

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2020-07-14

From: Christian Lang, Parks Technician II

File No: 6140-42-Island 22

Subject: Bike Skills Park Wood Feature Upgrades at Island 22 Regional Park

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee of information pertaining to upgrades of wood features at the bike skills park located at Island 22 Regional Park. 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 #5 Outdoor Recreation
Priority #4 Tourism

BACKGROUND

The bike skills park, located at Island 22 Regional Park in Chilliwack, has become a local hub for mountain biking enthusiasts of all skill levels. There are riders present at any time of day on a daily basis, and when busy can have up to 30 riders at a time. In addition to various dirt jumps, it contains wooden technical features ranging from easy (green) that require basic skills, to advanced (double black diamond) that require expert skills.

In 2012, it was designed and constructed 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. Last year, upgrades to the bike skills park included the reshaping, and adjusting in height and length of the dirt jump take-offs and landings. The kids' pump track was also completely rebuilt to ensure that it performs as it should with the appropriate angles, packing, and dimensions. Along with these dirt based features, the park has hundreds of feet of wooden technical features which include:

- boardwalks,
- ramps,
- skinnies (very thin narrow lines ridden to test balance and bike handling skills), and
- ramps, and drops (an abrupt change in elevation steep enough so the front tire cannot easily roll down to the lower elevation).

Monthly inspections are conducted by a bike skills park professional and any issues are addressed to maintain the integrity and safety of the bike skills park. To ensure the wood features are well maintained this work can include ensuring:

- fall zones are clear of hazards,
- logs are stable and in safe riding condition,
- supports are packed with dirt and showing no sign of wear, and
- decking slats are secure and not broken.

DISCUSSION

As a result of monthly inspections, it was noted that many of the wood features would need replacing in the near future. Safety is of utmost importance, so a plan to remove and replace the wood features was created. To help serve the mountain biking community for the next 5 to 10 years, it was decided that most of the boardwalks, ramps, skinnies, and drops would be removed and replaced, as well as an additional beginner and expert level drop added to the drop zone for users to further test their skills. This work was quite complementary to the work that was done last year and to the regular general maintenance to ensure everything is functioning properly. These improvements consisted of:

Drop Zone

This area has a set of five wood drops ranging from 1 to 6 feet for all levels of riders. The three original drops were still structurally sound so they remained in place. An additional small drop and large drop were added to upgrade the area (far right and far left, in the photo below).



Boardwalks and Skinnies Zone

The boardwalks and skinnies make up the majority of wood features within the bike skill park. These structures see the most use since they are accessible by all skillsets of riders, hence were starting to show signs of degradation. Every wood slat and stringer was replaced, while some of the existing support logs could still be used, please see photographs below.



With the bike skills park gaining popularity, staff have begun to contemplate the next phase of buildout that would satisfy the increasing demand. There is an opportunity to introduce new elements and features that would expand the bike user's experience in this bike skills park. As these ideas take shape, staff will engage park users and report back on these potential features.

COST

For this 2020 project, \$20,000 was approved under the Regional Parks (700) capital construction budget. Staff was able to use a local sawmill to purchase the lumber, and this significantly reduced the material cost. The labour for this work was under \$5,000, so in total, this project came in under budget by almost \$6,000.

CONCLUSION

The bike skills park at Island 22 Regional Park is a well-used regional asset for all skill levels. The replacement of these wooden technical features will serve the biking community well this summer and into the future. Moving forward, there is potential and demand for expansion of this unique amenity.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services:

Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsbrough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Financial Services:

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer:

Reviewed and supported.