METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

May 13, 2020
9:00 AM
28th Floor Board Room, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 May 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda
That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for May 13, 2020, as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 April 1, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held April 1, 2020, as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence Agreement

Designated Speaker:
Doug Petersen, Division Manager, East Area, Regional Parks

That the MVRD Board:

a) approve the Tynehead Regional Park Licence of Use Agreement ("Licence Agreement") between the Metro Vancouver Regional District ("Metro Vancouver") and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a 12-year term, commencing August 1, 2020; and

b) authorize the Director, Properties on behalf of Metro Vancouver, to enter into, execute and deliver the Licence Agreement as contemplated in Recommendation a) substantially upon the terms and conditions set out in the Licence Agreement included as an Attachment to the report dated April 23, 2020, titled “Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence of Use Agreement”.

1 Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.
April 28, 2020
Regional Parks Committee
5.2 Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report  
*Designated Speaker:*  
*Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning & Resource Management, Regional Parks*  
That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated April 7, 2020, titled “Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report”.

5.3 Manager’s Report – Regional Parks  
*Designated Speaker:*  
*Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks*  
That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated May 6, 2020, titled “Manager’s Report – Regional Parks”.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING  
*Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.*

That the Regional Parks Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for May 13, 2020, pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (e) as follows:

“90 (1) A part of the meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board or committee considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district; and

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district.”

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION  
That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of May 13, 2020.

Membership:

McEwen, John (C) - Anmore
Wiebe, Michael (VC) - Vancouver
Belenkie, Neil - Belcarra
Calendino, Pietro - Burnaby
Dilworth, Diana - Port Moody
Guerra, Laurie - Surrey
Harvie, George - Delta
Hodge, Craig - Coquitlam
Miyashita, Tracy - Pitt Meadows
Muri, Lisa - North Vancouver District
Nicholson, Maureen - Bowen Island
Penner, Darrell - Port Coquitlam
Richter, Kim - Langley Township
Soprovich, Bill - West Vancouver
Trentadue, Mary - New Westminster

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METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE  

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Regional Parks Committee held at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 in the 28th Floor Committee Room, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Chair, Mayor John McEwen, Anmore  
Vice Chair, Councillor Michael Wiebe, Vancouver*  
Mayor Neil Belenkie, Belcarra*  
Councillor Pietro Calendino, Burnaby*  
Councillor Diana Dilworth, Port Moody*  
Councillor Laurie Guerra, Surrey*  
Mayor George Harvie, Delta*  
Councillor Craig Hodge, Coquitlam*  
Councillor Tracy Miyashita, Pitt Meadows*  
Councillor Lisa Muri, North Vancouver District*  
Councillor Maureen Nicholson, Bowen Island*  
Councillor Darrell Penner, Port Coquitlam*  
Councillor Kim Richter, Langley Township*  
Councillor Bill Soprovich, West Vancouver  
Councillor Mary Trentadue, New Westminster*  

MEMBERS ABSENT:  
None.  

STAFF PRESENT:  
Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment  
Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer  
Genevieve Lanz, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services  

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA  

1.1 April 1, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda  

It was MOVED and SECONDED  
That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020, as circulated.  

CARRIED  

*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by Section 3.6.2 of the Procedure Bylaw
2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 March 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held March 11, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS
No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS
No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy
Report dated February 24, 2020 from David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment, seeking endorsement of the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy, providing strategic direction for delivering public programs within regional parks.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy, highlighting visitor diversity and statistics and accessibility barriers, incentivizing educational institution participation, and developing dialogic interpretation and school programming.

Members commented on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on public programing service delivery, regional parks marketing, and visitation management.

Presentation material titled “Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy” is retained with the April 1, 2020 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the MVRD Board:
a) endorse the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy as presented in the report dated February 24, 2020, titled “Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy”; and
b) direct staff to include the financial implications associated with advancing the Strategy in the annual budget process.

CARRIED
5.2 **Forest Health Aerial Survey of Regional Parks**
Markus Merkens, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment, provided members with a presentation on the Forest Health Aerial Survey project, highlighting forest health and condition assessment, data collection and severity rating, and common forest diseases monitoring.

Presentation material titled “Forest Health Aerial Survey of Regional Parks – Results 2019” is retained with the April 1, 2020 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

5.3 **Status of Regional Parks Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2019**
Report dated March 6, 2020 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment, providing information on the financial performance of the Regional Parks capital program for the year ending December 31, 2019.

*It was MOVED and SECONDED*
That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 28, 2020, titled “Status of Regional Parks Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2019”.

*CARRIED*
Councillor Hodge absent at the vote.

5.4 **Manager’s Report – Regional Parks**
Report dated March 25, 2020 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment, providing members with an update on the Regional Parks Committee 2020 Work Plan, regional parks events, and an update on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response.

Members commented on the challenges associated with maintaining physical distancing in regional and municipal parks, and potential closures and resident-only restrictions.

In response to questions, members were informed of increased visitation at regional parks compared to previous years’ metrics.

**Request of Staff**
Staff was requested to provide members with the March 2020 regional park visitation statistics.

*It was MOVED and SECONDED*
That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated March 25, 2020, titled “Manager’s Report – Regional Parks”.

*CARRIED*

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
No items presented.
7. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   No items presented.

8. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS**
   No items presented.

9. **RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

   **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
   That the Regional Parks Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020, pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (e) and (i) as follows:
   “90 (1) A part of the meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
   (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board or committee considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district; and
   (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.”

   **CARRIED**

10. **ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

   **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
   That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its regular meeting of April 1, 2020.

   **CARRIED**

   (Time: 10:49 a.m.)

____________________________   ____________________________
Genevieve Lanz,      John McEwen, Chair
Legislative Services Coordinator
To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Doug Petersen, Division Manager, East Area, Regional Parks

Date: April 23, 2020     Meeting Date: May 13, 2020

Subject: Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence of Use Agreement

RECOMMENDATION
That the MVRD Board:

a) approve the Tynehead Regional Park Licence of Use Agreement (“Licence Agreement”) between the Metro Vancouver Regional District (“Metro Vancouver”) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a 12-year term, commencing August 1, 2020; and

b) authorize the Director, Properties on behalf of Metro Vancouver, to enter into, execute and deliver the Licence Agreement as contemplated in Recommendation a) substantially upon the terms and conditions set out in the Licence Agreement included as an Attachment to the report dated April 23, 2020, titled “Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence of Use Agreement”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is interested in funding forest ecosystem restoration within Tynehead Regional Park as habitat compensation for one of their infrastructure projects and requires a licence agreement in order to implement. If approved, the Licence Agreement will allow MOTI to improve the ecological condition of 4.94 hectares of regional parkland by removing invasive plants and restoring with native vegetation. The agreement would be in place from August 1, 2020 until July 31, 2032, allowing two years for preparation and installation, and ten years of monitoring and maintenance.

The Metro Vancouver Regional District (“Metro Vancouver”) has been restoring ecologically compromised areas at Tynehead Regional Park for many years and this opportunity would expeditiously advance its goals. Metro Vancouver staff recommends that the MVRD Board approve the Licence Agreement.

PURPOSE
To seek MVRD Board approval for the Licence Agreement between the Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to complete a forest restoration project within Tynehead Regional Park (Attachment).

BACKGROUND
MOTI approached Metro Vancouver about the potential to compensate for habitat loss associated with a parking facility being constructed in the City of Surrey’s north area. The parking facility, located south of the Fraser River on the north side of Highway 17, east of the Port Mann Bridge will adversely affect up to 5.17 hectares of terrestrial habitat. A small portion can be off-set within the MOTI right of way on-site. Tynehead Regional Park was identified as a potential compensation site for the remaining 4.94 hectares.
At its September 18, 2019 meeting, the Regional Parks Committee received for information a report titled “Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Proposal for Forest Restoration” detailing a proposal from MOTI regarding a potential forest restoration project within Tynehead Regional Park (Reference). This report advised the committee that staff would work with MOTI to investigate the feasibility of the project, and if found to be of interest to both parties, a licence agreement would be drafted and brought back to the MVRD Board for consideration and approval.

The forest restoration sites being considered by Metro Vancouver are all ecologically compromised by past land use. Most areas were large lot rural residences with some agricultural use. The selected areas contain heavy infestations of Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Japanese hops and other non-native invasive species. The removal of these invasive species and replacement with native forest species, followed by long-term monitoring and maintenance, will improve the ecological health of the regional park.

**LICENCE AGREEMENT**

The Licence Agreement (Attachment) allows MOTI to restore 4.94 hectares of forest within Tynehead Regional Park. The scope of work includes the following:

- Removal of non-native invasive plant species and site preparation;
- Planting of 17,823 native plant species (3,465 trees, 14,358 shrubs) to develop into the desired native forest community (within two years); and,
- Monitor and maintain the restored area for ten years.

The Licence Agreement can be terminated by Metro Vancouver at any time if this agreement is breached and the breach continues 30 days after giving notice in writing to the Licensee.

**TERM AND LICENCE FEE**

The term of the Licence Agreement is from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2032. The MOTI agrees to perform all of its obligations in the Licence Agreement as amenities for the benefit of the regional park and general public and Metro Vancouver agrees to accept such obligations as full compensation for the licence fee.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the MVRD Board:
   a) approve the Tynehead Regional Park Licence of Use Agreement (“Licence Agreement”) between the Metro Vancouver Regional District (“Metro Vancouver”) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a 12-year term, commencing August 1, 2020; and
   b) authorize the Director, Properties on behalf of Metro Vancouver, to enter into, execute and deliver the Licence Agreement as contemplated in Recommendation a) substantially upon the terms and conditions set out in the Licence Agreeement included as an Attachment to the report dated April 23, 2020, titled “Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence of Use Agreement”.

Regional Parks Committee
2. That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated April 23, 2020, titled “Tynehead Regional Park - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Licence of Use Agreement” and provide alternative direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
If the MVRD Board approves Alternative 1, external funding for ecosystem restoration within Tynehead Regional Park would be available. Staff time will need to be assigned to the process and implementation of the work; these costs are covered within existing Metro Vancouver budgets.

If Alternative 1 is not approved, Metro Vancouver will not have use of external funds to expedite ecosystem restoration at Tynehead Regional Park. Ecosystem restoration will continue at Tynehead Regional Park but at a slower pace.

CONCLUSION
The MOTI is interested in funding forest ecosystem restoration within Tynehead Regional Park as habitat compensation for one of their infrastructure projects and requires the contemplated Licence Agreement in order to implement. Metro Vancouver staff have reviewed the proposed compensation project which will improve the ecological condition of 4.94 hectares of regional parkland. Removal of invasive species and restoration of a vegetation community composed of native species will be of benefit to the park.

Metro Vancouver has been restoring ecologically compromised areas at Tynehead Regional Park for many years and this opportunity would advance its goals. The Licence Agreement and will allow the MOTI to implement the restoration plan as well as conduct monitoring and maintenance over the term of the agreement.

Alternative 1 is being recommended.

Attachment
Licence of Use Agreement between Metro Vancouver Regional District and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia

37303138
LICENCE OF USE AGREEMENT


BETWEEN: METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
4730 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6
("Metro Vancouver")

AND: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, as
represented by the Minister responsible for the Transportation Act
310-1500 Woolridge Street
Coquitlam, BC, V3K 0B8
(the "Licensee")

WHEREAS:

A. Metro Vancouver owns and operates Tynehead Regional Park which comprises several parcels
within the City of Surrey. One such parcel of Tynehead Regional Park, legally described as:

Lot 1, Sections 6 and 31, Townships 8 and 9 New Westminster District Plan BCP51988
Parcel Identification Number: 029-063-817

(the “Park Lands”)

is the subject of this Agreement;

B. The Licensee will be constructing certain improvements for the North Surrey Truck Parking
Project (the “Parking Improvements”). As part of its Parking Improvements project, the
Licensee will provide certain habitat enhancement works to the Park Lands, typically referred
to as the Habitat Enhancement Project (the “Project”);

C. The Licensee has therefore requested and Metro Vancouver has agreed to grant a non-
exclusive licence to a portion of the Park Lands encompassing an area of approximately 4.94
hectares, hatched in black (the “Restoration Area”) and an additional area of 0.70 hectares
hatched in blue (the “Staging Areas”, and together with the Restoration Area, the “Licence
Area”) as shown on the “Licence Area Plan” attached hereto as Schedule “A”, for the Project
purposes, subject to the terms and conditions contained within this Agreement; and

D. The Licensee has therefore also requested and Metro Vancouver has agreed to grant a non-
exclusive access license to a portion of the Park Lands shown in red on the “Licence Area Plan” attached hereto as Schedule “A” and (labeled “Access Area”) for access to the Licence Area for the Project purposes, subject to the terms and conditions contained within this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSES that in consideration of the premises and covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement, Metro Vancouver and the Licensee covenant and agree with each other as follows:

1.0 GRANT OF LICENCE OF USE

1.1 Subject to section 2.1, Metro Vancouver hereby grants to the Licensee and its agents, employees, contractors and invitees (collectively, the “Licensee’s Personnel”) a non-exclusive licence to use the Licence Area for the following uses:

(a) to enter, access, pass and repass along, over and upon the Licence Area with or without materials, machinery, supplies and equipment;

(b) to undertake, perform and complete all work within the Licence Area required to construct and implement the restoration plan associated with the Project as illustrated on Schedule “B” – Tynehead Regional Park Restoration Plan (the “Restoration Plan”), including but not limited to the following activities:

(i) staking out and measuring the extent and location of the Licence Area;

(ii) cutting invasive climbing vines;

(iii) clearing and grubbing invasive plant species;

(iv) hauling roots and shoots of invasive plant species off-site for proper disposal;

(v) evaluating the quality of soils following excavation in accordance with the Restoration Plan;

(vi) covering and preparing bare soil for winter by covering with wood chip mulch;

(vii) placing course woody debris throughout the site in accordance with the Restoration Plan;

(viii) planting vegetation in accordance with the Restoration Plan;

(ix) placing additional mulch around newly planted material;

(x) broadcasting native seed mix on any remaining bare soil areas; and

(xi) all other activities as may be necessary to construct and implement the Restoration Plan.
(collectively, the “Habitat Enhancement Works”);

(c) to maintain the Habitat Enhancement Works for the Term (as defined herein) and any Continuing Licence Period (as defined herein), as the case may be, after completion of the Project with the following programs, including but not limited to:

(i) watering as necessary;

(ii) maintaining a 30 cm radius weed-free zone around each container-stock plant to reduce below ground completion for water and nutrients;

(iii) replacing mulch as needed; and

(iv) replacing dead stock (trees and shrubs) to restore or maintain 100% survival for the first year, and greater than 80% survival of trees in year two (2) through year ten (10), factoring in any natural recruitment that may occur to achieve the target tree density.

(d) to create as-built drawings and record the conditions of the restored area upon completion of the Habitat Enhancement Works, serving as a point of comparison for subsequent performance monitoring;

(e) to conduct the following monitoring activities:

(i) evaluating vegetation survival, density and/or cover, health and vigor;

(ii) recording observations of incidental wildlife use; and

(iii) evaluating invasive plant cover to ensure there is no increase or a decreasing trend over the monitoring period (subparagraphs (c) through (e) collectively are hereinafter referred to as the “Maintenance and Monitor Works”).

1.2 Subject to section 2.1, Metro Vancouver hereby grants to the Licensee and the Licensee’s Personnel a non-exclusive licence to use the Access Area to enter, access, pass and repass along, over and upon the Access Area with or without materials, machinery, supplies and equipment and for no other purpose.

2.0 RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

2.1 Metro Vancouver hereby reserves to itself the right for Metro Vancouver, its agents, employees, contractors and subcontractors (collectively, “Metro Vancouver’s Personnel”) to have full and complete access to the Licence Area to carry out any operations associated with Metro Vancouver's use of the Licence Area, provided that Metro Vancouver will and will cause all Metro Vancouver’s Personnel to follow any reasonable instructions of the Licensee or the Licensee’s Personnel with respect to Project-related health, safety, and security matters within the Licence Area and shall take no actions to hinder, impede, or render ineffective any
Habitat Enhancement Works or Maintenance and Monitor Works undertaken by the Licensee.

3.0 LICENSEE’S COVENANTS

3.1 The Licensee covenants not to construct or place any buildings or structures or make any improvements on the Licence Area, except as expressly permitted under this Agreement.

3.2 The Licensee covenants that it will cause a member of the Licensee’s Personnel to be the “Prime Contractor” for purposes of the *Workers Compensation Act* (British Columbia) for all Habitat Enhancement Works conducted in connection with its use of the Licence Area and to be solely responsible for the coordination of health and safety activities related thereto.

3.3 The Licensee covenants that it will cause the Licensee’s Personnel to be qualified and trained to undertake the Habitat Enhancement Works and Maintenance and Monitor Works, including but not limited to meeting all requirements of WorkSafeBC.

3.4 The Licensee covenants that it will cause the Licensee’s Personnel to use all appropriate personal protective equipment, and have regular documented safety meetings and discussions with Metro Vancouver park staff regarding public safety.

3.5 The Licensee covenants that it will cause the Licensee’s Personnel to meet and review with Metro Vancouver vehicle access and movement within the Park Lands prior to commencing the Habitat Enhancement Works and prior to commencing the Maintenance and Monitor Works.

3.6 The Licensee covenants that it will cause the Licensee’s Personnel to meet and review with Metro Vancouver park staff to confirm all defined worksites, public messaging and signage prior to commencing the Habitat Enhancement Works and prior to commencing the Maintenance and Monitor Works.

4.0 CONSIDERATION

4.1 The Parties agree that the Licensee’s performance of its obligations under this Agreement will provide amenities for the benefit of Metro Vancouver, the Park Lands and the general public, and Metro Vancouver agrees to accept such obligations as contemplated herein as full consideration for the rights granted to the Licensee herein.

5.0 TERM

5.1 The term of this Agreement (the “Term”) shall be from August 1, 2020 (the “Commencement Date”) to July 31, 2032 (the “Expiry Date”), unless earlier terminated under this Agreement.

5.2 The Habitat Enhancement Works must be performed during the period beginning on the Commencement Date and ending on October 1, 2022.
5.3 The Maintenance and Monitor Works must be performed during the period beginning on the October 2, 2022 and ending on the Expiry Date.

6.0 CONTINUATION OF LICENCE

6.1 If after the expiration of the Term, the Licensee continues to exercise the Licence without objection by Metro Vancouver and without any written agreement providing otherwise, then the Licensee shall be deemed to be a licensee from month to month and subject to the provisions of this Licence in so far as its provisions are applicable (the “Continuing Licence Period”).

6.2 It shall be lawful for Metro Vancouver to cancel the Continuing Licence Period by delivering to the Licensee notice to that effect, and upon delivery of such notice to the Licensee the Continuing Licence Period shall cease on the date that is 30 calendar days following the delivery of the notice without prejudice to any rights of Metro Vancouver under this Licence that accrued before the cancellation.

7.0 TAXES

7.1 Should the Licence Area become taxable as a result of the Licensee’s occupation or use of the Licence Area under this Agreement, the Licensee shall pay all applicable taxes, rates, duties and assessments whatsoever, whether federal, provincial, municipal in nature or otherwise with respect to the Licence Area only, charged upon the Licensee or Metro Vancouver as a result of the Licensee’s occupation or use of the Licence Area under this Agreement.

7.2 The Licensee shall submit confirmation of payment of such taxes no later than July 1st of each year notwithstanding the termination or expiry of this Agreement prior to the end of the period for which such annual property taxes are calculated. Failure to do so will be considered a breach of this Agreement.

8.0 INSURANCE

8.1 The Licensee will self-insure all of its obligations under this Agreement.

9.0 INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE

9.1 The Licensee will save harmless and indemnify Metro Vancouver and their directors, officers, employees, agents and other representatives including Metro Vancouver’s Personnel (collectively, the “Indemnified Parties”) from and against all actions, claims, demands, proceedings, suits, losses, damages, costs and expenses of any kind or nature (including but not limiting the generality of the foregoing, in respect of death, injury, loss or damage to any person or property) arising from the breach of this Agreement by the Licensee, its employees and agents or arising in any way out of or connected with the use of the Licence Area by the Licensee’s Personnel under this Agreement, except to the proportionate extent that such actions, claims, demands, proceedings, suits, losses, damages, costs and expenses were caused by the Indemnified Parties or any of them.
9.2 The Licensee will release and discharge Metro Vancouver and their directors, officers, employees, agents and other representatives including Metro Vancouver’s Personnel (collectively, the “Released Parties”) from and against all actions, claims, demands, proceedings, suits, losses, damages, costs and expenses, of any kind or nature (including but not limiting the generality of the foregoing, in respect of death, injury, loss or damage to any person or property) which the Licensee might have in any manner contributed to arising in any way out of or connected with the use of the Licence Area by the Licensee or the Licensee’s Personnel under this Agreement except to the proportionate extent that such actions, claims, demands, proceedings, suits, losses, damages, costs and expenses were caused by the Released Parties or any of them.

9.3 This article 9 will survive the termination or expiry of this Agreement.

10.0 BUILDERS LIENS

10.1 If any claim of lien over the Licence Area is made under the Builders Lien Act, upon notification of the lien, the Licensee will take, or cause to be taken, all steps necessary to have the lien discharged.

11.0 ASSIGNMENT AND SUB-LICENSING

11.1 The Licensee shall not assign or sub-license any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of Metro Vancouver.

12.0 TERMINATION

12.1 If the Licensee is in default on the payment of any sum payable under this Agreement, or is in breach of this Agreement, and if the default continues 30 days after giving notice in writing by Metro Vancouver to the Licensee, then Metro Vancouver may terminate this Agreement and the rights of the Licensee with respect to the Licence Area shall immediately lapse and be absolutely forfeited, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, acting reasonably.

13.0 NO WAIVER OF BREACH

13.1 By neglecting to enforce its right to forfeiture under this Agreement or its rights upon breach of this Agreement, Metro Vancouver does not waive any of its rights under this Agreement nor for any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision of this Agreement.

14.0 CLEAN UP AND RESTORE THE LICENCE AREA

14.1 Except as specifically permitted in the Restoration Plan, upon completion of the Habitat Enhancement Works, the Licensee shall clean up and restore the Licence Area, in accordance with the Restoration Plan, to the reasonable satisfaction of Metro Vancouver and in compliance with section 1.1(c).
15.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

15.1 The Licensee, in exercising its rights under this Agreement shall at all times comply with all applicable provincial requirements under the *Heritage Conservation Act, RSBC 1996 c. 187.*

16.0 TREE CUTTINGS, EXCAVATIONS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

16.1 Except for tree and invasive plant cutting that is permitted under section 1.1 in accordance with the Restoration Plan, the Licensee will not carry on or allow to be carried on or done on the remainder of the Licence Area any cutting, clearing or removal of trees, bushes or other vegetation or growth or any excavation or disturbance of the surface of the Licence Area without the written consent of Metro Vancouver. The Licensee will be responsible to obtain any approval and applicable permits required under this section and will provide evidence of it to Metro Vancouver upon Metro Vancouver’s request.

16.2 Except as specifically permitted under this Agreement, the Licensee will not, in exercising its rights under this Agreement, place, store, use, manufacture, install, bring upon, create or release any Hazardous Substances (as defined herein) in, on or from the Park Lands or permit any of the same. In the event that any Hazardous Substances are installed, brought upon, created within or released from the Park Lands by or on behalf of the Licensee in exercising its rights under this Agreement, the Licensee will:

(a) notify Metro Vancouver immediately or as soon as practicable;

(b) undertake the removal of the Hazardous Substances (as defined herein) within twenty-four (24) hours of Metro Vancouver’s written demand.

“Hazardous Substances” means all explosives, radioactive materials, pollutants, contaminants, hazardous or toxic substances, special waste, or other waste, the storage, use, manufacture, or release of which into the environment is prohibited, controlled or regulated under any Environmental Laws.

“Environmental Laws” means any laws, regulations, orders, bylaws, permits or lawful requirement of any government authority having jurisdiction over the Licence Area in respect of the protection of the natural environment, or of plant, animal or human health, or in respect of the regulation and use of such wastes and substances.

16.3 If during the Term, Metro Vancouver reasonably believes that the Licensee, in exercising its rights under this Agreement, or any person authorized by the Licensee to be on the Park Lands under this Agreement has:

(a) placed, stored, used, manufactured, installed, brought upon, created or released any Hazardous Substances in, on or from the Park Lands or permitted any of the same, or

(b) has otherwise caused any contamination or damage to the Park Lands,
that could subject Metro Vancouver to liability under any Environmental Laws, if requested, the Licensee will, at its sole expense, cause environmental site assessments (or such other environmental testing as may be reasonably required by Metro Vancouver) of the Licence Area to be conducted by a qualified independent assessor within thirty (30) days of and will cause copies of such assessments to be delivered to Metro Vancouver as soon as they are available. Should the Licensee fail to complete an environmental site assessment as requested under this provision, Metro Vancouver may cause an environmental site assessment to be conducted.

Without limiting any of its other obligations under this Agreement, the Licensee will be solely responsible for any environmental contamination or damage to the Park Lands identified in any environmental site assessment or otherwise as having been caused or contributed to by the Licensee in exercising its rights under this Agreement, or any person authorized by the Licensee to be on the Park Lands under this Agreement, and will pay, at its sole expense, for any remediation costs or other fees, expenses or penalties related thereto. The Licensee will indemnify and save harmless Metro Vancouver, its elected officials, officers, agents, successors and assigns and Metro Vancouver's Personnel from and against any and all actions, causes of action, suits, proceedings, costs and expenses of whatever kind, for any loss, damage, injury or death to any person or persons or any public or private property, arising out of any environmental contamination or damage to the Park Lands caused by the Licensee or any person authorized by the Licensee to be on the Park Lands.

This section 16.3 will survive the termination or expiry of this Agreement.

17.0 REPAIRS BY METRO VANCOUVER

17.1 If the Licensee fails to repair, maintain or restore the Licence Area in accordance with this Agreement, and such failure continues for thirty (30) days after Metro Vancouver has notified the Licensee of such failure, Metro Vancouver’s Personnel may enter the Licence Area and make the required repairs, maintenance or restoration and the cost of the repairs, maintenance or restoration shall be a debt due from the Licensee to Metro Vancouver.

17.2 In making the repairs, maintenance or restoration, Metro Vancouver may bring and leave upon the Licence Area the necessary materials, tools and equipment and Metro Vancouver shall not be liable to the Licensee for any inconvenience, annoyance, loss of business or other injuries suffered by the Licensee by reason of Metro Vancouver effecting the repairs, maintenance and restoration.

18.0 REGULATIONS

18.1 The Licensee will, in exercising its rights under this Agreement, comply promptly at its own expense with the legal requirements of all authorities, including an association of fire insurance underwriters or agents, and all notices issued by such authorities that are served upon Metro Vancouver or the Licensee.
19.0 NO COMPENSATION

19.1 The Licensee shall not be entitled to compensation for any loss or injurious affection or disturbance resulting in any way from either the termination of the Licence, or the loss of the Licensee’s interest on the Licence Area, provided that such termination or loss is carried out or suffered in accordance with this Agreement.

20.0 NOTICES

20.1 It is hereby mutually agreed:

Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be deemed to be sufficiently given:

(a) if mailed from any government post office in the Province of British Columbia by prepaid registered mail addressed as follows:

(i) if to Metro Vancouver:
4730 Kingsway – 26th Floor
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6
Attention: Director, Properties
e-mail: propertydivision@metrovancouver.org

(ii) if to the Licensee:
Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia
310-1500 Woolridge Street
Coquitlam, BC, V3K 0B8
Attention: James Loewen
e-mail: James.loewen@gov.bc.ca

or at the address a party may from time to time designate by written notice to the other party.

The notice shall be deemed to have been received five days after the time and date of mailing.

(b) if e-mailed or sent by facsimile, when acknowledgement is received from Metro Vancouver or the Licensee.

21.0 MISCELLANEOUS

21.1 Where written consent is required under this Agreement by Metro Vancouver, such written consent can be provided by Metro Vancouver Director, Properties or their designate unless otherwise stated in this Agreement.

21.2 This Agreement shall not be interpreted as granting any interest in the Park Lands or the Licence Area to the Licensee.
21.3 Waiver of any default by a party shall not be interpreted or deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent default.

21.4 When the singular or neuter are used in this Agreement they include the plural or the feminine or the masculine or the body politic where the context or the parties require.

21.5 The headings to the clauses in this Agreement have been inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference only and in no way define, limit or enlarge the scope or meaning of this Agreement or any provision of it.

21.6 This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws applicable in the Province of British Columbia.

21.7 All provisions of this Agreement are to be construed as covenants and agreements as though the word importing covenants and agreements were used in each separate paragraph.

21.8 A provision in this Agreement granting Metro Vancouver a right of approval shall be interpreted as granting a free and unrestricted right to be exercised by Metro Vancouver in its discretion.

21.9 This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, or facsimile or electronic counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered is deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument.

The authorized signatories of the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AS
REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

by its authorized signatory: ______________________________
David Mintak
Regional Manager, Project Delivery

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

by its authorized signatory: ______________________________
Randy Wenger
Director, Properties, Financial Services
To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks

Date: April 7, 2020

Subject: Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION
That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated April 7, 2020, titled “Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
It was another year of achievements for Regional Parks in 2019. Seven regional parks and two regional greenways saw record levels of visitation, and total visitation increased to 11,935,000. More than 1,000 public programs, events and outreach activities inspired nearly 62,000 people, and close to 7,250 volunteers and park partners contributed over 22,000 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs. Over 80 hectares of new park land was added to the regional parks system.

The attached Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report provides an overview of the year and will be used to share Regional Parks’ activities with elected officials, visitors, supporters and volunteers.

PURPOSE
To present the Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report to the Regional Parks Committee for information.

BACKGROUND
This report summarizes and presents the Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report. The preparation of the Annual Report is identified as a priority action in the Regional Parks Committee 2020 Work Plan.

REGIONAL PARKS ANNUAL REPORT
It was another year of achievements for Regional Parks in 2019. as work continued protecting the region’s important natural areas and connecting people to nature. In 2019, seven regional parks and two regional greenways saw record levels of visitation. Natural resource management and stewardship activities restored habitat and revitalized ecosystems. More than 1,000 public programs, events and outreach activities inspired nearly 62,000 people, young and old. Close to 7,250 volunteers and regional park partners contributed over 22,000 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs.

Total visitation to regional parks and greenways increased to 11,935,000 – 1.7% more than in 2018, and 2.9 % above the five-year average. As the region’s population continues to grow and communities become increasingly urban, regional parks become more and more valued by the region’s residents and important to the ecosystems we protect. In the 2019 Regional Parks Visitor Satisfaction Survey, 99% of participants felt that the protection of the natural environment was important to their enjoyment of a regional park.
The new *Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Management Plan* was completed and approved by the MVRD Board. The Board also approved a $4-million Regional Park Land Acquisition Fund increase to grow the regional park system which will also help mitigate regional climate change impacts.

The eastern portion of Aldergrove Regional Park – previously transferred to the City of Abbotsford, a member of the Fraser Valley Regional District, in 2018 – was returned to Metro Vancouver so that it can be operated as one regional park. Over 83 hectares of new park land was added to Codd Wetland Ecological Conservancy Area, Kanaka Creek and Minnekhada Regional Parks, and the North Alouette Regional Greenway.

Work continued on the Asset Management Program, which helps target infrastructure maintenance and simplify management of the thousands of regional parks’ built assets. The Sheep Paddocks Trail was completed in Colony Farm Regional Park, adding about 1.5 kilometres of trail to the park and creating an important connection to the PoCo Traboulay Trail.

2019 also saw development of a new Volunteer Framework to streamline volunteer sign-up and management, and a Public Programming Strategy was initiated to guide the renewal and development of regional parks public programs and events. Efforts to collaborate with First Nation neighbours on management plans and stewardship activities continued. Staff met many challenges head-on, including carrying capacity issues, park encroachments, invasive species, severe weather events and human - bear conflicts.

The attached *Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report* provides an overview of the year and will be used to share Regional Parks’ activities with elected officials, visitors, supporters and volunteers.

**ALTERNATIVES**

This report is presented for information. No alternatives are presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The production of the annual report is undertaken with staff resources included annually in the MVRD Board approved Regional Parks budget.

**CONCLUSION**

This report presents the *Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report* for information. It provides an overview of Regional Parks’ visitor and facility use, programming, volunteering, and activities in 2019. The annual report will be used to support ongoing park planning by MVRD and local municipalities for capital planning, future facility development, program delivery, and resource management activities.

**Attachment**

Regional Parks 2019 Annual Report (38742233)

37809679
Executive Summary

In 2019, the Metro Vancouver regional parks system welcomed nearly 12 million visitors, with records set at 7 regional parks and 2 regional greenways. More than 1,000 public programs, events and outreach activities inspired nearly 62,000 people, and close to 7,250 volunteers and park partners contributed over 22,000 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs. Over 80 hectares of high-value natural areas were added to the regional parks system, which will help fulfil our important role in mitigating climate change impacts to the region.

Regional Parks staff continue to pursue the 2019 - 2022 Board Strategic Plan goals:

1. Advancing our mission to “Protect and Connect”;

2. Ensuring financial sustainability; and

3. Fostering collaboration and partnerships.
Our Mission

Regional Parks contribute to a livable region by conserving natural assets and connecting people to nature. They enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors and provide opportunities to experience nature. The important natural landscapes protected in regional parks contribute ecological goods and services to the region and mitigate climate change. The Regional Parks service fosters environmental interpretation, education and stewardship through community development and promotes a sense of responsibility for, and connection to, the place in which we live.

Our Role

Protecting Metro Vancouver’s natural areas and connecting people with them.

Our Values

The Necessity of Nature

Wellness

The Sharing of Expertise

Stewardship
Regional Park Land Acquisition Fund Increase from $7.57 million to $11.57 million annually

Growing our System

The Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 strategy* is a bold and visionary document that has the potential to maintain livability for the next generation of Metro Vancouver citizens and visitors, and grow the regional parks system into a connected network of resilient parks and greenways before all the remaining unprotected natural areas are gone. The strategy took a systematic, evidence-based approach to identifying land suitable for protection as a regional park. The result identifies the most regionally important unprotected natural areas that could be acquired for future new and expanded parks.

*Adopted by the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board in 2018

Regional Parks Committee
Regional Parks Provide Significant Value

Hollywood North!

Regional Parks manages Metro Vancouver’s film office and our site supervision contractor oversees every film shoot on location, to ensure safe and responsible filming. There were 69 film shoots in regional parks, resulting in a gross revenue of $553,367 (including taxes), an increase of over 24% from 2018. Aldergrove Regional Park was the busiest regional park with 72 filming days.

2019 Film Activity in Regional Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF SHOOT</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>GROSS REVENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercials</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$19,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature Films</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$125,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV Movies/Mini Series</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$70,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV Series</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$298,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Documentary, Student Film, Photo Shoot, Parking</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$32,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout Sessions</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$6,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td><strong>$553,367</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnering with Communities

As part of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ commitment to partnering with our communities, contribution funding is provided annually to these organizations:

**Park Associations:**
Non-profit groups that work with Regional Parks staff on projects and activities ranging from habitat restoration to nature education.

1. Boundary Bay Park Association
2. Burnaby Lake Park Association
3. Colony Farm Park Association
4. Derby Reach / Brae Island Parks Association
5. Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society
6. Minnekhada Park Association
7. Pacific Spirit Park Society

**Catching the Spirit Youth Society (CTS):**
A non-profit organization dedicated to developing leadership and social responsibility in youth through environmental awareness, stewardship and outdoor recreation.

- 22 camps at 4 regional parks: Burnaby Lake, Pacific Spirit, Tynehead and Capilano River
- 356 camp spaces Filled (81% Capacity)
- Stewardship projects at 3 locations: Boundary Bay and Belcarra regional parks and Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve (an open recreation water reserve managed by Metro Vancouver’s Water Services department).
- 3,647 peer leader volunteer hours to facilitate CTS camps and outreach (7% increase from 2018)
- 11 local organization partnerships
- 19 work parties
Our Foundation

The Pacific Parklands Foundation (PPF) is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of Metro Vancouver’s regional parks.

2019 Accomplishments:

• $550,000 total revenue and $375,000 fundraised.

• Bus Grant program – Bus trips doubled (46), allowing triple the individuals (2,905) to visit twice the regional parks (13) compared to 2018. 1 bus wrapped with images that bring the wonder of regional parks to the streets.

• 950 plants to EcoBlitz volunteers for stewardship activities to protect park plants, waterways and wildlife from the threat of invasive species and habitat loss.

• $30,000 to support Park Associations and volunteers who ensure regional parks are well cared for by the communities they serve.

• 4 scholarships to recognize young environmental leaders and support their continuing education.

• $80,000 raised for free youth camps in Metro Vancouver regional parks. The Foundation helps raise funds for Catching the Spirit, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing leadership and social responsibility in youth through environmental awareness and stewardship.

• 9 new commemorative benches and 6 new picnic tables. Commemorative benches, tables and other enhancements create a sense of community and enrich the enjoyment of regional parks.

In the fall of 2000, a committed group of community volunteers came together to create the PPF with a vision to help make Metro Vancouver Regional Parks the best that they can be by providing the additional financial support needed to realize special projects and initiatives that fall outside government funding. After two decades of operation, the foundation continues to support this vision by raising funds, distributing grants and scholarships, building partnerships and sharing the stories of regional parks.

“Transportation costs have doubled in the last 10 years to make outdoor learning opportunities very costly. We are so appreciative of the outdoor opportunities afforded by your bus grants. Our students had so many positive experiences on our trip and are eager to visit again.”

East Vancouver School Teacher
Building and Maintaining Park Assets

Each year, Regional Parks staff maintain thousands of built assets, including:

- 346 buildings
- 89 interpretive kiosks
- 347 kilometres of trails
- 1,400 culverts
- 5.3 kilometres of dikes
- 204 bridges
- 259 boardwalks
- 36 kilometres of water lines
- 57 kilometres of roads
- 65 kilometres of fences
- 1,313 gates and bollards
- 665 picnic tables
- 367 benches
- 75 bike racks
- 40 kilometres of utilities (communication, electrical and gas lines)
- 259 boardwalks
- 36 kilometres of water lines
- 57 kilometres of roads
- 65 kilometres of fences
- 40 kilometres of utilities (communication, electrical and gas lines)
- 259 boardwalks
- 36 kilometres of water lines
- 57 kilometres of roads
- 65 kilometres of fences
- 40 kilometres of utilities (communication, electrical and gas lines)
- 367 benches
- 75 bike racks
- 43 septic fields

In 2019, major new and replacement capital projects included:

- Substantial completion of Sheep Paddocks Trail – Colony Farm Regional Park
- Design work of new service yards – Grouse Mountain and Crippen regional parks
- Began service yard building replacement – Colony Farm Regional Park
- Important trail work – various sites including Grouse Mountain Regional Park
- Davies Orchard detailed design – Crippen Regional Park
- Washroom design – Derby Reach Regional Park
- Significant parking lot upgrades at Cleveland Dam – Capilano River Regional Park
- New waterline connection – Belcarra Regional Park
- Nature Discovery Trail and Wetland – Aldergrove Regional Park

Sheep Paddocks Trail, Colony Farm Regional Park

Phase 4 is complete, 140 metres of the river bank has been stabilized and the 1.4 kilometres cycling and pedestrian trail is now open. The project included construction of a new pond/wetland to improve habitat for western painted turtles, additional riparian habitat restoration planting adjacent to the bank protection areas and seven oversize culverts to create a more permeable trail berm and to facilitate wildlife passage across the berm.

Nature Discovery Trail and Wetland, Aldergrove Regional Park

The Nature Discovery Trail and Wetland provides a new 500 metre walking loop connecting to the existing trail network. A key feature is a constructed wetland that creates valuable habitat and educational benefits. The wetland was designed to create new habitat to support species-at-risk such as red-legged frogs and Western toads, among others. The wetland has pond dipping and viewing areas used for educational programs.
Protecting Important Natural Areas
In 2019, Regional Parks protected:

13,632 Hectares – Including 9,083 Hectares of Sensitive Ecosystems

23 Regional Parks
5 Regional Greenways

2 Regional Park Reserves
2 Ecological Conservancy Areas

Regional Parks Ecosystems

- Wetland 32%
- Mature Forest 17%
- Young Forest 11%
- Old Forest 10%
- Alpine 7%
- Old Field 3%
- Woodland 3%
- Estuarine 3%
- Freshwater, Herbaceous & Intertidal 1%
- Sparsely Vegetated 2%
Natural Resource Management

Regional Parks staff work throughout the year to protect and conserve ecosystem health. The Board approved Natural Resource Management Framework guides planning and day-to-day work and contains three goals that guide the program.

**Goals:**

1. Ensure ecosystem health and long-term resiliency to conserve diverse biological communities and their associated habitats.

2. Provide opportunities for public to connect with natural areas while conserving the integrity and resilience of ecosystems.

3. Provide opportunities for public involvement in natural resource management through partnerships and stewardship activities.

**2019 Accomplishments**

- Red-legged frog monitoring and habitat enhancement project (Pacific Spirit Regional Park)
- Pilot study to test the efficacy of environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling (Lynn Headwaters Regional Park)
- Forest canopy gaps creation to promote biodiversity (Grouse Mountain Regional Park)
- Coastal sand ecosystem protection fencing (Boundary Bay Regional Park)
- Carbon cycling research expansion (Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area)
- Sheep Paddocks Trail Wetland creation (Colony Farm Regional Park)
- Thornvale Pond restoration project completion (Kanaka Creek Regional Park)
- New wetland planting with native trees and shrubs (Aldergrove Regional Park)
- Field restoration by removal of invasive wild chervil and replanting (Campbell Valley Regional Park)
- Forest health aerial survey (system-wide)

Watch this video about using environmental DNA to find out more about rare and sensitive species living in regional parks (vimeo.com/34872953)
Sheep Paddocks Trail Wetland Creation, Colony Farm Regional Park

The construction of the new multi-use Sheep Paddocks Trail re-established trail connections with municipal parks in Port Coquitlam. Planning and construction has been underway for several years and the December 2019 opening allowed park visitors to experience a new wetland that was established as compensation for trail sections that cross forested wetlands and other sensitive habitat. The new 1.2-hectare, 3-metre deep groundwater-fed pond covers an area that was previously overwhelmed by reed canary grass – an invasive plant species that chokes out native plants such as sedges and bulrushes that wildlife depend on for food, shelter and nesting. The open water and surrounding low lying areas provide habitat for many wetland species including a species at risk: the western painted turtle.

Working with the Community

Stewardship programs in regional parks are not just about protecting natural areas, they are also an important way for the community to connect to the land on which they live and to each other.

“Volunteering makes me realize that I came here not only to study but also to learn to become a better person.”

John Huynh, Langara College International Student

John is a recent immigrant to the region who, feeling disconnected from his new home, was considering returning to Vietnam. After a stewardship event at Iona Beach Regional Park, John told the organizer that by participating in the event with other volunteers, he had found a reason to stay.
Our Core Service

Parks Operations and Maintenance

Keeping our parks and park assets at the standard of care expected by our visitors each year takes an incredible amount of staff effort. Parks operations and maintenance staff ensure our parks are maintained for safe public enjoyment 365 days of the year.

Throughout 2019, operations staff led and assisted with a variety of projects, including:

- Enhanced stream and rebuilt trail to address cliff erosion at Pacific Spirit Regional Park
- Installed fencing to protect rare sand dune ecosystem at Boundary Bay Regional Park
- Improved picnic areas at Deas Island, Derby Reach and Tynehead regional parks
- Enhanced parking lots at Tynehead and Colony Farm regional parks
- Installed food caches at Belcarra Regional Park and engaged with visitors to address park user conflict with bears
- Resurfaced 3,682 m of of gravel trail throughout the regional park system
- Replaced or repaired 37 bridges and boardwalks

Winter wind storms impacted regional parks

In 2019, a windstorm toppled hundreds of trees in Kanaka Creek Regional Park. Staff turned this unfortunate disaster into an opportunity. Some of the trees were used for the Sheep Paddocks trail and wetland at Colony Farm Regional Park, saving that project $100,000. The remainder of the salvaged wood covered the cost to rehabilitate the impacted area and two other sites.

Safe Regional Parks and Park Visitors

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks is facing increased public and agency expectations and responsibilities around natural resource management and protection of built assets, and the security, safety and outdoor experience of park visitors. All regulations and compliance staff work to fairly and consistently educate members of the public on park rules and expectations and to offer a positive visitor experience through good park design, education and, as a last resort, enforcement. This includes:

- Coordinating patrols and response from emergency response agencies
- Investigating, removing and assisting in restoring areas of the park damaged by dumping or encroachments
- Transitioning homeless from parks to permanent or semi-permanent housing

95% of visitors feel safe within regional parks and greenways (2019 Visitor Survey)
Managing Parks Today and into the Future

Metro Vancouver staff develop plans and policies to guide the management of regional parks and greenways, today and into the future. Policies help guide current park use while park management plans establish a long-term vision for a park and guide resource management, park development, operations and programming.

2019 Accomplishments:

- Board adopted management plan and commenced design process for the new Widgeon Marsh Regional Park
- Commenced management plan update for Campbell Valley Regional Park
- Commenced Regional Recreational Greenways Plan
- Initiated Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy
- Completed new Volunteer Framework
- Board adopted Regional Parks Asset Management Policy
- Commenced Asset Management Planning process and State of the Assets report
- Completed Road Access and Parking Study, Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

Regional Parks 2019 Visitor Survey

In 2019, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks undertook a visitor survey. This survey built on the results of the 2013 visitor survey which include visitor demographics and origin, park activities and park experience satisfaction. The survey results guide planning and operational decisions in the parks for the next five years. A comprehensive summary of survey results will be published in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Common Activities</th>
<th>Top Three Reasons for Visit</th>
<th>Frequency of Visiting Regional Parks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking/hiking 85%</td>
<td>Appreciate Nature 72%</td>
<td>41% of regional parks and greenways visitors come more than once a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Walking 39%</td>
<td>Exercise 71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature/Wildlife viewing 33%</td>
<td>Activity with family/friends 63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connecting People with Nature
Visits

Nearly 12 million Park Visits in 2019 (1.7% increase from 2018)

7 Regional Parks & 2 Regional Greenways received record number of visits

Visitation was 2.9% above the 5-year average

Record monthly use in March and November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>2019 VISITS</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldergrove Regional Park</td>
<td>428,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnston Island Regional Park</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belcarra Regional Park</td>
<td>775,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundary Bay Regional Park</td>
<td>923,000</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brae Island Regional Park</td>
<td>299,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway</td>
<td>212,000</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td>427,000</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell Valley Regional Park</td>
<td>660,000</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td>902,000</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colony Farm Regional Park</td>
<td>266,000</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crippen Regional Park</td>
<td>286,000</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deas Island Regional Park</td>
<td>309,000</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta-South Surrey Regional Greenway</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>-4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby Reach Regional Park</td>
<td>824,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Valley Regional Park</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>-9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouse Mountain Regional Park</td>
<td>597,000</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iona Beach Regional Park</td>
<td>379,000</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanaka Creek Regional Park</td>
<td>469,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Headwaters Regional Park</td>
<td>382,000</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnekhada Regional Park</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Spirit Regional Park</td>
<td>2,697,000</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitt River Regional Greenway</td>
<td>161,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seymour River Regional Greenway</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Bend Regional Park</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tynehead Regional Park</td>
<td>521,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL USE</td>
<td>11,935,000</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data counters installed at park entrances (roads and trails) are used to produce annual and monthly visitation estimates for each park.
Public Programs and Events

Metro Vancouver Programs, Events and Outreach

Most Metro Vancouver residents live in an urban environment with less access to natural areas than previous generations. This growing urban population has led to increased visitation in existing parks and is placing greater pressure on local green spaces.

Public programming in regional parks responds to these challenges by deepening audience understanding, appreciation and protection of the natural environment. Programs and events are designed to be experience-based and to inspire appreciation and understanding of the environment.

In 2019, staff provided 782 interpretive programs and events to 47,222 participants, helping to deepen understanding and appreciation of nature in regional parks.

Group Programs
9,963 participants
636 field trips & workshops

Public Programs
1,095 participants
79 programs

Nature Houses
9,910 contacts at
Campbell Valley Nature House, Burnaby Lake Nature House, BC Mills House

Events
24,551 participants
44 interpretive, park partner and community outreach events

Education Blitz*
23 sessions
1,703 interpretive contacts

* An education blitz is an interpretive station or ‘pop up’ placement to address issues requiring increased visitor education.

In 2019, topics included dogs off-leash, bear and human conflict, and hiking safety.
2019 Program Highlights:

**Enchanted Forest**
Showcased the new nature discovery area with new stations at Aldergrove Regional Park. Received a record number of 900 participants.

**Wings Over Iona**
Piloted this new event to celebrate the value of the shoreline and wetland habitats at Iona Beach Regional Park and their importance to migrating birds.

**Flashlight Mysteries**
Successfully adapted to attract youth and young adults, an under-represented demographic. Relocated to Deas Island Regional Park.

Check out this video about Enchanted Forest and the new Nature Discovery Area (vimeo.com/333847045)

“[The interpreters] answered all of our questions beautifully and made us think about the importance of protecting and preserving ecosystems such as this. They were enthusiastic and inspiring. Thanks.”
Bat Watch participant, Minnekhada Regional Park

**Public Programming Strategy**
In 2019, staff initiated a Public Programming Strategy to guide the renewal and development of regional park public programs and events. This work will be completed in 2020.
Park Association Activities

In 2019, seven community-based Park Associations continued to support Regional Parks by providing educational programs and events that protect and connect people to nature, as well as outreach activities that provide nature education, highlight regional parks and promote the Park Association’s goals.

2019 Highlights:

- 112 stewardship work parties to remove invasive plants and replace with more than 1,000 native plants, and working with an archeologist, ponds deepened to enhance habitat for amphibians including the at-risk red-legged frog (Pacific Spirit Park Society)

- Creative Café transitioned from art-based program to nature-based outreach (Minnekhada Park Association)

- Volunteer Ambassador Program launched to help with stewardship, public education, outreach and events (Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association)

- Supported the launch of stewardship work parties at Sapperton Landing, Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway (Burnaby Lake Park Association)

- 134 watershed educational programs reaching 5,698 students and 882 adults (Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society)

- Record high participation at Stories Under the Stars event (Colony Farm Park Association)

- Successful owl walk highlighting guided nature programs (Boundary Bay Park Association)
Facility Bookings

1,191 groups
126,946 guests enjoyed bookable day-use facilities

516 groups
38,653 guests visited picnic shelters located in 8 regional parks

298 groups
with 13,091 guests enjoyed group camping facilities
Rustic outdoor or indoor camping for groups, located in 7 regional parks

206 groups
7,456 guests visited buildings located in 5 regional parks

130,072 guests enjoyed individual camping facilities
Outdoor camping for individuals and families in campgrounds or on a special permit basis, located in 3 regional parks

In 2019, Regional Parks replaced its reservation system software which is used for all facility reservations, permitting (including filming, special events and special/commercial use) and program registration. The new software makes it easier for park users to search and register for regional parks programs, streamline facility registrations, link to social media and help with reporting.
Volunteering

Volunteers contribute to the delivery of a range of programs and activities in regional parks. In 2019, a new visitor management system was developed and a new Volunteer System Coordinator position was created to improve volunteer information management and eliminate duplication of effort. These changes help ensure that Metro Vancouver engages community partners and volunteers in supporting, sustaining and protecting regional parks through three programs:

- Stewardship Volunteering
- Park Association Volunteering
- Public Program Volunteering

Volunteers contributed a total of 22,026 hours and were involved in 7,241 instances.

“Volunteerism helps meet the needs of people for community and social connections – finding a place where they truly belong in what is an increasingly individualized and disconnected society. It is hands-on and allows people to give back to and serve their community, to be practically involved instead of simply being spectators and consumers. It increases well-being by helping them engage with the natural world to rejuvenate, de-stress or exercise.”

Ann Green, Volunteer Coordinator, Burnaby Lake Park Association, Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Environmental Stewardship

Volunteering

Regional parks provide critical wildlife habitat and provide ecosystem services such as cleaning the air and helping to control temperatures. Each year, staff, partners and volunteers invest time and effort to restore the health and beauty of these special places.

Stewardship Trends

The Regional Parks ecological restoration program has grown since it began six years ago. To meet the rising demand, the program continues to innovate and expand the range of stewardship volunteer opportunities to include wildlife monitoring, mapping and research.

Stewardship Activities

386
Work Parties

5,647
Volunteer Instances

15,279
Volunteer Hours
(7% average growth over the past 6 years)

$229,185
Estimated Value of Volunteer Hours
(multiplied by $15/hr rate – commonly used for volunteer labour)

15 tons of
Invasive Species Removed

10,440
Native Plants Added to Parks

202
of the work parties benefitted from Park Association involvement

Native Planting 20%
Hatchery & Streamkeeper Activities 14%
Habitat Maintenance 6%
Research 5%
Mapping 2%
Bird/Bat/Owl Boxes 2%
Bioengineering Activities 1%
Invasive Plant Removal 40%
Other 1%
Park Association Volunteering

11,938 Volunteer Hours

3,427 Volunteer Instances

Metro Vancouver’s park partnership program includes seven park associations and a broad range of park partner groups. Park partnership program volunteers facilitate stewardship, citizen science, education activities and events in regional parks.

“What keeps me volunteering for regional parks is having a positive impact on others, learning something new and seeing when people of all ages are embracing the importance of ‘protecting and connecting’.”

Claudia Jensen, BC Mills House Volunteer Host,
Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

Public Program Volunteering

1,646 Volunteer Hours

910 hours to support the Campbell Valley Nature House and BC Mills House

458 Volunteer Instances

Includes nature houses, events, interpretive programs and Belcarra Beachkeepers.

Watch this video about Belcarra Beachkeepers (vimeo.com/294660820)
Getting the Word Out

Media Publications
Regional Parks publications created on an annual basis:

Check it Out! Nature Program Guide
Published in the spring, summer and fall/winter.
Promotes events and activities for all ages to learn about, connect with and enjoy nature in regional parks.
Distribution includes household mailouts, park kiosks, community centres, libraries, and city halls.

4,571 people received the nature program guide by email

29,000 hard copies per edition of the nature program guide distributed

Stewardship News
Published in the spring and fall.
Highlights the time and effort that staff, partners and volunteers invest to restore the health and beauty of regional parks.
Social Media and Video

Regional Parks connects with people through social media, sharing information ranging from nature activities and volunteer opportunities to safety and land acquisition announcements. Social media is also a way for people to reach out to and engage with Regional Parks.

17 regional parks videos produced in 2019

- reached more than 207,000 people (from Metro Vancouver Corporate Facebook page, YouTube Channel and Vimeo)
- 2,541 Facebook Engagements (includes reactions, comments, shares)
- 408,200 video views with an above average rate of viewing videos to completion
- On Metro Vancouver’s YouTube channel, Regional Parks video about connecting people to nature was the 5th top rated video with 146,000 views
- On Metro Vancouver’s corporate Facebook page, Deas Island Regional Park Profile was the most popular video with 25,300 video views

FB.ME/MetroVancouverRegionalParks

15,761 Facebook engagements
(includes reactions, comments, shares)

@MetroVancouver

330,000 Twitter Impressions

project spotlight

2019 Regional Parks Campaign to boost awareness

Regional Parks undertook media promotion to increase awareness and appreciation of regional parks. The campaign ran on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and was a mix of video, images and print content.

- 311,000 users reached
  These users saw our content multiple times across all the social media platforms.
- 538,000 times videos viewed
- 33,000 times regional parks article in The Georgia Straight was read

Watch these videos produced for the campaign about regional parks’ role in protecting the region’s natural areas (vimeo.com/281537784) and connecting people with them (vimeo.com/340325435)
In 2019, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

Protected **13,632** hectares of natural areas and

Connected nearly **12** million visitors with nature
To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: May 6, 2020

Meeting Date: May 13, 2020

Subject: Manager’s Report – Regional Parks

RECOMMENDATION
That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated May 6, 2020, titled “Manager’s Report – Regional Parks”.

REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE 2020 WORK PLAN
Attachment 1 to this report sets out the Regional Parks Committee Work Plan for 2020. The status of work program elements is indicated as pending, in progress, or complete. The listing is updated as needed to include new issues that arise, items requested by the Committee and changes in the schedule.

REGIONAL PARKS VISITOR USE
Visitor use across the Regional Parks system is up over 17% across the system for the first quarter of 2020 over the previous year. January was a particularly rainy month with rain or snow on 30 of 31 days, which likely contributed to the lower than normal visitation during that month. In February and March visitation was higher than previous years due to a combination of good weather and the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in an increased demand for accessible outdoor spaces.

Visitor Use for January to March 2019 and 2020
The change in visitation varies across the system ranging from a reduction in visitation, particularly in parks where facilities and parking lots have been closed, to increases of 20-50%.

**2020 COVID-19 UPDATE**

Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks provide important outlets for the public to access nature, de-stress and maintain physical and mental health during the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis.

All but two regional parks remain open, although park facilities such as playgrounds, nature play areas and picnic areas have been closed. Brae Island and Barnston Island regional parks are closed until further notice. At the request of the District of North Vancouver, parking lots are closed at Lynn Valley and the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. Boundary Bay and Deas Island regional parks are open but their parking lots are closed at the request of the City of Delta.

Other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 include closing event rental facilities, adding 300+ physical distance signage and postponing parks events and programs. Regional Parks staff continue to monitor and follow the advice of the BC Health Minister on a daily basis.

BC Parks has closed all parks, effective April 8, in response to federal and provincial directives that people should stay close to home to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk. The City of Vancouver has also implemented strict closures of parks, park facilities and beach parking lots. Stanley Park is closed to all vehicles to reduce the number of people entering the park and to enable social distancing.

Across the Regional Park system, staff have been redeployed from other duties to message proper physical distancing at key Regional Park sites. New safe work procedures have been developed to ensure a safe work environment for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff and the public.

Over the selected period of April 6th to April 19th Regional Parks staff interacted with 28,830 members of the public to promote safe physical distancing. Many park patrons commended staff for helping to keep the parks open and safe.
To supplement the initiatives of the MVRD Emergency Operations Centre, a Regional Parks Department Operations Centre (DOC) was implemented for 5 weeks, 7 days per week. The DOC activation ensured a central response across the system in our initial pandemic response stages. As of April 20th, 2020, operations have generally stabilized across the system.

The Regional Parks Municipal Advisory Committee has been meeting virtually every 2 weeks to discuss Regional Park COVID response measures and to enable shared discussion and decision making across the 21 member municipalities. Parks staff are contact with peer agencies in other Regional Districts and BC Parks. Liaison through the British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association (BCRPA) is also ongoing with member municipalities regarding municipal responses in local governments and regional districts both inside and outside of Metro Vancouver.

Key Messages:

- Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks continue to provide a valuable outlet for residents to enjoy the outdoors and help them take care of their physical and mental health during this unprecedented health crisis.
- All Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and greenways remain open with the exception of Brae Island Regional Park in the Township of Langley, Barnston Island, Boundary Bay and Deas Island.
- Physical distancing in regional parks is being actively managed; Metro Vancouver Regional Parks is taking a variety of proactive measures, including:
  - Closing all playgrounds, nature play areas and picnic sites;
  - Postponing parks events;
  - Enhancing signage on physical distancing and hand-washing at all parks;
  - Parking lots at Lynn Valley and the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, Deas Island and Boundary Bay regional parks are closed.
  - Monitoring and managing traffic at the park and directing public to physically distance;
  - Increasing social media posts around physical distancing, safe trail and parking lot use.
  - One-way trail loops have been implemented at a number of busy trails.

- Residents are encouraged to stay and play in their own communities.
- Regional parks provide large areas to allow for physical distancing; Compliance rates are high and increasing each week.
- Regional Park staff will continue to monitor park conditions, visitation, and health authority direction daily to determine if additional actions are required.
- Metro Vancouver park users must follow the simple directives from the Provincial Health Officer to help keep parks open.
- Maintain a physical distance of two meters from other visitors, including at parking lots and trail entrances. Wash or sanitize hands regularly, including before heading out and upon return.
- Metro Vancouver is adding extra staff and traffic control for the long weekends
- Visitors are encouraged to use our parks earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon when they tend to be less busy.

Regional Parks Advisory Committee – COVID 19 Response Meetings
The Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Advisory Committee has held three virtual meetings using the Zoom software platform with member municipalities. The purpose of these meetings is to encourage dialogue between member municipalities, BC Parks and the Fraser Valley Regional District regarding
our collective responses to COVID 19. The Committee continues to meet as needed bi-weekly to discuss emerging issues with a focus on the implementation of physical distancing measures and safety protocols for both staff and the public. Discussions have included opportunities for coordinated responses across the region where possible.

REGIONAL PARKS – CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
Regional Parks 2020 capital projects are moving forward with some adaptation in response to the COVID-19 situation. Most contractors are available to continue working with appropriate signage and physical distancing measures in place. COVID-19 has presented some unique challenges including the availability of First Nation archeological monitors. Staff are working with First Nations, consultants and project teams to find solutions and adjust project timelines as required.

Construction of the Colony Farm Regional Park workshop, and demolition of non-park use buildings at Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, were completed in April 2020. Improvements to the Grouse Grind and BCMC Trail are ongoing. Small maintenance projects are proceeding throughout the system, with some being delay due to the COVID-19 situation.

Projects in the planning and design phase are well suited to proceed with project teams working remotely. Detailed design of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, the Aldergrove Rock’n Horse Trail connection and Derby Reach washrooms are proceeding.

The Crippen and Capilano River Regional Park service yards, currently in the design phase, will be ready for tender in 2020. Staff will review the COVID-19 situation and Metro Vancouver approach to procurement at that time to determine the appropriate approach and timeline to move forward with those projects.

REGIONAL PARKS LAND ACQUISITIONS, MAY 2020
Metro Vancouver’s regional parks system has grown by 3.5 hectares. Two purchases that were approved in 2019, by the Metro Vancouver Board, have been finalized. Both of these properties were acquired through the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund.

Crippen Regional Park, Dorman Point, Bowen Island Municipality
The purchase of 1.21 hectares (3 acres) of waterfront land at Dorman Point on Bowen Island was finalized on April 16, 2020, following Board approval on October 4, 2019. The property was in foreclosure proceedings and the purchase was completed by way of a court-ordered sale.

Comprising the tip of a rocky peninsula that features most of Crippen Regional Park’s waterfront, the property offers panoramic views from the Lions to Point Grey along its 400 meters of waterfrontage. The rock bluff waterfront, which is rare in the regional park system, has outcrops covered with mosses, ferns, and wildflowers, interspersed with wind-shaped Douglas fir, shore pine, and arbutus trees. A small accessible pebble beach is located on its north side, a rarity along this rocky shoreline. The Federally
protected Dorman Point Glass Sponge Reef lies just offshore in relatively shallow water. Metro Vancouver acquired this parcel at a cost of $2.7 million, through its Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund.

**Kanaka Creek Regional Park, 256th Street, Maple Ridge**

Metro Vancouver continues to add width to provide ecological resilience to Kanaka Creek Regional Park with the latest purchase involving 2.3 hectares (5.68) acres of sensitive riparian land, which completed on April 17, 2020. The Metro Vancouver Board approved the purchase of this land on November 29, 2019.

The land is located just upstream from the Bell Irving Fish Hatchery, off the west end of 256th Street in Maple Ridge. This ecologically important property encompasses a ravine containing part of the Triangle Mountain Creek, which supports cutthroat trout and includes a small wetland and some large mature Western red cedar trees. This purchase will add additional buffer at a point where the regional park was very narrow. The property was divided off a larger lot and acquired at the cost of $640,000.

**WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The process to design and develop Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is progressing. The contract for a multidisciplinary consultant team to complete detailed design was awarded in April 2020. Staff are orienting the consultant team and preliminary design work is underway. Survey, archeological and geotechnical investigation to support the detailed design process has also been initiated. Staff continue to engage First Nations, exploring opportunities for input and collaboration through the design process and beyond.

Park development will be phased from 2021 to 2023, subject to the annual work planning and the budget approval process. Park planning, natural resource management, programing, communications, and engineering staff are supporting this project to ensure an integrated, ecologically sensitive and engaging approach to park design and development.

**Attachment** [38743409]

Regional Parks Committee 2019 Work Plan

**References**

2. Physical Distancing in Metro Vancouver’s regional parks [https://vimeo.com/400395062](https://vimeo.com/400395062)
## Priorities

### 1st Quarter

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<td>Natural Resource Management Framework</td>
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<td>Pacific Parklands Foundation Agreement</td>
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<td>Colony Farm Regional Park Sheep Paddocks Trail Opening</td>
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