

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-05-08

From: Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Park Operations

File No: 6140-42

Subject: Island 22 Regional Park - Bike Skills Park Upgrades

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee of information pertaining to the Island 22 Regional Park – Bike Skills Park upgrades. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism
Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation
Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

BACKGROUND

The Bike Skills Park at Island 22 Regional Park was first created in 2012. It was designed and built by a well-known bike skills park professional, with input from the local riding community, and was intended to challenge riders at every skill level. As a normal part of wear and tear, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Parks Department has a regular maintenance routine which includes:

- Basic grooming of the paths to keep surfaces smooth and level
- Inspecting features which get damaged from use, weather, and vandalism
- Managing impacts from the weather:
 - In the summer, hot weather dries out soil surfaces causing shrinkage of features and loss of material from windblown dust
 - In periods of rain the tracks can experience erosion
- Trimming trees and grass, weeding, and collecting debris which may fall on the tracks

This area requires the involvement of a bike skills park professional on a regular basis to ensure that everything is shaped, packed, and functioning properly. Currently the park is receiving a much needed facelift after a time of increasingly heavy use and significant environmental impacts.

DISCUSSION

Island 22 Regional Park is the busiest FVRD park which sees close to 500,000 visitations annually. This number has been increasing over the past number of years with additions like the Dog Off Leash Park and the Bike Skills Park. The Bike Skills Park at Island 22 is hugely popular with families and professional riders alike, and receives use year round. There are riders present at any time of day on a daily basis, and on a good day can see up to 30 riders at a time. It features five main riding zones and one perimeter trail.

Safety is of utmost importance to the FVRD. Bike skills parks are very technical in nature and require the work of professionals to ensure that standards are being met so that its use is both fun and safe. An inspection by the Municipal Insurance Agency of BC outlined some specific instructional and safety signage, which has been implemented, as well as key maintenance items that are routinely attended to. Regular inspections are completed and issues are addressed to maintain the integrity and safety of the park.

A recent review of the Bike Skills Park, which involved the riding community and a bike skills professional, identified that additional maintenance was required to ensure that the park continues to be safe and meets the recreational needs of the riders. This has resulted in the reported facelift work and is anticipated to be completed in the next couple of weeks. Specifically upgrades include (see *Figure 1 on follow page for colour references*):

Advanced Jump Line (white)

A jump line is a set of continuous jumps intended for the more advanced rider. The existing wooden take-offs were beyond repair and have been removed and replaced with dirt ramps. The take-offs and landings of these jumps and the surrounding terrain is being groomed and shaped.



Pump Trail (red)

A pump line uses a rider's own momentum to travel without using pedal force. This feature was not being used as it was too far from the rest of the park and did not give riders the experience they were looking seeking. Additionally, there is a kid's pump track and an advanced pump track which was making this area redundant. The materials from this area are being repurposed for the dirt ramps in the Advanced Jump line and this area is being reclaimed for general trail.

Pump Track (blue)

A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping" (creating momentum by up and down body movements instead of pedaling or pushing). The pump track, located in the centre of the park, is being completely redesigned and reshaped. The new layout will offer a more modern approach which will encourage the development of skills with better shaping, flow, and rolling transitions.



Progression Jumps (green)

Progression jumps are a series of single jumps which get progressively larger and more difficult for users to improve their skills. These jumps are being reshaped, groomed and adjusted in height and length.

**Kids Pump Track (orange)**

This pump track is a beginner's version of the large pump track with the same function of using body momentum to propel one's bike. This is being completely rebuilt to ensure that it performs as it should with the appropriate angles, packing, and dimensions.





Figure 1 – Island 22 Bike Park Work Map

White - Advanced Jumpline

Green - Progression Jumps

Red - Pump Trail

Orange - Kid's Pump track

Blue - Pump Track

COST

The cost for this facelift is \$9,500 as is included in the parks budget for 2019 as a part of maintenance. Moving forward, a local bike skills park professional has been retained as a part of the maintenance plan to utilize expertise in ensuring that the shaping, grooming, and safety of the park are regularly being addressed. This regular maintenance will minimize the need for a future rebuild.

CONCLUSION

The Bike Skills Park at Island 22 Regional Park is a well-used asset for the community and the facelift it is currently receiving will prepare it for summer usage.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services: Not available for comment.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.