

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2020-03-10

From: Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks and Recreation

File No: 2320-30-2416

Subject: Boat Launch Overview: Island 22 Regional Park, Dewdney Regional Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board remove overnight gatehouse coverage from Dewdney Regional Park to assist in maintaining the cost effectiveness of this service.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism

Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

BACKGROUND

Annually, during the peak season of June to October, park users are required to purchase a parking pass at both Island 22 and Dewdney Regional Parks. Parking fees help to off-set the cost of manned gatehouses that provide on-site support for boat launch operations and general security. In addition to collecting fees for parking passes, the gatehouse operators also provide information to the public and report boating violations and other suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities. Gatehouses are staffed overnight for July and August on Saturday and Sunday nights while the park is closed to be an on-site presence including the reporting of suspicious activity.

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) first implemented parking fees and manned gatehouses at Island 22 Regional Park in 2003, and Dewdney Regional Park followed in 2005. Dewdney Regional Park must maintain its day-use seasonal gatehouse as a requirement of the License of Occupation granted to the FVRD from the Dewdney Area Improvement District for usage of the land.

DISCUSSION

A variety of passes are available for regular daytime usage of parking areas while people recreate on the Fraser River or within some areas of the parks from last week in June until the end of October. During this season, these parks are open from 6 am-sunset, and during an approved fishery, the gates open at 5 am to accommodate those who wish to get an earlier start.

Special passes for overnight stays of vehicles is only permitted on Friday and Saturday nights (plus Sundays on statutory holidays) during July and August. These passes are purchased by boaters who spend time overnight recreating on the river and need a place to keep their vehicle. There is overnight security on site during these times, however the gate remains closed.

Island 22 Regional Park

As is outlined in Table 1, Island 22 has seen an increase in Single Day and Season Vehicle Passes since 2017 when the dog off-leash park was refurbished. Sockeye runs have a large impact on demand for the park (as seen in 2018), and overall the park has shown a continued demand for overnight parking (highlighted in red text).

Table 1: Quantity of Parking Passes Sold at Island 22 Regional Park

Type of Pass	2017	2018 sockeye fishery	2019
Single Day			
Vehicle	4,692	7,717	5,131
Overnight			
3 Day Weekend	34	100	26
Season			
Vehicle	447	585	733
Boat Launch Regular	214	530	180
Commercial (Guide)- Vehicle Towing Boat Trailer	46	37	30
Boat Launch Regular Overnight	4	10	7
Overnight Commercial (Guide)- Vehicle Towing Boat Trailer	0	1	0
Equestrian (Horse)	8	8	10

At Island 22, general revenues from the parking pass sales over the past three years have covered the cost of gatehouse operations, with some profit being realised (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Revenue from Parking Passes Sold at Island 22 Regional Park

	2017	2018 (sockeye fishery)	2019
Revenue from Pass Sales	\$55,634	\$89,902	\$57,035
Gatehouse Costs	\$43,123	\$44,112	\$47,147
NET:	\$12,511	\$45,790	\$9,888

Included in the cost of the gatehouse is the expense of providing overnight service to monitor overnight parking (\$3,845 annually). In 2019, the revenues specifically from overnight pass sales were \$1,958. While the overnight service is not covered directly by overnight pass sales, the service as a whole is

making a small profit. As requests for overnight use is still strong at Island 22, and in light of the added security it provides, it is recommended to continue the overnight service at this park.

Dewdney Regional Park

As outlined in Table 3, Dewdney Regional Park usage has been steady since 2017 when improvements at the park were made through funding from the 2017 Job Creation Partnership Program. Sockeye runs have a large impact on demand (as seen in 2018), but overall there has been minimal demand for overnight stays with only 1 overnight stay in the 2019 season (highlighted in red text).

Table 3: Summary of the Quantity of Parking Passes Sold at Dewdney Regional Park

Type of Pass	2017	2018 sockeye fishery	2019
Single Day			
Vehicle	555	976	557
Overnight			
3 Day Weekend	3	5	1
Season			
Boat Launch Regular	90	165	58
Commercial (Guide) - Vehicle Towing Boat Trailer	0	0	0
Boat Launch Regular Overnight	1	1	0
Overnight Commercial (Guide)	0	0	0
Vehicle	3	5	2

At Dewdney Regional Park, general revenues from the parking pass sales over the past three years have not covered the cost of gatehouse operations (as seen in Table 4 below), however the service has provided for site safety and security as well as added customer service during busy months in addition to meeting the Licence of Occupation requirements.

Table 4: Summary of the Quantity of Parking Passes Sold at Dewdney Regional Park

	2017	2018 sockeye fishery	2019
Revenues from Pass Sales	\$8,468	\$15,347	\$6,834
Gatehouse Costs	\$30,726	\$35,572	\$26,869
NET:	-\$22,258	-\$20,225	-\$20,035

The cost for overnight coverage (included in the Table 4 above) is \$3,845 annually. In 2019, only one overnight pass was sold for a revenue of \$20. Although the length of the gatehouse season was reduced

to account for the lower usage trends, the gatehouse service is still not paying for itself. Therefore to reduce costs, it is recommended that the overnight service at Dewdney Regional Park be discontinued. This would bring an added savings of \$3,825 annually. Removing gatehouse operations entirely at this location is not currently an option due to stipulations in the Licence of Occupation which is valid until December, 2020.

COST

Maintaining overnight service at Dewdney Regional Park is not cost effective and has seen low demand. Removing the overnight coverage would result in an annual savings of \$3,825.

CONCLUSION

Gatehouse operations are an important part of FVRD Park Services at Island 22 Regional Park and Dewdney Regional Park. Removal of the overnight coverage at Dewdney Regional Park is recommended to save costs as there is little demand for the service.

COMMENTS BY:

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

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services: Reviewed and supported.

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