

DATE OF MEETING MARCH 7, 2022

AUTHORED BY JAMIE SLATER, MANAGER, REVENUE SERVICES

SUBJECT PARCEL TAX REPEAL BYLAW 2022 No. 7343

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To enact required changes to parcel tax bylaws due to changes in how the Regional District of Nanaimo will be collecting funds to support Regional parks and trails.

Recommendation

That:

- 1) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" (To repeal "Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323" and "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324") pass first reading;
- 2) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" pass second reading; and,
- 3) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" pass third reading.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax levy was introduced in 2006 by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) for the purpose of acquiring, developing and operating Regional Parks and Trails. The collection of the parcel tax provides for cost recovery for a portion of the cost of the parks and trails service.

In 2020 Neilson-Welch Consulting in a report to the RDN Board suggested that the level of equity across participating jurisdictions and among individual tax payers contributing to the Regional Park Services would be improved by allocating acquisition, capital development and operating costs using a combination of converted assessment and population for Regional Parks rather than number of parcels.

On 26-OCT-2021, the RDN adopted the "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Parks and Trails Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1231.08, 2021". The amended bylaw provides for the collection of taxes to recover costs associated with regional parks and trails through requisition rather than per parcel, as suggested by Neilson-Welch Consulting.

At the 20-DEC-2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council consented to the adoption of the "Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Parks and Trails Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1231.08, 2021."

Moving forward (2022 onwards), the City of Nanaimo will collect funds on behalf of the RDN for Regional Parks & Trails through the RDN requisition as opposed to parcel taxes.

DISCUSSION

The amended RDN bylaw received the Approval of the Inspector of Municipalities on 10-DEC-2021. The RDN Board informed the City of the proposed change on how the funds will be calculated and collected, and this information was presented to the City of Nanaimo Council for consent on 20-DEC-2021. Council consented to the adoption of the RDN's amended bylaw, and as such, the RDN Board adopted the amended bylaw on 11-JAN-2022.

The previous parcel tax of \$20 per parcel will no longer be required, which makes the following two bylaws redundant:

- Regional Parks & Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324
- Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323

In addition, because the City of Nanaimo doesn't have any other parcel taxes that will be applied to properties for 2022, this means that the requirement to hold a Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel for 2022 is no longer required.

Staff have reviewed the *Community Charter*, Division 4 – Parcel Taxes, and confirmed that both aforementioned bylaws may be repealed.

OPTIONS

1. That:

- 1) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" (To repeal "Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323" and "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324") pass first reading;
- 2) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" pass second reading; and,
- 3) "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343" pass third reading.

Implications:

- **Financial:** There would be no direct financial implications to the City, as the City of Nanaimo is collecting the taxes on behalf of the RDN, and all taxes collected for this purpose will be remitted to the RDN.

- **Policy/Legislation:** The repeal of the two parcel tax bylaws must be formally completed through adoption of a parcel tax repeal bylaw.
 - **Staff:** There are no staffing implications associated with the adoption of the parcel tax repeal bylaw. Staff members will requisition the funds for regional parks and trails through the processing of the RDN tax requisition, as opposed to requisitioning the funds by parcel tax.
2. That Council does not give first three readings to "Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343 (To repeal "Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323" and "Regional Parks and Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324").

Implications:

- **Financial:** Under the requirements of the existing parcel tax bylaws, the City would be required to continue to collect \$20 per parcel. The RDN would also include the required funds for Regional Parks & Trails in their annual requisition, so this would result in an over collection of taxes.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Funds required for Regional Parks & Trails will now be included in the Regional District of Nanaimo tax requisition, as opposed to being charged through parcel taxes.
- There is no longer a requirement for Regional Parks & Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324 to exist.
- There is no longer a requirement for Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323 to exist.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: Parcel Tax Repeal Bylaw 2022 No. 7343
- Attachment B: Parcel Tax Roll Preparation Bylaw 2021 No. 7323
- Attachment C: Regional Parks & Trails Parcel Tax Bylaw 2021 No. 7324
- Attachment D: Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Parks and Trails Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1231.08, 2021 (adopted January 11, 2022) |

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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