

QUARTERLY UPDATE

July - September 2022



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

ADMINISTRATION

- » Preparations are underway for the October local government elections. We are working with School District 33 (Chilliwack), 75 (Mission) and 78 (Fraser-Cascade) to administer school district elections within the FVRD electoral areas. We have published information for residents at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/elections, in social media and newspaper ads, and we've hosted a candidate information meeting.
- » The FVRD is currently conducting hybrid board and committee meetings. The public is invited to join meetings in person, online via Zoom or by submitting comments in writing. Learn more about meeting schedules, agendas, and view the video archive on our [website](https://www.fvrd.ca).

CORPORATE SERVICES

Human Resources

- » This quarter we welcomed a new Manager of Facilities (Regional Services) and Executive Assistant (Legislative Services). Several other recruitments were completed, including positions at Animal Control, Engineering & Utilities, Electoral Area Planning, Hope and Area Recreation Centre, Strategic Planning, and the Parks department. Find current job opportunities at fvrd.ca/careers.
- » Anti-racism training was held for staff in September following the Board's adoption of the Anti-Racial Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy in April 2022.

Information Technology

- » Work is underway to configure an SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) server for the FVRD's SCADA monitoring stations. This server will make it possible to send quick email notification alerts to on-call staff working after hours.

Fire Dispatch Management

- » We completed the preventive maintenance on all FVRD E-911 radio infrastructure sites for 2022.



The FVRD Votes page on the Have Your Say FVRD website provides information for local voters.

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping (GIS)

- » The GIS team worked with two of our member municipalities on mapping projects. The Village of Harrison Hot Springs web map project is now complete and the District of Hope web map update is expected to be completed by November 2022.

Finance

- » The Finance team conducted research on a fleet replacement policy and developed grant-in-aid auto responses. They also worked with Provincial staff on claim submissions, conducted a grant audit, and updated corporate policies and internal forms to improve efficiencies.
- » Finance's main focus each year is on the budget and audit; the third quarter is when we begin preparing for these annual projects and building next year's work-plan. Budget preparation work includes internal reviews on overhead budgets and getting staff up to speed on new processes and forms. In terms of audit, due to a new accounting standard, our preparation work began early in this quarter and has involved heavy investigation into assets, analysis of procedures and financials, and research into efficiencies and programming.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Electoral Area Planning

- » The Consolidated Zoning Bylaw and relevant Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments have moved forward with a combined public hearing for both of them on August 24. Both the Zoning Bylaw and OCP amendments received third reading in September.
- » We have initiated the Cultus Lake Zoning Bylaw update with OTG Development Ltd. which was awarded the contract to lead a consultation process this fall according to the Board approved public and stakeholder engagement strategy.
- » A project page for the Area C Update is now online at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/areacocp. A newsletter was sent out inviting residents to complete a survey.
- » The Planning team advanced two zoning amendments and one OCP amendment application (Lake Errock Gravel Pit Redevelopment and a proposed 33-lot subdivision at Yale Road), completed two subdivision referrals, one Development Variance Permit, eight Development Permits, and two provincial referrals (e.g. Agricultural Land Commission and Crown referrals).
- » Work continues on projects including a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Floodplain Management Bylaw, Area C Lake Errock and Benchland Alluvial Fan Study.

Bylaw Enforcement

- » The Bylaw team opened 34 new files and conducted 76 inspections this quarter. The team conducted 64 file reviews and mailed 28 letters to aid in closing or cancelling 27 files. The team is currently managing 401 open/active bylaw files.
- » Significant steps were taken on a priority bylaw enforcement file in Area B, including registration of a Certificate of Judgement and a bylaw enforcement notice on the title of the property.
- » A Bylaw Compliance & Enforcement Officer (0.6 FTE) was recruited.

Building Inspection

- » We issued 53 building permits worth over \$19.1 million in construction value and conducted 533 inspections this quarter (as of September 21).
- » New building permit application packages for common construction types were completed for single family homes and manufactured homes. These packages will clarify application requirements for the public.



Crews removed a large amount of debris from Cascade Creek that was deposited during the 2021 atmospheric rivers.

Emergency Management

- » The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated from September 9 to September 16 for the Flood Falls Trail wildfire. The cross-jurisdictional event affected Electoral Area D, the District of Hope, and Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation. BC Wildfire Service acted as Incident Commander for the wildfire and local jurisdictions took recommendations from the wildfire service. Mission, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack provided Emergency Social Services to those displaced from this wildfire.
- » Alertable received 300 new subscribers since Q2, raising the total number of users to over 19,000. Residents can sign up at fvrd.ca/alerts.
- » A new Emergency Management Assistant (0.6 FTE) was recruited.

ENGINEERING & UTILITIES

Engineering

- » The Cascade Creek clean out was completed with 40,000 m³ of debris removed - three times what is normally removed. The extra material was from last year's atmospheric river events.
- » Restoration of the Frosst Creek delta was completed following the emergency work last winter.
- » New concrete stairs were installed at Canyon Lanes in Boston Bar.
- » Procurement of equipment and labour contractors under a standing offer agreement was completed.
- » Various maintenance and minor improvements were completed to the transfer stations and the Chaumox Landfill.

Utilities

- » Project planning is now complete and work is scheduled to commence later this fall on the Bell Acres Reservoir Stabilization project.
- » Work on the Yale Reservoir Structural Integrity report was finished.

- » Other projects underway include the annual maintenance program and water service installations.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Animal Control

- » Animal Control purchased a new fleet vehicle which is being fitted with kennels.
- » A total of 111 dogs were impounded this quarter.
- » We are happy to report that the eight puppies born at the CARE Centre in the spring were all successfully adopted along with their mother.
- » A court hearing for a Dangerous Dog was deferred for the second time, and is now scheduled for October.

Environmental Services

- » Heat and wildfire smoke negatively impacted the region's air quality at various times this summer. To date, 11 days have been under an Air Quality Advisory this year (compared to 13 last year).
- » Staff recently made a presentation to a large strata and property management company on the FVRD's Source Separation Bylaw. The presentation was part of ongoing efforts to bring Waste Wise awareness to various sectors in the region, including multi-family complexes.
- » Staff attended the 2022 Zero Waste Conference and 2022 Southern Interior Waste Management Association Conference in September, which provided excellent learning and networking opportunities.
- » The delayed snowmelt and prolonged freshet on the Fraser River resulted in a higher than average number of nuisance mosquitos this year which were active later into summer than in normal years. Crews provided larval treatments well into August, when in most years floodwater mosquito larvae have hatched by June or early July.

Fire Services

- » Volunteer fire departments attended 328 calls this quarter. Of these calls, 120 were for fires, 122 for medical emergencies, 12 to assist the public or other agencies, 38 for motor vehicle incidents, 30 for alarms, one for HazMat, and 5 for mutual aid.
- » Chilliwack River Valley deployed members to assist with fires in Penticton, Sparwood, and in Mission, working around 600 hours. They were also asked by BC Wildfire Service to be on standby as an Initial Attack crew.
- » Columbia Valley and Popkum fire departments are in the process of designing their new apparatuses,



BC Wildfire Service used the FVRD Regional Airpark as a staging area for the Flood Falls Trail wildfire near Hope.

with the contracts awarded to Fort Garry Fire Trucks.

- » Boston Bar/North Bend Volunteer Fire Department Hall #1 completed the move on June 29 to their new location at 47715 Alder Road. An open house event with refreshments took place on August 17.
- » The FireSmart Coordinator conducted 33 FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessments for electoral area residents. A \$500 rebate was provided to six residents who spent over \$1,000 on improvements to their property based on the FireSmart assessment. Six Neighbourhood Champion workshops were held for residents to learn about the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program. Community wood chipping programs were held for three neighbourhoods. A Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee is being organized.

Hope & Area Recreation Centre

- » The Club Child summer day camp program returned after a two-year break due to COVID-19. All 20 full-time spots were filled within three hours of the program's opening and the remaining four drop-in spots were booked quickly.
- » The Almer Carlson outdoor pool in North Bend offered summer and school swimming lessons in September. The Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre reopened after the annual shutdown and we are currently recruiting five more qualified lifeguards in order to return to regular operations.
- » The Hope arena ice was reinstalled and several top-tier junior hockey teams have already played exhibition games highlighted by the Chilliwack Chiefs pre-season game on September 7.
- » Another Fitness Attendant from the Centre has completed their personal training certification which will add capacity to offer more services to the community. New fitness and cardio equipment will be installed in the coming months.

FVRD Regional Airpark

- » BC Wildfire Service used the Boston Bar Airstrip and the FVRD Regional Airpark as a heli-base to fight wildfires including the Flood Falls Trail wildfire.
- » A new mower was purchased to help improve maintenance of the grounds and airfield.

Integrated Planning & Engagement

- » Director Adamson and staff were invited by Spuzzum First Nation's Chief James Hobart to attend their First Fish Ceremony on August 6 to honour the return of salmon at Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park. Activities included hoop dancing, hand drumming, and salmon lunch.
- » The Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest distributed revenues to two non-profit organizations which included \$25,000 to the Mount Hope Senior Citizens to replace the roof on a senior housing complex and \$35,200 to the Yale and District Ratepayers Association to make improvements to their thrift store and hall.
- » We assisted Tourism Chilliwack with their sponsorship of portable toilets at the Slesse Creek pullout recreation site in the Chilliwack River Valley from July to October. The toilets were part of a pilot project to address the lack of washroom facilities and the increasing issue of human waste at popular recreation sites. This project was a great success since the toilets were well used, maintained weekly, and not vandalized.

Regional and Community Parks

- » Work continues on the Lakeside Trail which will connect Sunnyside Campground (Electoral Area H) to Entrance Bay at Cultus Lake.
- » A late freshet caused closures to some parks for several weeks including Eagle Point Community Park, Island 22 Regional Park and Dewdney Regional Park. As the flood waters recede, work will continue on restoring these areas to pre-flood condition.
- » Trail repairs were completed at Chadsey Lake Trail on Sumas Mountain in the summer and on Mt. Cheam in September.
- » The bike skills park at Island 22 Regional Park received a face lift with a new run-in ramp, mulch jump with a soft landing area, and redesigned pump track. Improvements at the equestrian area included new post and rails and resurfacing the parking lot. The main gate to the park was moved closer to the gatehouse to improve visibility and customer service.
- » The Wildsafe BC Program continues to hold events in our parks to educate people about wildlife and keeping wildlife and people safe.



Salmon being prepared for open fire cooking at the First Fish Ceremony hosted by Spuzzum First Nation on August 6.

Regional Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- » Work on the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Update continues with information posted at haveyoursay.fvrd.ca/rgs. This quarter, we continued to engage with Indigenous communities and agencies, both remotely and in person. We also met with provincial agencies and ministries to get their input. It is hoped that the Board will begin the adoption process for the Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS in early 2023.
- » Work continues with BC Transit to finalize the FVRD components of the Chilliwack and FVRD Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP). The focus of the 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. Work has started on the introduction of BC Transit's UMO electronic fare system. More information will be coming over the next few months about this exciting initiative which will launch in the Fraser Valley in mid-2023.
- » We are monitoring the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure planning work on the latest Highway 1 expansion project to 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.
- » We continue to participate in and monitor TransLink's various planning initiatives and Metro Vancouver's Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy as growth in the Lower Mainland as a whole influences this region.