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**REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**

SUBJECT **Bylaw No. 4640: Amendment to the Capital Regional District Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3675**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To amend the Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3675, Schedule A.

BACKGROUND

Schedule A of the CRD Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3675 outlines the fees and charges for regional parks. As new services are introduced, or as fees are reviewed and revised, Schedule A is amended (Appendix A). On December 13, 2023, the CRD Board passed the following motion regarding gradual pay parking increases at Thetis Lake and Sooke Potholes regional parks:

That pay parking at Thetis Lake and Sooke Potholes regional parks receive a gradual rate adjustment to fair market value starting in 2025, and to continue over three years, and the introduction of a short-term rate.

The bylaw amendment will allow the following changes to the fee schedule:

Year	Short-Term (2 hours)	Daily	Season
2024	n/a	\$2.25	\$20.00
2025	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$30.00
2026	no change	\$5.50	\$45.00
2027	no change	\$7.00	\$60.00

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4640, "Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010, Amendment Bylaw No. 11, 2024", be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4640 be adopted.

Alternative 2

That Bylaw No. 4640, "Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010, Amendment Bylaw No. 11, 2024" be referred to staff for changes.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

The CRD's Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 identifies a priority action to align implementation of parking fees (and subsequent fee increases) where regional parks can be easily accessed by transit, walking or cycling – as a disincentive to motor vehicle use and related greenhouse gas emissions. This action supports the priority (4-2) to foster the development of complete and connected communities by improving access to regional parks by transit, electric vehicles, micro mobility, walking or cycling.

Thetis Lake Regional Park is easily accessed by the above modes of transport and Sooke Potholes Regional Park is easily accessed via the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. Keeping pay parking in place with minor increases over the next three years in these two parks encourages visitors to consider alternative, greener modes of transportation to these popular destinations.

Social Implications

Park fees, as utilized in other parks systems, can be a barrier for accessing nature and recreational opportunities. Additionally, currently only two regional parks have pay parking in place, which can be perceived as unfair to those communities in which these parks are located.

Financial Implications

Bringing the price for pay parking in these two parks up to fair market value could ultimately generate \$400,000 in additional annual revenue. With visitation to regional parks and trails increasing by over 40%, from 6.3 million in 2014 to 8.9 million in 2023, there is pressure to continually expand and service parking lots to accommodate personal vehicles, particularly in peak season at these popular destinations.

Demand management in parks systems is often achieved through parking management such as pay parking or day use permits, and parking fees collected during the peak season help offset increasing operational costs for the rest of the year.

Service Delivery Implications

Pay parking systems and enforcement in both Thetis Lake and Sooke Potholes regional parks are currently overseen by a contractor, therefore there are no major service delivery implications related to the increase of pay parking rates in these two regional parks.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan (2022-2032) identifies priority action 5-1d to “develop a Park Use Permit Policy that gives consideration to providing equitable access to programs, ensuring events and commercial activities align with the values in this Plan, and that fees reflect impacts on park facilities and users.” Over the last decade, existing fees in CRD Regional Parks have not been adjusted to keep up with impacts on park facilities or market changes. These fee changes will ensure that fees better reflect impacts on regional park facilities.

CONCLUSION

As new services are introduced, or as fees are reviewed and revised, Schedule A of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw is required to be amended. Over the last decade, existing fees in CRD Regional Parks have not been adjusted to keep up with market changes, and no longer reflect impacts on park facilities and users. In 2020, staff undertook a market review to understand how fees relate to broader provincial revenue generation patterns and proposed adjustments based on that review. On December 13, 2023, the CRD Board approved gradual pay parking increases at Thetis Lake and Sooke Potholes regional parks.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4640, “Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010, Amendment Bylaw No. 11, 2024”, be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4640 be adopted.

Submitted by:	Mike Macintyre, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Bylaw No.4640: Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010, Amendment Bylaw No. 11, 2024