

## Upgrades to Parksville Wetlands Trails

Starting October 4, we will be working on trails on the Coldwater Road side of the Parksville Wetlands. This work continues upgrades started in 2019 to the Parksville Wetlands, which saw new trails for walking, maintenance, and emergency access. While work is underway, some areas of the wetlands may be closed.

As climate change makes our summers drier, it is crucial that we provide suitable access in the wetlands for maintenance, emergency access for ambulance and fire protection. A grass fire in 2020 burned around 700 square metres of the Parksville Wetlands and another fire this summer burned a section of the wetlands in a more treed area. Without proper access, the potential for loss within our wetlands to fire increases.

Forsite Forest Management Specialists completed a demonstration project with the City using recent LiDAR data to survey the area. The results of this satellite survey show 174 dead trees in the 13-hectare section of the Parksville Wetlands. Many of these trees will never be a hazard to the public, but staff will need access to mitigate any possible concerns.

As the name suggests, there are wet areas in the Parksville Wetlands which make it difficult to use the area all four seasons of the year. Some of these areas were addressed in 2019 and this work will continue this year.

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### For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications  
[dtardiff@parksville.ca](mailto:dtardiff@parksville.ca); 250 954-3073

