



REVISED MAY 30, 2019.

GALLAND ROAD PARK UPDATE:

Background

Galland Road Park was created through an agreement signed in April 2001 between the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Strata Corporation #VIS4189 who owns the property. The agreement states the strata will maintain its septic field infrastructure on their property and the CVRD is permitted to create a community park and that costs associated with the development and maintenance of park amenities will be funded through the Shawnigan Lake Community Parks budget. The agreement, however, does not make any reference to what types of park amenities or improvements may or should be built.

In 2002, the CVRD invested \$9,000 for the purchase of the playground equipment. Installation of the playground complex and landscaping was also funded through CVRD at a cost of around \$5,000, with community participation in assembling the playground and other park improvements. The CVRD has maintained the playground and designated park area over the years through the Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake, Community Parks budget which is funded by Shawnigan Lake taxpayers. A new playground of similar size installed today would cost in the order of \$35,000.

Current Status

CVRD playground equipment is regularly inspected for structural conditions and safety. In 2018 inspections of the Galland Road Park playground did not raise any concerns, other than noting the age and condition were beyond the typical 15 year lifecycle for these types of playground structures. At the time the playground appeared functional for at least a further year. It was therefore, unexpected, that in late April 2019 a scheduled playground inspection identified deteriorating conditions and issues which deemed the playground structure had reached end of service life more quickly than previously anticipated. The CVRD is obligated to take action based on the inspection assessment to protect public safety and address potential liability issues.

REVISED: Removal of the playground scheduled for May 27th is postponed and instead fenced. The playground will remain fenced/closed to use pending community engagement about the playground's age and condition that requires removal by the CVRD to address safety and liability issues.

Next Steps

The number of parks, trails and built park amenities within Shawnigan Lake has grown since the Galland Road Park was set up on the Strata Corporation #VIS4189 property in 2001. Funding for parks in Shawnigan Lake owned by the CVRD and other properties maintained under use agreements such as with Strata Corporation #VIS4189 is provided through annual taxation of properties in Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake. For the playground at Galland Road Park, a number of factors will need to be considered inclusive of community input, proximity of this park to other nearby parks with similar amenities, option(s) for replacement of the playground and annual funding capacity of the community parks service for Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake. A decision to replace the playground could involve similar arrangements as in 2001 or cost-sharing contributions with third-parties. If the outcome, however, is not to replace the playground other options could be considered for Galland Road Park that are in keeping with the agreement between the CVRD and Strata Corporation #VIS4189.

A process and timeline for making decisions on Galland Road Park is being prepared and will be shared with the community. In the interim, questions or comments concerning the park can be directed to Graham Gidden, Parks & Trails Planner with the Cowichan Valley Regional District at Graham.Gidden@cvrld.bc.ca or 250-746-2639