

Operations Department



The Operations Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the City's water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, road and dyke infrastructure, as well as the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), over 100 parks and sports fields and the City's recreational trail network.

Second Quarter Report 2017

Disc Golf Course Opened in Chilliwack!



Chilliwack has installed its first Disc Golf Course in Walden Park. This Park is located in the north east section of downtown Chilliwack, adjacent to F.G. Leary School. Visitors of Walden Park and the nearby sports fields can use the paved parking lot at the north end of Walden Street or access this park by way of public transportation from two blocks west at the corner of Carleton Street and First Avenue. The Park was selected as being suitable for a 9 hole Disc Golf course for a few good reasons, including its beautiful trees and ponds which become challenging obstacles to disc golf players. Interestingly, Wikipedia reports that this sport was first played in Bladworth, Saskatchewan in 1926. The sport was slow to gain popularity until the 1960s when the culture of the period embraced it. The 1970s witnessed this sport morphing from a casual game into a competitive sport. A professional designer from the British Columbia Disc Golf Association was brought in to help with the course design and the Walden Disc Golf course was designed as an entry level, par 27 beginner to intermediate course. The community is invited to bring out a flying disc and give it a try. Other, more serious players are often equipped with multiple throwing discs of different weights and flight capabilities.

The links below will help with an understanding of the design of the course and provide local support for the introduction of this new sport to Chilliwack.

Search for “Chilliwack Disc Golf” on Facebook

City of Chilliwack Website Walden Park

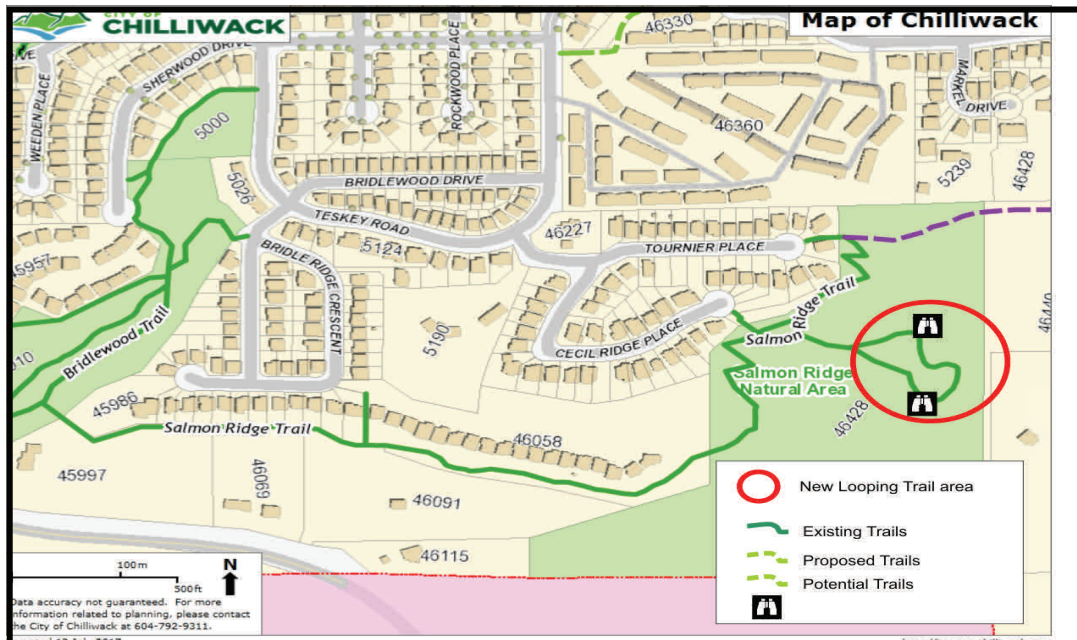
Disc Golfing Canada:

<http://discgolfing.ca>

<http://discgolfing.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Chilliwack-concept.pdf>

Salmon Ridge Loop Trail

For many years a narrow, steep dirt path from the existing Salmon Ridge Trail led some adventurous hikers to two view points on Salmon Ridge in Promontory. With one view point looking west with spectacular vistas of Cultus Lake, Vedder Mountain and further into the Columbia Valley and the other view point looking north toward Chilliwack this dirt path soon became wider and more treacherous as hiking boots degraded the non-standard trail. Park Operations noted the desire to have a trail link to these viewing areas and in the spring of 2017 built a gravel loop trail to support users. These two trails were installed to create a loop but also to provide access to different skill levels of hikers. The trail to the east is a lower grade for the beginners whilst the other is a little more advanced. To visit this new trail loop and noteworthy viewpoints follow the Salmon Ridge Trail to the fork above Cecil Ridge Place or utilize the steps from Cecil Ridge Place or the trail from Tournier Place.



Landing Spray Park Gets a Renovation in Celebration of Canada 150



Since 2004, the years took a toll on the spray features of the splash park next to the Landing Leisure Centre. At that time the design theory of splash parks was to have the 3-dimensional spray features/toys be based on the designs of play structures in playgrounds. Items like the tug boat and the flat panel spray toys created additional interest in the spray parks but required high levels of maintenance due to the shape and size of them. The old tug boat, which was formed out of fiberglass, was removed every season, repaired, repainted and set out the next season.

The new spray park design is based on water motion, excitement and reduced levels of maintenance. This new park requires minimal seasonal maintenance and the main feature is the large tipping bucket called the “Big Top Soaker” which remains in place all year but is locked in an upside down position for the off-season as not to fill with rain water.

The spray pad has been enlarged by an extra 280 square metres, with 16 above ground features and 24 ground sprays and designed with a nautical theme to complement the paddlewheel boat design of the Landing Leisure Centre building. The shape of a boat creating a wavy wake is clear in the concrete surface of the park. Large spray features along the both sides of this boat further simulate the splash of a boat bow pushing through the waves. Providing structure to the boat theme and resembling a crow’s nest or a wheelhouse is the large bucket dumper in the centre.

The Landing Spray Park renovation was completed on time to much fanfare on a hot and dry July 1st. This Spray Park is on a manually activated switch and generally operates from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm from the end of May until Labour Day weekend.

Dog Off-Leash Area Expansions

Dogs are welcome in most of Chilliwack's parks and trails but they must be kept on leash unless they are in a designated dog off-leash (DOL) area. Council recognizes the importance of dogs to their owners and in 2017 is providing additional dog off-leash areas. These off-leash areas are a safe way to exercise and socialize dogs while owners can meet with other dog owners.

A dog off-leash area is a place where pet owners can take their dogs to run free without a leash. Off-leash does not mean "out of control" and only applies to the specific, designated area. Pet owners must ensure that their dogs are controlled and not violent or aggressive. Pet owners must also be on-site for the duration of the visit and must abide by the off-leash area etiquette. New dog off-leash areas include:

Vedder Park near Vedder Crossing

The expansion to the existing dog off-leash area in Vedder Park included the relocation of the small dog area to a new compound, just to the west, increasing the dog off-leash area by 3,030 square metres. The total dog off-leash area in this park is now 9,700 square metres which is almost one hectare.



Vedder North Dyke Trail

To access this area a visitor could either use the parking lot at the Lickman Vedder Rotary Trail parking lot and walk to the dog off-leash entry area to the west, or by way of Webster Road. Signage at the beginning/end of this off-leash trail informs the public of the etiquette for this off-leash dog trail which runs between Lickman Road and Webster Road along the North Dyke. A centrally located area close to the Vedder Rotary Trail was selected for the dog off-leash trail and vegetation will be managed to allow for a large grassy area where dogs can run free. This addition of 8,830 square metres of designated off-leash area has been well-received both in the local neighbourhood and community-wide.

Sheffield Dog Off-Leash Area on Sheffield Way



As this parcel of land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, an application was made to the Agriculture Land Commission to approve a non-farm use for a public dog off-leash area. An existing paved parking area on the north end added to the potential for this parcel as a community dog off-leash park. Further adding to the suitability of this property are the vehicles traveling on Sheffield Way which provide a level of natural surveillance or eyes on the park. This will be a welcome addition to the dedicated dog off-leash area in the City of Chilliwack with over 2,300 square metres in the small dog area and 3,800 square metres in the large dog area.

Fairfield Island Park Receives Upgraded Play Structure

Community parks have a greater demand placed on their facilities than other, neighbourhood-type parks due to the amount of park visitors in a community park. This increased level of demand has resulted in an oversubscription of the original play structures in Fairfield. The obvious signs of wear and tear on this well-loved play structure created the need for minor repairs and increased safety inspections. In recent years the usage has grown further which increased the wear and tear of this structure thereby increasing the level of repairs required to alleviate safety concerns. Once safety issues started appearing during regular inspections the unavoidable replacement of this structure was brought forward in the CMP. After consultation with the neighbourhood, the other user groups of park facilities and sports fields, a suitable new play structure was selected. The installation was scheduled for the spring of 2017 and care was taken not to conflict with other events in the park. To the excitement of the local community and the users groups, the installation of the playground was completed in June. Selected for its simple, open style and overall strength in structure and design, this new structure should provide the community with decades of fun play time.



Operations Centre Relocation

With the existing Kiernan Drive facility being required for RCMP building space expansion, the Operations Department relocated to the new Operations facility on Luckakuck Way in June. The moving of office fixtures, heavy equipment and personnel was performed over two consecutive weekends which allowed Operations to maintain existing service levels within the City during the move. With the relocation, the Operations Department is housed in a modern facility with sufficient capacity to facilitate future growth and allow for efficient delivery of services for another 40 to 50 years.

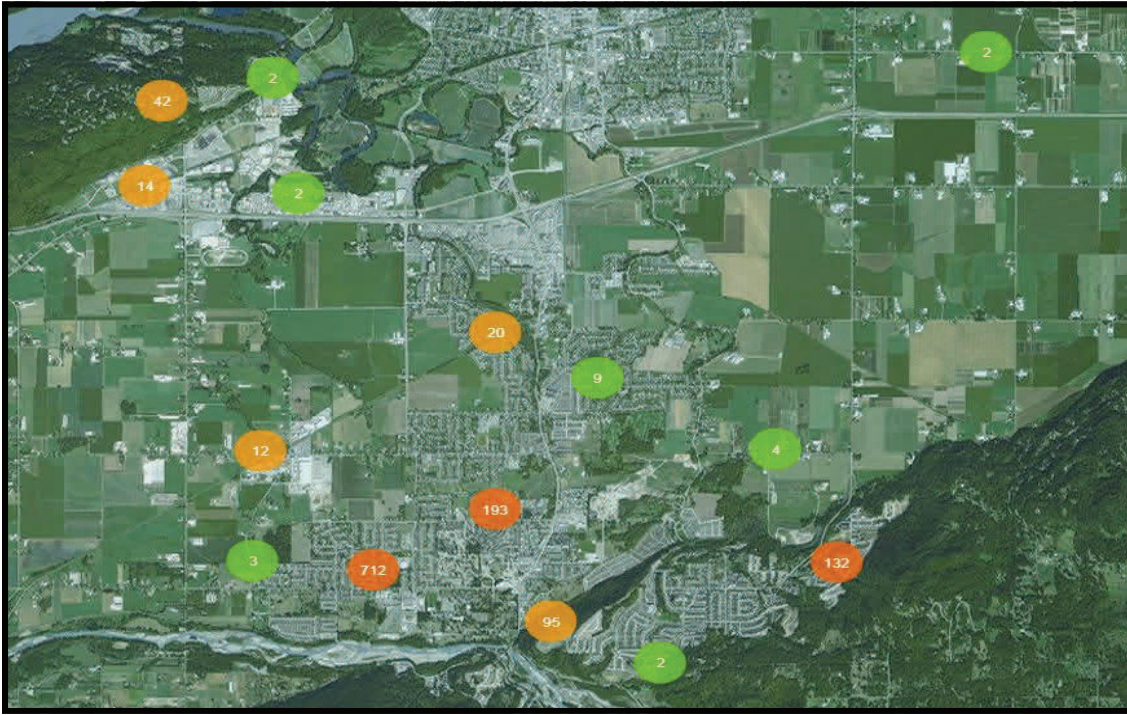


New Tractor for Heritage Park

Heritage Park's life expired tractor (unit 183) was replaced with a New Holland T4.100 all-purpose tractor that is equipped to service all of the events scheduled at Heritage Park. This all-purpose tractor is more ergonomic for the operators, has a high efficiency diesel engine and can use all of Heritage Park's existing agricultural attachments.



The Integration of Automated Metering Intelligence



During the third week of October 2016, City staff installed two Automated Meter Intelligence (AMI) “collector” sites. Installation activities included the mounting of two cabinets at each site: one for housing data collection/storage hardware and the other for placement of radio transmitting equipment. Over the winter months, software and hardware upgrades were made to the City’s existing water meter reading infrastructure to accommodate this new technology. The City went “live” on April 20, 2017 with the AMI system. By midnight of that same day, there were nearly 1,600 water meters reporting to these two collector sites. (The location of the meters that began transmitting information are grouped into area totals on the map.)

Not only are almost 10% of the City’s water meters now able to transmit readings for billing purposes, but the City’s Water Loss Management program has also been enhanced. Water leaks, backflow events and low/no flow conditions are now being flagged as the data is transmitted. The reporting of these concerns used to occur during the quarterly billing cycle; in other words, issues are now be addressed up to three months sooner than before.

Due to these progressive changes, staff are currently performing testing activities to determine the location of two more collector sites. These sites are being proposed with a plan for installation and activation by late Fall.