

NOSE HILL TRAIL AND PATHWAY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

SUMMARY/ISSUE

Nose Hill Trail and Pathway Plan implementation update.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION/POLICY

On 2005 July 25 Council approved C2005-59 Nose Hill Park Trail and Pathways Plan and directed Administration to report annually on implementation progress.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the S.P.C. on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council receive this report for information.

INVESTIGATION

In 2006 Nose Hill Trail and Pathway Plan implementation activities were focused on detailed project planning and background studies. Achievements included environmental studies and impact assessments, detailed design for landscape construction, environmental restoration and public communication and education. The planning work completed in 2006 was necessary in order to ensure landscape construction activities, minimize negative impacts to the parks natural resources. In 2007, implementation activities outlined in the Nose Hill Trail & Pathway Plan Implementation (Attachment) will be focused on constructing over 10 km of trails and 8 km of pathways and continuing with related park restoration activities.

Activities accomplished in 2006 included:

Environmental Studies and Impact Assessments

- Biophysical impact assessment (BIA) of cross-park pathways;
- Park-wide breeding bird survey;
- Developed mitigation strategies to minimize disturbances to birds during breeding season (May – August);

- Historical resource impact assessment of important archaeological sites and mitigation to prevent disturbances; and
- Draft restoration plan for closing and re-vegetating the parks vast network of informal trails.

Detailed Design for Landscape Construction

- Detailed construction drawings and tender packages for the cross-park pathways and upper plateau trail;
- Draft construction drawings for west slope trails; and
- Feasibility study of the pathway along the east side of 14 Street.

Environmental Restoration

- Removal of invasive Caragana shrubs; and
- Environmental cleanup of concrete, asphalt and metallic debris within the gravel pit.

Public Communication and Education

- Develop and implement public communication framework;
- Public communication, including regular stakeholder newsletters, website improvements, 3-1-1 briefings and distribution of the information brochure to surrounding communities;
- Stakeholder focus groups were held in preparation for Nose Hill education and interpretative plan; and
- Nose Hill Day public education and hands-on restoration event.

Significant improvements to the park are planned for 2007 which include:

Landscape Construction

- Construct east-west and north-south cross-park pathways (8 km) and upper plateau gravel trail (10 km), starting spring 2007;
- Reconfigure and delineate multi-use zone to define 349 hectares as off-leash dog and off-trail use area;
- Install orientation and regulatory signage;