



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: May 7, 2021  
Submitted by: Engineering and Operations Department – Infrastructure Engineering Services Division  
Subject: Alderside Road and Old Orchard Park – Requests for Traffic and Accessibility Improvements

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### Purpose

To provide a summary of traffic and accessibility requests received for Old Orchard Park and Alderside Road and request direction on potential actions.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT the outstanding requests and concerns related to Old Orchard Park be referred to the upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan project as recommended in the report dated May 7, 2021 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Infrastructure Engineering Services Division regarding Alderside and Old Orchard Park – Requests for Traffic and Accessibility Improvements;**

**AND THAT outstanding requests and concerns related to Alderside Road be referred to a future Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative project to be initiated as prioritized through the City's traffic calming process.**

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### Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, public demand for park and recreational facilities increased significantly. This increase in demand was exacerbated by health order restrictions and best practices that required physical distancing – effectively reducing the capacity of such facilities.

A brief summary of actions taken around Old Orchard Park and Alderside Road since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 is included below:

- temporarily closed a portion of the Old Orchard Hall parking lot to reduce park use;
- temporary playground closures;
- suspension/cancellation of bookings for Old Orchard Hall along with other facility closures;
- implementation of a one-way loop on the Shoreline Trail;
- physical distancing signage within the parks; and
- increased bylaw presence and introduction of park hosts at busy parks and trails.

Other COVID-19 related responses by the City and other senior government organizations such as Metro Vancouver and the Province may have also contributed to increased demand at Old Orchard Park, with a side effect of increasing traffic on Alderside Road on busy summer days. These include:

- temporary Provincial Park closures and subsequent permit access system;
- park capacity and parking lot capacity restrictions at Belcarra Regional Park, White Pine Beach, and Buntzen Lake;
- temporary parking ban along Bedwell Bay Road; and
- Rocky Point Park capacity and parking lot capacity restrictions.

The effects of these changes have been seen at many parks and informal use areas including the road end at the south end of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue south of Ioco Road, where demand has increased significantly to the point where the City has needed to place a temporary washroom (portable toilet) for the 2020 and 2021 summer seasons.

On August 10, 2020, staff, Mayor and Councillors met with representatives of The Residents of Pleasantside IOCO Communities Association (TROPICA) at Old Orchard Park to discuss concerns and requests around the park and on Alderside Road. Specific requests are detailed in the Discussion section below but were generally focused on traffic and pedestrian safety and park accessibility.

Following this meeting, staff implemented several changes, including signage changes to add an accessibility parking stall on Alderside Road, improvements to some outstanding minor signage issues, and a temporary pedestrian space along Alderside Road alongside Old Orchard Hall.

The 2020 Alderside Slow Zone was removed in September once the peak summer park season ended. For 2021, the Slow Zone has been reinstated for dates between the May Long Weekend and Labour Day.

Several of the above traffic concerns were reported to the Transportation Committee on September 16, 2020, including some conceptual improvement ideas for discussion. The Committee passed the following motion:

TC20/025

THAT the Transportation Committee support staff reporting back with conceptual options for longer term improvements to Alderside to assist with parking, traffic, and active transportation concerns.

In addition to TROPICA requests, other concerns have continued to be received around access and traffic at Old Orchard Park and Alderside Road. This report summarizes that feedback and requests direction on next steps in studying and developing recommendations to address concerns.

## Discussion

Traffic and accessibility related concerns have been received about both Old Orchard Hall and Alderside Road over many years; however, frequency of concerns in the area has increased in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic and with increased outdoor recreational activity and park use.

Concerns have been received through meetings with TROPICA (August 10, 2020 at Old Orchard Park, January 25, 2021 at Alderside Slip Road), and by emails and phone calls from Alderside Road and nearby residents. Recent feedback is summarized generally below by location, along with implemented or recommended actions.

### Old Orchard Hall:

Request:	Recommended/Implemented Action:	Status
Increase accessible parking at park level	Added one accessible parking stall on Alderside Road near Old Orchard Park	Complete
Placement of an accessible portable washroom facility near the picnic shelter area during summer months to improve accessibility	In the short term, addition of a portable toilet near the picnic shelter may impact park users, and the existing site slope creates a challenge for a flat location and access requirements for the pump out service truck. <i>Refer to Upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan</i>	TBD
Consider new access path from Old Orchard parking lot to Old Orchard Park via a wheelchair accessible ramp	Feasibility of ramp being included in Shoreline Sewer/Trail rehabilitation project (2022 Construction)	Underway
Paved pathway to be installed from the paved path to picnic shelter to improve accessibility	<i>Refer to Upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan</i>	TBD
Request for addition of loading zones	<i>Refer to Upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan</i>	TBD
Request for no cannabis, vaping in park	Port Moody Smoking Regulation Bylaw (No. 2773) bans smoking in any City parks, sport venues, playgrounds or beaches.	No Action
Promote park user turnover with nearby parking time restrictions (ex. 4 hour limit)	<i>Refer to Upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan</i>	TBD
Add bike racks to the park near the water fountain	Short term bike rack improvement is under review by staff. <i>Refer overall bike parking strategy to Upcoming Old Orchard Park Master Plan</i>	TBD
Reinstate shuttle bus service to key areas from parking lots to help reduce traffic at parks, consider partnership with SD43 to access parking lots.	The Shoreline Shuttle was piloted in 2018 to circulate between several popular stops on Friday evenings and weekends. In 2019, the pilot service was scaled back to run the shuttle during three key events. The service was cancelled for 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and will be reviewed as events related budgets are reconsidered for 2022.	Ongoing

Increased garbage pick-up from parks in summer months to reduce bear attractants	Garbage pick-up at busy City parks such as Old Orchard and Rocky Point is completed multiple times per day to try to keep up with the rate of waste generation. Waste receptacle levels are monitored throughout the day by staff and pick-up is adjusted to suit.	Complete
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Alderside Road/General Traffic Concerns:

Request:	Recommended/Implemented Action:	Status
Removal or adjustment of Slow Zone barricades on Bentley Slip	Barricades adjusted in 2020 and modified again for 2021 Slow Zone	Complete
Designate safe pedestrian walkway along Bentley Slip adjacent to Old Orchard Hall	Temporary walkway implemented. Permanent sidewalk connection included in Shoreline Sewer/Trail rehabilitation project (2022 Construction)	Underway
Improvements to stop sign compliance at rail crossing at Old Orchard Hall	Stop signs replaced for improved conspicuity, further improvements to signage/visibility being considered as part of Shoreline Sewer/Trail rehabilitation project (2022 Construction)	Improved/Underway
Request for residential parking permits on streets impacted by Old Orchard Park	<i>Refer to future Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative</i>	TBD
Pedestrian improvements or sidewalk/marked path along Alderside Slip (800 Block connector road) due to vertical curves and sightlines	“Vision limited, watch for pedestrians” signage and stop bar repainting added to 2021 plans. <i>Refer missing sidewalk to future Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative</i>	Improved/TBD
Repair to barricades/landscaping at northeast corner of Alderside Slip/Alderside that has been damaged by turning vehicles	New W-Beam steel railing installed	Complete
Pavement on Alderside Slip is in poor condition	To be considered as part of Local Road Paving program prioritized annually to meet approved funding levels City-wide on an annual basis.	Ongoing
Request for crosswalk across loco Road at Alderside Slip/Benson Drive	<i>Refer to future Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative</i>	TBD
Concerns with potential for conflicts due to high pedestrian and cyclist volumes combined with two-directional motor vehicles and parking compliance issues.	<i>Refer to future Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative</i>	TBD

Generally, concerns have centred around traffic and parking issues related to increased park and outdoor recreational use (cycling, walking, running, etc.) in the area and demand for improved accessibility for pedestrians and park users. As noted above, many of the concerns have been addressed on an interim basis or permanently. The remaining issues require further planning, coordination, budgeting, and, in many cases, studies to confirm the best approach to addressing the issues.

An Old Orchard Park Master Plan project is included in the City's approved 2021 Capital Plan. It is recommended that the outstanding Old Orchard Park-related issues be referred to this project for consideration.

Alderside Road underwent a traffic calming initiative under the City's *Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy (11-5460-02)* in 2006, but the final recommendation (two speed humps) did not receive sufficient neighbourhood support (2/3 of survey respondents) for installation under the policy. Since that time, local perceptions on traffic safety, active transportation, and street use priorities have changed. As traffic concerns continue to be received on Alderside Road, and as the road provides a key pedestrian and cycling connection for the loco/Pleasantside neighbourhoods, Alderside Road has been included on the City's Traffic Calming Initiative Candidates list (**Attachment 1**).

Per the City's current approach to traffic calming, approved by Council on February 9, 2021, these traffic calming initiatives are to be completed at a rate of about one per year (based on currently available resources) as prioritized by the Transportation Committee considering preliminary screening criteria outlined in the City's *Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy*. When the Alderside Road traffic road traffic calming initiative proceeds in the future, it is recommended that the items in the related items in the table above be considered as part of the traffic calming study.

### Other Option(s)

THAT the report dated May 7, 2021 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Infrastructure Engineering Services Division regarding Alderside and Old Orchard Park – Requests for Traffic and Accessibility Improvements be received for information.

### Financial Implications

The Old Orchard Park Master Plan is included in the approved 2021 Capital Plan with a budget of \$86,300. Approval of a budget for an Alderside Road Traffic Calming Initiative will be requested as part of future capital plans as priorities and timelines are confirmed.

It is anticipated that both of the above projects will identify future improvement projects which will require allocation of budget and staff resources for implementation.

### Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

This report serves to summarize feedback received from area residents. As the referenced projects are initiated, communication plans will be developed to suit.

## Council Strategic Plan Objectives

This initiative aligns with Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities of Exceptional Service, Healthy City, and Community Evolution. Council identified the Old Orchard Park Master Plan project as a Priority 2 Strategic Plan Project.

## Attachment(s)

1. Traffic Calming Initiative Candidate List – Updated to November 10, 2021.

## Report Author

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General Manager of Engineering and Operations

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Alderside Road and Old Orchard Park - Requests for Traffic and Accessibility Improvements.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Traffic Calming Initiative Candidate List - Updated to November 10, 2021.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jul 6, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jul 4, 2021 - 3:57 PM

Theresa Cochran, General Manager of Community Services - Jul 4, 2021 - 8:47 PM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jul 5, 2021 - 4:50 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jul 6, 2021 - 8:51 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jul 6, 2021 - 11:30 AM