

## **AGENDA**

### **Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails Advisory Committee**

To be held in Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams,  
770 Vernon Avenue,  
Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

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*The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lek' we!Jen peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SANEC peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.*

*We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.*

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#### **1. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

#### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- October 10, 2024

#### **3. CLIMATE PLAN: TARGETED UPDATE**

- Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability

#### **4. PARKS' COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

- Katie Turner, Park Stewardship Coordinator

#### **5. FUNDING STRATEGY: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND URBAN FOREST STRATEGIES**

- Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks

#### **6. DISCUSSION ON DEFINITION OF PARK ZONES**

- Darrell Wick
- [Petition to the Government of Canada](#)
- [Wildlife Petition for New Coastal Bird Sanctuary – Saanich News Article](#)

\*Adjournment\*

To ensure quorum, please contact Angela Hawkshaw at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or [angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca](mailto:angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.

6420-45  
Urban Forest  
Strategy

### **URBAN FOREST STRATEGY UPDATE**

Report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated August 7, 2024 to endorse the Urban Forest Strategy and refer the financial implications to future budget considerations.

Memos of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee dated May 21, 2024 and June 19, 2024.

Note: Consideration of this item was postponed from the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 19, 2024. Public input has been concluded.

The Senior Manager, Parks and A. Needoba, Diamond Head Consulting presented the Urban Forest Strategy (PowerPoint on file).

**MOVED by Councillor Harper and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Council endorse the Urban Forest Strategy dated August 9, 2024 and refer the financial implications to future budget considerations.”**

In response to questions from Council, the Senior Manager, Parks, the Manager of Urban Forestry, Natural Areas and Community Stewardship, the Manager, Community Development/Business Systems and the consultant stated:

- The proposed tree canopy gain is concentrated within the Urban Containment Boundary.
- Data provided by the Capital Regional District (CRD) was used to develop the canopy cover metrics; data from other municipalities where available is also considered.
- The Strategy outlines an action for planting 50,000 understory trees in existing forests.
- Saanich’s canopy goals include planting 54,000 new non replacement trees on private and public lands.
- Saanich has a canopy cover of approximately 43%.
- Preliminary discussions have taken place with School District 61 with respect to partnerships for increasing tree plantings on school grounds.
- A funding proposal has been forwarded through the Green Municipal Infrastructure Funding Program for a grant to plant a new forest in Cuthbert Holmes Park.
- The CRD has been exploring ways to apply for grants and engaging local municipalities to participate; the urban forest is considered a regional resource.

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- There is a need for tree equity in neighbourhoods.
- There is a need to promote a stewardship program and get residents excited about participating.
- There is a need for an established fund for stewardship.
- There many benefits to the planting of street trees including water management, traffic calming, cooler air and noise reduction.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED  
with Councillor Westhaver Absent for the Vote**

**MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff: “That the memo from the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee dated May 21, 2024 with respect to funding for the Urban Forest Strategy be referred to the Finance and Governance Standing Committee.”**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by Councillor Chambers: “That the topic of edible landscaping and ways of promoting urban agriculture, edible landscaping and food security be referred to the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee, the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee and the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee.”**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Opportunities for promoting edible landscaping should be explored.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL AREAS, PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff, Julian Anderson (via Teams), Jane Cameron, David Little, Evan Papps, Darrell Wick (via Teams) and Kathleen Woodruff

Regrets: Catherine du Bois and Wendy Trotter

Staff: Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources; Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Plan and Development; Helene Roberge, Manager, Engineering Strategic Projects (via Teams); Scott Sexton, Manager, Stormwater and Environmental Engineering Program; Alex Browne, Stormwater and Environmental Management Specialist, and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

Guests: Anna Skurikhina, Cats and Birds Project Lead, Stewardship Centre for BC (via Teams)

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### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by E. Papps and Seconded K. Woodruff by : “That the Minutes of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held September 12, 2024, be adopted as circulated.”**

**CARRIED**

### **CHAIRS REMARKS**

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopted the new Interim Management Guidelines (IMG) for the former Royal Oak Golf Course on September 11, 2024. The Park Management Plan is projected to be completed over the next two years.
- The CRD will consider a pilot project aimed at increasing water safety at Thetis Lake and Hamsterly Beach (Elk Lake) by providing personal flotation devices and life rings. An update on the project from Vancouver Island Health could be proposed.
- In November, new Chairs will be elected for the Advisory Committees. The deadline to apply to volunteer on a committee is October 25, 2024.

### **UPDATE ON INTEGRATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

The Senior Manager of Water Resources gave an Update on Integrated Stormwater Management Planning (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Staff will have the ability to assess the impact of developments on the drainage network; criteria will be established for future development applications. This may inform future policy and processes including Council reports, if beneficial in decision making.
- The Integrated Stormwater Management Plan will undergo ongoing revisions and updates as living documents.
- The modeling work will inform floodplains or flood-prone areas.
- A concern was raised about the stormwater system discharging in the Douglas Creek. This can now be assessed with the model and built into future work plans. Continuing to

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- develop regulations that balance risks is the objective.
- The data and clarity of the work enables the municipality to make decisions effectively.
  - Over time, the Geographic Information System (GIS) content will provide more current information for the public.
  - Flow monitoring and flow gauges were utilized in stormwater systems around the city to collect data. Specific and valuable rainfall gauge data was observed and incorporated.
  - The Provincial Government is in the process of establishing better practices for protecting floodplains. We look to build off of provincial and regional work and collaborate. This ensures consistency and avoids contradictions.
  - Ground-truthing is crucial for collecting and refining data and model results.
  - Densifying and constructing hard surfaces without allowing areas for water to penetrate the ground increases runoff, accelerates flow and could cause future erosion and damage.
  - Reinforcement work is underway on the banks of the Colquitz River. This will help guide the designs for the project and ensure proper water flow is maintained.
  - Downstream capacity is assessed to ensure that water doesn't back up into the stormwater system.
  - Data received can predict the need for backflow preventers which can then determine which neighborhoods could benefit from this type of facility. This identification process is complex.
  - The Panama Concept Plan is under revision. Grants could be explored for funding opportunities.

**\*\*The Senior Manager of Water Resources, Engineering Strategic Projects Manager, Stormwater and Environmental Engineering Program Manager and the Stormwater and Environmental Management Specialist left the meeting at 4:49 p.m.\*\***

### **CATS AND BIRDS PROJECT**

The Representative for the Stewardship Centre for BC gave a presentation on the Cats and Birds Project (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- An educational component about cats and birds could be integrated into different strategies, such as the People, Pets and Parks Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Different window type glass could be explored to deter birds from flying into them.
- Animal bylaws are challenging to enforce; education and engagement campaigns yield better results.
- Rodent issues can escalate in the absence of cats, particularly on farms.

**\*\*The representative from the Stewardship Centre for BC left the meeting at 5:13 p.m. \*\***

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**PARKS CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Manager of Park Plan and Development provided an update on Parks Construction and Planning Projects. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Repairs to the east bridge trail in PKOLS could be combined with the PKOLS Beach Stair Replacement Project, which involves demolishing the old concrete stairs. The project has been delayed due to changes in archaeological permitting requirements, as there is a known archaeological site near the mouth of Douglas Creek. The lower half of the stairs and the concrete on the beach will be broken up and removed. The upper stairs will either be removed or buried, depending on which option is safer and less disruptive to the landscape.
- Removing the boardwalk trails at PKOLS involves a planning and design element that may require further discussions with staff and consultation with various departments.
- The prefabricated washroom for parks is being reconsidered due to cost concerns and permit issues. The CRD could provide insight into their facilities and costs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from D. Little the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

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Councillor Judy Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk