

Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee

7pm February 19, 2025

1730 Crown Street – DNV operations centre

Minutes

Present: Johanna Moretto, Chair

Amy Tsang, Vice-Chair

Karin Jensen

Glen Parker

Adele Wilson

Hamish Fairweather

Steve Jenkins, DNV Manager, Parks

Monica Woods-Marshall, DNV Section

Manager, Urban Forestry and Natural

Areas

Absent: Councillor Lisa Muri

Michael Cliff

Charlene Seward

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025

Johanna Moretto nominated as Chair for 2025

Moved by Johanna

Seconded by Adele

THAT Johanna Moretto will be committee Chair for 2025

Amy Tsang moved to Vice-Chair for 2025

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Adele

Seconded by Amy

THAT the February 19, 2025 agenda is approved.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of November, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Addition to the minutes – Committee would like to see a staff presentation on the design of the spirit trail

Moved by Johanna

Seconded by Adele

THAT an addition will be made of the above note to the November, 2024 minutes

CARRIED

5. Overview of Committee

Review of 2025 meeting schedule

Review of the terms of reference available on the DNV website:

www.dnv.org/our-government/committees/parks-and-natural-environment-committee-pneac

This includes the committee purpose, committee responsibilities, information about committee meetings, and committee management.

District staff will show the committee current projects and project issues. Options will be brought up to the committee for discussion. Committee opinions are valued by the District and help inform decision making.

6. 2025 Work Plan

Additional items may come up throughout the year

- Hastings Creek Trail Management
- People, Dogs, & Parks Strategic Plan
- Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park shoreline restoration in partnership with Tsleil-Waututh
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Spirit trail extension
- 2025 Review and looking ahead to 2026

7. Hastings Creek Trail Management

Staff presentation on Hastings Creek Trail

- 1.5km trail in a riparian forest setting, at the bottom of a steep ravine
- The trail is rugged, but includes extensive built infrastructure that needs replacement and maintenance
- The area has extensive ongoing slope failures, tree failures, and stream bank erosion all of which create safety issues, significant ongoing trail maintenance costs, and often result in trail closures
- A geotechnical risk assessment identified 13 sites with moderate to high risk of slope failure
- The trail is beloved by residents of nearby neighbourhoods, but is not a destination trail
- Hastings Creek flows are predicted to double or triple within the next decade
- Topography and adjacent private property make creating new trails in the area extremely difficult/impractical
- Hastings Creek is one of six tributaries to Lynn Creek. It is an important fish bearing stream (Coho and Steelhead amongst others) and the health of this stream and its fish populations have a large impact on the health of Lynn Creek and its fish populations.

- Data from the North Shore Stream Keepers shows that streams that don't have trails beside them, have more salmon in them
- The undercut banks and fallen trees along this stream benefit Coho and closing this trail would benefit fish populations
- People love this trail and are demanding it stay open, but the District must manage the ecological impacts, risk and liability, and costs associated with repairing it to keep it open

The committee were presented with **4 options** the District is discussing and commented on each option (Appendix A).

1. Keep trail open

\$5M+

HIGH risk tolerance required

Results in ecological degradation and loss of fish habitat

Unlikely to receive required environmental permits or adequate funding

Slope failures and erosion are still occurring, this issue is not going away

Likely lowest public opposition (but also risk opposition at the price and the impact to fish habitat)

Committee comments on Option 1:

Too expensive and risk is too high

Keeping the trail open would reduce public backlash. But, there would also be major backlash if something happened and the District had not closed the trail.

Is there a way to create a link (even if it's on the road) to replace the trail?

Loss of educational opportunity for Ross Rd students (but trail is now closed in the winters anyway).

Loss of fish habitat.

2. Close entire trail except portion between 27th and Ross Rd elementary

\$400,000-\$700,000

\$400,000 if infrastructure is left and no restoration is done

\$700,000 is for more comprehensive infrastructure removal and restoration

Safest option for trail users

Lowest negative impact on environment

High potential for public opposition

Significant loss of recreation and access to nature

Committee comments on option 2:

The trail benefits only a small part of the community, but it's good for the school to have multiple access points, and this is a well-loved connector trail for residents

People will still use the area, but liability will not be on the District

Least expensive option

Public backlash will be high regarding the trail closure

Leaving infrastructure, creates a high risk for injury because people will still be using the trail

3. Close trail S of Hoskins Creek. Create a loop at the N end connecting to Kilkenny Rd

\$400,000 - \$700,000

Eliminates major risks while still maintaining recreation options

Balances recreational use with habitat health

Public opposition is still likely

Committee comments on option 3:

Loop and connection are nice for community, but still lose connection to Hoskins

Something is being given back to the community, not just everything taken

Provides an option for trail users to not end up in the elementary school field which is good

Provides great benefit for the environment

4. Phased Closure - Remove failing infrastructure over time

\$600,000 - \$800,000

Moderate risk tolerance

Replace S end Bridge and re-open part of the S end for now

Close major high risk section at the center of the trail

Slowly close more sections of trail as nature dictates (bank erosion, slope failures, infrastructure damage, etc.)

Create loop at N end of trail connecting to Kilkenny Rd

Eventually has same result as option 3

Committee comments on Option 4:

If part of the S end is kept open, people will continue beyond what we deem as “open”

The bridge is already damaged, why not use that as a good excuse to keep it closed

The bridge is covered by insurance, and the out and back is still good for people walking dogs, taking kids out etc. However, there is a large trail network south at Arborlynn that can be used instead.

The phased approach is more palatable for the public and people are going to keep using the trail anyway so a phased approach helps keep it safer for use

What option do you prefer?

5 votes for option 4

2 votes for option 3

Are there other options we have not considered?

Take a second look at Carmaria Crt area (west side of Hasting's creek) for alternative trail creation options

Are there other recreation/community impacts we have not considered?

The educational opportunities for students

Very good signage is going to be the key to success regardless of what option is chosen

Infographics about the fish habitat and natural geophysical instability would be useful and interesting for the public

The North Shore Stream Keepers would like to see the replacement of the fish ladder south of Hoskins Rd addressed in the trail strategy (but they think they will have the funding covered)

8. Round Table

The committee was happy to have this opportunity to be engaged in this discussion and decision making.

A request was made to hear more about development projects occurring next to Parks and Natural Areas. Parks does not work on these projects, but will look into the option of having Environment come in to speak with the committee

9. Next Meeting

April 16, 2025

Moved by DNV Staff

Seconded by Glen

THAT the next meeting will occur April 16, 2025 from 7-9pm at the District Operations Centre

CARRIED

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm

Appendix A

Photos of committee comments on different options for Hastings Creek Trail

OPTION 1

Keep entire trail open

- too expensive
- risk ongoing failures.
- nobody likes things being taken away → but.
- Liability risk → not an option.
- If we take this away, what can we replace this with?
- Lynn Valley Link connection
- Ross Rd loses this access - loss in education potential.
- loss of fish habitat - not a good option



OPTION 2

Close entire trail except portion between
27th St and Ross Road Elementary

- Sad.
- Shame to close this whole section.
- Greatest benefit for fish/habitat.
- least expensive. Could fix the fish ladder w extra \$.
- Most public push back.
- risk of people still using the trail (less safe if we don't remove infrastructure)
- this might be hard to defend (closing areas that are in decent condition)
- can you lower the trail standard and reduce hard trail infrastructure?
- good signage is going to be needed.

useful
to keep
this
open.



OPTION 3 II

Close trail south of Hoskins Creek
and create a loop trail that connects
to Kilkenny Rd

- Preference for this one.
Still have a loop/connector
and provides a bit of a
destination.
- giving something new in lieu.
- yellow section is a good
add on. (good value).
- greatest benefit for fish.



OPTION 4 ~~W~~

Remove failing infrastructure over time,
phased approach closure

- liked this option → bridge covered by the insurance.
- dog walkers would benefit from this lower area.

• take another look
at the other
side on
Carmarria

• seems
a bit
useless
• people will
still use the
closed portion.

- people don't like abrupt Δ .
- people use it no matter what.



Does this create
opportunities for
homelessness in this
area? → discussion → no.