Subject:	Email - Communication - Julia Adamson - Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area West Side - CK 4000-1
Attachments:	proposal_for_mitigation_of_illegal_trespass_by_motorized_vehicles.pdf

From: Web NoReply
Sent: August 17, 2020 11:11 PM
To: City Council <<u>City.Council@Saskatoon.ca</u>>
Subject: Email - Communication - Julia Adamson - Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area West Side - CK 4000-1

--- Replies to this email will go to friendsafforestation@gmail.com ---

Submitted on Monday, August 17, 2020 - 23:11

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, August 17, 2020 To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council First Name Julia Last Name Adamson Phone Number (306) Email friendsafforestation@gmail.com Address Appleby Court City Saskatoon Province Saskatchewan Postal Code Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. Subject Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area West Side

Meeting (if known)

Comments

The Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. is first and foremost seeking permissions from City Council to engage in environmental and community health, safety and protection at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area in the form of installation of motorized vehicle barriers, and a park identification sign. Additionally, as there may be a corporate in-kind donation towards full colour printed vinyl overlays for interpretive signs, would there by consideration given to having interpretive signs at the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area when the time is right?

VEHICLE MITIGATION BARRIERS.

Specifically this proposal is for an allocation for 12 to 14 each 8 foot wide Jersey Barriers, supplying RSBBAA with illegal trespass barriers for "vehicle mitigation" including southerly egress-exit for service vehicles, emergency vehicles and for 25 foot farm machinery with 2 each 14 foot [16 foot wide] farm gates. Also included is northerly egress and exit with a 10-foot gate in the style of farm gates for service and emergency vehicles. Utilizing the public right of way adjacent to and east of the CNR rail tracks is the only access to a farmer's field which exists to the south of Richard S.t Barbe Baker, and there is a need to take the low farm machinery on this route to tend to agricultural concerns. The stakeholders in the area who may need to access

the right of ways are the CNR, Sask Power, and Trans gas – a division of Sask Energy as well as city crews. It is assumed that the Railway grade on the western edge of the vehicle mitigation barriers will serve as mitigation for vehicle trying to go around the perimeter and if it is not sufficient then add Jersey Barriers at some time in the future.

In previous City Council and committee meetings, various vehicle mitigation barrier options were weighed in upon – i.e. chain link fencing, page wire fencing, bollards, and Jersey Barriers. Jersey Barriers are heavy, durable motorized vehicle barriers which stand the test of time - when grid roads or highways are closed, Jersey Barriers are used for motorized vehicle barricades. Jersey Barriers are wildlife friendly barriers which allow the deer fawns and moose calves to pass through without getting caught in the fence, or without being left behind. Proposal in discussion with CoS administration Monica Hunt Landscape Architect, Parks Division, Community Services Department

PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGN

Additionally, the proposal is for one large ACP sign like at the NE swale.

The park welcome sign ideally would be installed at a location near the Jersey Barriers and Gate mitigation area and facing north (away from the sun for best UV protection), and installed at a great height to mitigate graffiti. A park identification sign is informative that this is a public space being looked after, and illegal trespass, and dumping are not desired behaviours, and in the same instant provide immediate valuable educational direction that inspire environmental stewardship in park activities.

Attachments

proposal for mitigation of illegal trespass by motorized vehicles.pdf

Proposal for vehicle mitigation and park welcome sign by the *Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.*at the west side of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

The Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. is first and foremost seeking permissions from City Council to engage in environmental and community health, safety and protection at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area in the form of installation of motorized vehicle barriers, and a park identification sign.

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INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. is a non-profit charity committed to raising awareness and appreciation of the naturalized semi-wilderness habitat at George Genereux Urban Regional Park [147.8 acres]and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area [326 acres]. Our group has role models in the form of the

"Friends of Riding Mountain National Park" "Friends of Prince Albert National Park," "Friends of the Massasauga Park," "Friends of MacGregor Point Park." Parks need friends who increase understanding of the value of conserving natural areas and the ecosystem functions of wetlands and forested areas. Such green infrastructure provides a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife.

Saskatoon has other Friends groups which have come together such as Friends of the Forestry Farm House, Friends of the Bowl Foundation Inc., Friends of the Library who also rally around to support this great city which we live in.

With the upcoming development plans for nearby neighbourhoods with up to 72,000 residents in the Blairmore sector now underway increases pressures on these areas and the need for the many benefits they provide will only increase. Additionally, there will be further development with the south west P4G planning around the afforestation areas also passing extra burden on the greenspace, and with increased area population the potential for illegal trespass and additional trash dumping which is not desired.

The areas provide many recreational opportunities in a semi-wilderness setting such a bird watching, cycling, cross-country skiing, nature hikes, and photography. The areas offer significant wildlife habitat and a corridor for movement as they are major parts of a larger natural swale (West Swale) that connects natural habitat north of the Hwy 7 railway overpass and the CN line heading west with the Ducks Unlimited Chappell Marsh Conservation Area on the south. This in turn connects the South Saskatchewan River valley, Saskatoon's major wildlife corridor. The areas have marshlands as well as lands re-naturalized by tree planting. The area drains into the river upstream from Saskatoon's water intake, making removal of trash and hazardous waste such as oils and antifreeze which can leach into the soils and water table imperative.

The areas have 17 acres of marshlands as well as 143 acres of woodlands renaturalized by tree planting. The area drains into the river upstream from Saskatoon's water intake, bringing to the forefront a call for environmental stewardship. The ecosystem management programme monitors substances which leach into the soils and water table. The first eco-quests into the areas combined with e-Bird and iNaturalist sightings have shown that in the area are the horned grebe, western grebe and barred tiger salamander are listed as a species of special concern by the Committee On The Status Of Endangered Wildlife In Canada - an Independent Advisory Panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The Red-necked Phalarope, Baird's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow are special concern, and Bobolink, Bank Swallow is threatened nationally under the federal Species at Risk Act SARA Schedule 1. The provincially listed small yellow lady's slipper is another species in need of environmental guardianship alongside the Red-berried elder, another plant at risk in the province. Protecting critical habitat is thus a key concern. Motorized vehicle mitigation barriers would indeed go a long way to protect these endangered species in this semi-wilderness habitat, and to protect their habitats. As the city grows & expands, the exponential increase in the urban footprint necessitates awareness and education of the needs of a green-scape, so it survives in perpetuity for future generations to appreciate and love the natural, historical, cultural, scientific, aesthetic, geological & cultural heritage.

Human health and the wildlife habitat will both be enhanced through a trash clean-up endeavour, and by taking measures to prevent trash dumping in the future, and we are currently following phase 4 COVID-19 protocols for a Sept 19 clean up at George Genereux Urban Regional Park. Our vision is to first protect the environment in the afforestation areas with community clean-ups, barriers, and signage. By securing the areas and making them safe for youth, the areas can fulfill their potential to be spaces for environmental and heritage education right within the CoS. The areas are prime places to study regeneration, ecological succession, geology, First Nations history and ethnobotany. The West Swale is a remnant of a glacial spillway known as the Yorath Island Spillway, and this influenced its flora and fauna and Paleo-Indian activity in the area. Thus, the potential is there to study spiritual, medicinal, and nutritional uses of the area from a First Nations historical perspective plus assessing post-contact historic (Old Bone Trail) resources.

THE PROPOSAL

There is no doubt about it, the protections afforded to the east side of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area have stopped illegal trespass, and halted entirely illegal trash dumping. The east side of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area has become a safe place for all manner of active users, and it has become a haven for endangered species in woodlands and wetlands. This is an opportunity to afford the same opportunity for the west side of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area close to Sk Hwy 7. It is a chance to say No don't use the forest for illegal trespass and to also say NO to those trash dumpers who are just too lazy or too cheap to properly use the landfill which is right next door.

The stewards and stakeholders from many and varied segments of the community attended a meeting on <u>Wednesday March 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.</u> after the 2016 clean up when over 10 tons of trash were removed from the afforestation area. At the meeting;

1. "All in agreement we would like to see proper barricades installed, in an effort to reduce illegal dumping of trash and other household items and to reduce illegal/negative activities (i.e. bush parties, off-roading, drug use and other criminal activities)."

2. Need to broaden community awareness... that this land falls within city limits

This proposal is for additional motorized vehicle restrictions. The afforestation is used by a variety of users who come upon the property which appears to be not owned by anyone. 4x4s, all-terrain vehicles, snow mobiles, hikers, photographers, bicycle riders, bird banders, dog walkers and dog sled enthusiasts have all used the afforestation area. The motorized vehicles cause enormous damage to the forest understory, dig deep ruts into the earth, upset the natural water drainage of the area, and without regards for trails or wildlife, plough cross country across the forest even joy-riding through and over trash, appliances and furniture which has been dumped in the park. The proximity to the garbage dump affords a location to avoid garbage dump fees, and dispose of trash not accepted by the garbage dump, in spite of "no-dumping" signs. Eliminating illegal use of motorized vehicles in the afforestation area and the wetlands will eliminate unprecedented erosion, ecological and habitat damage. Taking responsibility and accountability for the environment will increase public appreciation for a picturesque urban naturalized forest by educational classes, naturalists, bird

watchers, active transportation users on properly planned and designed pathways to mitigate the ecosystem footprint preserving this semi-wilderness habitat in perpetuity for generations to come. Every single user of the afforestation areas have arrived at these afforestation areas because of the unique greenspace aspects. Without protections Usually in a mixed moist grasslands ecosystem which the City of Saskatoon resides in, one has to drive way up north past the tree line to find a mixed wood forest and the associated forbes and wildlife habitat which one finds within city limits.

Another concern addressed in the January 2015 council meeting was the motorized vehicle traffic in the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. Meeting face to face a 4x4, ATV or group of snowmobiles is rather disconcerting when walking in a nature area. Severe damage to the landscape is indeed caused by motorized vehicles, such as;

- "Soil compaction, contamination and erosion
- Loss of vegetation
- Transfer of weeds
- Water contamination
- Start of a Wildfire
- Wildlife disruption" Government of Alberta. 2016.

Additionally, travel over wet terrain, off-trail recreational driving creates deep, multiple braided ruts. These "off trail tracks in snow pushes frost deeper into the ground, contributing to vegetation damage...vehicles are not allowed on beds or shores of watercourses, wetlands or waterbodies." (Government of Alberta. 2016). The Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation area has congruency with the West Swale. To minimize forest damage, and to preserve the conservation of the afforestation area, an education program founded on "Leave no Trace" would encourage users of the area to travel only on durable services. (Wikipedia. Leave No Trace. 2016). The city of Saskatoon does indeed have a bylaw prohibiting snowmobiles and ATV use within the city limits.

A further benefit to motorized vehicle barriers, and park identification signage, is that the amount of hunting within city limits in the afforestation areas would decrease. Following the March 9, 2020 meeting. before the <u>Standing Policy Committee on</u> <u>Planning Development and Community Services</u> regarding hunting, there were users of the afforestation areas who came forward and mentioned that they too had witnessed hunting or heard gunfire at the afforestation areas. As we are coming up to the fall hunting season, installation of a park identification sign mentioning "No Hunting" would be appreciated by the community of users. This would support the city's strategic goal of environmental leadership.

Another proposal put before city council was that the City identify the afforestation area as city/MVA property and establish signage to the effect of no motorized vehicles/ no snowmobiles/ no ATVs. The police have been making additional appearances at the afforestation area as well the Police surveillance plane is capable of seeing them riding in the area. The fine was up to \$25000 and it is encouraged that the Police clamp down on dumping and motorized vehicles.

The main problem is without signage, fencing or public education, most users to the "wooded area" do not realize that the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area to the east of Sk Hwy 7 and to the west of the South West Off Leash Dog Park are city property. Users arriving from Sk Hwy 7 are not aware the area belongs to an open space area preserved in perpetuity by the city council. Snowmobilers, 4x4, ATV vehicles are under the impression that the afforestation areas are vacant crown land and not City land protected by bylaws. Agreement from the Police Commission and letter of support that better signage and vehicles restrictions to the area are necessary and will reduce resources needed to enforce the bylaws and thereby save the city money. Agreement from police board that restricting access will reduce the need to have go out there – costs less to fix problem at the root than to try and deal with symptoms. The Board of Police Commissioners has forwarded comments to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services Department following consideration of your presentation dated <u>April 20, 2017</u>, to the Board regarding the above matter. The resolution from the Board of Police Commissioners was "That the Board's support for any measures undertaken by the Saskatoon Police Service and City Administration with a goal of reducing illegal activities and resources required in the area, be forwarded to the Standing Policy

Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services", along with a copy of your presentation, will be considered by the <u>Standing Policy Committee on Planning</u>, <u>Development and Community Services Department on Monday, May 29, 2017</u> and deferred to SPC on PDC <u>August 14 2017</u> and received as information by City Council on <u>August 28 2017</u>

DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

VEHICLE MITIGATION BARRIERS.

Specifically this proposal is for an allocation for 12 to 14 each 8 foot wide Jersey Barriers, supplying RSBBAA with illegal trespass barriers for "vehicle mitigation" including southerly egress-exit for service vehicles, emergency vehicles and for 25 foot farm machinery with 2 each 14 foot [16 foot wide] farm gates. Also included is northerly egress and exit with a 10-foot gate in the style of farm gates for service and emergency vehicles. Utilizing the public right of way adjacent to and east of the CNR rail tracks is the only access to a farmer's field which exists to the south of Richard S.t Barbe Baker, and there is a need to take the low farm machinery on this route to tend to agricultural concerns. The stakeholders in the area who may need to access the right of ways are the CNR, Sask Power, and Trans gas – a division of Sask Energy as well as city crews. It is assumed that the Railway grade on the western edge of the vehicle mitigation barriers will serve as mitigation for vehicle trying to go around the perimeter and if it is not sufficient then add Jersey Barriers at some time in the future.

In previous City Council and committee meetings, various vehicle mitigation barrier options were weighed in upon – i.e. chain link fencing, page wire fencing, bollards, and Jersey Barriers. Jersey Barriers are heavy, durable motorized vehicle barriers which stand the test of time - when grid roads or highways are closed, Jersey Barriers are used for motorized vehicle barricades. Jersey Barriers are wildlife friendly barriers which allow the deer fawns and moose calves to pass through without getting caught in the fence, or without being left behind.

Proposal in discussion with CoS administration Monica Hunt Landscape Architect, Parks Division, Community Services Department

PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGN

Additionally, the proposal is for one large ACP sign like at the NE swale

The park welcome sign ideally would be installed at a location near the Jersey Barriers and Gate mitigation area and facing north (away from the sun for best UV protection), and installed at a great height to mitigate graffiti. A park identification sign is informative that this is a public space being looked after, and illegal trespass, and dumping are not desired behaviours, and in the same instant provide immediate valuable educational direction that inspire environmental stewardship in park activities.



Location of sign not shown on the Google Satellite maps segment above, as this must be discussed with Sask Power and the boundary zone. The proposed park identification sign would be near the Jersey Barrier vehicle mitigation area and located on the City of Saskatoon lands which form Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area, east of the railway tracks shown on the attached map above.

A business case and a few sample interpretive signs were submitted to parks department Lindsay Cockrum, Open Space Consultant and Brad Babyak, Recreation Services Manager.

BUDGET:

The following budget is an allocation is for 6 new Jersey barriers, and 8 barriers which have become redundant to be moved-from the east side to the west side.

Total of 14 Jersey barriers (12 for west side of RSBBAA and 2 in GGURP and / or 2 near Chappell Marsh), supplying south vehicle mitigation area with egress and exit for 25-foot farm machinery with 2 14-foot farm gates and the northerly service and emergency vehicle mitigation area with egress and exit with a 10-foot gate. Additionally, one sign like at NE swale.

Thank you kindly for the City of Saskatoon Environmental Grant allocation in which we outlined our support of the City of Saskatoon's environmental goals, and supported environmental leadership and active transportation in our proposal

REVENUE (indicate * if confirmed)	Amount	Actual
City of Saskatoon*Environmental	\$4,500.00	\$
Grant		
		\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
Contributions from the Friends	\$2,143.00	\$
organization*		
Sask Energy \$500, FFTB	\$	\$
\$517.00 Less Tire bill 374.00		
Sask Outdoors \$500, EcoFriendly		\$
\$1,000,		

Other: funds raised FB, pre-	2,644.29	\$
COVID events, bottle drives		
	\$	\$
Total Revenue	\$9,557.29	\$
EXPENSES		
8' Jersey Barriers \$550.60 each 6	\$2,753.00	\$
purchase		
One identification sign	\$613.25	\$
2 14 ft Farm Gates-25 feet farm	\$724.96	\$
machinery South Access		
Picker Truck Hire to move 8	\$320.00	\$
Jersey Barriers from E to W		
Accountant Year End	\$1,000.00	\$
	\$	\$
One Farm Gate- 10-foot North	\$341.18	\$
Access		
	\$	\$
Landscaping and/or gravel	\$3,804.90	\$
Total Expenses	\$9,557.29	\$
(even)	\$0	\$

We actually have about another further income coming in revenue over the next while as well - already raised and confirmed- but awaiting finalization.

Total posts to be dug are 6: four for gates and 2 for sign. The area is totally degraded, and has been discussed with YXE Green Strategy and the MVA.

Additions/changes to the above budgets

1/A contractor is on hold who will drill 6 holes for us for \$25 which works out very well. This brings down the expense above, as we had calculated \$80 to make the post holes and \$25 is better.

2/ Landscaping including levelling the ground for the above Jersey Barriers, and fill for the area created by the Jersey Barriers. Talked to a landscape firm, and they said fill was needed, rather than their bobcat/skid steer machinery. Therefore, we have had previously an offer of free clean fill (used landscape rock) delivered to the site for free to fill in the ruts at the west end. It will be to follow up on this offer to see if still available.

3/. A base consisting of 5/8" gravel installed at the bottom of ruts which has clay in it to stabilize the ruts under the clean fill outlined in point 2 above.

CONCLUSION

Will City Council provide permissions for the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. to expense their funds with guidance from CoS administration and from the MVA so that the following measures can be implemented at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

- Jersey Barriers as vehicle mitigation barriers, and any landscaping necessary to set the Jersey Barriers down on the land without ruts underneath them.
- Gates to allow service and emergency vehicles to have access into Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area at the west side entrance where the Jersey Barriers are proposed.
- 3. A park identification sign similar to the Northeast Swale with guidance in the form of yes and no icons for environmental stewardship, and welcome and park title honouring Richard St. Barbe Baker, OBE Honorary Doctorate of Laws, global conservationist, and founder of the International Tree Foundation.

- 4. If there is money for additional Jersey Barriers that 2 each could be installed by the Chappell Marsh near the existing chain link fence to deter motorized vehicles driving into the afforestation area near the wetlands.
- 5. Any additional funding forthcoming as mentioned above could go towards gates / Jersey Barriers for installation to begin similar vehicle mitigation protections at the neighbouring George Genereux Urban Regional Park for the same reasons as provided for Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area.

APPENDIX A INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

<u>Interpretive features</u> honour the elements of significance for the afforestation areas. The geological, historical, cultural, human geographical and natural attributes are valued. A unique mixed wood forest within Saskatoon's urban landscape nurtures a semi-wilderness wildlife habitat. Native species flourish in and around the grasslands, aspen bluffs, and wetlands. For example;

- Users and visitors will know where the wetlands are, and what types of waterfowl, and emergent vegetation exist at that site, which will increase support for their care;
- The Green Survival Program 'Green Survival" was an award-winning program for improving the environment, more beauty to see, and conservation of land from erosion with plantings of trees and shrubs *in the fight against environmental deterioration and* focusses attention on the important role that plant life plays in a healthful environment;
- The afforestation area namesake Richard St. Barbe Baker, Baba Way Miti, the 'loving Father of Trees', founder of the Men of the Trees (now the International Tree Foundation) and his legacy as the first global conservationist. Baker's efforts and collaborations saw the planting at least 26 billion trees worldwide and he still inspires new international efforts;

If there is a means of receiving corporate in-kind donation for the printing of full colour vinyl overlays from a Hewlett Packard Wide Format printer, would city council approve interpretive signs at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area with the design reviewed by the appropriate city administrative department and MVA administration? A business case and a few sample interpretive signs were submitted to parks department Lindsay Cockrum, Open Space Consultant and Brad Babyak, Recreation Services Manager. The YXE Green Strategy and MVA are working hard and diligently to secure an ecological assessment of the afforestation areas to determine the most strategic placement of such signs.

APPENDIX B IMAGE OF EXISTING NE SWALE SIGN, AND A ROUGH DRAFT FOR A SIMILAR RSBBAA SIGN

Welcome to the Northeast Swale

The Northeast Swale contains considerable areas of native prairie grasslands and offers high quality biodiversity. Losing this native prairie and wetland means the loss of thousands of years of natural and cultural history. This resource can never be replaced. Please take care of your Northeast Swale and let others know about its value.



RICHARD ST. BARBE BAKER AFFORESTATION AREA (URBAN REGIONAL PARK)

Welcome to the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. Planted to trees in 1972 and preserved in perpetuity, it was named it in honour of a world renowned forester with many ties to Saskatoon. This 326 acre urban regional park has protected species of birds and plants, remnant wetlands of a glacial spillway, now known as the West Swale and preserves significant ecological, cultural, aesthetic, and spiritual heritage.

Highword	
* You are here	sw
467 Township Road 362A	OLRA 355 Tsp Rd 362A P 241 Tsp Rd 362A
W S E	500 m 762
City of Parks department Saskatoon 306.975.3300	meewasin.com 306.665.6887
Wildlife concerns call Urban Biological Services 306.975.3300 Larger animal concerns call SK Ministry of Environment 306.933.6240 Police • Fire • Medical • Emergency call 911	Thanks for supporting your parks! https://stbarbebaker.wordpress.com Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.
NO VEHICLES Bylaw 7767	YES GET ACTIVE OO. YES WATCH WILDLIFE
NO HUNTING Bylaw 7767 NO LITTERING Bylaw 7767	YES INATURALIST e-BIRD
City of Instructure Corrientity	ende of the Satisticon forestation Areas Inc. endedforestation@ymail.com III TO ALL AFFORESTATION AREA SPINEDRE

APPENDIX C PICTURES OF EXISTING FARM GATE ON EAST SIDE OF RICHARD ST BARBE BAKER AFFORESTATION AREA

