

MEMORANDUM

TO: Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee
FROM: Ian Kennedy, Supervisor Major Parks West
DATE: Thursday September 7th, 2023
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. During Winter Staff is responsible for plowing and sanding of main roads in the park, along with 30 other locations outside of PPP.

The focused removal of aging, hazardous, and invasive trees on behalf of staff has continued through Summer into Fall Season. In July HRM Urban Forestry crews assisted in removing larger trees identified for removal – Many of them older 'snags' that posed a safety risk during high windstorms. Since the July flooding event operational focus has been entirely on trail maintenance. Routine heavy rains have led to heavy washouts, and a need to restructure ditching throughout the park. This work will continue into the Fall to appropriately prepare the Park roadways for Winter Maintenance. Staff has made considerable efforts in this regard despite having increased commitments for HRM Civic Events throughout July and August - Summer is peak Special Events season which requires focus outside of PPP operations to meet the requests and obligations as a member of the SETF.

We now have the full requirement for Full Time employees but are still short 6 staff due to lack of Students and Ongoing Hiring. The Major Parks operation is managing this deficit incredibly well, but we look forward to the return of Summer Student staff next Year.

Operations projects completed or to be completed in 2023:

- 5 Kiosks have been removed from PPP, replaced with new Signage infrastructure, and updated Park Map Signs.
- 2 additional culverts to be installed along Sailor's Memorial Way – Lower Parking Lot Park Entrance & Bottom of Prince of Wales (Fall 2023)
- Working with HRM Contract Supervisor on a Capital Proposal for resurfacing and regrading of major roadways in PPP – Cambridge, Shore, and Sailor's Memorial
- 4 Speed Bumps to be installed September 2023 in Lower Parking Lot to reduce speeding and prevent future damage to Park amenities.
- New Speed Limit Signs to be installed in Lower Parking Lot (30km/h Maximum)
- Phases 1 and 2 of the Forestry Thinning Project are since Completed as of Fall 2020. No Tender will be issued for Phase 3 in 2023, Completion planned for Fall 2024.

Ian Kennedy