

QUARTERLY UPDATE

April - June 2022



The Quarterly Update is produced four times a year to share progress on active projects and initiatives.

ADMINISTRATION

- » We are currently conducting hybrid board and committee meetings, in-person and online via Zoom. In person attendance from members of the public is welcomed. However, the public may also participate online via Zoom or by submitting comments in writing.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Communications

- » The Communications and Finance teams completed the 2021 Annual Report.

Human Resources

- » Recruitment was in full swing in the second quarter. Several recruitments were completed including positions at Animal Control, Hope & Area Recreation Centre and the Finance department. Find current job opportunities at fvrd.ca/careers.
- » The FVRD adopted the Anti-Racial Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy in April 2022 and training will be rolled out in the fall.

Information Technology

- » Work was completed at Hope & Area Recreation Centre on the Voice Over Internet Phone project.

Fire Dispatch Management

- » IT team moved the e911 radio infrastructure for the Boston Bar Firehall relocation.

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping (GIS)

- » Mapping updates were completed for the new Hemlock Valley OCP bylaw with additions made to the enterprise GIS and FVRD web map.
- » Village of Harrison Hot Springs web map project is expected to be completed by July 4.



Patricia Ross (left), vice chair of the FVRD Board, views the newly installed air quality signage at Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford with a local family.

Finance

- » The Finance team workplan for the second quarter was focused on preparing and completing the audit for both the Regional District and Hospital District. The audit findings and financial statements were presented and approved during the May Board meeting.
- » Additionally, annual reporting was completed for stakeholders, including Local Government Financial Report, Gas Tax Annual Reporting, and Annual Statement of Financial Information.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Electoral Area Planning

- » The Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan planning process is ongoing. Public engagement events were held on April 11, May 4, and June 28.
- » A report outlining the scope and strategy for an update to Morris Valley, Harrison Mills & Lake Errock Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 0050 was approved by the Board. The Planning team has started preparatory work on this OCP update.

- » The Board directed staff to initiate a minor update to Cultus Lake Park Zoning Bylaw No. 1375.
- » The Planning team advanced three zoning amendment applications, completed two subdivision referrals, one Temporary Use Permit, eight Development Variance Permits, six Development Permits, and two provincial referrals (e.g. Agricultural Land Commission, Crown referrals).

Bylaw Enforcement

- » The Bylaw team opened 24 new bylaw files and conducted 66 inspections this quarter. The team conducted 63 file reviews, mailed 22 letters to aid in closing or cancelling 42 files. As a result the Bylaw Team is currently managing 392 open or active bylaw files.

Building Inspection

- » The Building team issued 56 building permits worth over \$13.5 million in construction value and conducted 535 inspections this quarter.

Emergency Management

- » The Emergency Management team provided assistance to Hemlock Valley residents who were developing community preparedness plans. The team also participated in a joint training exercise with Tzeachten First Nation.
- » Alertable continues to expand our ability to push emergency notifications to electoral area residents and media with speed and efficiency. More than 16,000 people have signed up for the system so far. Sign up to receive notifications by email, text, phone or app at fvrd.ca/alerts.
- » The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated on June 9, 2022 for the Fraser and Harrison River freshets.
- » A training exercise was held in June to familiarize staff with the new second floor EOC room and equipment.

ENGINEERING & UTILITIES

- » Quarterly maintenance was completed including flushing water mains and servicing fire hydrants, valves, stations, and treatment apparatus. Additionally, several water leaks were repaired on the older sections of the Area H Integrated Water System and one of the sewage pumps was replaced on the North Cultus Sewer System.
- » A geotechnical assessment was done to address slope stability at the Bell Acres Reservoir site.



The riverside trail at Island 22 Regional Park closed on June 14 due to rising water levels from the Fraser River.

- » The Yale Reservoir was inspected by divers and engineers to assess its remaining service life and to determine if it will be refurbished or replaced.
- » Staff oversaw a number of land development files including the final inspection of construction work for the second phase of the Minter Gardens subdivision in Electoral Area D. Work by the developer included roads and sidewalks, water, sanitary and storm servicing, and street lights.
- » A request for standing offers was issued to engage electrical and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) contractors on an as-needed basis for maintenance, repair and capital projects.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Animal Control

- » The newly hired Animal Control staff have completed an onboarding and training program that began in March. They are now working in their positions and building relationships in the communities they serve.
- » Animal Control impounded 83 dogs in the second quarter, including one pregnant dog who has since given birth to eight healthy pups that will soon be placed for adoption. A number of adult dogs are also available for adoption.
- » A court hearing was deferred regarding a dangerous dog that was seized by Animal Control in January.

Environmental Services

- » Staff continue to raise awareness of the FVRD's Source Separation bylaw and have reached out to strata management companies, multi-family complexes, and businesses to learn about challenges they face and to assist them in becoming [Waste Wise](#).
- » Two new colourful signs were installed at the Mill Lake air quality monitoring station on May 25. The signs are intended to educate the public on the function of the station, the importance of air quality, the impacts of air pollution, and how they can help keep the air clean. Additional opportunities for air quality signage within the region are being explored.
- » Invasive weed control activities for wild chervil and giant hogweed are underway and crews will soon shift over to tansy ragwort and knotweed. This year, a new knotweed rebate pilot program will be initiated within the service area. Landowners will be offered a rebate of up to 50% off the treatment costs for sites where crews are providing knotweed control along roadsides and the infestation extends onto private property.
- » Monitoring for floodwater mosquito larvae began in early May, and initial larvicide applications started shortly afterwards as water levels slowly began increasing and larvae breeding sites became activated. The significant and unusual delay in snow melt this year has resulted in a prolonged hatching season, which will require continued and repeated treatments later into the summer compared to normal.

Fire Services

- » Volunteer fire departments attended 178 calls this quarter. Of these calls, 35 were for fires, 95 for a medical emergency, seven to assist the public or other agencies, 22 for motor vehicle incidents, 18 for alarms, and one call for mutual aid.
- » The FireSmart program was launched last quarter to help electoral area residents learn effective ways to reduce the potential impacts of wildfire on their homes and property. The FireSmart Coordinator completed 20 Home Ignition Zone Assessments, 23 FireSmart Neighbourhood Assessments of high wildfire risk neighbourhoods, and 40 Critical Infrastructure Assessments (water, sewer, and fire halls). Request a free home ignition zone assessment from our FireSmart Coordinator at firesmart@fvr.ca.



FireSmart Coordinator, Andrew Schellenberg, talks to residents at a Community Fire Awareness Day in Deroche.

- » Three virtual FireSmart workshops were held and four vegetative debris disposal programs were set up in four different neighbourhoods.
- » Community Fire Awareness Days were held from April 9 - June 11. A raffle with grand prizes donated by Fortin's Home Hardware was held. Winners were drawn from the Chilliwack River Valley, Columbia Valley, and North Fraser areas.

Hope & Area Recreation Centre

- » Due to a shortage of lifeguards, the summer schedule is yet to be determined for the Almer Carlson Pool in Boston Bar. The Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre will close for annual summer maintenance from August 15 to September 5.
- » The first full guide since 2019 was released at the start of June and is available throughout the community and online at the [Hope & Area Recreation website](#).
- » Two new fitness programs were added to the evening schedule in June – Beginner Hula Hoop & Spin Fusion.
- » A new Facility Operator III and several Summer Day Camp staff were recently hired. Recruitment for other positions is ongoing.
- » The current Club Child Supervisor has also taken on the role of Summer Day Camp leader and is busy planning the 10 week summer camp schedule. Camp activities this year include field trips to Bridal Falls Waterslides, Kawkawa Lake, and EcoDairy Farm Discovery Centre in Abbotsford.

Integrated Planning & Engagement

- » Director Bales and staff visited the Xa'xtsa (Douglas) First Nation at the north end of Harrison Lake for their general meeting in mid-June. The day consisted of remarks by Chief Don Harris and Councillors, an honouring ceremony of key community members, a healing ceremony for lost loved ones, and hand drumming.
- » Staff drafted a land acknowledgement guidance document that addresses the practice of acknowledging First Nation lands in the region. They also summarized key themes related to the release of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan (2022-2027).
- » The Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest gave back to the community by financially supporting a portion of the Fraser Valley Dirt Riders Association's campground improvements (picnic tables, fire pits) which is 13 km north of Hope as well as the Logger Sports Competition at Hope Brigade Days this September.
- » With Destination BC now leading the implementation of the Experience the Fraser project, staff are working with them to consolidate all the wayfinding and interpretative sign templates.

Regional and Community Parks

- » The 2021 atmospheric river damaged areas in many of our parks. Repairs were completed at Island 22 Regional Park (tree clean up), Lakeside Trail (trail erosion mitigation), Sumas Mountain Regional Park (bridge rebuild), and Thacker Regional Park (bridge and bank stabilization).
- » Spring is always a busy time as the Parks team gets ready for the summer season. In addition to the regular maintenance activities, both Neilson Regional Park and Cascade Falls Regional park got a parking lot refresh which includes new line painting.
- » Work continues on the Lakeside Trail in Cultus Lake (Electoral Area H) to connect Sunnyside Campground with Entrance Bay.
- » At Thompson Regional Park (Electoral Area E), the playground expansion was completed which included the installation of a new rock climbing boulder and swing set which is already being enjoyed by many.

FVRD Regional Airpark - Hope

- » The fuel tank refresh project was completed and included the installation of security fencing and replacement of some capital equipment.



Thompson Regional Park's new climbing boulder for kids.

Regional Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- » The public engagement process for the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) update was completed in the first quarter and the results are posted at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs. This quarter, the FVRD has engaged with Indigenous communities and agencies, in some cases visiting remote locations to learn about their communities and the challenges they are facing. It is hoped that the Board will begin the adoption process for the Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS in early 2023.
- » Work is continuing with BC Transit to finalize the FVRD components of the Chilliwack and FVRD Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP). The focus of this TFAP is on ridership recovery and continued improvement of the Chilliwack, Agassiz-Harrison, Hope, and Fraser Valley Express (FVX) Transit systems over the next five years. One element of the plan is to pursue a new transit connection on the north side of the Fraser River between Agassiz and Mission.
- » The FVRD is monitoring the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure planning work on the latest Highway 1 expansion project that will widen Highway 1 from 232 Street in the Township of Langley to the Whatcom interchange in Abbotsford. The FVRD's interest lies in maintaining and expanding connections to the interregional FVX service.
- » The FVRD continues to participate in and monitor TransLink's various planning initiatives and Metro Vancouver's Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy update, as growth in the Lower Mainland as a whole will impact this region.