Upgrades to Parksville Wetlands Trails

Since early October, the City's operations teams have been working at the Coldwater Road side of the Parksville Wetlands constructing over 2,000 metres of new trails. This work continues upgrades started in 2019, which saw new trails for walking, maintenance and emergency access.

As climate change makes our summers drier, it is important we provide suitable access for maintenance and emergency access for ambulance and fire protection and this new trail network allows fire access further into the wetlands. A grass fire in 2020 burned about 700 square metres of the wetlands and another fire this past summer burned a section in a more treed area. Without proper access, the potential for loss from fire within our wetlands increases.

Over the past six weeks, crews brought in tonnes of rock to build the solid base and then limestone to complete the trails. Because a small portion of the trail became too wet for crews to access, this work will be completed in 2022 along with completion of limestone surfacing due to supply. Wayfinding signage is being considered with addressing to be installed at park entrances in the next few months.

This section of the Parksville Wetlands is one of the few accessible urban forest parks in the region. Response to the work has been positive; the bright limestone capped areas help the visually impaired and the new parking areas on Coldwater Road provide mobility access. Culverts were installed at regular intervals to help equalize the water throughout the park and there is now a solid, dry base for walking. Sightlines are more open as well providing good visibility and improved comfort if walking alone.

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** NOTE: Please see photos and map on next page.

Trail base completed
Trail base capped with limestone
Wet area 2022 completion

Fire/maintenance access