at Phillipson Family Park on Sylvan Drive.
- New park playground upgrade at James Street Park for the 2-5 age group and a new playground at Webster Park for the same age group as well as the installation of fitness equipment.
- Two Multi User Gaming Areas (MUGAs) were installed, one at Watson Glen and the other at The Landing.
- New park developments at Allan Creek Park and South Sumas Park.
- Marble Hill Disc Golf Course is under Riparian Areas Regulation review and this review is estimated for completion for winter 2021.
- Trail development and upgrades were completed at Thornton Creek and Mt. Thom.
- The Vedder Greenway future planning project is well under way.

2022/23 Projects:

- Vedder Mountain Park, phase 1 – completion of parking facility and 3km of trail, phase 2, 2023 complete the upper day use area.
- Hope River Boardwalk, planning and environmental approvals are ongoing with an estimation for construction 2022-2023.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

6. BUSINESS ARISING

Allison Colthorp, Executive Director of Tourism Ch'illiwack will be added as a presenter to the next CPTAC agenda.

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 9:12 am.

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair