



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT November 23, 2018

MEETING TYPE & DATE Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting of December 5, 2018

FROM: Parks & Trails Division
Land Use Services Department

SUBJECT: Proposal for Heron Nesting Camera in Wessex Ravine Community Park

FILE:

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

To present, for consideration, a proposal from the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre for the installation of a Heron Viewing Camera, pole and supportive infrastructure in Wessex Ravine Community Park.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board that a five year renewable park permit be approved for the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre for the installation and management of heron viewing camera, pole and supportive infrastructure in Wessex Ravine Community Park in Electoral Area D - Cowichan Bay.

BACKGROUND

The Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre submitted a proposal to install and manage a wildlife camera and pole within the forest that hosts the largest Great Blue Heron colony on Vancouver Island in Wessex Ravine Park in Electoral Area D. The proposal (attached) has been reviewed with support from the BC Ministry of Environment as well as CVRD staff. The camera will provide valuable education and research data on the herons that will support management of the park and wildlife in the estuary. The pole, camera and supportive infrastructure if supported would be installed in early 2019 when the herons are not present at the location noted on the attached map.

ANALYSIS

CVRD Parks Bylaw No. 3851, Part 15, provides issuance of park permits for activities and projects that provide support for research, public education and environmental monitoring. Issuance of a renewable year park permit to the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre for installation and management of a heron nesting viewing camera and pole would meet the objectives in the monitoring of the active Great Blue Heron nesting colony in Wessex Ravine Park with the following requirements:

1. That all conditions of the BC Provincial Government are met.
2. That the camera, pole and any supportive infrastructure are the sole responsibility of the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre,
3. That proof of insurance specifically for the camera, pole and supportive infrastructure is provided and includes the CVRD as named insured.
4. That any associated research data and video are provided to the CVRD for use without restriction.
5. That the CVRD is provided adequate notification of any works associated with the camera, pole and supportive infrastructure within the park as well as installation and removal.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

CVRD would be able to provide an internet link to the webcam through the CVRD website.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Community Services (*Island Savings Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Public Safety, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☐ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Information Technology, Procurement*)
- ☐ Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste Management, Water Management*)
- ☒ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)
- ☐ Strategic Services

Prepared by:

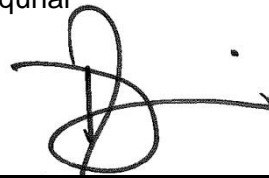


Graham Gidden, BCSLA, CSLA, ISA
Certified Arborist
Parks & Trails Planner

Reviewed by:



Brian Farquhar
Manager



Ross Blackwell, MCIP, RPP, A.Ag.
General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Proposed Heron Camera Location Map

Attachment B – Cowichan Bay Estuary Heron Camera Project Overview