

MEMORANDUM

TO: Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee
FROM: Ian Kennedy, Supervisor Major Parks West
DATE: March 7th, 2024
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 continues through the Winter months. Additional Jack Pine 'snags' have been located and will soon see removal – Unable to determine at this time if this is weather/climate related or due to disease/insects; Investigating with Staff Arborist and discussing with Urban Forestry as to the cause and whether this is isolated or happening elsewhere in HRM. Winter focus remains on maintaining roadways, and culverts to prevent washouts and ensure proper drainage. PPP saw extensive roadway degradation from 2023 rainfall, so efforts to retaining road infrastructure are essential this time of Year to prevent standing water in cold weather. Due to recurring storms of high snow fall amounts the last month has been dedicated to Snow Removal and Winter Maintenance. Newly acquired equipment has benefited our ability to clear parking lots, and trails. Installation of a gate in the Upper Lot has been a positive change this season. Coordinating with Commissionaires to leave lower gates open at night during heavy snow fall has proven to be a better option for servicing the Lower Lot.

Our seasonal and student staff return as of May 6th 2024, and Major Parks looks forward to both new and returning members of our team.

Operations projects completed or to be completed in 2024:

- Targeted Masonry work on exterior stone walls that have degraded or been damaged by vehicles. (Summer 2024)
- Forestry Thinning Project Final Phase (Fall 2024)
- 2 additional culverts to be installed along Sailor's Memorial Way – Lower Parking Lot Park Entrance & Bottom of Prince of Wales (Spring/Summer 2024)
- Working with HRM Contract Supervisor on a Capital Proposal for resurfacing and regrading of major roadways in PPP – Cambridge, Shore, and Sailor's Memorial

Ian Kennedy