

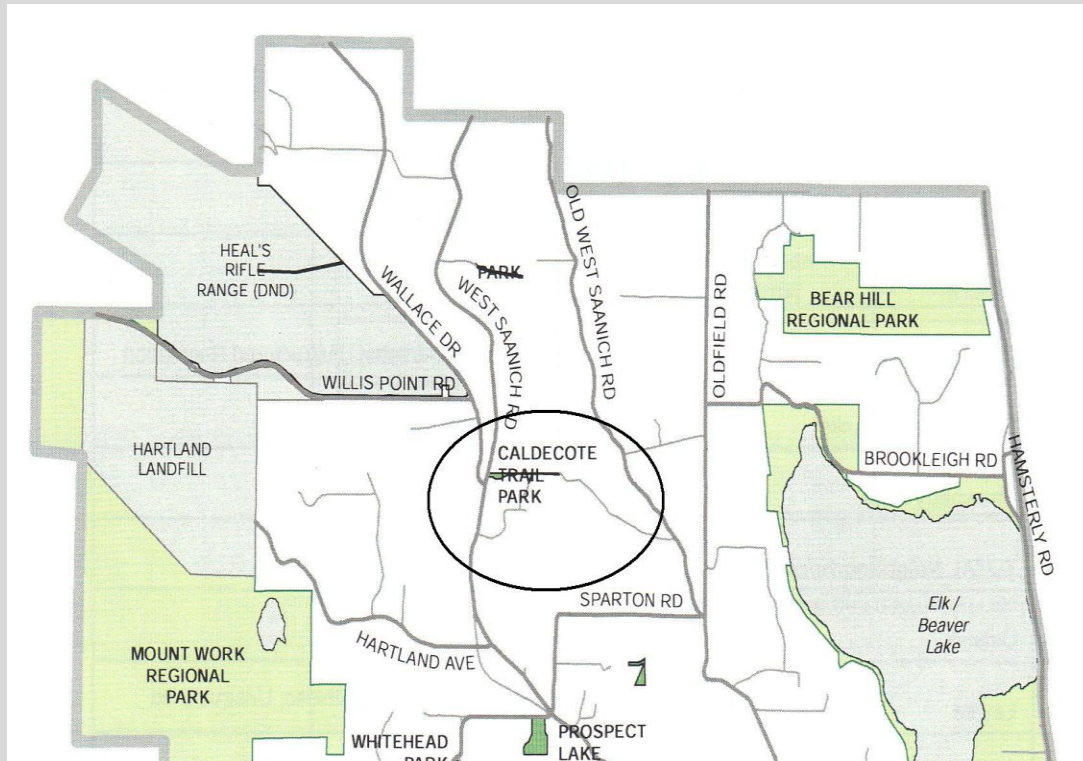


Prospect Lake & District Community Association

Caldecote Park/Trail Maintenance

The Caldecote Park and Trail connects pedestrians and equestrians from the junction of Wallace Drive/West Saanich Roads to Caldecote Road. It is a small linear park of approximately .23 hectares.

The Rural Saanich Local Area Plan (LAP) identifies Caldecote trail as an existing local greenway as well as a future route for equestrians.



The Prospect Lake and District Community Association (PLDCA) is concerned as to the condition of the Caldecote Trail and has determined that during the wet seasons the trail becomes very muddy in sections making it very difficult for passage.



The Rural Saanich Local Area Plan, Section 10 lists as its objectives to: Maintain and improve existing parks and trails.

Recently the PLDCA sent a letter to Mayor Leonard asking if the Mayor would be able to allocate resources for maintenance of the Caldecote Trail;

December 13, 2011
Prospect Lake and District Community Association
5358 Sparton Rd.
Victoria, B.C.
V9E 2H5

Dear Mayor Leonard

On behalf of the Prospect Lake and District Community Association I am writing in regards to a concern that has been brought to the Association's attention.

There is a fairly short trail that runs between Caldecote Road and West Saanich Road. This trail is very popular with residents of the area as it allows access from Old West Saanich Road to the junction of Saanich Road/Wallace Drive and connection to the Centennial Trails network.

Unfortunately the trail is in very poor condition due to water runoff in the area and as a result it becomes virtually impassable during the Fall, Winter and Spring. The problem areas are fairly short in length and it would not take that much to fix the trail making it useable in the wet seasons.

The Association understands that budgets are tight these days but would appreciate it if you were able to allocate resources for maintenance on the Caldecote trail.

Sincerely,

Wayne Christmas
Director
Prospect Lake and District Community Association
pldca5358@gmail.com

The Mayor's response received January 26, 2012;

Dear Mr. Christmas:

Thank you for your letter regarding the condition of Caldecote Trail. We appreciate your Association's interest in improving this rustic trail to allow for more use through the wet months.

Unfortunately, the situation with this trail remains unchanged since the response to your April 25th, 2011 email. The assessment of the work required to improve this trail concluded that significant resources would be needed. This project was considered in the capital budget planning for 2012, and it did not rank high enough in priority to be included this year.

The Parks Division will review this trail work again later this year as we prepare the 2013 capital budget. For any further comments, questions, or information please contact Rae Roer, Parks Manager, at 250 475-5523 or rae.roer@saanich.ca.

Sincerely,

Mayor Frank Leonard
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7
Phone (250) 475-5510
Fax (250) 475-5440

Follow up letter to Rae Roer, Saanich Parks Manager dated April 26, 2012;

Dear Mr. Roer

I am a Director of the Prospect Lake and District Community Association and would like to bring to your attention a concern the Association has regarding the Caldecote trail in northern Saanich.

The Association recently sent a letter to Mayor Leonard and has received his reply which indicates that the Saanich Parks Division will review the trail later this year while preparing the capital budget. Mayor Leonard's letter suggests that the Association should contact you for further information.

Kindly review this link for the details of the Association's letter to Mayor Leonard and his reply;

<http://www.pldca.ca/Documents/Caldecote%20Trail%20Maintenance.pdf>

Councillor Leif Wergeland attended a recent community meeting of the Prospect Lake and District Community Association and offered to have a look at the condition of the trail. Today Councillor Wergeland and I attempted to walk the trail from the junction of Caldecote road towards West

Saanich Road, suffice to say I believe that Councillor Wergeland would agree that the trail was impassable as we were only able to walk about halfway along the trail before the mud bogs prevented our passage.

According to the Saanich GIS mapping service I estimate there is a section of the trail that is no more than 30 metres long where Ward (?) creek has flooded the trail creating the mud bogs. This section is roughly in the middle of the trail and I believe with a bit of creativity it could be accessed from the Matterhorn Court access point to facilitate maintenance.

I have reviewed the Rural Saanich Local Area Plan (LAP) and have noted that it identifies the Caldecote trail as an existing trail route and that one of the objectives of the LAP is to maintain and improve existing parks and trails. According to the LAP this trail is considered to be part of a Local Greenway that allows for an east-west connection through the north west area of Saanich Municipality, additionally, Policy 10.1 of the LAP endorses major and local greenways.

According to the LAP there are very few Municipal parks in the northwest section of Saanich and even though the Caldecote Trail Park is fairly small I believe that it could play an important role in providing community connections. The Prospect Lake and District Community Association would very much appreciate it if resources could be allocated to repair/maintain the 30 metre section of this trail that is impassable.

Thank you for your consideration.
Wayne Christmas
Director
Prospect Lake and District Community Association

cc: Leif Wergeland

On May 3, 2012 the following e-mail was received from Mr. Roer;

Mr. Christmas

I am aware of your interest in this trail. When you first contacted the Mayor last fall; he consulted parks in preparing his response to you.

As the Mayor indicated, we have not budgeted for any major repairs to this trail in the 2012 budget. However, we'd be pleased to meet with you & Mr. Wrinch, PL&DCA Chair. We can then discuss the work required & the relative priority this trail has on other PL&DCA park/trail interests. Then based on our discussions & the scope of the work required we can refer the item to the 2013 multi-year capital budget process. If you could identify some times that might work for you & Mr. Wrinch during the week of May 14 we can then get together to discuss in person./

Thanks, Rae S. Roer
Parks Manager District of Saanich
250 475 5523
rae.roer@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

Update May 15, 2012

A meeting at the Caldecote trailhead was arranged for 9:00 PM Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

The following were in attendance;

Wayne Christmas, PLDCA Secretary

Gary Darrah, Saanich Parks Planning & Design Manager

Andrew Giles, Saanich Parks Construction & Maintenance Manager

Rae Roer, Saanich Parks Manager

John Wrinch, PLDCA Chair

Even though there had not been a significant amount of rain for the past few weeks the trail was still impassable without waterproof footwear. Consequently the group was unable to travel the length of the trail. Mr. Roer commented that he was not aware that any maintenance had been performed on the trail in his 9 years in the Saanich Parks Department. Further discussion as to how to access the impassable section of the trail with equipment, the possibility that some of the trail may be trespassing on private property, use of the trail by equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians and the community's priority for trail maintenance.

Mr. Roer indicated that Saanich Parks will investigate possible solutions to repair the trail and that the PLDCA should follow up with him in 6 to 8 weeks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 AM.



May 15, 2012 the "Skunk Cabbage" is growing well on the Caldecote trail.

If you are concerned as to the condition of the Caldecote trail kindly contact Wayne Christmas at pldca5358@gmail.com or call 250-658-2290