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Media Release

For Immediate Release

June 24, 2021

Cultus Lake Park Officially Opens Newly Constructed Parking Lot at Main Beach

Cultus Lake, B.C – Cultus Lake Park, governed by the *Cultus Lake Park Act* of 1932, is a self-sustaining entity that does not receive any forms of government funding or grants. The Park is reliant on the support of both visitors, residential leaseholders, commercial leaseholders and revenue from Sunnyside Campground in order to maintain Park facilities and services. Cultus Lake Park has an operating budget of \$6.5 million for 2021, with parking revenue making up \$840,000 of that need.

Cultus Lake Park is a popular destination in the Fraser Valley, welcoming 1.5 million visitors to the lake each year. Maintenance and repair to various areas of the Park and foreshore are imperative to continuing to welcome future generations to the Park. Important projects like the fundraising efforts of the Foreshore Fundraising and Improvement Committee, for the repair and/or replacement of Main Beach docks. [Main Beach Docks Project – Cultus Lake Park.](#)

In 2018 Registered Professional Forester Robin Clarke provided staff with a Park Planting Prescription. The document addressed key areas of the Park and offers recommendations aimed at improving tree and forest health. Trees as well as their surroundings in Parking Lot B were assessed prior to finalizing the document and the forester made several recommendations. In short, it was noted that trees within the parking lot were dying from irreversible root damage and removal was necessary. In the Spring of 2020, an ISA arborist reviewed the trees with staff again and further confirmed their advanced state of deterioration and the requirement for removal.

As a result of the tree's condition and subsequent removal, staff had an opportunity to reconfigure the parking lot in a manner that improved access and safe travel, optimizes the use of space and prioritizes tree health and root protection. The Park Board and staff worked with the Environmental and Public Areas Planning Committee to ensure that trees removed from the parking lot are replaced at a 2:1 ratio. In addition, the Board approved a parking lot layout plan that sees 21 irrigated greenspaces with trees interspersed throughout the lot as well as increased tree screening surrounding the parking lot's perimeter.

Parking Lot B, located behind the Adventure Park with access to Main Beach, was integral in the Park's approach to manage and enforce parking. Cultus Lake Park made the transition from a third-party provider to managing the paid parking lots in April 2021, just prior to the completion of Lot B.

The new parking lot features 346 parking stalls, separated entrance, and exit for improved traffic flow, 5 meters and over 25 QR codes for visitors to easily pay for parking. Community volunteers worked closely with Park staff to design and build the many green spaces located throughout the lot, to create stunning landscaping. The new parking lot boasts over 900 understory plant species, 145 new trees, and improved irrigation to protect their growth and development. A resident of Cultus Lake Park generously donated a 22,000 lbs. historic cedar



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tree trunk, that is now a focal point of Parking Lot B. Additions also include resurfacing of tennis courts and a brand-new basketball court.

New parking options are offered for residents of Chilliwack and Area H for the paid parking lots.

Residents can purchase an annual parking permit online located on the Cultus Lake Park website or by calling the Park office.

When you arrive for your visit to the Park, you will be greeted by our Parking Lot Ambassadors and Attendants throughout the various parking locations. They will provide visitors with Cultus Lake Park area and parking information.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Cultus Lake Park.

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