

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

9:00 AM

28th Floor Boardroom, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

REVISED AGENDA¹

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 May 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for May 12, 2021 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held April 7, 2021 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Janet Antonio, Executive Director, Pacific Parklands Foundation and Laurel Irving, Fund Development Manager, Pacific Parklands Foundation

Subject: Pacific Parklands Foundation - Reel Green Initiative

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report

That the MVRD Board receive for information report dated April 7, 2021, titled "Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report".

5.2 Manager's Report – Regional Parks

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated April 20, 2021, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

¹ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – May 2021

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.

Added

That the Regional Parks Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for May 12, 2021 pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (m) 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:
(m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.”

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of May 12, 2021.

Membership:

McEwen, John (C) - Anmore
Wiebe, Michael (VC) - Vancouver
Calendino, Pietro - Burnaby
Clark, Carolina - Belcarra
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

**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 7, 2021 in the 28th Floor Boardroom, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Mayor John McEwen, Anmore
 Vice Chair, Councillor Michael Wiebe*, Vancouver
 Councillor Pietro Calendino*, Burnaby
 Councillor Carolina Clark*, Belcarra
 Councillor Diana Dilworth*, Port Moody (departed at 9:57 a.m.)
 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
 Eva Haan, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for April 7, 2021, 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 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held March 10, 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 MVRD Regional Parks Regulation Amending Bylaw No. 1321, 2021 – Amends Bylaw 1177, 2012

Report dated March 11, 2021 from David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks, seeking MVRD Board approval of an amendment to the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012* that proposes new fees and charges.

Members engaged in discussion regarding how pay parking will reduce the parking demand issues at Belcarra and Lynn Headwaters Regional Parks, and how using a parking reservation system could reduce the demand for parking space without limiting access to the parks.

A member requested Regional Parks communicate with the City of Delta about implementing a parking reservation program, to be introduced at Boundary Bay Regional Park this summer.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Amending Bylaw No. 1321, 2021*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Amending Bylaw No. 1321, 2021*.

CARRIED

5.2 Metro Vancouver Regional District Mosquito Control Service Amending Bylaw No. 1320, 2021 – Amends Bylaw 1164, 2012

Report dated March 11, 2021 from David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks, seeking MVRD Board approval of an

amendment to the MVRD Mosquito Control Bylaw to add the City of Richmond as a Participating Area in the Metro Vancouver Nuisance Mosquito Control Program.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Mosquito Control Service Amending Bylaw No. 1320, 2021*;
- b) direct staff to seek consent of at least 2/3 of the participating member municipalities to amend the service by adding the City of Richmond to the Metro Vancouver Nuisance Mosquito Control Program, and following that, forward the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Mosquito Control Service Amending Bylaw No. 1320, 2021* to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

CARRIED

5.3 Delta Nature Reserve and Delta South Surrey Greenway – Public Engagement and Management Plan

Report dated March 16, 2021 from Steve Schaffrick, Division Manager, Central Area, Regional Parks, providing the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board with background information that contributes to the preparation of a management plan for the Delta Nature Reserve, Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area lands east of Highway 91 and the Delta South Surrey Greenway, and seeking authorization to begin phase 1 engagement for the plan.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board authorize staff to proceed with the engagement process as presented in the report dated March 16, 2021, titled “Delta Nature Reserve and Delta South Surrey Greenway – Public Engagement and Management Plan”.

CARRIED

5.4 Status of Regional Parks Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2020

Report dated March 22, 2021 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, presenting the Regional Parks Committee with a report on the financial performance of the Regional Parks capital program for the year ending December 31, 2020.

In response to a question, members were informed that a quarterly update on project variances will be included in the “Manager’s Report” for future Regional Parks Committee meetings.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated March 22, 2021, titled “Status of Regional Parks Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2020”.

CARRIED

5.5 Manager's Report – Regional Parks

Report dated March 16, 2021 Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, providing an update on the Spring 2021 Nature Program Guide, parking lot management, transit to regional parks, regional parks capital works update, updates on Belcarra, Colony Farms, and Grouse Mountain Regional Parks, and regional parks event updates.

Members were provided a presentation from staff regarding parking at Belcarra and Lynn Headwaters Regional Parks highlighting tools to manage demand in parks, and associated parking problems.

Presentation titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks Parking Lot Management" is retained with the April 7, 2021 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated March 16, 2021, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – April 2021

9:57 a.m. Councillor Dilworth departed the meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

The committee considered a request to add Section 90(2)(b) of the *Community Charter* to the section to close the meeting.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for April 7, 2021, pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (e), and 90 (2) (b) 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

- (2) (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the regional district and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.”

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its regular meeting of April 7, 2021.

CARRIED

(Time: 9:59 a.m.)

Eva Haan,
Legislative Services Coordinator

John McEwen, Chair



To: Regional Parks Committee

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

Date: April 7, 2021 Meeting Date: May 12, 2021

Subject: **Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information report dated April 7, 2021, titled “Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks worked to keep parks open and visitors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 16.5 million visits to regional parks - a 38% increase over 2019.

Staff demonstrated flexibility and creativity to continue the delivery of park programs safely. As a result, 5629 people were able to take part in 310 programs, events and outreach activities while close to 2500 volunteers and park partners contributed over 8237 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs. Nearly 240 hectares of land was added to the Regional Parks system while staff advanced numerous planning, design and asset management initiatives.

PURPOSE

To provide the *Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report* to the Regional Parks Committee for information.

BACKGROUND

The preparation of the *Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report* is identified as an action in the *Regional Parks Committee 2021 Work Plan*.

REGIONAL PARKS ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

In 2020, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks was challenged to keep parks open and visitors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional Parks experienced unprecedented visitation with 16.5 million visits, providing residents an outlet to connect with nature and increase their physical and mental wellbeing. This 38% increase over 2019 visitation set records at 15 regional parks and 3 regional greenways.

Demonstrating their flexibility and creativity, staff pivoted quickly to develop innovative approaches to deliver park programs. As a result, 5629 people were able to take part in 310 programs, events and outreach activities in 2020 while close to 2500 volunteers and park partners contributed over 8237 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs. The Metro Vancouver Board adopted a new public programming strategy in 2020 that confirms the need for regionally-provided nature-based public programs and events, and provides recommendations on how Regional Parks programs and interpretive events can meet the future needs of the region’s growing diverse population.

Regional Parks continued its important work of protecting regionally important natural areas with nearly 240 hectares of parkland valued at just over \$3.34 million being added to the system in 2020. This included the transfer of over 106 hectares of bog ecosystem land from the City of Delta to Metro Vancouver for management in conjunction with the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, the return of 127 hectares of parkland from the City of Abbotsford to Metro Vancouver as part of Aldergrove Regional Park, along with important acquisitions at Crippen Regional Park and Kanaka Creek Regional Park.

An integrated project delivery team worked to translate the *Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Management Plan* into a detailed park design. Significant progress was made in 2020 on pre-design, technical studies, and archeological and cultural assessments. Work was also initiated on trail and amenity improvements at the Grouse Mountain Regional Park supported by a grant under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Staff lead the completion of the *Regional Greenways 2050* plan, the *Alternative Transportation Study – Phase 1* and helped secure carbon credits for Metro Vancouver by supporting an Avoided Forest Carbon Conversation Project on recently acquired parkland.

Throughout 2020, staff worked hard to keep Regional Parks open to the public despite COVID-19 challenges. Staff quickly adapted to the new circumstances, leading and assisting the implementation of various responses in order to provide residents safe opportunities to spend time in nature. This response is reflected through staff actions to install 528 COVID-19 signs in regional parks and greenways over only 9 days in April to promote visitor safety. Efforts also include educating 229,231 visitors on the importance of physical distancing during the period between April 13 to August 31, 2020.

The attached *Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report* provides an overview of the year and will be used to share Regional Parks' activities with elected officials, residents, park visitors, supporters and volunteers.

ALTERNATIVES

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This is an information report. 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 summarizes the *Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report* for information. It provides an overview of Regional Parks' visitor and facility use, programming, volunteering, and activities in 2020 including:

- 16.5 million visits to regional parks and greenways
- 240 hectares of land added to grow the Regional Parks system
- 5629 people were able to take part in 310 programs, events and outreach activities

- 2500 volunteers and park partners contributed over 8237 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs

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 (45206702)

Regional Parks 2020 Annual Report

44868906

Regional Parks Annual Report 2020





PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK

2020 in Review

In 2020, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks was challenged to keep parks open and visitors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional Parks experienced unprecedented visitation with nearly 16.5 million visitors connecting with the important natural areas protected in regional parks - a 38% increase over 2019 figures. With records set at 15 regional parks and 3 regional greenways, staff worked diligently to meet visitor demand as parks provided an essential service to residents needing places to move outdoors and connect with the healing power of nature. Staff pivoted quickly to develop innovative approaches to deliver park programs and 5,629 people were able to take part in 310 programs, events and outreach activities last year while close to 2,500 volunteers and park partners contributed over 8,237 hours to stewardship, education and interpretive programs. Furthermore, nearly 240 hectares of parkland were added to the system as part of our important role in protecting natural areas.

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.



The COVID-19 crisis presented staff with an unprecedented challenge: keep as many regional parks open to the public while also implementing and enforcing necessary health measures to prevent virus spread. Watch this video of how parks staff rose to the sudden and labour-intensive demands. (vimeo.com/427561664)

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 important natural areas and connecting people with them.

Challenges

2020 was a challenging year. Visitation to the regional parks system increased to an unprecedented level and posed significant challenges to the safe delivery of services to park visitors. Regional Parks staff rose to the occasion, demonstrating flexibility and creativity in providing innovative ways to keep regional parks open and visitors safe.

In 2021, Regional Parks will continue its COVID-19 response. The high visitation levels experienced last year are expected to continue into 2021 and staff will continue to manage the parks to ensure that parks stay open and visitors are safe. The service will also continue to respond to the other challenges it faces as it protects important natural areas and connects people to them. Examples include improving park access through low carbon transportation options, managing a growing inventory of park assets, ensuring parks are accessible – particularly with an ageing regional population, and effectively responding to strong growth in park visitation. Regional Parks will also start the update of the Regional Parks Plan (www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/RegionalParksPlan.pdf) to better position the service to address anticipated climate change related challenges while promoting resident health and well-being, and improving equitable access to park services.

Our Values

The Necessity of Nature

Wellness

The Sharing of Expertise

Stewardship

Regional Parks and Greenspace



Growing our System

Regional Parks plays a crucial role in making Metro Vancouver a desirable place to live, work and play. Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050* is Metro Vancouver's key strategy for contributing to regional livability by protecting regionally important natural areas. Metro Vancouver advances delivery of the strategy each year in collaboration with member jurisdictions, senior levels of government and others. Acquisition of new parklands can support Metro Vancouver's climate management goals by securing Provincial carbon credits. In 2020 Metro Vancouver was able to achieve corporate carbon neutrality in large part due to regional park land acquisitions. www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/RegionalParksLandAcquisition2050.pdf

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

Regional Park Land Acquisition Fund increased by \$4 million in 2020

236.7 hectares acquired in 2020

1.24 hectares Crippen Regional Park
2.3 hectares Kanaka Creek Regional Park
127 hectares Aldergrove Regional Park*
106.2 hectares Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area*

Totaling just over \$3.34 million in value

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

CTS Youth Society Connect | Teach | Sustain



A non-profit organization dedicated to developing leadership and social responsibility in youth through environmental awareness, stewardship and outdoor education.

Unable to offer its popular camps in 2020 due to COVID-19, the society developed new programs that supported youth development online and outside.

- Planned and delivered 4 new place-based programs. 12 sessions with 76 participants offered by trained Peer Leaders at 3 regional parks.
- Delivered first summer Youth Council (normally a winter/fall program). 24 Youth Council members contributed 964 volunteer hours at 30 online workshops.
- Partnered with other non-profits to offer 6 sessions of *Online Spotlight* webinar series attended by 134 participants.
- Participated in 8 stewardship work parties with 48 youth and adult volunteers contributing 147 volunteer hours.
- Designed new CTS logo to capture program's focus on youth and outdoors.



DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK

Our Foundation



Pacific Parklands
FOUNDATION

Supporting Metro Vancouver
Regional Parks

Pacific Parklands Foundation is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of Metro Vancouver's regional parks.

2020 Accomplishments

- Issued grants from George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program to Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society, Pacific Spirit Park Society, Colony Farm Park Association and Minnekhada Park Association to improve habitat, monitor ecosystems and promote volunteering in regional parks.
- Supported enhancement to Vancouver Avian Research Centre facilities in Colony Farm Regional Park.
- Supported CTS Youth Society in providing educational programs for youth in regional parks.
- Provided bursaries to support continuing education of 4 young environmental leaders through the Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Award.
- Supported installation of 8 commemorative benches and 2 commemorative picnic tables.



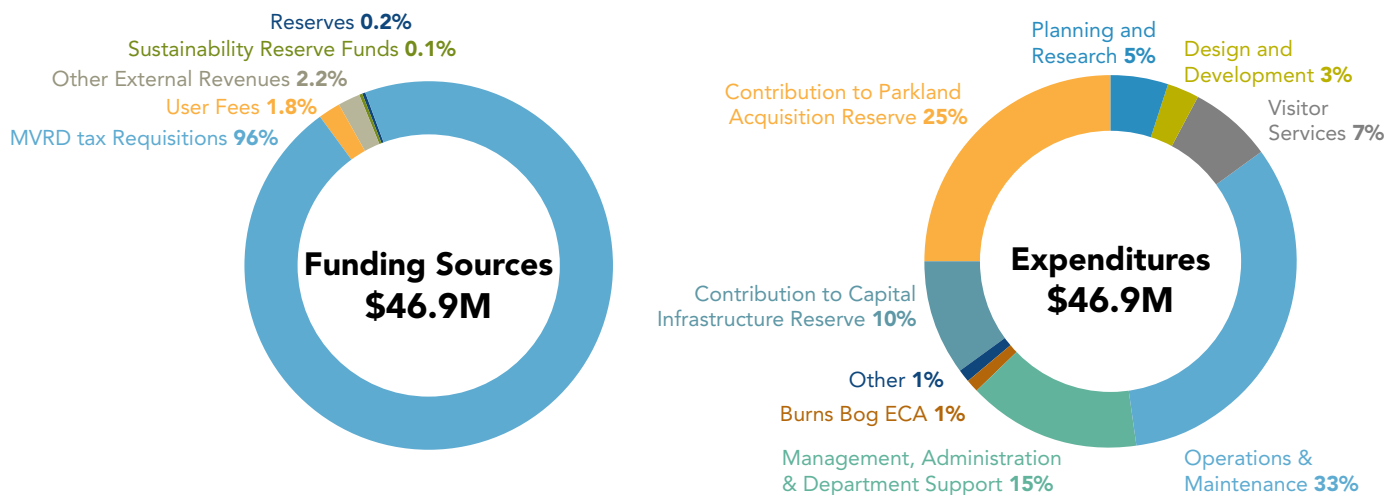
Vancouver Avian Research Center facility
COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK

project
spotlight

Nature Connections Webinar Series

Pacific Parklands Foundation and Regional Parks jointly hosted the Nature Connections webinar series as an outreach and education platform in response to COVID-19 program cancellations. Free and open to all ages, each webinar featured park interpreters and wildlife conservation experts highlighting regional conservation and biodiversity issues. Almost 600 people attended 13 webinars. This fun, informative and safe alternative to in-person programs was an important tool for connecting people to Regional Parks' conservation and nature interpretation messages in 2020.

Funding Sources and Expenditures

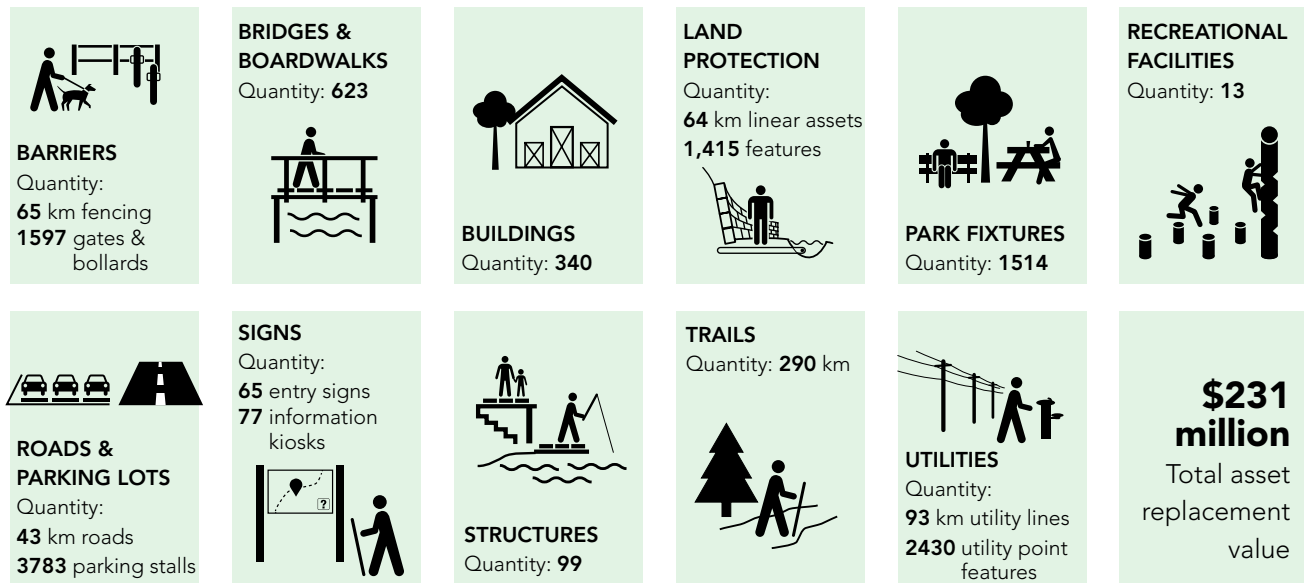


Regional Parks Provide Significant Value

Regional Parks' funding sources are primarily obtained through the annual Metro Vancouver Regional District tax requisition. This core funding is supplemented by modest income from user fees, capital reserves and occasionally sustainability reserve funds and external revenues such as federal or provincial grants. Recognizing the importance of protecting regionally important natural areas, the Metro Vancouver Board approved increases to the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund in 2019 and 2020.

Building and Maintaining Park Assets

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



2020 Accomplishments

- Completed Sheep Paddocks Trail (Colony Farm Regional Park)
- Completed nature discovery trail and wetland project (Aldergrove Regional Park)
- Initiated Widgeon Marsh Regional Park design
- Advanced design on service yards for Pacific Spirit, Crippen and Capilano regional parks
- Nearing completion of design for new Derby Reach Regional Park full-service washroom
- Nearing completion of design for Aldergrove Regional Park's Rocking Horse Trail Connector
- Initiated Grouse Mountain Regional Park trail and amenity improvement project (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant)

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Design



An integrated project delivery team worked to translate the Widgeon Marsh Regional Park management plan into a detailed park design. Significant progress was made in 2020 on pre-design, technical studies, and archeological and cultural assessments. The project team is working closely with local First Nations and the City of Coquitlam through the process. www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/WidgeonMarshRP-MgmtPlan.pdf



Take a sneak peek at the planning of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park in this video (vimeo.com/391622284)



Watch this video of the Grouse Mountain Regional Park Funding Announcement (vimeo.com/446661909)

Protecting Important Natural Areas

In 2020, Regional Parks protected:

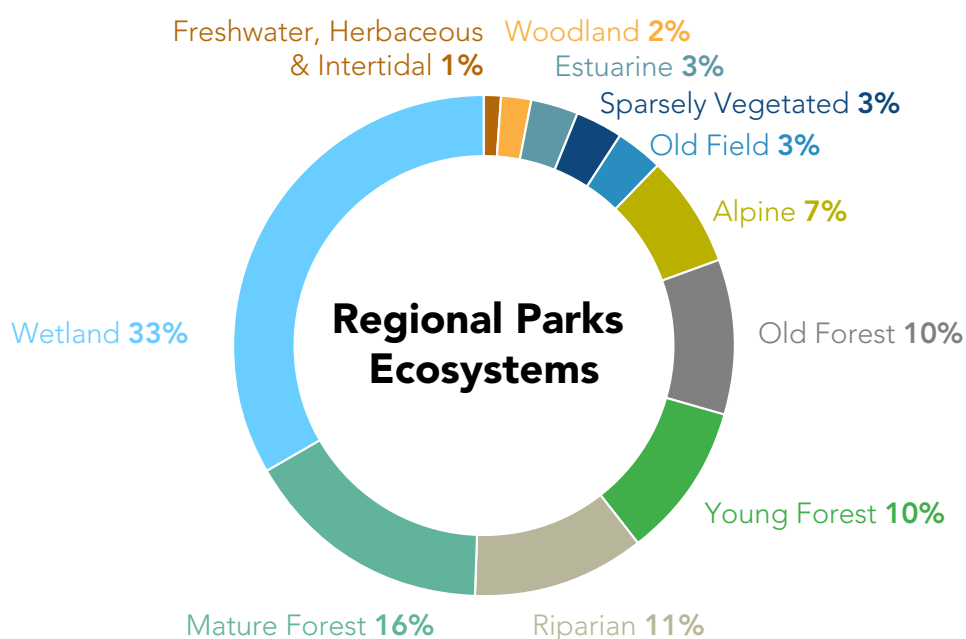
13,743 Hectares – Including **9,706** Hectares of Ecological Areas

23 Regional Parks

2 Regional Park Reserves

5 Regional Greenways

2 Ecological Conservancy Areas



Natural Resource Management

Regional Parks staff work throughout the year to protect and conserve ecosystem health.

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.

2020 Accomplishments

- Reforested riparian area at Killarney Meadow (Crippen Regional Park)
- Closed unsanctioned trail with students from BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program (Pacific Spirit Regional Park)
- Enhanced amphibian breeding pond with volunteer support (Pacific Spirit Regional Park)
- Contributed to Metro Vancouver carbon neutrality through ecosystem restoration efforts (Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area)
- Completed 2-year camera trap monitoring study to inform ecological design practices and natural resources protection (Widgeon Marsh Regional Park)
- Removed 3 hectares of lodgepole pine seedlings from the 2016 fire site to preserve sensitive bog habitat (Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area)
- Completed 9 restoration planting projects using over 6,200 native trees and shrubs with volunteers and Regional Parks staff (Aldergrove, Kanaka Creek, Derby Reach, Campbell Valley, Boundary Bay and Tynehead regional parks and Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway)
- Improved habitat for small mammals and raptors in old field adjacent to new wetland (Aldergrove Regional Park)
- Installed 3 owl boxes next to old field habitat with volunteer help (Aldergrove and Kanaka Creek regional parks and Pitt River Regional Greenway)

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 come together and connect to the land base they steward.

During the 7th annual EcoBlitz stewardship event, staff joined forces with Wreck Beach Preservation Society and Pacific Spirit Park Society volunteers to carry over 120 native shrubs down 500 stairs and plant them in support of Wreck Beach shoreline restoration.

Shoreline Restoration at Wreck Beach, Pacific Spirit Regional Park



Slopes subject to frequent landslides were stabilized and damaged intertidal ecosystems restored thanks to a collaborative initiative with coastal geomorphology and bioengineering experts, Musqueam Indian Band, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Wreck Beach Preservation Society. Public and First Nations engagement was key to the success of this initiative that saw reestablished fish spawning and replanted riparian areas.



Metro Vancouver Achieves Carbon Neutrality



Metro Vancouver's leadership and commitment to climate change allowed the regional district to achieve corporate carbon neutrality for 2019 and potentially through 2022. This achievement was strongly supported by ecological restoration of Burns Bog, which sequesters large amounts of carbon, along with parkland acquisitions at Widgeon Marsh in Coquitlam and Codd Wetland in Pitt Meadows, which protects ecosystems, helps people connect with nature and sequesters carbon.



Parks Operations and Public Safety

Parks Operations and Maintenance

Keeping regional parks and park assets at the standard of care expected by visitors each year takes an incredible amount of staff effort. Each year, staff ensure regional parks are maintained for safe public enjoyment 365 days of the year. Last year, COVID-19 made this work particularly challenging.

Throughout 2020, staff worked hard to keep regional parks open to the public. Staff quickly adapted to the new circumstances, leading and assisting with implementation of various responses in order to provide residents safe opportunities to spend time in nature. We learned throughout the year how beneficial this was for both the physical and mental wellbeing of our visitors.

Staff monitored and managed visitor behavior in all regional parks and took the necessary action to keep parks open and safe throughout the year, which included:

- Promoting physical distancing as much as possible, including in parking lots and trail entrances through implementation of extensive signage and education programs
- Increasing cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as door handles, washroom doors and sink surfaces
- Closing amenities such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, group camps and reservable facilities
- Implementing one-way trails to reduce congestion
- Addressing demand management challenges with traffic management and communications programs



Keeping Parks Open – Physical Distancing Signage



In April 2020, Regional Parks staff installed 528 COVID-19 signs in regional parks and greenways over only 9 days to promote visitor safety. This included team members distributing the signs, cutting sign posts, constructing mounting structures, and physically installing the signs. While this was a team effort involving many helping hands, the herculean effort to get these signs up so quickly across the region highlights the flexibility, creativity and commitment staff bring to the job daily to keep regional parks open and safe.



From April 13 to August 31, Regional Parks staff spoke with 229,231 visitors reminding them of the importance of physical distancing.

Safe Regional Parks and Park Visitors

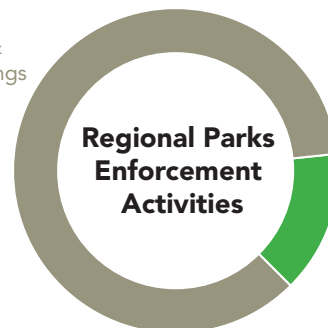
Staff work to fairly and consistently educate members of the public on park rules and expectations as part of our approach to offer a positive visitor experience through good park design, education, and as a last resort, enforcement.

In a year when a record number of visitors came to regional parks, staff supported the implementation of provincial public health orders related to the pandemic response. Staff keep visitors safe by:

- Providing a uniformed presence in regional parks
- Educating park visitors on physical distancing, group sizes and safe use of regional parks
- Investigating and responded to public safety concerns
- Coordinating patrols and response from emergency response agencies
- Activating a Department Operations Centre to manage the day-to-day emergency response for Regional Parks from March 23 – April 17

- Providing on-going support to our park partners and park associations who needed to pause many of their activities given public health restrictions
- Promoting a unified approach to implementing public health restrictions within parks throughout the region through municipal members of the Regional Parks Advisory Committee to .
- Participating as a member of the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association, and utilized its COVID-19 restart plan as a guide to working within a 'new normal'
- Developing COVID-19 Safety Plans for public programming activities and stewardship activities to allow for the safe re-introduction of these services

Educational
Park Notices &
Written Warnings
85%



15%
Park Orders &
Notice of Bylaw
Violations

Managing Parks Today and into the Future

Metro Vancouver staff support the long-term development and management of regional parks and greenways through the delivery of original research projects and the development of plans and policies. Regional Parks policies support day-to-day decision making while system and park level plans describe a long-term vision for the Regional Parks system and guide resource management, development, operations and programming.

2020 Accomplishments

- Completed Regional Greenways 2050 Plan
- Completed Alternative Transportation Study – Phase 1
- Contributed to Iona Integrated Waste Water Treatment Plan Project Definition Report
- Advanced Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Detailed Design
- Helped secure carbon credits for Metro Vancouver by supporting an Avoided Forest Carbon Conversion Project on recently purchased parkland
- Advanced Campbell Valley Regional Park Management Plan
- Initiated natural asset management plan and completed inventory of natural assets
- Co-led development of Climate 2050, Nature & Ecosystems discussion paper



Regional Greenways 2050 Plan

project
spotlight

Regional Parks worked with local jurisdictions, agencies, First Nations and key stakeholders to develop the Regional Greenways 2050 plan. The plan describes the region's shared vision for a network of recreational multi-use paths for cycling and walking that connects residents to large parks, protected natural areas and communities to support regional livability. Combined with TransLink's Major Bikeway Network, they contribute to active transportation infrastructure in the region.

www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/RegionalGreenways2050.pdf

Avoided Forest Carbon Conversion Project

project
spotlight

In 2019, Metro Vancouver purchased two large properties with mature Douglas-fir forest. Regional Parks staff worked with Air Quality and Climate Change staff and consultants to secure provincial carbon credits for protecting parkland, helping Metro Vancouver achieve its corporate climate management goals.

Connecting People with Nature

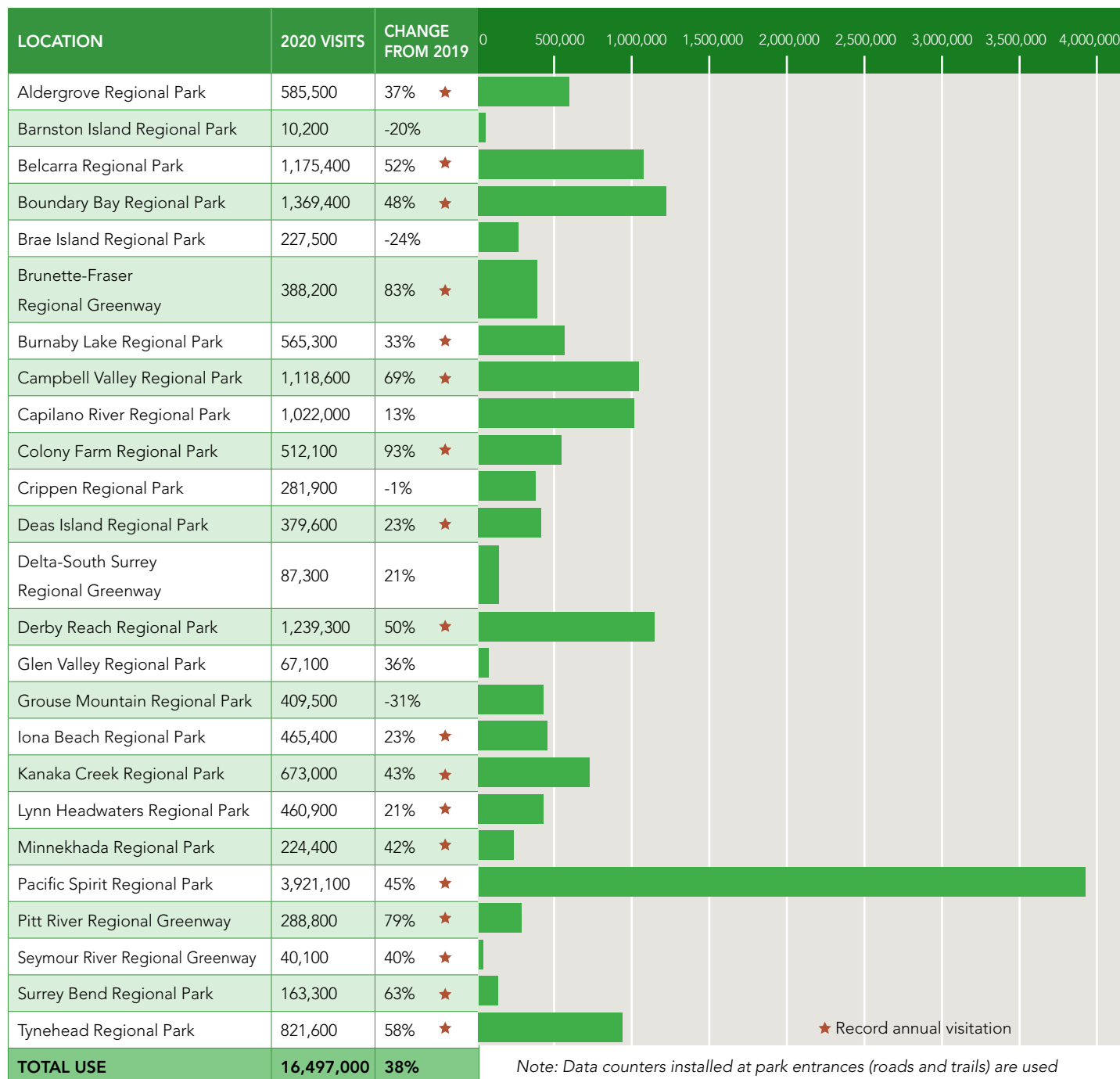
Visits

15 Regional Parks & 3 Regional Greenways
received record number of visits

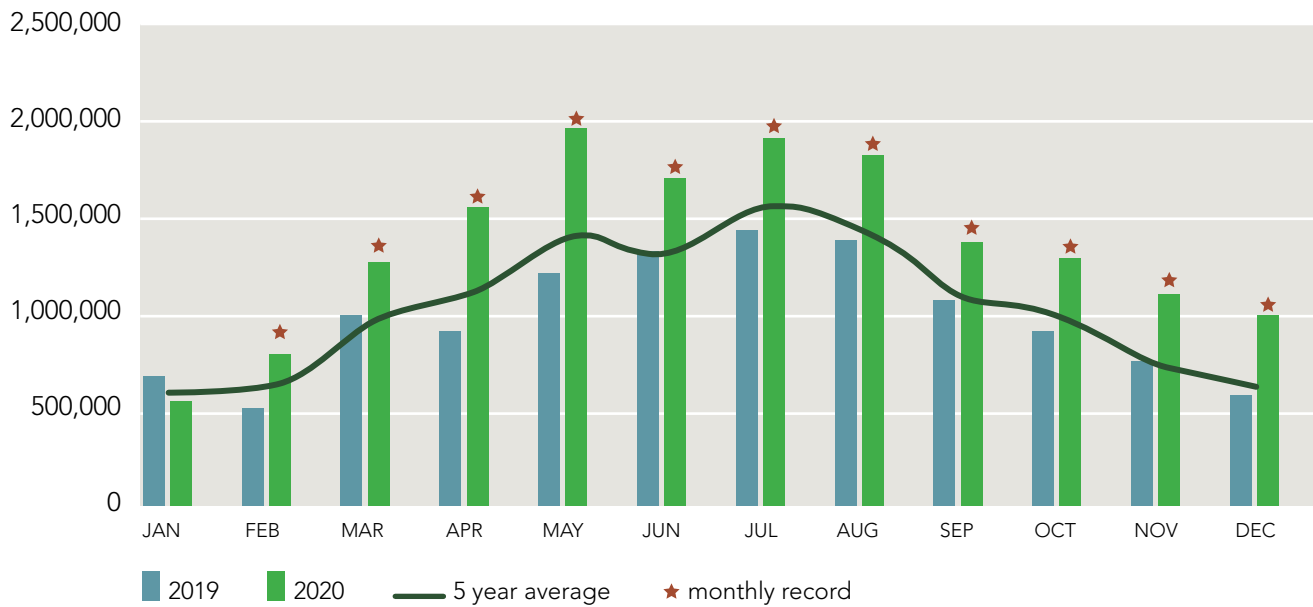
16.5 million park visits in 2020
(38% increase from 2019)

Visitation was 31%
above the 5-year average

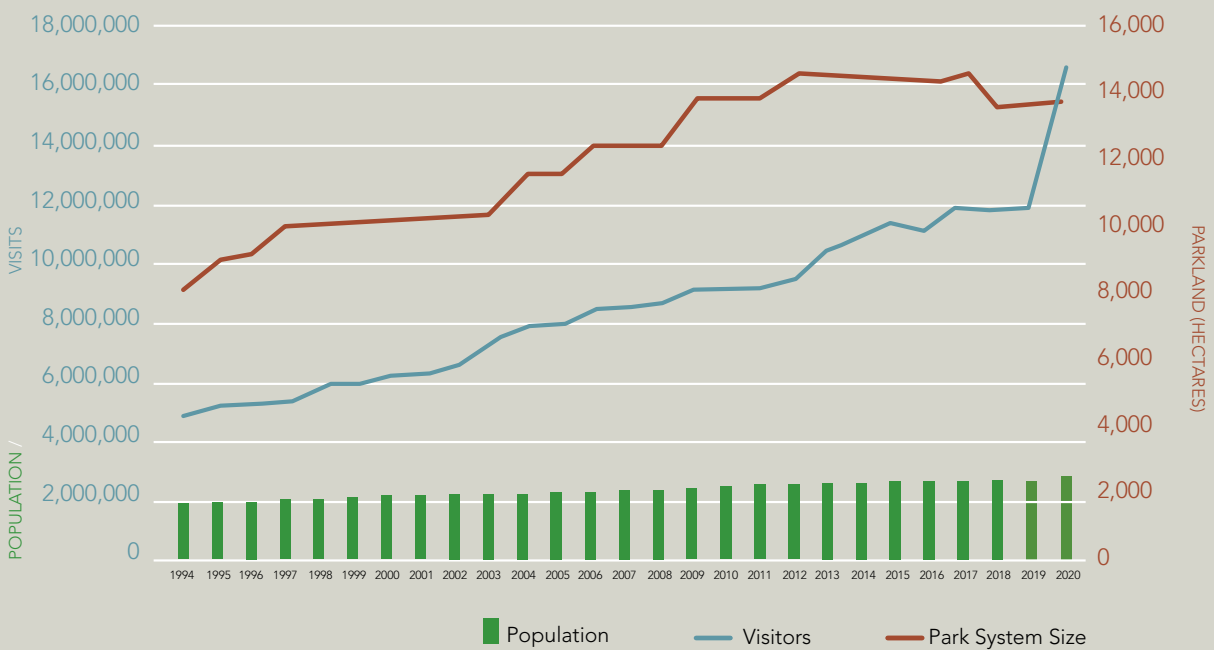
Record monthly use in all months except January (pre-pandemic)



2020 Monthly Visits



Annual Trends



Public Programs and Events



5,629

Total Participants



310

**Total Programs, Events
and Outreach Activities**

When the Provincial Health Officer placed limits on social gatherings to 50 or fewer persons in 2020, Regional Parks responded by cancelling large-scale events and closing visitor centers at Burnaby Lake and Campbell Valley regional parks. Staff were quick to respond by pivoting to provide nature programs for smaller groups and by developing innovative new delivery approaches to allow for physical distancing and ensure the safety of staff and participants.

- Adapted field trips, public programs and events through shift to rotation style stations, requiring registration as household or social bubbles, offering online options and other creative methods
- Developed and delivered virtual field trips for school audiences
- Created and produced webinars and online educational resources

"Your programs are very unique in Metro Vancouver and essential in such difficult times. They are completely applicable to the current situation and allow families to forget a moment about it. We're discovering more of the lower mainland and more parks as I plan a full day out around the workshops."

Cloe and Jerry, program participants

Public Programming Strategy



The Metro Vancouver Board adopted a new **public programming strategy** in 2020. It confirms the need for regionally-provided nature-based public programs and events and provides recommendations on how Regional Parks programs and interpretive events can meet the future needs of the region's growing diverse population.



Group Programs

2,246 participants

169 field trips & workshops



Public Programs

3,383 participants

141 programs

Park Association Activities

In 2020, seven community-based Park Associations continued to support Regional Parks and engage the public through modified stewardship activities and on-site nature programs, virtual nature education and webinars, YouTube videos and online contests.

2020 Accomplishments

- Constructed bat condo at Minnekhada Farm (Minnekhada Park Association)
- Assisted staff with park roving to educate visitors about physical distancing (Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society)
- Co-facilitated iNaturalist pilot project to engage communities in regional parks (Colony Farm Park Association)
- Hosted barn owl webinar (Boundary Bay Park Association)
- Adapted annual Heritage Apple Day event to virtual week-long program with online presentation, photo contest and YouTube videos (Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association)
- Hosted modified stewardship work parties to support Regional Parks' EcoBlitz event (Burnaby Lake Park Association)
- Developed interactive online game to educate children about native and invasive species (Pacific Spirit Park Society)



"This year, the park associations and CTS Youth Society collaborated to run a successful pilot project using iNaturalist, an app that lets users take photos in nature and identify what they observe. It is a perfect tool to engage community members while physically distancing during the pandemic, and a great way to engage people with nature. And it is a great opportunity for park associations who often work separately to come together for a joint venture."

Maddie Edmonds, Stewardship Coordinator,

Colony Farm Park Association

Facility Reservations

Regional Parks has locations suitable to group picnicking and camping, weddings, equestrian activities, special events, meetings or workshops. In 2020, Regional Parks launched ActiveNet, a new user-friendly online system that allowed users to check availability of reservable facilities. While there were fewer facility reservations for larger groups in 2020, the demand for camping facilities for families and small groups was unprecedented. New outdoor rentable facilities at Pacific Spirit Regional Park were created to meet the demand for smaller ceremony sites.



87,913 guests enjoyed individual camping facilities at Derby Reach and Brae Island regional parks



611 groups
19,037 guests enjoyed bookable day-use facilities

Short-term rental of buildings, structures and open space includes:

328 groups
with 9,622 guests visited picnic shelters located in 8 regional parks

83 groups
with 1,698 guests visited buildings located in 6 regional parks

Rustic outdoor or indoor camping for groups located in 4 regional parks:

101 groups
with 2,470 guests enjoyed group camping facilities

99 groups
with 5,247 guests enjoyed other day use booking opportunities



MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK



Facility Rentals

Though reservable facilities initially closed in spring as a precaution, BC's restart plan provided the opportunity to re-open. Following guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, staff developed and implemented COVID-19 safety plans for Minnekhada Lodge, Camp Capilano and Cammidge House. Ensuring these buildings were open, accessible and safe for visitor use enabled small weddings, birthdays and other meaningful celebrations to occur.

Volunteering



8,237

Total Volunteer Hours



2,471

Total Volunteer Instances

A volunteer instance is when one person volunteers once at an event or program

Volunteers contribute to the delivery of a range of programs and activities in regional parks. Staff and volunteers overcame 2020's challenges, adapting activities and delivering a successful program. Responses included creating more spacious work sites, reducing group sizes and increasing sanitization of tools and touchpoints.



NRM Program Stewardship Volunteering

2,876 Hours 970 Instances

Park Association Stewardship Volunteering

2,510 Hours 677 Instances

Park Association Other Volunteering

2,536 Hours 743 Instances

Public Program and Events Volunteering

314 Hours 81 Instances



Stewardship Activities

222
Activities

1,647
Volunteer Instances

5,386
Volunteer Hours

\$81,000
Estimated Value of Volunteer Hours
(multiplied by \$15/hr rate – commonly used for volunteer labour)

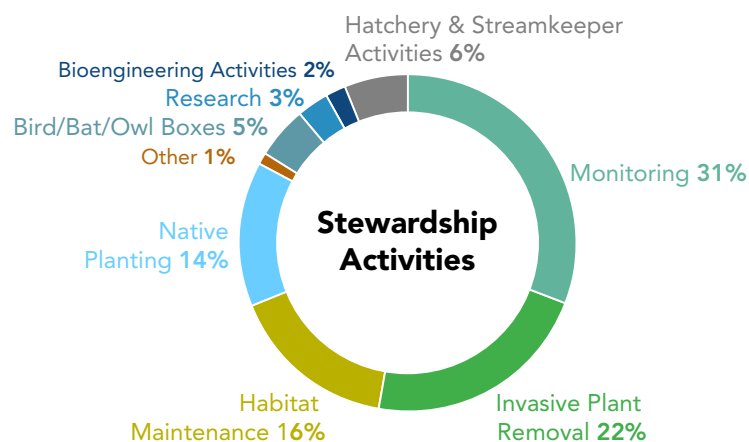
4,802 kg of
Invasive Species Removed

6,897
Native Plants Added to Parks

91
work parties (677 volunteer instances, 2,510 hours) benefitted from Park Association involvement

Environmental Stewardship Volunteering

Regional parks protect 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.



"Thank you for facilitating a great service project with our youth. Despite the heat and hard work, people felt satisfied with what they accomplished and inspired to do similar things in the future. We're excited to come back and do more work with you!"

WILD Outside Volunteer

Park Association Volunteering

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.

New Online Volunteer Management System



In 2020, an online system was launched to improve volunteer information management and eliminate duplication of effort. This will help ensure that Metro Vancouver continues to engage community partners and volunteers in supporting, sustaining and protecting regional parks.

"Though the previous year had its challenges, the circumstances made obvious the resilience and commitment of our volunteer community. As we worked to adapt our programming and work protocols during the pandemic, our volunteers were always ready to adapt and continue giving their time during a period that was, for many, very stressful and challenging. Their positivity and generosity was truly inspiring."

Tony Khafizov, EcoTeam Leader, Pacific Spirit Park Society

Public Program Volunteering

In normal years, the volunteer program includes nature houses, events and interpretive programs. Due to COVID-19, these programs were placed on hold in 2020.



5,047

Total Park Association Volunteer Hours



1,420

Total Volunteer Instances

Park Associations Got Creative in 2020

76 YouTube videos

2,938 Views

Belcarra Beachkeepers

314 Volunteer Hours

81 Volunteer Instances

2249 Contacts

Established in 1997, Belcarra Beachkeepers is a volunteer-supported interpretive and stewardship program at Belcarra Regional Park. Led by a park interpreter and supported by volunteers interested in natural sciences, the Belcarra Beachkeepers is Regional Parks' longest running stewardship program. Volunteers conduct data collection, public education and marine stewardship.

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.

27 regional parks videos produced in 2020

- videos reached 77,405 people on Facebook
- 7,044 Facebook Engagements (includes reactions, comments, shares)
- 79,084 video views (Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo)
- On Metro Vancouver's Facebook page, Physical Distancing in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks was the most popular Regional Parks video

28,067 reach

1,700 engagements

16,453 video views



Check out this short video encouraging physical distancing in regional parks (vimeo.com/403921774)



This video encourages visitors to enjoy the outdoors while respecting guidelines to help stop the spread of the virus (vimeo.com/403021052)



@MetroVancouver

939,438 Twitter Impressions



@metrovancoverbc

Total reach of 46,603 viewers



FB.ME/MetroVancouver
RegionalParks

80,240 Facebook engagements
(includes reactions, comments, shares)



**nature
break**

For those who didn't have a chance to get outside and explore nature in person, new Nature Break resources invited people to take a moment to immerse in nature through one of our online videos. Viewers can relax to soothing nature sounds or go on virtual visits with park interpreters who reveal hidden natural wonders.

9 videos distributed via new Nature Break webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

The Nature Break webpage also features Nature Activities – printable sheets to bring on regional parks visits and get more out of the park experience.

www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/discover/nature-break/Pages/default.aspx

In 2020, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
Protected 13,740 hectares
of regionally important natural areas
Connected through 16.5 million visits



metrovancover
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION
Regional Parks Committee

To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: April 20, 2021

Meeting Date: May 12, 2021

Subject: **Manager's Report – Regional Parks**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated April 20, 2021, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Parks Committee Work Plan 2021 is attached for information. The status of the work program elements is indicated as pending, in progress or complete. The work plan is updated as needed to include new issues that arise, items requested by the Committee and changes in the schedule.

REGIONAL PARKS - COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Metro Vancouver's regional parks are currently open. Spending time in nature is an effective way to reduce stress, and support physical and mental wellbeing. Our goal is to continue to provide the regional parks service that is such an important part of so many peoples' daily health routines.

Please enjoy the outdoors while respecting the following guidelines:

- **Stay local and only visit parks in your area. Avoid non-essential travel.**
- Keep at least two metres from others as much as possible, including in parking lots and trail entrances.
- Walk, bike, or take transit to avoid contributing to parking issues.
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow.
- Dispose of any tissues, masks, or gloves in designated garbage bins.
- Check provincial guidelines for the latest updates on social interactions.
- Stay home and away from others if you have cold or flu symptoms.

Park amenities and programs are open:

- Playgrounds, picnic shelters, group camps, and reservable facilities are open.
- Nature programs have resumed with some modifications to allow for physical distancing and measures are in place to protect you and your loved ones.
- Parking is open but can be busy in some parks, particularly on sunny days.

How to get to regional parks:

Parking lots can experience high demand, especially on weekends. Lots will close once they are full. Consider transit or cycling as an alternative, or visiting during times of day that may not be as busy.

Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor and manage visitor behaviour in all of its parks, and will take the necessary action to protect public health and safety throughout the system. Staff are reassessing the status of each regional park on an ongoing basis and we will close regional parks where the safety rules are not being followed.

2021 ONLINE SPRING PROGRAMS

Pond Virtual Field Trip

The park interpretation team delivered their first newly created pond virtual field trip free of charge to a grade 2/3 class who has little access to nature. This virtual field trip was developed to showcase our unique plants and animals to reach new audience virtually and provide them a firsthand experience of our regional parks. Over the next few months, park interpreters will be delivering over 60 pond experiences to classes in need of nature connections across Metro Vancouver, especially to those identified as underserved in Surrey, Richmond and Coquitlam.

One of the videos within this pond virtual field trip, is an interesting interview with a newt called Tang (Reference).

Wildlife Webinars

Other online programs developed and run by park interpreters have also been well received by Metro Vancouver residents and community groups like hospices, Guides and home-learners. Over 30 webinars focusing on coyotes, bear and owl have been delivered so far and have received encouraging feedback.

TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION AND METRO VANCOUVER CULTURAL PLANNING AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT UPDATE

On February 18, 2020, Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) and Metro Vancouver Regional District signed a historic *Cultural Planning and Co-Operation Agreement*, recognizing both Tsleil-Waututh's ancestral ties to the land and the present use by its members as well as a Metro Vancouver regional park. The agreement formalizes years of collaboration and provides opportunity to develop new initiatives, several of which are currently underway.

Early in 2021, Regional Parks staff met with TWN staff to explore the idea of a Cultural Heritage Study for Belcarra Regional Park. Regional Parks staff shared the scope, process, and projected deliverables of similar studies underway elsewhere in the parks system. TWN staff are currently developing a proposal and scope for this work, and both parties hope to commence this study later in 2021.

Since February 2021, Parks staff have partnered with TWN to establish an Indigenous Guardian Pilot Program, which would allow Tsleil-Waututh Guardians to act as the eyes and ears of the Nation on the land and waters of their territory. The goals of this program are for the Guardians to educate the public, collect data, monitor activities, and collaborate with other organizations to ensure stewardship of the area.

When the contract to run the concession stands at White Pine Beach and the picnic area expired in 2020, Metro Vancouver reached out to TWN to inquire about a food service provider, or community member, who might be interested in taking over the contract. A TWN member who runs an established catering company expressed interest. Metro Vancouver is working through details with the individual to operate the concessions in 2021 and beyond.

These three projects aim to protect, preserve and enhance the regional park for the benefit of present and future generations, while providing meaningful collaboration between the TWN and Metro Vancouver. Regional Parks staff continue to work closely with the TWN to develop and expand opportunities as part of the historic *Cultural Planning and Co-operation Agreement*.

REGIONAL GREENWAYS 2050 IMPLEMENTATION

Metro Vancouver is working with TransLink to advance the regional greenways vision. Currently underway is a review of where the Regional Greenways Network and the Major Bikeway Network overlap. Once this analysis is complete, a set of common priorities for advancement will be developed.

The *Regional Greenways 2050* plan was approved on November 27, 2020. As directed by the MVRD Board, the Regional Greenways Network and supporting policies have been incorporated into the draft language of the Regional Growth Strategy, Metro 2050.

BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK - GREENWAY IMPROVEMENT

On April 20, 2021 FortisBC announced that they have selected a preferred route to replace a gas line that is attached to the existing Patullo Bridge. The proposed gas line is planned to Sperling Avenue, Glencarin Drive, Lakefield Drive and 4th Street in Burnaby.

As part of the project, FortisBC is working with the City of Burnaby to design and build a new cycling and walking path along the proposed gas line route. This new multi-use pathway is identified in Metro Vancouver's *Regional Greenway 2050* strategy and is planned to connect to the existing Freeway Trail that traverses through Burnaby Lake Regional Park, which is operated by Regional Parks.

CRIPPEN REGIONAL PARK – BOWEN ISLAND HORSE OWNERS AND RIDERS ASSOCIATION (BIHORA) RIDING RING IMPROVEMENTS

The Bowen Island Horse Owners and Riders Association (BIHORA) has successfully applied for funding to replace the footing in the riding ring in the Meadows in Crippen Regional Park. BIHORA has sustained a long standing license agreement with MVRP for use and maintenance of the riding ring space.

With an increase in membership (60 new memberships in the past year), BIHORA wants to ensure the safety of riders, horses and attendees during events, shows and pleasure riding. Many people also use the facility to play Frisbee and for outdoor gym activities.



Photo Courtesy of BIHORA

BIHORA will work with Regional Parks staff on timing as well as locations for staging of materials and equipment to reduce environmental and user conflicts in the park. The site is adjacent to an important fish-bearing creek with restoration projects taking place nearby, but staff have confirmed that no permitting is required.

The work is due to be completed by the end of 2021 with a projected minimum cost of \$35,000. BIHORA utilizes its volunteer network along with the Pacific Parklands Foundation for fundraising opportunities. To date, they have successfully obtained \$15,000 from the Bowen Island Community Foundation. The local middle school will be partnering with BIHORA to design in-built planter boxes. This will save costs in footing materials and meet a variety of student curriculum goals.

Letters of support from Regional Parks have been included with funding applications submitted to the Canada Healthy Community Initiative and to the Horse Council British Columbia. This collaborative project will enhance the safety of the riding ring while engaging the Bowen Island community to create a more vibrant area of the public park.

GROUSE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – TREE CUTTING INCIDENT

Background

In September 2019, Metro Vancouver Regional District staff working at Grouse Mountain Regional Park observed several cut and limbed trees within the park. On October 5, 2019, Park Officers observed two individuals with an electric chainsaw cutting trees in the same rocky outcrop of Grouse Mountain Regional Park.

Staff intervened and identified the two individuals as known members of the local mountain climbing community. Further investigation determined that a total of 23 trees had been cut, 12 trees modified by limbing, 14 mountain climbing bolts had been drilled into rocks and significant ground disturbance was observed including the removal of mosses, lichens and small plants. RCMP were notified and attended the scene. Over the following months, a thorough investigation was launched by Metro Vancouver.

Loss to the ecosystem

This investigation determined the species of trees damaged which included Yellow Cedar, Mountain Hemlock, Shore Pine and Red Alder. The rocky outcrop provides unique habitat and has a high intrinsic vulnerability, high conservation value, and an ecosystem that is highly sensitive to disturbance, and supports “old-growth” trees that are slow growing and slow to recover.

The oldest trees felled were determined by an expert arborist to be between 100 and 125 years old, located in a tree stand with other trees up to 250 years in age. The lichens that were removed will not recover for many years and represent a loss of habitat to invertebrates.

The actions of the two individuals degraded the sensitive ecosystem of the park, and reduced and diminished the habitat quality for a number of species at risk including 5 birds, 1 mammal, 4 butterflies and 1 plant species.

Update

In March 2020, Park Rangers charged the two individuals with six counts under the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012*. On April 21, 2021, the two individuals pleaded guilty to one count each under the Bylaw for damaging between 10-15 trees and travelling off-trail. The first time offenders were fined \$5000 and \$1500 respectively and prohibited from entering Grouse Mountain Regional Park for 12 months through an issued Court Order.

It is expected that these prosecutions will act as a deterrent to the community at large to avoid future offences of this nature.

GROUSE MOUNTAIN SKYRIDE – PLANNED BLUE TRAM UPGRADE PLANNING

Metro Vancouver staff in Regional Parks and Water Services have been approached by representatives from Grouse Mountain Resort (GMR) regarding their interest in replacing one of the two tram skyrides (Old Blue Tram).

The GMR plans to make a preliminary development permit application to the District of North Vancouver. The preliminary development permit application will include public consultation. The preliminary alignment includes an alignment over a small portion of Grouse Mountain Regional Park. GMR will require approvals from both GVWD and MVRD, discussions for which are in the preliminary stages.

Staff continue to work with Grouse Mountain Resort and will report back with future details regarding the proposed improvements.

REGIONAL PARKS EVENT UPDATES



Aldergrove Regional Park

Aldergrove Regional Park – Wander with Nature Gnomes and Wild Animal Survivor

These fully subscribed and waitlisted programs engaged families in various sensory activities to explore spring in Aldergrove Regional Park with nature gnome guides. Many were pleasantly surprised by new learnings and experiences in their local forest.

The Wild Animal Survivor program was home to adventurers aged 7-10 years, who chose to become a raccoon, coyote or beaver in order to survive a self-guided obstacle course. 139 participants connected to nature and Aldergrove Regional Park with activities

like 'jump as far as a coyote', 'build a lodge' and 'pond dip for food', for which they collected health points when successful.

Minnekhada Regional Park – “Who am I?” Walk

In this COVID-adapted drop-in, self-led program, participants were challenged to discover the identities of four spring-time mystery animals that are returning from migration or just waking up from hibernation.

Participants were able to maintain physical distancing while reading well-spaced speech bubble clues. Clues encouraged the participants to engage their senses and immerse themselves in the nature around them. Use of props was eliminated to minimize contact with surfaces.

The program was attended by 163 participants who found it to be enjoyable and informative. This is the first time a program like this has been hosted at Minnekhada and the interpretive team is eager to explore other opportunities for connecting with users at this popular location.



Minnekhada Regional Park



Well- spaced clues

Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Wild Like Me: Raccoon Ramble



Pacific Spirit Regional Park (Participants within same household)

In this COVID-friendly program, participants learnt about how raccoons survive in urban areas by using different physical and behavioral features. They explored a self-guided trail filled with raccoon challenges and engaging activities.

Participant highlights included searching for the hidden raccoons, creating raccoon footprints, listening for dangers raccoons must avoid and contemplating ways to co-exist with raccoons in cities.

In the feedback received for this program, it was noted to be COVID friendly, engaging, relevant for kids and 'a different experience'.

Attachment

Regional Parks Committee 2021 Work Plan

References

[Interview with Tang the Newt](#)

45083668

Regional Parks Committee 2021 Work Plan

Report Date: May 12, 2021

Priorities

1 st Quarter	Status
Regional Parks Park Partnership Program Update	Complete
Regional Parks State of Assets	Complete
Regional Parks Permit Framework	Complete
Visitor and Parking Capacity Management Update	Complete
Regional Parks Program and Interpretation update	Complete
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Complete
Burnaby Lake Regional Park – Agreement with the City of Burnaby Update	Complete
2 nd Quarter	
Bylaw Amendment for Land Dedication	Complete
Regional Parks Plan Update	Complete
Grouse Mountain Regional Park Grant Update	Complete
Visitor and Parking Capacity Management Update	Complete
Burnaby Lake Regional Park – Agreement with the City of Burnaby	In Progress
Regional Parks Building Strategy Update	Pending
Regional Parks Annual Report for 2020	Pending
Regional Parks Capital Development Update	Pending
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Pending
Delta Nature Reserve Management Plan – Phase 1 Engagement	Pending
Brunette Fraser Greenway Sapperton Opening	Pending
Pacific Parklands Foundation Update	Pending
Hazard Tree Management Update	Pending
3 rd Quarter	
Regional Parks Committee Tour of Regional Parks	TBD
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Pending
Metro Vancouver 2021 Regional Parks PNE Display Update	Pending
Regional Parks Building Strategy	Pending
Asset Management Plan	Pending
Visitor and Parking Capacity Management Update	Pending
Review/Renew Park Association Contribution Agreements	Pending
4 th Quarter	
Regional Parks Development Cost Charge Program	Pending
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Pending
Regional Parks Park Partnership Program Review	Pending
Visitor and Parking Capacity Management Update	Pending
Regional Parks Annual Budget and 5-year Financial Plan	Pending
Regional Parks Regulation Amending Bylaw	Pending
Crippen Regional Park - Dorman Point Concept Plan Update	Pending
Regional Parks Natural Assets	Pending
Forest Health Results Study Update	Pending
Alternative Transportation Study – Phase 2	Pending
Regional Parks Capital Development Update	Pending

Status = Pending, In Progress or Completed

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

Upcoming Events

May 2021

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
MAY 1	City Nature Challenge Webinar and Walk MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK SURREY BEND REGIONAL PARK IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK
MAY 8	Birding for Beginners COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK
MAY 8	Nature Hike to Jug Island BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK
MAY 11	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
MAY 15	Awesome Owls CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
MAY 24	A Visit to the Fairy Forest BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

**Note: For more information on Regional Parks Programs & Events, please visit <http://www.metrovanancouver.org/events/calendar>*

