

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.

Third Quarter Report 2017

Landing Skate Park Renovation



The Landing Skate Park is a very well used youth outdoor recreation facility. Built in 2002, the Landing Skate Park has provided many years of service to the community. A budget was set in the Capital Plan for its renovation and the project was scheduled for 2017. The original renovation planned for repairs to age-related flaws and usage damage, as well as the replacement of the worn, noisy metal skate ramps in the centre of the facility with concrete versions.

A second call submission for a Canada 150 Grant was made at the end of 2016 and accepted in early 2017. This grant approval made it possible to advance plans for the removal and replacement of larger portions of the concrete surfaces. Grant funding made it possible to review the entire facility and to commission detailed design drawings.

Parks Planning engaged the public by way of three meetings. The first was held in Evergreen Hall on January 14, 2017 and was exclusive to the Skate Park facility. Park Planning held open Parks and Trails meetings in the Cottonwood Mall on February 25 and March 4, with a focus on this facility.

The reconstructed facility was opened on September 23, 2017 to great fanfare. Updates to the Landing Skate Park included repairing or replacing concrete ramps and removing hazards, as well as the addition of several new exciting features. These new features include a pump hump and rainbow ledge, a volcano feature, a set of steps and several quarter pipes.

Third Avenue Park and the Grassroots Grant



Through the Grass Roots Grant Program, Mayor and Council invite the people of Chilliwack to apply for a matching funding grant for resident-led, neighbourhood-enhancing projects. Staff received and reviewed one application for the July 1, 2017 submissions deadline. The application met the eligibility criteria of the program and the Third Avenue Park Play Space Expansion was approved.

A group of residents from the neighbourhood submitted this Grass Roots Grant application together. This project added play area, including spinning and bouncing play elements, to a park with high demand but few services. The additional play area will create a more varied play environment for children living in this densifying neighbourhood.

Carter Park Development

A vacant parcel of land owned by the City was identified as having merit for use as a neighbourhood park. As the area is south of a neighbourhood identified in the Greenspace Plan as being deficient in park space and under the ownership of the City, the development of a City Park satisfied that recreational need.

Site investigation and community engagement acknowledged the need for pathways across the park and the desire to have a simple, clean park with swings, a slide and see-saw. In early July, this new park space at 5541 Carter Road was welcomed by the neighbourhood as the construction fences came down and the play began.



Community Play Structures

The City has in place an annual program to reinstall up to date equipment in all parks where old equipment was removed over 15 years ago due to non-compliance with the CSA Standards. Within the third quarter of 2017, both Spruce Grove Park and Green Acres Square Park received replacement play structures and site work.

As usual, the community consultation process for play structure replacement includes the delivery of a mail out package, including a letter and a design proposal to residences within walking distance of the park. The letter invites comments by email or phone and invites residents to a meeting in the park. Once all of the comments are reviewed and reasonable changes are made to the proposal, a follow up package is sent out to the community to notify them of the amended design.

Spruce Grove Park



Since the original equipment was removed in Spruce Grove Park in the late 1990's, the City has received numerous requests for its reinstatement. Some of the existing play equipment still had value and was incorporated into the new park design. The new design was expanded as the service area of this neighbourhood park and is larger than average and this need was also identified in the Greenspace Plan.

Green Acres Square Park



This small park located on Elm Street in the downtown area was revamped this quarter. Included in this project was the installation of a new play structure, swing set, pathway, a bench and a new trash receptacle.

Little Mountain Park Stair Replacement



Little Mountain Park was connected to Chartwell Drive by a combination of trails and stairs. In 2015, several of the stairs and a large section of trail washed out due to a storm drain blockage. In order to repair the area, the remaining stairs had to be removed. As it was not known whether future drainage issues would occur, the stairs were left as a moderately steep trail.

As there have been no reoccurring drainage issues, 63 composite stairs have been installed in two sections: 11 at the bottom and 52 above.

Thom Creek Trail Stair Replacement

The 99 wood box stairs, constructed in the mid-1990s above Sylvan Drive, have been deteriorating over the past few years, requiring the frequent replacement of rotting boards. As repairs were no longer practical, the stairs needed to be replaced.

As the Thom Creek Trail to Mount Thom is one of the City's most popular trails, with an average of 54 users per day in summer, replacement was scheduled for September. There are now 130 plastic composite stairs connecting Sylvan Drive to the trail above.



New Generators Provide Additional Standby Power

The Operations Department has recently installed two new generators to provide additional standby power for the sewer system. The City of Chilliwack's water, sewer and drainage stations must continue to operate during prolonged power outages to provide service to all residents. Severe storms, motor vehicle accidents and widespread power outages create operational challenges for portable generators, making permanent generator placements a viable and effective solution. These latest permanent installations at Copper Ridge (SPS 34) and Twin Creeks Park (SPS 37), were strategically planned based on factors such as historical outage data, site access, operational requirements and available property. Generators and kiosks were also wrapped at both sites to improve aesthetics. The City's water and sewer infrastructure is now equipped with a total of 45 standby generators.

