

MEMORANDUM

TO: Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee
FROM: Ian Kennedy, Supervisor Major Parks West
DATE: December 1st, 2022
SUBJECT: **Point Pleasant Park Operations Update**

The supervisor of Major Parks West is responsible for; 5 parks (Point Pleasant Park, Hemlock Ravine, Sir Sandford Fleming, Shaw Wilderness Park and Linear Trail), 2 cemeteries (Camp Hill and Fairview) as well as providing Civic Event support as a member of the Special Events Taskforce. In a typical season, seasonal and student staff return in early May bringing the total staff compliment to fourteen (14).

Ongoing regular maintenance typically includes daily garbage and litter pick-up, road/drainage maintenance, grass whipping and mowing, selected removal of invasive plant species, and the repair and painting of park benches and litter bins. As well staff is responsible for snow plowing/ sanding of main roads in winter months, along with 30 other locations outside of PPP. Staff this season has focused efforts on cutting trails back and opening the canopy, along with removal of limbs of concern. The Major Parks arborist has continued their focus on monitoring and removing invasive and non-native tree species, as well as persistent and invasive plants.

Operation during mid-Fall season focused on Hurricane Fiona clean up, and maintenance of damaged trees and par assets. Point Pleasant fared well during the storm, and total sustained damaged was minimal – Staff was able to prepare park for opening in under a Week. Road work and remediation in preparation for the upcoming Storm and Winter Season has commenced through the Fall, with a focus on leaf clearing from roads, and drain/culvert management in anticipation of the rainy season. Pathways not receiving Winter Maintenance have commenced closure.

Due to sustained COVID-19 impacts, the movement and shortage of staff during the 2022 Season, and the position of Supervisor being vacant for most of the Spring, the level of attention to projects outside of the essential daily maintenance was unfortunately a struggle to meet, especially with the added Special Events Task Force requirements. We recently met Full-Time staff requirements, which posed beneficial to operations in the later Summer and through the Fall. Major Parks has also taken on a Co-op student from J L Ilsley High School for 10 weeks. This is a first for Major Parks and is proving to be a beneficial relationship both for our operation and the organization, as well as the student. Moving into the 2023 Spring/Summer Season we aim to have staff back to the level necessary to meet full potential of PPP care and maintenance demands.

Operations projects completed or to be completed in 2022 & 2023:

- HRM Parks took on repairs and repainting of Sailor's Memorial Flagpole and its support base. Structure was in rough shape, and posed a safety hazard – Repair focused for completion in time for Remembrance Day Ceremonies taking place on Park Shoreline
- Portable Bathroom Facilities will be in place through 2022/2023 Winter. Previously these facilities were removed in the Winter months, but response from public is to see them in place year-round. If servicing them doesn't prove difficult through Winter months, operations will move towards year-round placement.
- Culvert replaced on Sailor's Memorial Way between Heather Rd. and Black Rock Beach. Area previously prone to flooding after heavy rain fall and Spring Melt.
- Stretch from Shakespeare by the Sea to the Bottom of Point Pleasant Drive paved in October 2022. This alleviated a 'seam' in asphalt, and fixed persistent potholes that had begun to pose a

hazard to the public, and their vehicles. New asphalt will be beneficial to Snow Removal in upcoming Winter Season.

- 4 Speed Bumps planned for installation in Lower Parking Lot to reduce speeding and prevent future damage to Park amenities. Planned for Fall 2022 but pushed to Spring 2023 to maintain budget requirements.
- Park Entrance off Chain Rock Drive updated to a depressed curb.
- Phases 1 and 2 of the Forestry Thinning Project are since Completed as of Fall 2020. Tender was issued for completion this Fall (2022) but will now be moved ahead to Fall of 2023.

Future Capital projects (with anticipated start dates):

- Regional Council approved funding for the design of Point Pleasant Park shoreline improvements – staff are planning to issue a Request for Proposal for the design activities in 2022

Ian Kennedy