

BRIGHT ANGEL PARK VISIONING MEETING – APRIL 15 2004

A “visioning” walkabout was held with the Bright Angel Parks Commission.

Attendance: Eric Prittie (and wife Thelma); Roland Brown; Allison Nicholson; Joe Briggs; Harold Myhre; Director John Middleton; director Loren Duncan; Director Mike Tansley; Jim Styan (caretaker); Margaret Paridaen (CVRD staff)

BACKGROUND

Current Park Budget: \$34,000

Expenses:

- o \$15000 for mobile mortgage;
- o \$15000 for maintenance;
- o \$4000 for capital projects.

*** there is limited budget for new items in the park until the mobile is paid off in 2006..**

Maintenance:

Jim and Margo Styan are doing a good job of maintenance in the park. The general sense that the park is “not broken” and all is functioning well.

ACTION: Streamkeepers course needed for Jim.

PARK VALUES:

- o *Recreation:* playfield, playground, group camping, group and family picnicking, river swimming, trails
- o *Conservation* - Restoration/preservation of fish habitat; forest habitat.
- o *Watershed protection* - This section of the Koksilah River is part of a larger watershed. Need for aquifer protection.
- o *Spiritual component:* preservation of quiet, solitude, retreat
- o *Education/awareness* raising of sensitive environment, responsible use of park.

*** Concern about use impacts on the park. Need balance of recreation/conservation.**

IMPACTS ON THE PARK

GREATER DEMANDS ON THE PARK/ NEED FOR FACILITIES

- Population in the Duncan area is 75000 and is projected to grow to 100,000 over the next several years. Implication is greater use of Bright Angel Park. The trend is toward more group bookings in the park (picnic, camping, field).
- There is the potential of acquiring more parkland. For example, the north section of the river is difficult to access. People are now wandering through private property to get to the N. side. Future potential of purchasing the lot north of Howie Rd.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 2nd swimming hole – accessed from the north side of bridge. Area gets trampled. Would a boardwalk lessen impact? Facilities need to be floodproof.
- Need for an environmental inventory of the park to provide baseline information for:
 - Conservation/rehabilitation priorities
 - Development of park workplan
 - Design of interpretive signs/information
 - Identification of volunteer projects
 - Guidelines for park management (recreation impacts vs. conservation priorities)

Would be useful to have an assessment and recommendations done by park sector: e.g. recreation (swimming area, trails, camping, playground, playfield); conservation (forests, riparian – how to protect bridge; floodplain) in order to develop management strategies for each area.

Conservation strategy examples:

- Leaving woody debris in the park (not to be used for firewood)
- Planting of alders to protect floodplain
- Identifying priority areas for rehabilitation

MOTION: Ecological/Conservation assessment of the ecological values, conservation needs and recreation opportunities from a sectoral perspective, e.g. recreation (swimming area, trails, camping, playground, playfields); conservation (forests, riparian – how to protect bridge; floodplain).

The intent is to conduct an ecological resource inventory, assessment of impacts on the nature resources and get recommendations for management, conservation, interpretation and development guidelines.

SPECIFIC PARK AMENITIES:

CHANGEROOM AT RIVER

Old washroom building by the river (was converted to changeroom because of vandalism). Gets little use. What to do with it? Demolish because of low use; convert to concession; interpretive centre; gift shop.

If keeping as a changeroom, need to put a sign on it.

No need for toilet at the river. There are toilets at the group picnic/camping area.

COMPOSTING TOILET (to be moved from Walden Community Park)
Could move the composting toilet to area next to the playfield or near the group campground.

WATER LICENSE

What is status of water license? 4" line on Koksilah River.

WORKSHOP

Workshop is being renovated by Brian Brown to become more useable year-round.

PLAYING FIELDS

- Should create a plan to utilize or renovate the play field for more effective use.
- Fenced volleyball court – what use does it get?
- Could build clubhouse/washroom building for ballfield users and to increase off season use of the park.

PLAYGROUND

A recent assessment by Tim Richards (playground assessor) and the Insurer's Advisory Organization both indicate that the playground is in poor repair. There is a need for repair, removals and replacements. An action plan for a phased playground renovation will be developed.

**** There is a need to develop a park masterplan which will indicate the location and condition of existing facilities and highlight opportunities for future development.***

POTENTIAL FOR GREATER VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARK:

Currently long time residents have volunteered their time in the park, e.g. Roland Brown maintenance of the suspension bridge and taking metal out of the river. With a limited park budget and growing use of the park, there is potential to expand volunteerism in Bright Angel Park. A "Friends of Bright Angel Park" group could be created for fundraising, environmental stewardship, generating greater awareness and use of the park.

Friends of Bright Angel Park Model:

Friends of Yves Park volunteer group; Friends of John Dean Park

Volunteer groups that may become involved with the park:

- Cowichan Valley Naturalists
- Young Naturalists (contact: Dr. John Skull)
- Vancouver Island Natural History Society
- Federation of BC Naturalists (need a homebase)
- Steelhead Recovery Project (contact: Mike McCullough) L. Duncan has information.

BRIGHT ANGEL PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The plan is based on the liability risk report (October 23, 2003) done by the Insurers' Advisory Organization and a Playground Inspection Report (February 1, 2004) done by Tim Richards and Gail Pasaluko of Expert Access Parks & Recreation Consulting, Inc.

1st Priority - Eliminate or reduce the most hazardous risks associated with the play equipment

2nd priority is to undertake necessary maintenance on existing equipment

3rd priority is to replace or renovate playground pieces (that don't meet CSA standards) as funds become available.

PHASE 1 – 2004	
Remove slide	
Remove yellow tire swing and track ride apparatus	
TEETER TOTTER: Replace rotten plank; cover/amend protruding bolts	
Addition of ground resilient surface of at least 8 inches (i.e. wood chips) under remaining equipment	
SWING: Replace swing S-hooks with C-clamps; replace two tot seats; reduce chain length on tot swings by 16"	
MERRY GO ROUND: is loose on the axis (requires servicing)	
PHASE 2 – 2005	
Increase safety zone around swing set	
Ensure minimum 8 inch depth of ground resilient surface in all play pits	
SUSPENSION BRIDGE – bolt ends should be covered; installation of safety signage ("Danger no diving from bridge; Always use handgrip to avoid slipping; Caution deck may be slippery")	
PHASE 3	
Develop a playground plan to replace the hazardous pieces that were removed and incorporate new elements along with any further modifications to existing pieces	
Purchase and installation of new playground elements (as funding allows).	