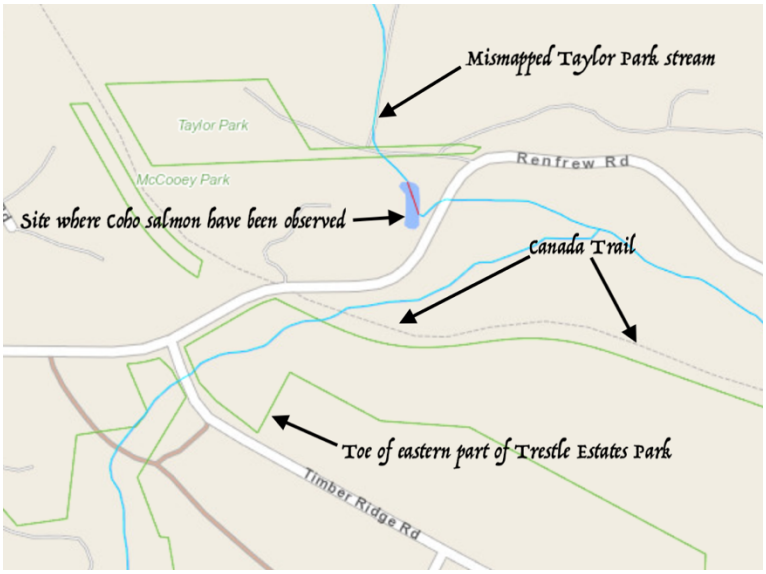
Dear Directors, February 26, 2022

Regarding: Plans for Taylor Park

In a Board meeting of February 24, 2022, Mr Farquhar, Manager of the CVRD Parks and Trails, stated that there are no wetlands identified in Taylor Park as determined by a preliminary environmental consultation. I would suggest that Mr Farquhar should not have bothered with a consultant and simply walked the park himself; then, he would have clearly seen the stream that meanders back and forth within the lower two-thirds of Taylor Park – see adjacent photograph.

Further, Taylor Park can be accessed from Renfrew Road via a 10-metre wide and 200-metre long panhandle that lies immediately adjacent to a wetland that is continuous with the wetland through which the wandering stream of Taylor Park runs. Indeed, most of this access has been built on the wetland.

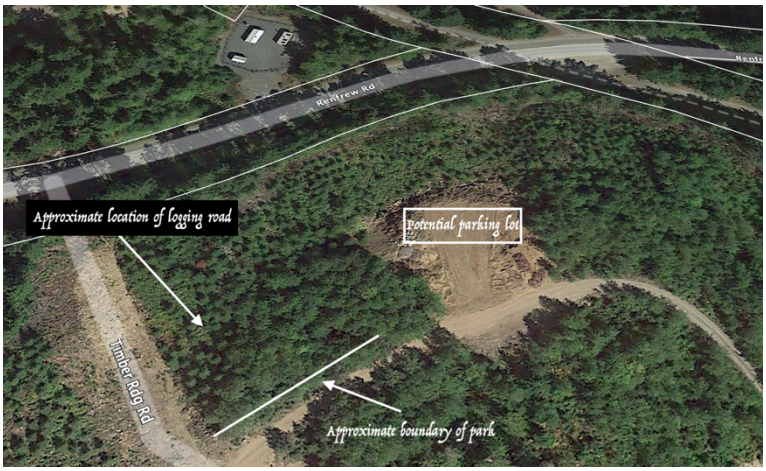
The Taylor Park meandering stream empties into a wetland and pond adjacent to Renfrew Road – see adjacent figure taken from iMapBC. Note the path of Taylor Park stream is shown incorrectly on iMapBC –it meanders through the bottom two-thirds of the park and does not cross the panhandle as shown on the map. After emptying into a pond the creek enters a culvert under the Renfrew Road and ultimately joins the West Arm Creek that empties into Shawnigan Lake. This area of Renfrew Road was washed out last fall with the heavy rains and at that time many Coho salmon were noted to be in the adjacent wetland. It is very possible that the Coho have spawned in the Taylor Park stream. The Taylor Park stream is classified as fish-bearing, whether or not fish are present in the stream, since the stream ultimately enters fish-bearing waters. The Shawnigan Basin Society will investigate later in the spring to determine whether there are Coho fry in the Park's stream.



Vehicle Tires Release A Toxin: As mentioned above, the lower two-thirds of Taylor Park is riparian in nature. In this age when there is so much attention paid to restoring salmon habitat it would be unthinkable to destroy a wetland to build a parking lot. The upper one-third of the Park is at a somewhat higher elevation with only a few gullies that carry water into the lower riparian area. It is possible that the CVRD considers turning this upper part into a parking lot; however, this too has a number of problems. Firstly, building a proper road in the panhandle necessitates a major disturbance of the adjacent wetland. The second problem is the chemical 6PPD added to tires as an anti-oxidant is released from tires and converted to the toxin 6PPD-quinone. A recent study in Washington State has shown that 6PPD-quinone was responsible for the killing of Coho salmon in Puget Sound urban streams[1]. A large 100-vehicle parking lot in the upper one-third part of the Park with a 330 metre-long road going to the parking lot would release enough toxic 6PPD to have a negative impact on Coho salmon in the West Arm Creek watershed. It should be noted that the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society volunteers spend thousands of hours each year in stocking the Shawnigan Creek watershed with Coho salmon and it would be sad to think that the CVRD Parks' decisions would have a negative impact on this very successful Coho salmon program.

Possible Parking Solution: According to CVRD Parks, the parking available off Renfrew Road for people wishing to visit the Kinsoll Trestle is inadequate. Is there a better site for building a parking lot for such visitors? The Shawnigan Basin Society recently organized a tour of the nearby Trestle Estates Park to determine if there might be suitable land for a parking lot there.

The toe of the eastern part of this park (see previous figure) might make a suitable parking lot. A Google Earth image of the toe of the eastern part of Trestle Estates is shown to the right. The toe is at two elevations: the northern third is at a lower elevation (~144 m above sea level) and has a stream running through it as can be seen on the map in the previous page. This stream joins the Taylor Park stream to form the West Arm Creek. The southern part of the toe is at an elevation of ~155 m above sea level with a steep bank separating the two components.



Coming off Timber Ridge Road there is an old road, possibly originally a logging road, going into the southern part of the toe that leads to a large relatively flat cleared area. This road could be readily expanded to allow two-way traffic and the large clear area could easily be turned into a parking lot. To prevent 6PPD released from tires to enter the stream on the lower northern third of the toe, one should have a berm around the eastern, northern and western part of the parking lot to ensure that water from the parking lot does not flow over the slope to enter the stream.

[1] Tian *et al.* 2021. A ubiquitous tire rubber-derived chemical induces acute mortality in coho salmon. *Science* **371 (6525):** 185-189.

Furthermore, a rock-filled water collection pit should be built in the centre of the parking lot to receive water from the parking lot. Micro-organisms in this collection basin could then metabolize the 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone compounds to innocuous compounds.
If a parking lot is built in the toe of the eastern part of Trestle Estates Park, then a walking path could be built along Timberidge Road and Renfrew Road to the nearby Canada Trail and, possibly, a staircase down the steep slope to the Canada Trail. The current Kinsoll Trestle parking lot could then be restricted for those with locomotory disabilities.

If any Director wishes to visit both sites, I would be pleased to offer a tour.

Sincerely,

Bernhard H.J. Juurlink
Mill Bay, BC

P.S. A number of people at the CVRD have stated that the 5-acre park was donated to the CVRD as a community-amendment requirement of subdivision. This is incorrect. Only 1.17 acres of Taylor Park was donated as a community amenity requirement of subdivision, the remaining 3.83 acres was a pure gift.