

**City of Chilliwack**  
**CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 – 7:30 am**  
**DOGWOOD ROOM - CITY HALL / 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  
Lynda Ferris, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association  
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative  
David Hanson, Accessibility and Mobility Representative  
Victor Froese, Community Representative  
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club

**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  
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association  
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Mobility Representative

**City Staff:** Joe Koczur, Director of Parks Operations  
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning  
Brendan Kurtz, Parks Operations Manager  
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, September 14, 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 23, 2023, be adopted as  
                  )     presented.

Carried

**4. PRESENTATIONS****• 2023 Review of Parks and Trails**

Richard Fortin gave a presentation on a 2023 review of parks and trails

A Review of 2023

- Fairfield Park received two new scoreboards
- Townsend Park had a new water fountain installed
- New metal stairs were installed on Weeden Drive over the old ones
- Mr. Scoops was added to the Bill Kelly Park
- A green gym was added to Yarrow Pioneer Park consisting of 6 new units on concrete pads
- Park developments of Westview Park, Uplands Park, Qoqó:Lem Park, Little Mountain and area
- Park development of Fairfield Park which included a dog off-leash park, with both big and small dog areas, as well as upgrades to the parking lot
- Park development of Jinkerson Park of a dog off-leash park, including both big dog and small dog areas
- Weeden playground, Crimson Ridge Park/trail node, Yarrow playground, Townsend parking lot upgrades, Experience the Fraser node improvements and the Hope River Trail phase 1 are all currently under construction for Sept/Oct and Park & Trail signage for Sept
- The Jinkerson Park pump track project construction takes place from Sept – Nov
- The Vedder Park pump track project construction takes place from Sept – Nov
- The Yarrow Community Park parking project construction takes place from Sept – Oct
- The Jinkerson Multi User Gaming Area project construction takes place from Sept – Apr
- The Sardis Park playground project construction takes place from Nov – Jan
- Maps and signs for the City have been reviewed with improvements and additions made, adopting a new look consisting of minimal design (less is more)

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

- Richard updated the committee on the Vedder Greenway bridge and advised that the Engineering department has completed their geotechnical review which is with the Province now for final review.

Richard Fortin retired from the meeting at 7:50 am

- There has been a request to cut back the vegetation on the East Dyke and inspect the dyke gate access in order to improve access for adaptive bikes. The access is too sharp, and, unfortunately, adaptive bikes do not have the best turning radius. Joe to look into further. There was also a request to widen the access points at the Keith Wilson bridge on the Yarrow side to improve access for adaptive bikes. Joe will make sure this is arranged.
- A request to have the kiosks at Browne Creek Wetlands cleaned and any benches cleaned/pressure washed was made. This will happen when time and water permit. Joe reminded committee members to report any parks and trails issues to Operations right away so they can be repaired as soon as possible and made safe if necessary.

### **Annual Review of Committee Memberships**

Councillor Mercer provided a quick update to the committee regarding membership now that it has been one year. Each committee's Terms of Reference are to accurately reflect membership and vice versa. He advised that if there are any members who no longer wish to be a part of the committee to email him.

### **Mt. Thom Safety and Maintenance Issues**

It was noted that there is a piece of rebar exposed on the trail just below the bench, and, as well, the retaining wood supported by the rebar is rotting. There are also a few spots on the trail where the benching has collapsed and will need to be repaired by hand as a machine wouldn't be able to get in to fix this. Joe has advised that the City will inspect this and make repairs.

### **Damage to Trail at Qoqó:Lem Park**

It has been noticed that trail users are cutting through the switchbacks causing damage to the vegetation and eventually possibly causing erosion to the trail. It has also been noticed that the trail is caving in on some spots where so many people have continued to cut across. Although there is great signage in place, it is not being adhered to. The suggestion of discreet fencing was a solution to fix the issue, ie. split rail.

Allison Colthorp advised that she will also chat with her team to find fun ways with new interpretive signage to discourage users from walking off the trail and cutting through the switchbacks.

### **Updated Signage Request on the Vedder Greenway**

Kelly brought forward a request to have updated signage installed on the Vedder Greenway pertaining to the safety of shared trail use between horses and other users. In addition, signs regarding cleaning up after horses were requested to be installed underneath the safety signage. Or, instead, possibly the installation of mounting blocks. Kelly will look for feedback from other horse users to determine if there are specific locations where mounting blocks would be beneficial. Staff to consider an equestrian symbol on signage at parking lots where horses may access the trail.

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### **Inquiry to Permit Horses on Trail**

Equestrians have lost some riding trails and are looking for alternative locations to ride, specifically on the trail from Electoral H at Cultus Lake to FSR/Parmenter Road. There is some availability to ride on this trail, however, some parcels of land are privately owned. Joe added that if there is ever a point in time when the City of Chilliwack is able to gain a Right of Way through inaccessible areas it will be looked into.

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:30 am

### **Hunting & Gun Laws on Vedder Mountain**

It was discussed that Vedder Mountain has become increasingly dangerous to users due to permissions of hunting and gun use as this area is out of the firearms prohibition area. Joe mentioned there is a significant piece of land in the City boundary that the City could extend into the fire prohibition area, covering a significant area of land, which would restrict hunting and gun use. A suggestion to have this issue looked into is to write letters of complaint as well as staff to look into further.

Roundtable check in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued.

Councillor Mercer mentioned that council will be meeting in the coming months to discuss funding and budgets which will determine the 2024 priorities for parks and trails projects.

Victor Froese inquired if the results of a recreational use survey could be brought to the next meeting.

David Urban shared that the section of the Lakeside Trail from Sunnyside campground to Entrance Bay at Cultus Lake has been completed with just a few deficiencies still that are being looked after. This piece of trail ties into the City of Chilliwack and has received lots of positive feedback.

Daris mentioned that given the hot weather, the shaded play structure is still much needed. Councillor Mercer updated the committee that this is in the works and has been added to the Comprehensive Municipal Plan.

Allison Colthorp advised the committee that the Indigenous architect hired for the Vedder Greenway Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage project plans to submit a draft next week to the City and other involved stakeholders.

Gary Baker retired from the meeting at 8:56 am

Bob Audet mentioned that park users of Webster Park have found the park quite unsafe due to a few teenagers. Joe advised that this was brought to the City's attention and the Bylaw department and RCMP are aware and are looking into rectifying this issue.

Bob asked if parks and trails with Indigenous names can have the phonetic spelling included underneath as the names can sometimes be hard to pronounce. This is a great idea and something that is being worked on, but it needs to be reviewed and correct before being posted on signage.

Allison Colthorp retired from the meeting at 9:05 am

Lynda Ferris attended the meeting on behalf of the FVMA and updated the committee on the Accessible Mountain Bike trail that connects to the City at Qoqó:Lem Park. There is almost a date to have the preliminary field recon completed for art purposes, and, if all goes well, hopefully, work can commence before the ground freezes.

Lynda added that gun use and hunting on Vedder Mountain has already been flagged at a provincial level and is being investigated.

Lastly, Lynda shared that the province’s recreation sites and trails have changed their signage standards for trails which are launching next week. The FVRD has held off on updating their own signage and will work to see that their signage reflects both the province and City.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING**

- 2022 recreational use results to be provided at the next meeting
- Circulate contact information for PaRx program

**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 9:09 am.

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Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair