

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

JUNE 12, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

File: 0550-05

COMMUNITY SAFETY, LANDS AND ADMINISTRATION

Vernon Pickleball Association

The Vernon Pickleball Association (VPA) appeared as a delegation at the Regular Open Meeting of May 8, 2023, requesting a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to assist in building a washroom, administrative area and reception area at the VPA Pickleball Facility located at Marshall Fields. Administration will provide Council a report and recommendation to Council at the June 26, 2023 Meeting.

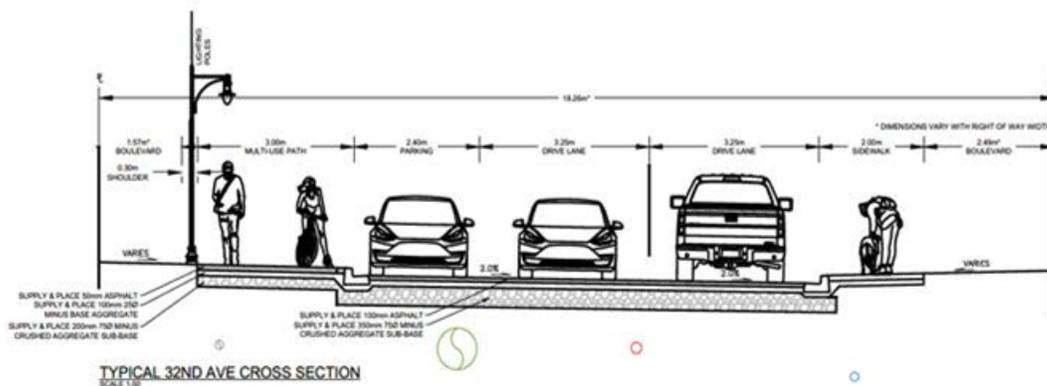
OPERATION SERVICES

32nd Avenue and 38th Street Reconstruction ([Project 2023-05](#))

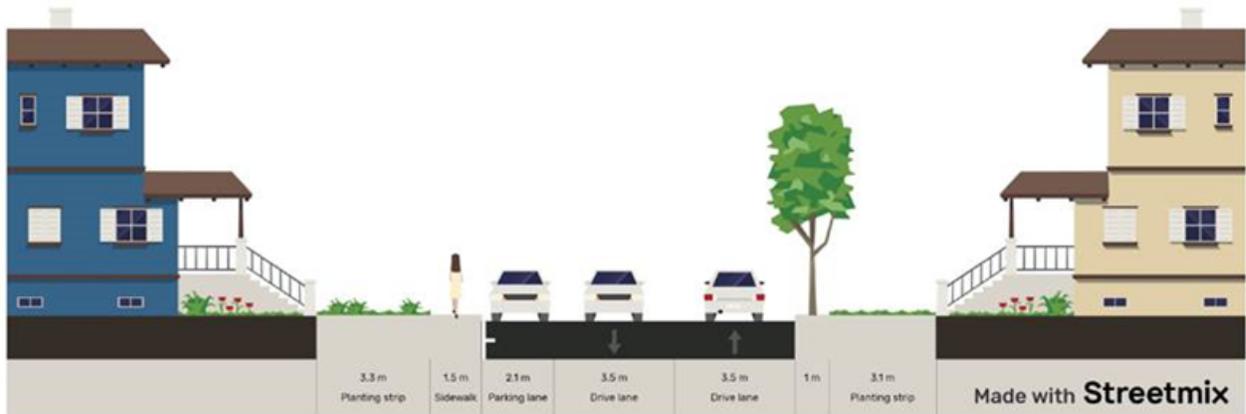
The project is currently out for tender. Tender award is estimated for late June 2023, with an estimated start date in July 2023, assuming contractor availability.

The cross-section for 32nd Avenue has been recommended to change for this stretch of road to align with the City's Master Transportation Plan and Climate Action Plan. A sidewalk was added to the south side of the road to provide a walking amenity due to the higher density in this area. The multiuse pathway on the north side has been provided with the goal to create a new connection for active transportation to eventually connect Bella Vista Road and Alexis Park Drive that will eventually connect to the new Active Living Centre.

Proposed 32nd Avenue Cross-section:



Existing 32nd Avenue Cross-section:



*Dimensions are approximate

28th Avenue Rail Crossing Upgrade ([Project 2021-35](#))

The project has been awarded to Chapman Industries Ltd. Construction is estimated to begin in August 2023 with a target completion date of October 2023.

Deer Park ([Project 2019-22](#))

Construction will commence in early July 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in October 2023.

Pottery Ravine Park (Project 2023-13)

The City is requesting competitive proposals from contractors in June 2023. Construction is planned for this summer, with completion in fall of 2023.

Kin Race Track Athletic Park

The transportation study, preliminary geotechnical study, archeology work and stormwater management plan are all on schedule for completion in June 2023.

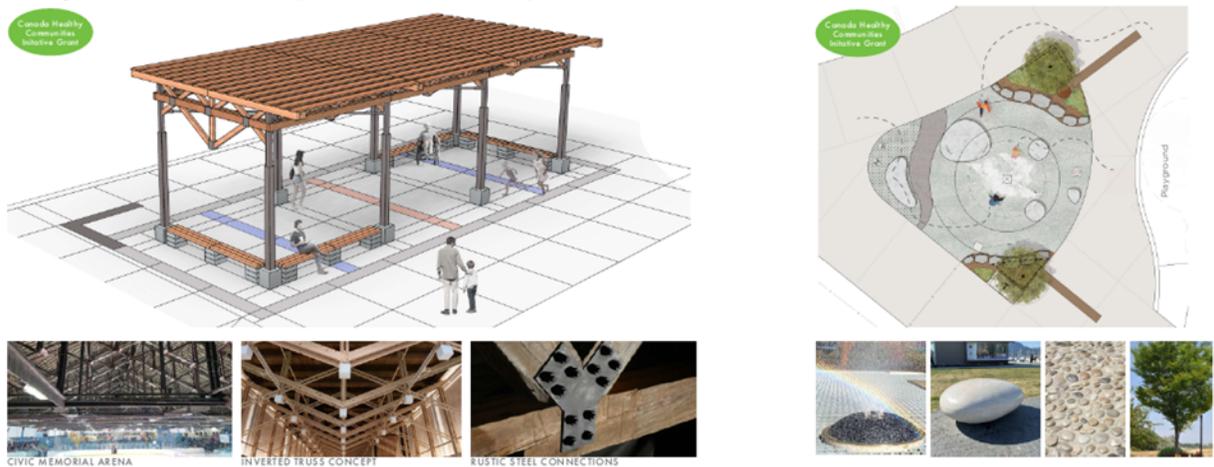
The Environmental Impact Assessment results are scheduled to be complete by early summer 2023.

A further update, including the findings of the above reports, is forthcoming, as per the memorandum titled Kin Race Track Athletic Park - Project Update, dated April 4, 2023. Timing of the update is planned for July 17, 2023 Council Meeting.

Civic Park (Projects 2023-27, 2022-13)

Design is nearly complete for the shade structure (pavilion) and water feature as shown below. Water feature design is complete and the construction contract has been awarded. Construction for the water feature will commence in August with completion scheduled for September 2023.

Tendering of the public washroom, meeting room, and office area renovation is planned for June 2023, with construction planned for summer and fall. Project completion is scheduled for winter of 2023.



30th Avenue BX Creek Culvert Rehabilitation Project (Project 2022-03)

The construction contract has been awarded, and work is scheduled to commence early August and scheduled to be completed late August 2023 during the least risk timing window for fish and wildlife.

32nd Avenue – Pleasant Valley Road to 20th Street Reconstruction Project (Project 2023-07)

The construction contract has been awarded. The project team is coordinating the construction schedule with the contractor. Work is planned to commence this summer and is scheduled to be completed fall of 2023.

Okanagan Landing Sewer (Project 2023-17)

The contractor (Ironman Directional Drilling-IDD) has completed installation of the new sewer collector pipe in Longacre Road, Apollo Road and Ogata Way. The final section of pipe between Ogata Way and Tronson Road is planned for installation over the next few weeks.

City forces are currently installing manholes and restoring the road surface in Longacre and Apollo Roads and will mobilize to complete work in Ogata Way as soon as possible. Construction is currently ahead of schedule and under budget.

Silver Star Road MUP Phase 2 ([Project 2022-05](#))

The project was awarded to Chapman Industries Ltd in May. Construction is planned to start mid-June and be complete in the fall of 2023. Administration will continue to update Council and the community on the construction staging, planned traffic management and alternate routes available.

Silver Star Road Median – Star Rd to Phoenix Drive ([Project 2023-08](#))

The project team is working to complete the existing concrete median and construct streetlights from Star Road to Phoenix Drive to finish the work started by development. The project is out for proposals and is anticipated to start in the summer with completion planned for fall of 2023.

Polson Park Vernon Creek Naturalization project ([Project 2023-04](#))

The City is in the process of cancelling the Polson Park Vernon Creek Naturalization Request for Proposal (RFP). An Archaeology Impact Assessment (AIA) was completed late May with preliminary findings provided to the City in early June. Two items were found during the AIA on the banks of Vernon Creek. The findings consist of lithic debitage (stone tools) and were found on both banks of Vernon Creek. While only two artifacts have been found so far, it is likely that more will be encountered during construction. Identifying artifacts before awarding the construction contract is actually a great success, and will avoid significant additional costs.

For works to take place within the newly identified archaeological site, a Site Alteration Permit issued by the Archaeology Branch must be in place prior to construction. It is currently taking the Archaeology Branch anywhere from 5-12 months (and in some cases longer) to issue permits. For this reason, it is recommended that construction be delayed until next year. Once a permit is issued construction may begin with archaeological monitoring as a condition of the permit. Sample screening of materials that may contain archaeological artifacts will also be required.

The project team is planning to bring forward a project update Council in the summer of 2023 once the final AIA report is received. The project team anticipates posting a revised RFP in the fall with a revised scope of work that includes both phases of the naturalization project. Posting in the fall with a larger scope of work should result in better prices. Construction is now anticipated to start at the end of July 2024 and run to October 2024 with Phase two likely starting in 2025.

Lakeshore Park

The Lakeshore Park vehicle gate was installed the first week in June. It is unlocked in the morning at 7:00am and Bylaw Compliance will be locking the gate at sunset.



FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit

This year the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit was held in Vancouver, BC. Wes Brassard - FireSmart Coordinator, Craig Broderick - Approving Officer, Planning, Kendra Kryszak – Manager, Parks and Open Spaces and Roland Carlson - Arborist Assistant attended the conference together from May 10-12.

First Nation's representatives provided an opening ceremony each day, as well a traditional song and ceremony to close off the conference.

The members of Vernon's FireSmart taskforce in attendance expanded knowledge regarding best building practices, development considerations, development permits and official community planning, new training for landscape professionals, and fire and insurance considerations.

Vernon's FireSmart Coordinator participated as a panelist for a FireSmart workshop. The workshop focused on helping coordinators to overcome challenges with regards to the implementation of FireSmart strategies in their BC communities. The City of Vernon's approach to the creation of a FireSmart taskforce was commended. The taskforce includes employees from all divisions within the City, at a time when many communities focus FireSmart efforts through fire services. Vernon's approach seeks to increase knowledge throughout the organization while aligning policies, balancing priorities and working collaboratively to provide a more resilient community. Together we are better.

Key note speakers:

- Dr. Tara McGee spoke about her studies of the human dimensions of wildfires, and her research in wildfire prevention, mitigation and preparedness.
- Christina Hanger, Engagement Specialist, Emergency Management and Public Safety from Australia's Country Fire Authority gave a presentation about Australia's battles with wildfires and how they are adapting the way they approach wildfire preparedness.
- Acting State Fire Marshal/Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation for California presented on how the state is experiencing some of the worst wildfires in its history. Over the last 5 years California has lost 50,000 homes to wildfire. The preparedness budget has increased from 300 million to over three billion dollars since 2017.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (REGULAR)

Transit Shelter Installment

Three new transit shelters were successfully installed at bus stops around Vernon in May 2023, including:

- 43rd Street at 19th Avenue (South Vernon Park, Route 5),
- 34th Street at 25th Avenue (Wholesale Club, Routes 5 & 6), and
- 43rd Avenue at 34th Street (Kal Tire Place, Route 3).

This is part of an ongoing transit shelter program that includes some grant funding from BC Transit. The locations chosen are prioritized based on ridership and distribution throughout the City.

There are four additional shelters planned for delivery and install later in 2023 at:

- 43rd Street at 25th Avenue (Okanagan Landing, Routes 7 & 8),
- 43rd Street at 16th Avenue (South Vernon, Route 5),
- 15th Street at 21st Avenue (Vernon Secondary School, Route 4), and
- Mission Road at 16th Avenue (DND Fields, routes 5 & 6).



(New transit shelter on 43rd Street at 19th Avenue)