

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 – 7:30 AM
BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM

Council Members: Councillor Harv Westeringh, Chair

CPTAC Members: Pollaris Raymond, Chilliwack Park Society
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club
Victor Froese, Community Representative
David Hanson, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative
Richard Procee, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative
Graham Macaulay, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association

Guests : Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex-officio

Regrets: Councillor Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair
Kenrae Dorsey, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program

City Staff: Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks
Brendan Kurtz, Parks Operations Manager
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning
Ashley Hunter, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Westeringh called the meeting to order at 7:34 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, February 12, be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Seconded) meeting of Thursday, September 18, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS**2026 Projects & Information**

- Renovations at Vedder Park to enhance site accessibility, improve soil quality, add irrigation, and pave the designated guardian zones
- A MUGA will be installed at Meadowbrook Park, along with the addition of paved pathways and the relocation of the existing structure
- Fairfield Park playground will see accessibility enhancements, including the installation of additional accessible play items, a poured-in-place rubber surface, and removal of wood fiber
- Kinsmen Park on Portage will receive the same accessibility enhancements as the playground at Fairfield Park, however in 2027
- The wood play structure in Rivers Edge Park will be replaced
- The artificial turf at Exhibition Park will be replaced in June
- Development will begin for a new park, Little Mountain West, which will include a CSA 2-5 year old play area, accessible play, 2 guardian areas, and greenspace plan recommendation
- The field at the Heritage Park outdoor space will have the surface restoration completed, including imported soil and topdressing sand, eliminating ponding areas, and seeding/establishing the turf
- Nixon Rd Park will be developed into an 18 hole disc course, designed as a regional significant course with multiple tee pads for all skill levels and a mix of open meadow and wooded play
- Trail developments at: Allan Creek Trail, Nixon Road Park to the trail connection to Forest Gate Park, Promontory West Trail to Vedder Crossing, as well as ROW negotiations at Lefferson Creek to Mt. Thom
- Phase 5 of the Little Mountain trails development is beginning, with the first part happening in February and the second in April

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Roundtable check-in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued;

Park User Age Demographic

Victor pointed out the vacant position of 'Community Senior Representative' and enquired whether the City's park spaces are user friendly to all age demographics in the community.

When planning park spaces, accessibility and multi-generational use are key considerations. The City's current designs for community parks incorporate smooth rubberized surfacing in place of bark mulch to enhance stability and reduce tripping hazards, accessible playground guardian areas, well-placed seating for comfort and supervision, accessible pathways throughout, and the availability of accessible washroom facilities. The inclusion of outdoor fitness equipment and gathering areas further supports mobility, light exercise, and social connection for older residents. These elements ensure our parks are inclusive, safe, and enjoyable for seniors while continuing to serve children and families.

Park Space Planning

Interest in park spaces is determined through a combination of long-range planning, public engagement, policy requirements, and community partnerships. The City relies on its Greenspace Plan and Trail Network Plan, both aligned with national standards, to guide decision-making and identify community needs. Public input is gathered through processes such as community engagements, surveys, or the Official Community Plan (OCP) review where residents have the opportunity to provide feedback on parks and trails. In addition, community organizations and user groups actively provide advocacy, volunteer efforts, and even funding for projects, such as trail development and pump tracks. Development requirements (including parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu contributions) also help ensure adequate park space as the community grows. Together, public voices, strategic planning documents, council direction, and partnerships shape how interest is identified and how park spaces are prioritized and developed.

Previous Safety Village Site

The location of the previous Safety Village site falls within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) zone. This means that the land is a designated zone where agriculture is prioritized, meaning any changes to the land must be approved by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). An application has been submitted to the ALC to turn this site into a baseball training facility.

Firearms Use on Vedder Mountain

The parcel of Crown Land on Vedder Mountain that was outside the firearms prohibition is now included and firearms are no longer permitted in the area.

Chilliwack River Valley

The discussion came up regarding the increasing visitor use and clean-up challenges in the Chilliwack River Valley, noting that this area is outside of the City's municipal boundary and shared among multiple agencies and organizations. The group discussed the need for improved collaboration, possible dedicated leadership or planning support, and stronger coordination with community groups and other authorities to help manage, maintain, and protect the valley moving forward.

Crosswalk Indicator Button

The crosswalk indicator button at some crossing locations are not easily accessible for all users. This item, along with the crossing area on the Valley Rail Trail at Knight Rd have been referred to Engineering for active transportation items.

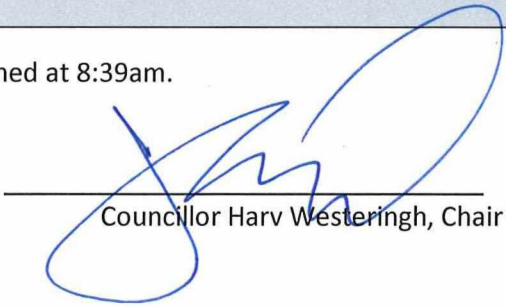
6. BUSINESS ARISING

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 8:39am.



Councillor Harv Westeringh, Chair