

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

9:15 AM

**Meeting conducted electronically pursuant to the Procedure Bylaw
28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia
Webstream available at <http://www.metrovancouver.org>**

A G E N D A¹

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for July 13, 2022 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held June 8, 2022 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Paul Hundal, Old Growth Conservancy Society

Subject: Lynn Headwaters Regional Park Lease

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Irene Lau, Chair, Burnaby Lake Park Association

Subject: Burnaby Lake Association

4.2 Maddie Edmonds, Coordinator, Colony Farm Park Association

Subject: Colony Farm Parks Association

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

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary

That the MVRD Board approve the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*, as presented in the report dated June 10, 2022, titled “Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary.”

5.2 Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated June 23, 2022, titled, “Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan.”

5.3 Manager’s Report – Regional Parks

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated June 20, 2022, titled “Manager’s Report – Regional Parks.”

6 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – June & July 2022

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 July 13, 2022 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;

10 ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of July 13, 2022.

Membership:

McEwen, John (C) – Anmore
Wiebe, Michael (VC) – Vancouver
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
Ross, Jamie – Belcarra
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 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 in the 28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Mayor John McEwen, Anmore
 Vice Chair, Councillor Michael Wiebe*, Vancouver
 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
 Mayor Jamie Ross, Belcarra
 Councillor Bill Soprovich, West Vancouver
 Councillor Mary Trentadue*, New Westminster

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

STAFF PRESENT:

Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, Parks and Environment
 Morgan Mackenzie, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for June 8, 2022 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 May 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held May 18, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Ecological Restoration Projects in Regional Parks

Markus Merkens, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Regional Parks, provided the Regional Parks Committee with a verbal update on the benefits of ecological restoration, the methods of managing natural assets in regional parks and detailed examples of various projects completed in the region.

Presentation material titled "Ecological Restoration Projects in Regional Parks" is retained with the June 8, 2022 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

5.2 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1349, 2022

Report dated May 4, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD Board's approval of *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1349, 2022* for the dedication of land acquired for use as regional park.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1349, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1349, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.3 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1345, 2022 – Amends Bylaw 1061, 2007

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD Board's approval of a number of administrative amendments to *Greater Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1061, 2007*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1345, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1345, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.4 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1346, 2022 – Amends Bylaw 1076, 2008

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD Board's approval of a number of administrative amendments to *Greater Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1076, 2008*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1346, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1346, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.5 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1347, 2022 – Amends Bylaw 1111, 2009

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD Board's approval of a number of administrative amendments to *Greater Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1111, 2009*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1347, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1347, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.6 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1348, 2022 – Amends Bylaw 1300, 2020

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD's Board approval of a number of administrative amendments to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1300, 2020*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1348, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1348, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.7 MVRD Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1344, 2022 – Amends Bylaw 1319, 2021

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, obtaining the MVRD Board's approval of a number of administrative amendments to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1319, 2021*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give first, second and third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1344, 2022*; and
- b) pass and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Amendment Bylaw No. 1344, 2022*.

CARRIED

5.8 Alternative Transportation Study Part II: Access to Regional Parks Report

Report dated May 10, 2022, from Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, providing the Regional Parks Committee with the results of the Alternative Transportation Study Part II and a series of actions that Metro Vancouver can pursue to encourage more park visitors to travel to regional parks by bicycle or public transit.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Alternative Transportation Study highlighting the project process, the key insights, the relevant case studies and the next steps.

In response to questions, staff ensured the committee that member municipalities' strategies have been incorporated into the *Regional Greenways 2050 Plan*, which is embedded within the *Transport 2050 Strategy*. Staff also highlighted various capacity management tools used within the regional parks.

Members discussed alternative transportation options including shuttle buses, passenger ferry shuttles and infrastructure for pedal and electric bicycles.

Members expressed concern about the cost of major capital projects, highlighting the need to secure provincial funding.

Presentation material titled “Regional Parks Alternative Transportation Study” is retained with the June 8, 2022 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the MVRD Board:

- a) receive for information the report dated May 10, 2022, titled “Alternative Transportation Study Part II: Access to Regional Parks”; and
- b) direct staff to share the report with TransLink and member jurisdictions.

CARRIED

5.9 t̑mt̑m̑x̑t̑n/Belcarra Regional Park – Joint City of Port Moody and MVRD Bedwell Bay Rd Traffic Study results

Report dated May 11, 2022, from Steve Schaffrick, Division Manager, Central Area, Regional Parks, providing the Regional Parks Committee with a summary of the high level recommendations arising from the City of Port Moody and MVRD’s joint traffic study for Bedwell Bay Road, outlining the next steps in implementation of these recommendations.

Members were provided with a verbal update on the results of the study, highlighting the challenges with congestion issues, the parking lot capacity limits, the infrastructure solutions and the implemented capacity management programs.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated May 11, 2022, titled “t̑mt̑m̑x̑t̑n/Belcarra Regional Park – Joint City of Port Moody and MVRD Bedwell Bay Rd Traffic Study results.”

CARRIED

5.10 Manager’s Report – Regional Parks

Report dated May 18, 2022, from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, providing the Regional Parks Committee with updates on the bear-human conflict prevention guidelines and the wildlife camera studies from Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.

Members were shown a video on the restoration efforts by staff in Brae Island Regional Park. This video is not retained with the agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated May 18, 2022 titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – June 2022

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 June 8, 2022 pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (g) 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:
(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district."

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its regular meeting of June 8, 2022.

CARRIED

(Time: 10:22 a.m.)

Morgan Mackenzie,
Legislative Services Coordinator

John McEwen, Chair

53288232 FINAL

DELEGATION PRESENTATION TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

July 13 2022

by Paul Hundal, Old Growth Conservancy Society

As President of the Old Growth Conservancy Society based in West Vancouver, I would like to ask the Regional Parks Committee to pass a motion **directing staff to seek either a 999 lease for the crown lands within the Lynn Headwaters Regional Park area or a fee simple transfer of those lands from the provincial government to the Metro Vancouver Regional District for recreation and conservation purposes only.** The current 30 year lease for these lands has just expired so this is the ideal time to make that request in order to provide the land with the fullest protection it deserves.

Thirty years ago when the first lease was signed I expressed the same concern and below is a newspaper article from that time covering the issue.



More recently it was discovered that among the many giant cedars in the upper Lynn Headwaters lease area is the fourth widest tree in Canada. This underscores the importance of this area for both recreation and conservation purposes. The problem with these shorter leases is that nothing is preventing the provincial government at renewal time from deciding to pluck out the most valuable trees by helicopter logging and then renew the lease. At each renewal time the province has the option of exploiting the timber values of this forest and when we see the ongoing failure of the provincial government to support the recommendations of the provincial Old Growth Technical Review Panel (which has led to the many forest protection battles now) how can we have any confidence that at a future renewal date, these increasingly rare trees, over 1000 years old, won't be harvested for their timber values.



Photo Credit: Ian Thomas and Colin Spratt

The above photo is of just one of many old growth trees scattered throughout the upper Lynn Headwaters on crown land that is the subject of the expired lease. This place is special enough to deserve permanent protection, not just temporary leases. One also has to wonder why the province wouldn't give permanent protection to this area. The failure to do so in the past raises concerns that they are looking to exploit the timber values at some future time. They would appear to be preserving their right to do so, otherwise there is no reason to not give permanent protection to this well used recreation and conservation area now.

The alternatives proposed within the motion are to request the provincial government to either transfer title of the whole Lynn Headwaters area to Metro Vancouver for conservation and recreational purposes only, or to arrange for a 999 year lease for the same purpose. There are numerous precedents for 999 year leases such as the GVWD watershed lease. Most of the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam watersheds are leased to the GVWD on a 999 year lease for water supply purposes only. When the province privatized BC Rail they leased the railbeds and surrounding lands on a 999 year lease for railway purposes only. When the lands must be used for a specific public purpose this device has been used. A fee simple transfer is also possible with a restrictive covenant on title to use the lands for recreational and conservation purposes only. We would support either option and we propose that the province be offered these two options.

Lynn Headwaters is an exceptional natural treasure located close to more than half the population of BC. Preserving all the remaining old-growth forest in this region is a worthy priority which I hope you will embrace. It is one of the finest legacies that you can leave both for the residents of Greater Vancouver, its visitors and the province of British Columbia. Please make the aforesaid motion to guarantee the most secure future for these exceptional trees.

To: Regional Parks Committee

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

Date: June 10, 2022 Meeting Date: July 13, 2022

Subject: **Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board approve the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*, as presented in the report dated June 10, 2022, titled “Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the MVRD Board with the *Regional Parks Plan 2022* (Attachment 1) and a summary of the results of the engagement process that informed the completion of the plan (Attachment 2).

The updated plan provides strategic direction to guide the work of Regional Parks and progress towards the vision of a regional parks system that is “Protected and resilient, connecting people to nature, with benefits for all”. The *Regional Parks Plan 2022* identifies how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged, and provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade.

Feedback received from the public and stakeholders through the engagement process indicated broad support for the draft plan. A concurrent engagement process with First Nations resulted in revisions to the draft plan including stronger plan framing recognizing the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples. Also, several existing actions were edited, and new actions added to embed reconciliation throughout the work of Regional Parks, support Indigenous stewardship and cultural recognition, and to reflect concerns about the impacts of visitor use on ecosystems within regional parks.

This report seeks approval of the *Regional Parks Plan 2022* by the MVRD Board.

PURPOSE

To communicate the results of the engagement process for the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, and to seek MVRD Board approval of the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*.

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2021 the MVRD Board authorized staff to proceed with an update to the 2016 *Regional Parks Plan*. A report was provided to Regional Parks Committee on November 10, 2021 with an update on the *Regional Parks Plan*, including highlights from the research and analysis, and early draft plan content. On January 28, 2022 the MVRD Board authorized staff to proceed with the engagement process for the draft *Regional Parks Plan*.

The primary objectives of updating the 2016 *Regional Parks Plan* were to:

- Integrate the key issues of climate change, social equity, and human health and well-being throughout the work of Regional Parks
- Embed reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in the plan
- Develop a 10-year action plan to operationalize the plan, and
- Reflect the strategies and frameworks adopted since 2016, including the *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy*, the *Regional Greenways 2050*, the *Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy*, and the *Regional Parks Natural Resource Management Framework*

REGIONAL PARKS PLAN

The updated plan upholds the existing role of Regional Parks to “protect natural areas and connect people to nature”. The plan provides strategic direction to guide the work of Regional Parks, and proposes an aspirational vision that regional parks are:

“Protected and resilient, connecting people to nature, with benefits for all.”

The plan contains five goals, focused on the outcomes needed to progress towards the plan’s vision statement:

1. The region’s important natural areas are protected in perpetuity
2. Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature
3. Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems
4. First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks
5. Regional parks adapt to change and contribute to regional resilience

The goals will be implemented via a series of strategies and actions, outlining the work that will be completed in the next ten years. These strategies and actions will move Regional Parks toward the vision and goals outlined above, while addressing the key issues of climate change, social equity, and human health and wellness, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Progress towards achieving the goals will be measured and reported every four years through a suite of indicators.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Engagement for the draft *Regional Parks Plan* included presentations to six Metro Vancouver and member jurisdiction advisory committees, two youth-focused workshops, two virtual webinars, an online feedback form, and an engagement process with First Nations.

Public Engagement

There were over 800 responses to the feedback form, representing input from residents and community organizations across the region. Support for the plan’s goals ranged from 94% (Goal 3) to 98% (Goal 1), and support for the plan’s strategies and actions ranged from 87% to 92%. Through the feedback form, and 41 webinar participants, a total of over 1,500 written comments on the plan were received.

A number of key themes came through the public comments:

- Strong support for expanding regional parks and greenways through land acquisition
- Discussion around how regional parks can balance protecting nature with making space for a variety of uses of regional parks, with overall support for an emphasis on protecting nature
- Discussion around rules, enforcement, and reducing conflicts between user groups

Overall the feedback reflected the challenges that are highlighted in the plan, such as balancing protecting natural areas while also providing access to park visitors. Additionally, comments helped identify unclear wording and concepts in the draft plan which were incorporated into the revised plan.

Discussions held with youth found them to be broadly supportive of the goals of the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, and provided feedback that will inform work to engage with youth in the future, and work to improve access to regional parks by alternative transportation.

Stakeholder Engagement

Presentations to advisory committees provided opportunities for member jurisdiction staff and the agricultural community to ask questions about the draft *Regional Parks Plan* and raise issues of importance. Additionally, 12 written responses were received from member jurisdictions, the health authorities, TransLink, federal and provincial agencies, HUB Cycling, and an academic.

In general, there was strong support for the draft *Regional Parks Plan* among member jurisdictions, other government agencies, and individuals with influence and expertise. Thoughtful suggestions for changes or additions to the draft plan were provided and incorporated.

First Nations Engagement

A concurrent engagement process was undertaken with First Nations who were invited to:

- attend two *Regional Parks Plan* Indigenous Working Group Meetings to talk, learn together, and provide input, and/or
- review the draft *Regional Parks Plan* and provide written comments

Of the First Nations contacted, eight local First Nations attended the working group meetings and seven provided additional written comments. Several key themes were heard from the engagement process, including:

- The need for stronger framing for the plan, recognizing the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples
- Ongoing work to embed reconciliation throughout the work of Regional Parks
- Metro Vancouver should look for ways to support Indigenous stewardship and cultural recognition within regional parks, and First Nations connection to the land
- Concerns about the impacts of visitor use on ecosystems within regional parks

Feedback from First Nations resulted in many changes to the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, including an updated plan section on working together with First Nations, editing of actions and plan language, and the addition of new actions including:

- establishing a regular forum to support ongoing discussion between Metro Vancouver and First Nations on regional parks related issues
- developing cultural recognition plans to guide approaches to respect and honour Indigenous People's culture and connection to the land
- focusing on improved understanding of archaeological and cultural resources to enable respectful and appropriate protection and management protocols.

Metro Vancouver is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations by pursuing pathways to reconciliation such as increased engagement, dialogue, and collaboration. The opportunity to listen, share and talk together has created reflection and awareness that go beyond the development of the *Regional Parks Plan 2022* and will continue to inform Metro Vancouver's work moving forward.

For a detailed summary of the results of engagement with the public, stakeholders, and First Nations, see Attachment 2, titled *Regional Parks Plan 2022 Engagement Summary*.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the MVRD Board approve the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*, as presented in the report dated June 10, 2022, titled "Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary."
2. That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated June 10, 2022, titled "Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary" and provide staff with alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the *Regional Parks Plan 2022* will be funded through the Regional Parks budget and priorities set during the annual budget review process.

If the MVRD Board approves Alternative 2 and provides additional input, staff will report back with updated financial implications.

CONCLUSION

This report provides the MVRD Board with the updated *Regional Parks Plan 2022* as well as a summary of the results of engagement that informed the completion of the plan. The plan will provide strategic direction to guide the work of Regional Parks and identify how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged. It also provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade.

The engagement process for this plan included presentations to six Metro Vancouver and member jurisdiction advisory committees, two youth-focused workshops, two virtual webinars, an online feedback form, and an engagement process with First Nations. There was broad support for the plan from the public and stakeholders. First Nations provided extensive feedback on the plan and revisions were made in the form of edits to the upfront plan information on working with First Nations, plan and action language, as well as the addition of several actions.

Staff recommends Alternative 1, that the MVRD Board approve the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*.

Attachments

1. Regional Parks Plan 2022
2. Regional Parks Plan 2022 Engagement Summary

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2022

Regional Parks Plan

Protect and Connect

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Metro Vancouver's core utility services include drinking water, sewage treatment, and solid waste management, along with regional services like regional parks, affordable housing, regional land use planning and air quality and climate action that help keep the region one of the most livable in the world.

Indigenous Territorial Recognition

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous Peoples, including 10 local First Nations: Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Matsqui, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Semiahoo, Squamish, Tsawwassen, and Tsleil-Waututh.

Metro Vancouver respects the diverse and distinct histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, which collectively enrich our lives and the region.

As First Nations communities have historically been excluded by some plans which have not considered their needs, interests, or perspectives, a regional plan is an important place to promote inclusivity going forward. First Nations engagement has provided valuable contributions to developing this plan and these have been reflected in the plan in the following ways:

- Recognition of First Nations as stewards of lands, waters, and air;
- Information on the context of regional parks within the territories of First Nations;
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is incorporated at the highest levels of the plan through guiding principles and goals; and
- Multiple actions to guide working together with First Nations.



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Executive Summary

The *Regional Parks Plan* is Metro Vancouver's management plan for the regional parks system and an update of the 2016 plan. The plan will guide work to protect natural areas and connect people to nature, progressing towards the vision of a resilient network of regional parks and greenways that continues to provide important climate, health, and other benefits to park visitors and the wider region

The *Regional Parks Plan* identifies how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged, and provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade.

The Challenge

As the region's population grows, and the challenges of climate change and social inequity intensify, people need parks and the natural areas they protect more than ever. Opportunities to connect

with nature improve health and enhance quality of life, and connections are deepened through inspiring, educational and interpretive programming, volunteering, and ecological stewardship.

As visitation to regional parks continues to grow, balancing the protection of nature while providing access to nature for regional residents is a significant challenge.

High costs and competition for land create difficult conditions for parkland acquisition, but growing the regional parks system supports human health and well-being and biodiversity. It is also an important climate action as a connected, healthy, and resilient regional parks system will be better able to support climate adaptation and store carbon.

Underlined words are key concepts defined in the **Glossary on Page 58**.



Can you imagine, it's 2050...

Metro Vancouver's system of regional parks and greenways has grown into a connected network. Several new regional parks have opened in the region, providing residents with more parkland and opportunities to connect to nature, and protecting some of the region's remaining natural areas.

A commitment to land acquisition has improved ecosystem connectivity across the region which, combined with an advanced monitoring and restoration program, has resulted in an increase in the health and resilience of park ecosystems and wildlife. These improvements have helped the region achieve climate adaptation and carbon neutrality goals.

Regional park infrastructure and facilities are designed and well-maintained to withstand climate impacts, providing a diverse range of visitor experiences. The regional parks system is supported by a financially sustainable funding model and our region is known as a leader in park management, focused on improvement through learning and adaptation.

An integrated approach to managing visitor use and natural resources that incorporates social and ecological science, has achieved a balance between protecting natural areas and connecting people to

nature. A broad assessment of how Metro Vancouver Regional Parks delivers services to the region has resulted in reduced barriers to access, including cost, transportation and language barriers. This has helped create welcoming and inclusive spaces, and regional park visitors reflect the diversity of the region. The benefits offered by nature are accessible to everyone.

Meaningful and varied opportunities to connect, learn, and volunteer in regional parks have fostered an engaged population, where regional residents understand the importance of nature and champion the regional parks system as irreplaceable.

Collaboration with knowledge holders, including member jurisdictions and First Nations has enriched and informed our work. Indigenous Knowledge and stewardship principles are integrated into park planning and management. Relationships with local First Nations have been strengthened through a commitment to work and learn together on the journey along the pathway of truth and reconciliation. Strengthened relationships have enabled collaborative agreements to be created with local First Nations for all regional parks.

Role

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks protect natural areas and connect people to nature

Vision

Regional parks are protected and resilient, connecting people to nature, with benefits for all



Guiding Principles

Nature-focused

Nature has inherent value and its protection for future generations is the foundation of what we do.

Interconnected

Our work nurtures the essential connection between people and nature, recognizing the vital role nature plays in human health and well-being.

Inclusive

Equity is integral to what we do, as we create an inclusive environment for all.

Reconciliation-focused

Relationships with Indigenous Peoples are strengthened as we make the journey together along the pathway of truth and reconciliation.

Collaborative

By working with others, we collectively care for the land to improve the region's livability and ecological health.

Knowledge-based

Decision-making is informed by data and science, and incorporates Indigenous Knowledge. We learn from others and share our knowledge generously.

Adaptive

We sustain a culture of adaptive management, through learning, innovation, and evaluation.



Goals



- 1** The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.



- 2** Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.



- 3** Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.









































































- 4** First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks.



- 5** Regional parks adapt to change and contribute to regional resilience.

Strategies

ACQUIRE AND FINANCE	
1. Secure land to protect the region's important natural areas and connect the Regional Greenways Network	    
2. Update existing financial tools and investigate additional financial mechanisms to support service provision, land acquisition, and operation and maintenance of new parkland	    
PLAN AND DESIGN	
3. Develop agreements with local First Nations and work together to define a collaborative way forward	    
4. Create and apply a consistent, collaborative, and inclusive approach to regional parks and greenway planning and design	    
5. Plan for climate change and other hazards	    
RESTORE AND MANAGE	
6. Manage and restore park ecosystems and their components	    
7. Manage visitor use to protect natural resources and support safe and high-quality visitor experiences	    
8. Protect and manage cultural resources in regional parks	    
BUILD AND MAINTAIN	
9. Provide high-quality, inclusive visitor experiences through the provision of well-maintained facilities and infrastructure	    
10. Manage assets proactively, for sustainable service delivery	    
11. Improve equitable access to regional parks and greenways via sustainable transportation options	    
ENGAGE AND PROGRAM	
12. Provide diverse and meaningful learning and volunteer opportunities that deepen people's connection to nature	    
13. Tell stories about regional parks to connect the region's diverse population with nature and inspire its protection	    
14. Learn and share knowledge	    

Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Metro Vancouver's core utility services include drinking water, sewage treatment, and solid waste management, along with regional services like regional parks, affordable housing, regional land use planning and air quality and climate action that help keep the region one of the most livable in the world.

Mission

Metro Vancouver's mission is framed around three broad roles:

1. Serve as a Regional Federation

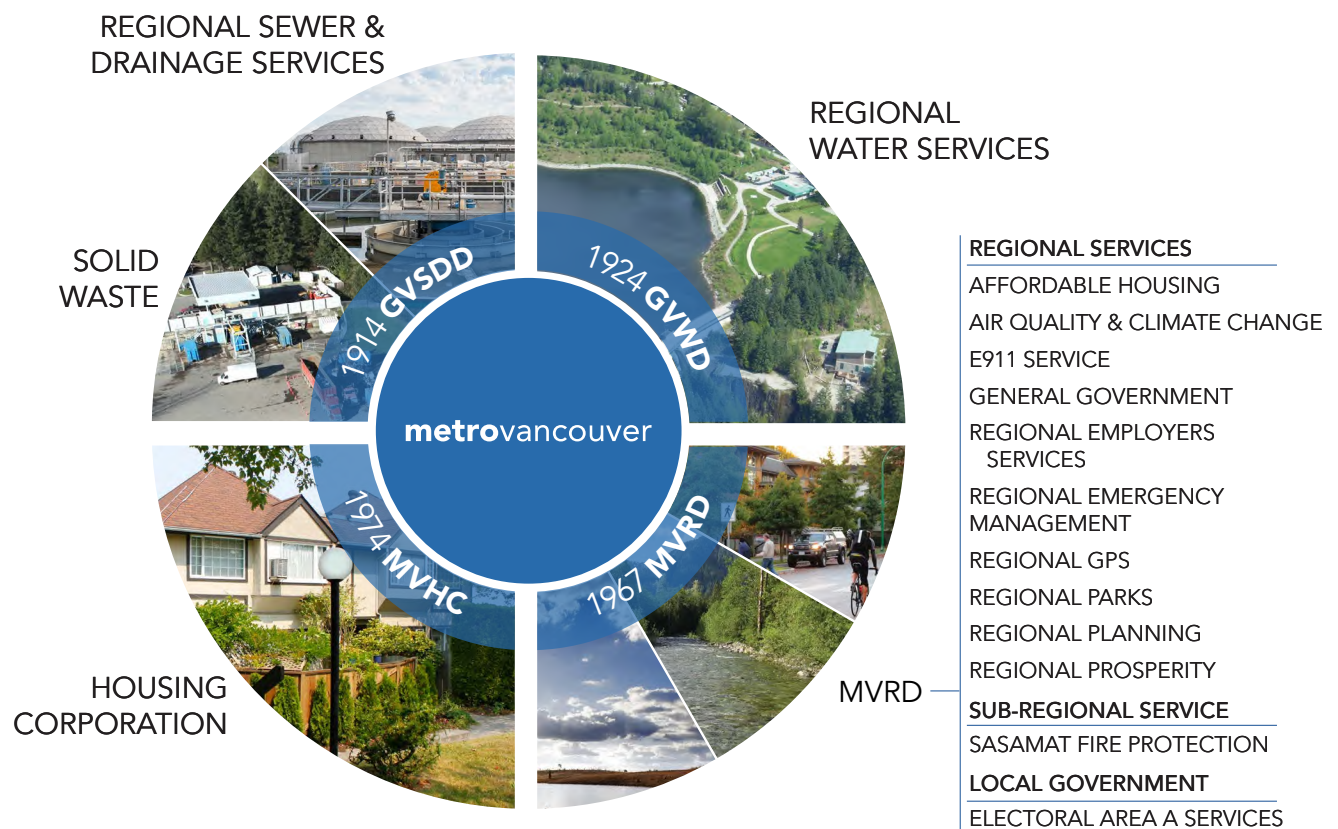
Serve as the main political forum for discussion of significant community issues at the regional level, and facilitate the collaboration of members in delivering the services best provided at the regional level.

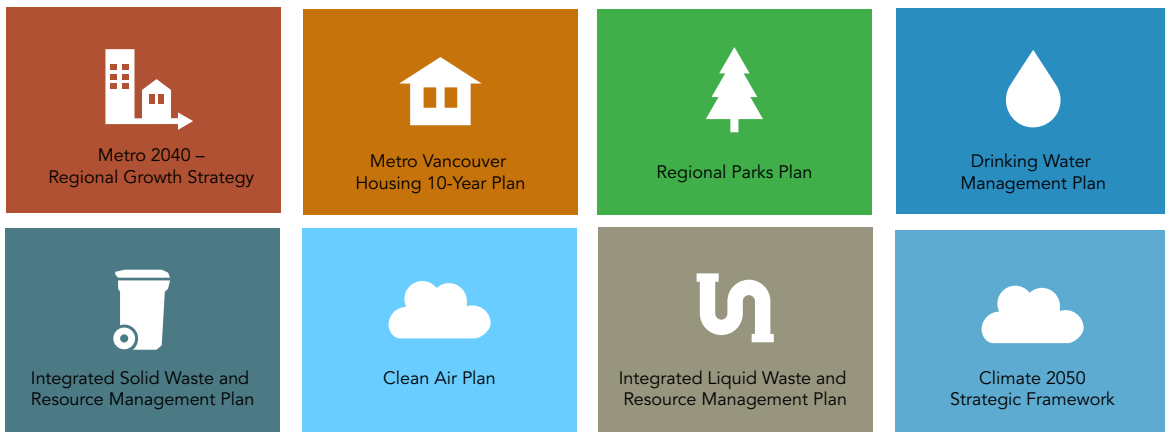
2. Deliver Core Services

Provide regional utility services related to drinking water, liquid waste and solid waste to members. Provide regional services, including parks and affordable housing, directly to residents and act as the local government for Electoral Area A.

3. Plan for the Region

Carry out planning and regulatory responsibilities related to the three utility services as well as air quality, climate action, regional planning, regional parks, Electoral Area A, affordable housing, labour relations, regional economic prosperity, and regional emergency management.





REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Building a Resilient Region

Building the resilience of the region is at the heart of Metro Vancouver's work. Each of Metro Vancouver's regional plans and strategies adopts a vision, guiding principles, goals, strategies, actions, and key performance measures that will support a more resilient, low carbon, and equitable future. Metro Vancouver's interconnected plans and strategies are guided by the Board Strategic Plan, which provides strategic direction for each of Metro Vancouver's legislated areas of responsibility, and financial plans that project total expenditures for capital projects and operations that sustain important regional services and infrastructure. Together these documents outline Metro Vancouver's policy commitments and specific contributions to achieving a resilient region.



Aldergrove Regional Park

Plan Context

The *Regional Parks Plan* is an update of the 2016 management plan. It builds upon and integrates important strategies and plans completed over the last six years including: *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050*, *Regional Greenways 2050*, *Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy*, and *Regional Parks Natural Resource Management Framework*.

The purpose of the *Regional Parks Plan* is to articulate where the regional parks system should be in 30 years, and what needs to be done to get there. The plan will guide and prioritize work, and adjustments made based on ongoing evaluation of progress, including through indicator measurement.

The *Regional Parks Plan* identifies how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged, and provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade.

Challenges and Opportunities

The key issues facing the region — population growth, competition for land, impacts of climate change, and social equity — are the same issues that are affecting the regional parks system.

A Growing Regional Population and Increasing Visitation to Regional Parks

Metro Vancouver's population has grown substantially over the past decades, adding more than one million people in a generation, and strong population growth is expected to continue. This drives demand for land for housing and other uses, exerting an upward pressure on land costs throughout the region. The large undeveloped and relatively pristine tracts of land typically targeted for regional park expansion are now competing for space with residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial uses.

Not only is the population growing, but people are also visiting regional parks more often ([see p. 32, Regional Parks in 2022](#), for more details); a trend that accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic as more people turned to the regional parks system for respite, exercise, and social contact in nature. In addition to increased visitation by local residents, tourism in BC continues to grow, with nature experiences such as regional parks being a significant draw to visitors.

The popularity of regional parks means increased congestion during peak times, impacting visitor experiences and placing pressure on ecosystems and infrastructure. There are also impacts to nearby communities through increased traffic congestion and parking issues.

Growing recognition of the value of regional parks by the public provides an opportunity to foster a deeper understanding of nature and the role people can play in stewardship of regional parks and the environment.

Finding ways to sustainably manage visitation and resources is an important consideration of this plan, particularly in the face of compounding impacts on ecosystems and infrastructure from climate change.

Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

Metro Vancouver is a region with a rich and diverse natural environment, including ecosystems of global significance for fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife. These natural systems have inherent value, but also provide wide ranging benefits — known as ecosystem services — that support human life, including clean air and fresh water, pollination, and fertile soils.

Climate change and other human-induced pressures such as land development and invasive species are causing ecosystem change and loss, which reduce nature's capacity to provide the benefits that sustain human life. Although the specific nature, scale, and timing of the impacts to regional parks is uncertain, climate projections for the Metro Vancouver region show that climate change is expected to bring rising sea levels, increased temperatures, drought, and flooding, along with increased spread of invasive species and wildfire risk. These impacts will affect park ecosystems and infrastructure.



Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

Many species and ecosystems in the region are at risk of being impacted or displaced entirely due to climate change, because they cannot adapt fast enough. Climate change is a cause of biodiversity loss, but destruction of ecosystems undermines nature's ability to store carbon and protect against extreme weather, thus accelerating climate change and increasing vulnerability to it.

We know that large, healthy, connected, and biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient to climate change impacts and therefore better able to support climate adaptation and store carbon. Metro Vancouver's focus on expanding and connecting the regional park system through land acquisition, and maintaining and enhancing the ecological health of park ecosystems, are important climate actions.

Proactive planning to integrate climate change considerations into land acquisition, natural resource management, asset management, design and development, and emergency planning are essential responses to the threat of climate change. Planning work will be supported by ongoing monitoring and development of responsive management approaches that incorporate new knowledge and experience over time.

Climate 2050

Climate 2050 is Metro Vancouver's strategy to transition the region to a low carbon and resilient future, increasing the health, well-being, and prosperity of Metro Vancouver residents. Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework* has set the following regional vision to guide the region's response to climate change:

- Metro Vancouver is a carbon neutral region by 2050
- Infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change

It also sets an interim target of 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 levels, by 2030.

Health and Social Equity

Growing recognition of the significant human health and well-being benefits from spending time in nature has likely contributed to increases in visitation of the regional parks system.

Parks have always been an essential service but the role of parks as a source of community resilience in times of stress and adversity were emphasized during the COVID-19 pandemic when dramatic increases to park visitation were observed.

Health benefits from nature are wide-ranging and include:

- Improved mental health, including reduced depression and stress
- Improved physical health, including reduced obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, and increased immune system function
- Improved pregnancy outcomes
- Improved cognitive function, with slower cognitive decline in the elderly and improved cognitive development in children
- Improved social cohesion
- Reduced mortality risk
- Reduced medical costs

There is increasing evidence that the restorative effects of nature are greater in areas with higher levels of biodiversity.

Social factors including income level, gender, and ethnicity can have a significant influence on how healthy a person is and can contribute to a wide variety of other challenges. These social and health inequities are the result of systemic barriers that cause or aggravate disparities experienced by different groups of people, based on socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and many other factors.

Creating more equitable access to nature is a pathway to improving health outcomes and enhancing well-being.

There are opportunities for Metro Vancouver to play a role in advancing social equity and human health in the region by identifying and reducing barriers that may exist to accessing regional parks. Barriers to access may include financial, transportation, physical accessibility, communication, or feelings of exclusion.

Integrating equity into everything we do for regional parks within Metro Vancouver is a work in progress and begins with understanding who is and who isn't visiting regional parks, and why.

Understanding Regional Parks' Visitors

The *Regional Parks Plan* was developed with a commitment to embed social equity throughout the plan and our work. In addition to reviewing policies and plans for systemic barriers that may cause or aggravate disparities experienced by different groups of people, a key first step is to establish an 'equity baseline' for regional parks. An equity baseline means ensuring we have the information about who is and who isn't visiting regional parks, and identifying systemic barriers that are making it harder for certain groups of people to visit regional parks.

Over the next few years, Metro Vancouver will innovate, learn, and make use of a range of data sources to develop an equity baseline. This will include utilizing regional equity analysis (see [Social Equity & Regional Growth Study](#)), regional parks visitor surveys, and transportation and movement data.



Climate change will increasingly have significant implications for the health and well-being of communities in the region as the frequency and severity of hazards increases, including extreme heat events, wildfires, and flooding. In addition to physical impacts due to these events, people may also experience mental health impacts such as anxiety and stress.

Climate change amplifies existing inequities, putting those who already face social and health disparities at higher risk. For example, elderly people and those with pre-existing health conditions are more prone to heat-related illnesses. Access to green spaces and areas with trees like those in regional parks can reduce the impacts of heat.

The challenging and cross-cutting issues of climate, health, and social equity, will require collaboration and partnerships to share learnings and determine effective responses.

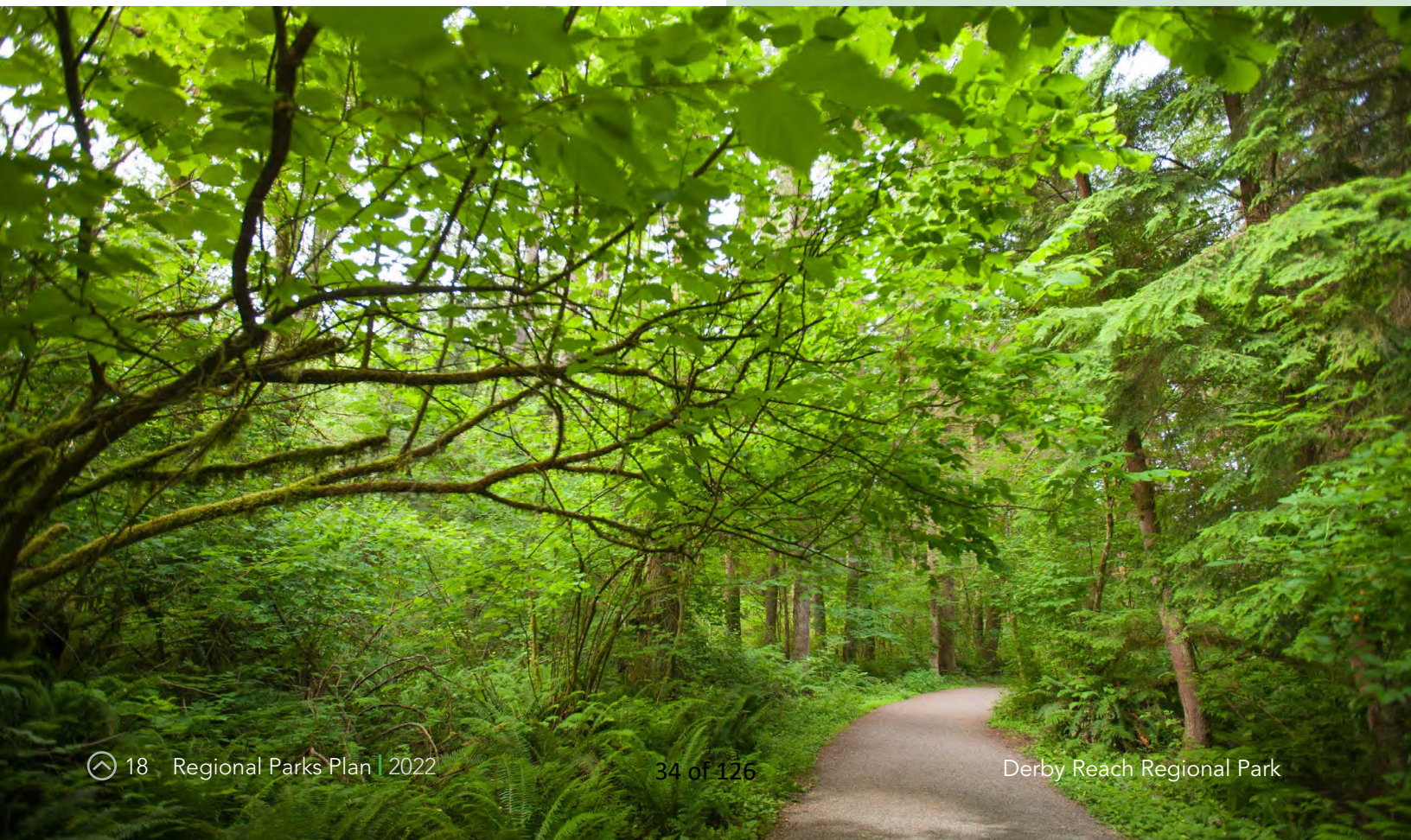
Metro Vancouver will work to identify and advance solutions that provide multiple functions or benefits,

leveraging the power of nature to support climate adaptation and human health. For example, using nature-based solutions like restoring wetlands and planting trees, or by improving access to regional parks by public transit, walking, and cycling reduces barriers to access to those without a vehicle and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Nature-Based Solutions

Nature-based solutions are actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, as well as address societal challenges such as climate change, thereby providing both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

For example, replanting and restoring forests stores carbon, provides habitat for a diverse range of species, and provides shady, cool places for people to seek respite from rising temperatures.



Working Collaboratively with First Nations

Metro Vancouver is working together with First Nations to strengthen relationships by exploring pathways to reconciliation, such as increased engagement, dialogue, and collaboration.

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* (1982) recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples. In 2021, Metro Vancouver renewed its commitment to advancing reconciliation through the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and is awaiting further guidance from the provincial government on the implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) in British Columbia and at the local government level.

Recognizing that advancing truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a process that starts with listening and learning together, Metro Vancouver is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations based on trust and working collaboratively towards shared goals.

First Nations reviewed the draft *Regional Parks Plan* and participated in two meetings to talk and learn together. Insight was received from Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, Kwikwetlem First Nation, Matsqui First Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Metro Vancouver would like to extend sincere thanks to the First Nations who were able to take part in the engagement process for the *Regional Parks Plan*. The opportunity to share and talk together has created learnings that go beyond the development of the *Regional Parks Plan* and will continue to inform Metro Vancouver's work moving forward.

The *Regional Parks Plan* embeds reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples at the highest levels of the plan through guiding principles and goals. Reflecting key themes heard during engagement with First Nations, Metro Vancouver:

- Acknowledges that regional growth has impacts on First Nations' territories, including a loss of natural areas where First Nations can continue to practice aspects of their culture, as they have since time immemorial. Outlined in the *Regional Parks Plan* is a commitment to work with First Nations to find ways to support contemporary and traditional uses of the land, in the context of managing regional parks, including through increased access to regional parkland.
- Recognizes First Nations as stewards of the region's lands, waters, and air since time out of mind and seeks to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and First Nations participation and input into the planning and stewardship of regional parks.
- Acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples have lived on these lands since time immemorial and recognizes their connection to their ancestral lands. Metro Vancouver will work in a collaborative manner to put the face of the Nations back on their respective territories.

These and other themes discussed with First Nations have been embedded throughout the strategies and actions of the *Regional Parks Plan*. Metro Vancouver recognizes that each local First Nation is unique, and not all actions may be appropriate for all park sites or appropriate in the same timeframe throughout the regional parks system. Metro Vancouver seeks to work with all Nations to determine how best to move forward together.

Metro Vancouver looks forward to working in collaboration with First Nations to achieve the goals of the *Regional Parks Plan*.

Role of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks protect natural areas and connect people to nature

Regional parks contribute to a livable and resilient region by protecting natural areas and connecting people to nature. They enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors and provide opportunities to experience nature.

The natural areas protected in regional parks provide wide-ranging benefits (known as ecosystem services) to the region including human health and well-being, support for biodiversity, carbon storage, and increased resilience to climate impacts.

Metro Vancouver fosters a sense of responsibility for the place in which we live through environmental interpretation, education, ecological stewardship, and building of community relationships.

Within the spectrum of parks in the region (see Figure 2), regional parks lie between smaller municipal parks and larger provincial and national parks. Compared to municipal parks, regional parks generally contain more complex landscapes that protect regionally important natural areas. While municipal parks are used by nearby residents for active sport and recreation, regional parks attract residents from across Metro Vancouver and beyond seeking connection with nature and passive outdoor recreation.



Figure 1: Metro Vancouver Regional Parks protect natural areas and connect people to nature



Figure 2: Spectrum of Parks

Working Together for Regional Parks

Metro Vancouver's past success in developing its system of regional parks and greenways has been, in part thanks to joint efforts and partnerships between federal, provincial, and municipal jurisdictions to achieve common aims. Metro Vancouver will continue to collaborate with others who share similar goals.

We partner with member jurisdictions, First Nations, NGOs, community groups, health authorities, provincial and federal governments, TransLink, and other agencies on a wide range of topics. These include growing the regional parks system, expanding the [Regional Greenways Network](#), planning for climate change, and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the services nature provides.

The Protect-Connect Continuum

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' role to protect natural areas and connect people to nature requires approaches that balance these two objectives: provide a diversity of experiences for visitors while protecting nature from the range of associated impacts.

The Protect-Connect Continuum will be applied spatially across the regional parks system, with each park having a blend of four management units. The protect and connect characteristics for each management unit and the different work functions of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks are outlined on the following page and will be used to guide planning and decision-making.

Management Unit Descriptions:

The management intent of the four Protect-Connect management units are outlined below and explained in further detail on the following page:

Management Unit 1: Focus is on protection of significant natural areas and their ecological function.

Management Unit 2: Focus is on protection and enhancement of natural areas and the provision of low-impact nature-based experiences in less accessible areas.

Management Unit 3: Focus is on providing more accessible nature-based experiences and passive recreation opportunities.

Management Unit 4: Focus is on providing social connection and passive recreation opportunities.








Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Ecological Characteristics			
Highly complex, highly sensitive, larger undisturbed areas	High-medium complexity, low tolerance for disturbance, natural areas are connected	Medium complexity and tolerance for disturbance, smaller and more fragmented natural areas	Little complexity, higher tolerance for disturbance, small and fragmented natural areas
Nature Experience			
Fewest number of people, nature sounds most prevalent	Minimal number of people, rustic facilities, relatively quiet	More people, some quiet experiences can be found	Lots of people, social activities, noisier
Access & Amenities			
Limited or permit only public access, minimal infrastructure	Some access, limited infrastructure to support environmental protection and public safety	Access on designated trails and areas, for nature connection	Easy access from main roads, trails and picnic areas
Public Programming			
Permitted activities only	Registered or permitted, small group activities	Outdoor classrooms, interpretive programs, and interpretive signage	Large group activities including events
Cultural Resource Management			
Cultural resources will be protected and managed in an appropriate manner where they are located, in collaboration with First Nations			
Natural Resource Management			
Limited, habitat enhancement as needed	Habitat enhancement, restoration, and invasive removal as needed	Restoration, new habitat creation, and invasive removal	New habitat creation and invasive removal
Greenways			
Limited greenways, some may pass through	Limited greenways, some may pass through	Some greenway access, via designated trails and areas only	Staging areas and primary access points
Operations			
Minimal intervention, visitors must pack out all waste	Lower frequency of intervention, visitors must pack out all waste	Regular patrolling, maintenance, and waste collection	Frequent patrolling, maintenance, and waste collection

Relationship of Regional Parks Plan to other Metro Vancouver Roles and Strategic Plans

The *Regional Parks Plan* supports and is supported by actions by other Metro Vancouver services. The table below outlines the key links between the *Regional Parks Plan* and actions and plans under other Metro Vancouver services.

METRO VANCOUVER SERVICE	LINKS WITH REGIONAL PARKS
Air Quality and Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving air quality in the region protects human health and the environment. • Reducing greenhouse gas emissions protects the environment, including the ecosystems in regional parks, from the impacts of climate change. • Regional greenways help reduce traffic emissions. • Natural areas, including those in regional parks, sequester and store carbon and increase resilience to climate change impacts. • Managing natural areas and a wildfire suppression program reduces wildfire risks, which protects air quality.
Regional Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> is consistent with goals and strategies of the <u><i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> (Metro 2040)</u>. • The <i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> (Metro 2040) guides the development of resilient, low-carbon, healthy, and complete communities with affordable housing and transportation choices by containing urban development and protecting important lands, including natural areas. • <u>Active transportation</u> policies and the complete, walkable community policies support the Regional Greenways Network. • Regional parks contribute to the <i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> (Metro 2040) vision of protecting and enhancing natural areas, as well as increasing resilience to climate change impacts. In addition, regional parks provide recreational opportunities and access to nature for the region's projected growing population.
Water Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together to facilitate greenways expansion using utility rights-of-way. • Sharing information and best practices related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting ecological values and managing <u>natural assets</u> in the drinking water supply areas and regional parks. • provision of recreational opportunities in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve and regional parks. • Natural areas, including those within regional parks and drinking water supply areas, provide many important beneficial services to the region such as <u>carbon sequestration</u> and clean water.

METRO VANCOUVER SERVICE	LINKS WITH REGIONAL PARKS
Liquid Waste Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the region's liquid waste to ensure public health and the environment are protected including safe recreational opportunities, connection to nature, and healthy ecosystems. • Collaborating on wastewater treatment plant upgrades when in the proximity of a regional park (such as the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and Iona Beach Regional Park) to ensure integration with the park and ecological restoration. • Natural areas, including those within regional parks, provide many beneficial services to increase the region's resilience against climate change impacts including managing wet weather flows that challenge regional sewer capacity and regional flooding. • Working together to facilitate greenways expansion using utility rights-of-way.
Solid Waste Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional parks contribute to the region's goals to advance waste prevention and the circular economy by reducing waste and improving reuse and recycling by providing separated waste streams for visitors.
Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating to engage tenants in regional parks programming, supporting free, healthy, family-oriented activities for low to moderate income households to support overall well-being. • Regional parks provide green space for residents and support connection to nature and healthy communities.

In addition, regional parks are a critical component of the corporate-wide *Ecological Health Framework* which encapsulates Metro Vancouver's collective efforts around ecological health and provides guiding principles, goals, and strategies to help achieve the vision of "a beautiful, healthy, and resilient environment for current and future generations."





Over 55 Years of Regional Parks in Metro Vancouver

1969

The first 6 regional parks open to the public: Aldergrove, Boundary Bay, Campbell Valley, Belcarra, Capilano River, and Kanaka Creek.

1980's

7 new regional parks added: Minnekhada, Tynehead, Deas Island, Crippen, Lynn Headwaters, Pacific Spirit, and Matsqui Trail.*

2000's

The regional greenways system is established and 3 regional greenways are opened: Brunette-Fraser, Pitt River, and North Alouette. Further additions are made to the regional parks system: Blaney Bog Regional Park Reserve, Thwaytes Landing Regional Park, West Creek Wetlands (managed as part of Glen Valley Regional Park), and Burns Bog and Codd Wetland ecological conservancy areas.

2018

The *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy* is approved to guide the expansion of the regional parks system over the next 30 years.

2010's

2 regional greenways are added, along with 2 regional parks and the system's first interregional park: Delta South Surrey and Seymour River regional greenways, Surrey Bend and Grouse Mountain regional parks, and Sumas Mountain Interregional Park.*

1970's

Another 2 regional parks open: Derby Reach and Burnaby Lake.

1990's

7 new regional parks added: Iona Beach, Glen Valley*, Brae Island, Colony Farm, and Barnston Island, Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve (now a regional park), and Fraser Islands Regional Park Reserve.

*In 2018, parks outside of the Metro Vancouver Regional District were transferred to the Fraser Valley Regional District and City of Abbotsford: Sumas Mountain Interregional Park, Matsqui Trail Regional Park, and the eastern portion of Glen Valley Regional Park.

The complete Regional Parks History Timeline can be found on Metro Vancouver's website metrovancover.org (search 'Regional Parks timeline')



Pacific tree frog



black bear



Pacific bleeding heart

Growth of the Regional Parks System

With large tracts of undeveloped land available in the Lower Mainland, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD, known as Metro Vancouver starting 2007) took steps in 1966 to create a parks plan that would see a network of regional, provincial, and municipal parks linked by trails to meet the outdoor needs of its growing population.

In 1967, the Vancouver-Fraser Park District was formed to carry out the plan with a priority on land acquisition while it was available and before prices rose too much, and in 1972 Regional Parks become part of the GVRD.

By the late 1960s, the region had 3,835 hectares of regional parkland to serve a population of one million residents. Over the following 50 years, the regional parks system has more than tripled in size, with this expansion guided by successive regional parks plans in 2006, 2011, 2016, and most recently, the current plan (2022).

Metro Vancouver's ongoing commitment to protecting the region's remaining natural areas and providing park space for the region's growing population was demonstrated by the 2018 adoption of the *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy*, which envisions growing the regional parks system over the next 30 years. Metro Vancouver further supported regional parks land acquisition by championing \$15 million in increases to the regional parks land acquisition and development budget from 2018 to 2022. An additional \$8 million has been committed in the current five-year financial plan. These budget increases will reduce the gap between funding and land costs in the region.



Members of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation unveil the new park sign at the announcement ceremony (October 2021)

Regional Greenways in Metro Vancouver

In 1999, Metro Vancouver adopted the first regional vision for a network of recreational greenways across the region. Regional greenways promote regional livability by supporting active living, connecting natural areas and communities, and providing opportunities to protect and restore ecosystems.

Since 1999, Metro Vancouver, its member jurisdictions, TransLink, First Nations, other government agencies, and stakeholders have made significant progress in advancing a network of greenways spanning the region. In 2020, the *Regional Greenways 2050* plan was adopted, detailing the region's shared 30-year vision for the development of a regional network of recreational greenways for walking, cycling, and, where appropriate, horseback riding.

Working with First Nations

The Regional Parks History Timeline shown here represents a small fraction of the time Indigenous Peoples have lived on these lands. Metro Vancouver is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations.

Important recent milestones on this journey:

- The signing of a historic Cultural Planning and Co-operation Agreement for Belcarra Regional Park in 2020, that recognizes both Tsleil-Waututh Nation's ancestral ties to the land and the present-day use by its members as well as a Metro Vancouver regional park; and
- The renaming of Belcarra Regional Park in 2021 to təmtəmíxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park, reflecting the park's history and importance to Tsleil-Waututh members of putting the face of the Nation back on the territory.



Figure 3 – Regional Parks System Map

Regional Parks in 2022

Since its inception in 1969, the regional parks system has grown to a network of 23 regional parks, five regional greenways, two ecological conservancy areas, and two regional park reserves. For a map of Metro Vancouver's regional parks system, see Figure 3. The regional parks system currently protects over 13,800 hectares of land, approximately 5% of the region's land base.

Context of Regional Parks within the Territories of Local First Nations

	Katzie First Nation	Kwantlen First Nation	Kwikwetlem First Nation	Matsqui First Nation	Musqueam Indian Band	Semiahmoo First Nation	Squamish Nation	Tsawwassen First Nation	Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Aldergrove Regional Park									
Barnston Island Regional Park									
Boundary Bay Regional Park									
Brae Island Regional Park									
Burnaby Lake Regional Park									
Campbell Valley Regional Park									
Capilano River Regional Park									
Colony Farm Regional Park									
Crippen Regional Park									
Deas Island Regional Park									
Derby Reach Regional Park									
Glen Valley Regional Park									
Grouse Mountain Regional Park									
Iona Beach Regional Park									
Kanaka Creek Regional Park									
Lynn Headwaters Regional Park									
Minnehada Regional Park									
Pacific Spirit Regional Park									
Surrey Bend Regional Park									
Thwaytes Landing Regional Park									
təmtəmix'tən/Belcarra Regional Park									
Tynehead Regional Park									
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park									
Blaney Bog Regional Park Reserve									
Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area									
Codd Wetland Ecological Conservancy Area									
Fraser Islands Regional Park Reserve									
Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway									
Delta South Surrey Regional Greenway / Delta Nature Reserve									
North Alouette Regional Greenway									
Pitt River Regional Greenway									
Seymour River Regional Greenway									

This list only includes local First Nations and does not include all First Nations with interests in the Metro Vancouver region. Qayqayt First Nation is one of the 10 local First Nations; however, this Nation does not currently have a land base.

Regional Parkland Classification

Regional Parks – Large natural parks, usually greater than 100 hectares in size that protect important natural areas and provide opportunities for people to connect with, enjoy, be active, and learn about the environment.

Regional Greenways – Linear corridors that contain trails which are, for the most part, physically separated from road traffic. They connect multiple regional parks, utility corridors, communities, and other important natural areas and protect ecosystem services.

Parks that are not yet fully assembled may be designated as:

Regional Park Reserves – Areas of land which have been acquired for regional park purposes, but are not yet formally open to the public. These areas may be managed for informal recreation and ad hoc conservation purposes. Regional parks land can be held in 'reserve' status until enough land has been assembled and it can be opened to the public.

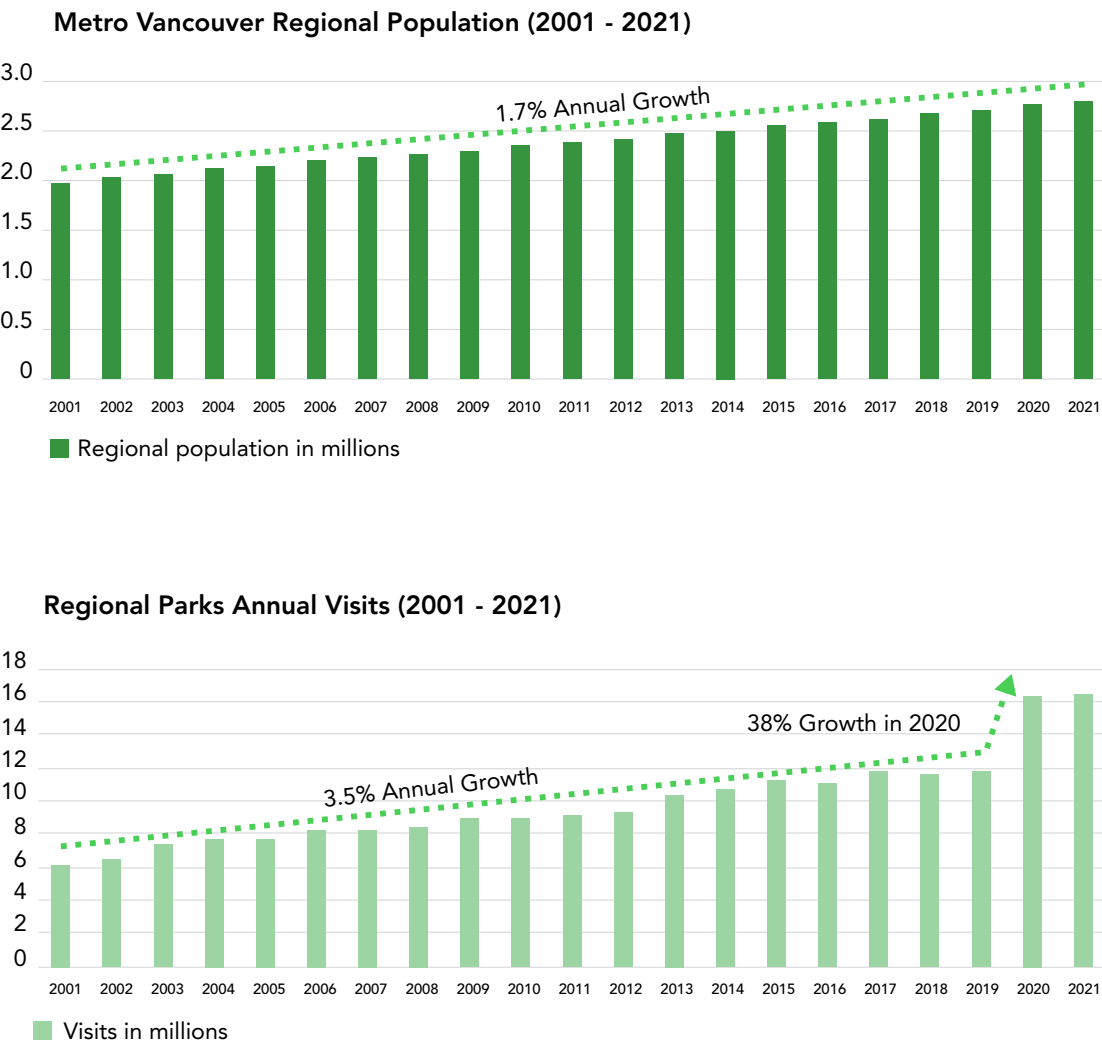
Ecological Conservancy Areas – Areas of land that are managed wholly for conservation purposes. Access to the public will be limited except for research or conservation purposes.

Visitation

The regional population grew to 2.8 million residents in 2021 and is anticipated to continue to grow by an average of 35,000 people annually. Regional parks visitation has seen increases at an even faster rate – 3.5% per year up until 2019, twice as fast as population growth. The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 saw increased visitation to the regional parks system at an unprecedented level, with a 38% increase in 2020 compared to 2019. Visitation in 2021

has remained at similar levels as seen in 2020. With the increased understanding of the connections between health and nature, it is expected that visitation levels will remain well above pre-pandemic rates into the coming years. Undoubtedly, park visitation will also increase over time as the region’s population is expected to grow by another million people between 2021 and 2050.

Figure 4: Comparison of regional population growth and regional park visitation



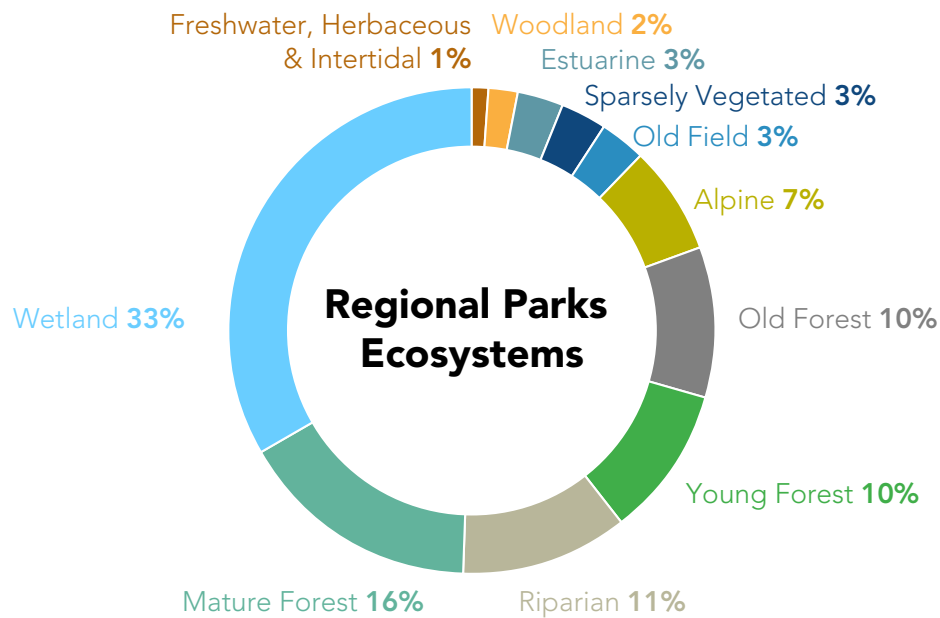


Figure 5: Summary of ecosystems in regional parks

Ecosystems

Regional parks protect a diversity of regional ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, alpine, and riparian areas.

In line with our role to protect important natural areas, the large majority — 99% by area — of regional parks are in a natural, undeveloped state. Of these natural areas, 85% are included in the Metro Vancouver Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI), meaning they are considered regionally sensitive or important modified ecosystems. The remaining 15% are younger or more disturbed vegetation but still provide a range of services, including habitat for biodiversity, and with restoration or simply time, have the potential to become sensitive ecosystems.

Figure 5 shows the proportions of different ecosystem types present in regional parks and is based on information from the SEI (2014). In addition to mapping ecosystem extent, ecosystem quality is also assessed to understand changes in condition. Within regional parks, 80% of ecosystems were rated 'higher quality' in the SEI, meaning they tend to be in better condition, larger in size, and adjacent to other vegetation, rather than roads and urban areas.

Metro Vancouver's Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory

The Metro Vancouver Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) is a GIS inventory of the region's most ecologically important areas, mapped using provincial methodology. The SEI includes mainly sensitive ecosystems that are ecologically fragile, rare, or at-risk ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and riparian areas. It also includes some important modified ecosystems that have ecological value and importance to biodiversity, such as young forests and old fields.

The SEI is updated every six years to track ecosystem loss and change in the region. The 2014 update reported approximately 1,600 hectares of ecosystem loss between 2009 and 2014, including 1,000 hectares of forest and 120 hectares of wetlands.

Built Assets

Each year, Metro Vancouver maintains thousands of built assets to protect ecosystems and enable people to connect to nature in regional parks. Figure 6 provides a summary of built assets in regional parks from 2020.

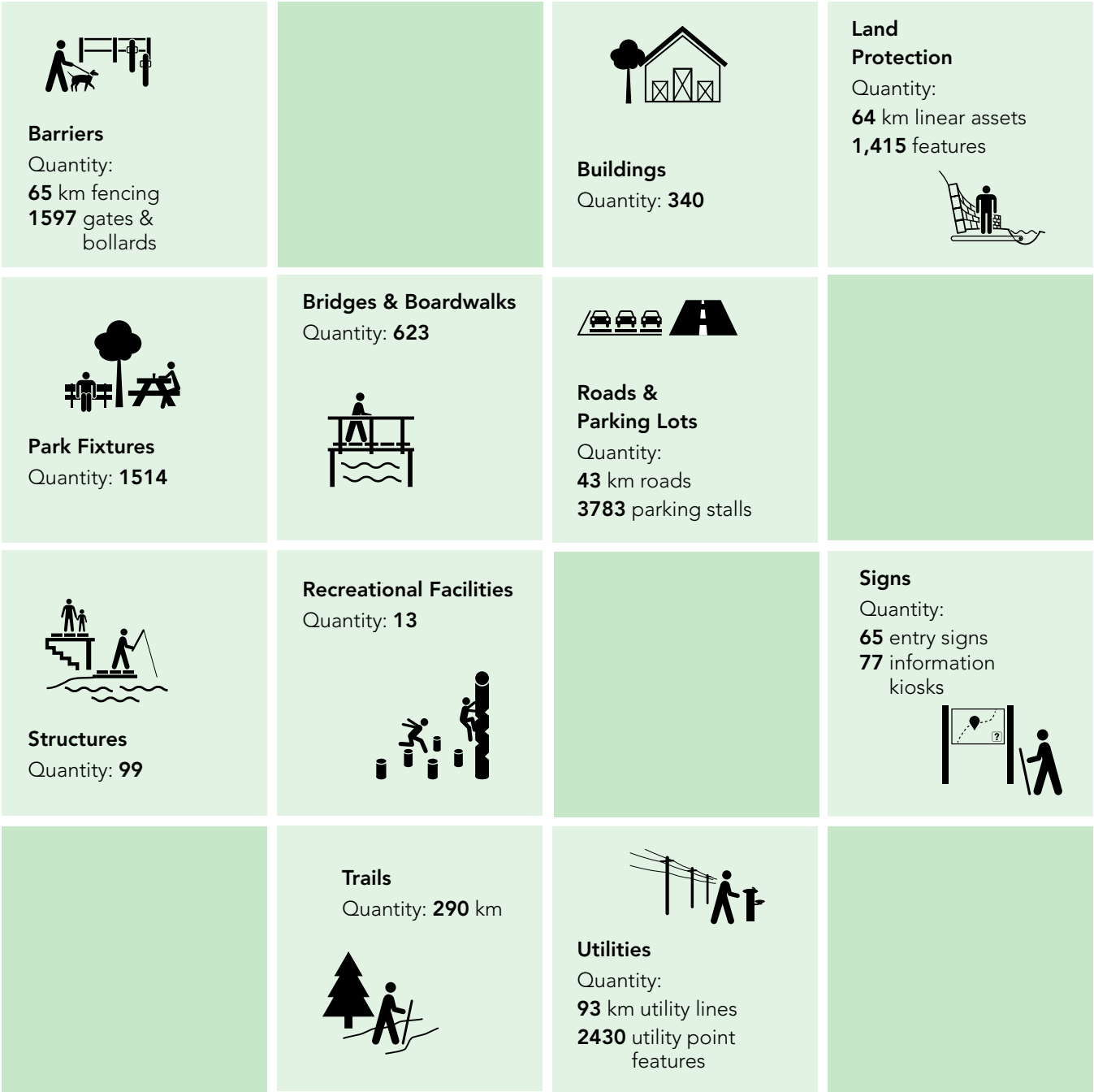


Figure 6: Summary of built assets in regional parks



CTS Youth Society planting native species, Tynehead Regional Park

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation (previously known as the Pacific Parklands Foundation) is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of regional parks. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation provides additional financial support for special projects and initiatives

including restoring habitat, improving park facilities, and empowering youth to become environmental leaders. Together, we work to make the regional parks system the best it can be, for now and for future generations.



Introduction to the Regional Parks Plan

Within the context of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' role to protect natural areas and connect people to nature, the *Regional Parks Plan* establishes the following vision and guiding principles:

Vision

*Regional parks are protected and resilient,
connecting people to nature, with benefits for all*

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles represent the fundamental values that guide the plan. Throughout our work, we strive to be:

- **Nature-focused** – Nature has inherent value and its protection for future generations is the foundation of what we do.
- **Interconnected** – Our work nurtures the essential connection between people and nature, recognizing the vital role nature plays in human health and well-being.
- **Inclusive** – Equity is integral to what we do, as we create an inclusive environment for all.
- **Reconciliation-focused** – Relationships with Indigenous Peoples are strengthened as we make the journey together along the pathway of truth and reconciliation.
- **Collaborative** – By working with others, we collectively care for the land to improve the region's livability and ecological health.
- **Knowledge-based** – Decision-making is informed by data and science, and incorporates Indigenous Knowledge. We learn from others and share our knowledge generously.
- **Adaptive** – We sustain a culture of adaptive management, through learning, innovation, and evaluation.

Goals

Priority areas of work are identified within five goals, which focus direction and advance the vision. The goals are interlinked and will be achieved through an integrated approach. Each of these goals will be achieved through collaboration with others including member jurisdictions, First Nations, and community partners, working together to find solutions to complex challenges.



Goal 1: The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.

Metro Vancouver plays an important role in protecting important natural areas across the region. Managed to support healthy ecosystems and species, regional parks provide residents with a wide range of essential services, including storing carbon, increasing climate

resilience, and supporting human health and well-being. As the region's population continues to grow, so must the regional parks system, providing more opportunities for people to connect with nature, and inspiring ecological stewardship and responsibility.



Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.

Regional parks support physical and mental health through provision of facilities that provide access to nature. From picnic areas that support social connections, to trails that enable quiet contemplation, everyone should have the opportunity to experience the wide range of benefits that emerge from time spent in nature. By removing barriers to accessing regional parks, we strive to create inclusive and welcoming places.

Through inspiring, educational and interpretive public programming, volunteering, and ecological stewardship opportunities, a diverse range of experiences will be provided that deepen people's connection to nature and foster an appreciation of regional parks.



Goal 3: Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.

The provision of safe and well-maintained infrastructure protects ecosystems in regional parks and enables people to connect with nature. Visitor use will be managed to provide high quality experiences and protection of natural resources. A robust regulations and compliance program will be in place to ensure these principles are maintained, and will be supported by visitor education. Through thoughtful

planning and design, barriers to accessibility will be reduced to provide a diversity of opportunities to be active and enjoy time in nature.

Asset management supports efficient use of resources and long-term financial planning. Through an integrated approach, asset management will incorporate natural and built assets, providing sustainable service delivery and risk management.



Iona Beach Regional Park



Goal 4: First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks.

First Nations have lived on these lands since time immemorial and have carefully stewarded the land and species as part of a reciprocal relationship with nature. Metro Vancouver aspires to achieve a strengthened and collaborative relationship with First Nations, acknowledging that a meaningful truth and

reconciliation process is required for this to happen. Metro Vancouver will work with First Nations to jointly determine outcomes to be achieved together to advance a shared vision.



Goal 5: Regional parks adapt to change and contribute to regional resilience.

Metro Vancouver aspires to create an ecologically diverse and resilient network of parks, with ecosystems and infrastructure that are adaptable to change. Infrastructure siting, design, and retrofit decisions have to consider natural hazards, many of which will be worsened by climate change.

Natural areas are one of our greatest defenses in the face of climate change and other shocks and stressors. They help to increase resilience by cooling

temperatures, reducing flooding, protecting shorelines, and helping to combat the cause of climate change by storing carbon.

The ecosystems within regional parks contribute these functions to the region, supporting regional climate resilience. Maintaining or enhancing ecological health increases the ability of regional parks to adapt to climate change and other disturbances.

Strategies and Actions

Acquire and Finance

Strategy 1 – Secure land to protect the region’s important natural areas and connect the Regional Greenways Network

Supports Goals:



Metro Vancouver secures natural areas and their protection by expanding the regional parks system, providing parkland for a growing regional population. Adding lands to the system improves ecological health, provides more recreation opportunities, protects biodiversity and increases the resilience of the region.

Growing the regional parks system contributes to the regional vision, proposed in the update to the *Regional Growth Strategy (Metro 2050)* update, to increase the area of lands protected for nature from 40% to 50% of the region’s land base by the year 2050. This vision recognizes the scientific evidence that

"nature needs half" of the land base to continue functioning for the benefit of all life and support human well-being. Strategic acquisitions to connect the Regional Greenways Network (identified in the *Regional Greenways 2050* plan) will additionally support regional livability through improved connections to parks.

Actions

- 1.1 Grow the regional parks system as identified in the *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy*, including core natural areas, ecological buffer areas, and recreational access areas
- 1.2 Update land acquisition program information to include land required for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ greenways
- 1.3 Review and update land acquisition program information every five years (and as needed) to be adaptive to a changing region



Minnekhada Regional Park

Strategy 2 – Update existing financial tools and investigate additional financial mechanisms to support service provision, land acquisition, and operation and maintenance of new parkland

Supports Goals:



Sustainable financing is critical to Metro Vancouver’s ability to acquire land, provide infrastructure, and operate and maintain new parkland for visitors to connect to nature. Financial tools will be aligned to support achievement of the *Regional Parks Plan* vision and goals, and additional financial mechanisms will be explored to identify new and diversified funding opportunities.

A benefits-based approach to pricing will be employed to maintain financial sustainability while supporting equitable access to programming that connects people to nature.

Actions

- 2.1 Promote, support, and collaborate with the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation to align strategic funding priorities
- 2.2 Explore alternative revenue-generating opportunities that are consistent with the role of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, including philanthropic endeavors, Development Cost Charges, and grant opportunities with other orders of government
- 2.3 Implement a benefits-based approach to pricing in public programming
- 2.4 Conduct an annual review of fees and charges established through the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw

Plan and Design

Strategy 3 – Develop agreements with local First Nations and work together to define a collaborative way forward

Supports Goals:



First Nations have lived here since time immemorial and continue to act as stewards of the lands and waters. Metro Vancouver acknowledges that it is just beginning the journey of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and aims to build stronger relationships founded on mutual respect, trust, and understanding.

Metro Vancouver is committed to ongoing dialogue and relationship-building with First Nations, and developing agreements to guide our future work together.

Actions

3.1 Collaboratively develop an Indigenous framework to guide working together to plan and steward regional parks

3.2 Partner with local First Nations to develop collaborative agreements, such as cultural planning and co-operation agreements

3.3 Collaborate with local First Nations on the naming, renaming, or dedication of regional parks and park features to affirm the history and importance of the lands to the Nations

3.4 Investigate with local First Nations potential economic development opportunities that are compatible with regional parks

3.5 Work with local First Nations to establish a regular forum to support ongoing collaboration on shared stewardship of regional parks

3.6 Develop cultural recognition plans with First Nations to guide approaches to respect and honour Indigenous Peoples' culture and connection to the land

3.7 Provide training opportunities for staff on cultural awareness, including appropriate management of cultural resources



Strategy 4 – Create and apply a consistent, collaborative, and inclusive approach to regional parks and greenway planning and design

Supports Goals:



Protecting natural areas and providing exceptional nature-based experiences requires thoughtful coordination and planning. Recognizing the distinct character of each regional park, Metro Vancouver will create system-focused approaches to park planning and design, along with a clear process for inclusive public and stakeholder engagement. Planning will be informed by an ongoing process of research, data collection and evaluation, with regular reporting on indicators to allow for course correction.

Recognizing the important contribution regional parks make to regional resilience, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will play an active role in regional initiatives relating to ecological health and climate change.

Actions

- 4.1 Apply the Protect-Connect Continuum to provide consistent guidance and support park-level decision-making
- 4.2 Review and update the process and framework for park management plans

4.3 Implement an integrated design process for major projects that brings together a multi-disciplinary team and considers all aspects of a project concurrently to optimize resilience, performance, and cost efficiency in park development

4.4 Identify the sections of the Regional Greenways Network that will be advanced by Metro Vancouver

4.5 Update the design standards and guidelines for regional parks to support the provision of efficient, accessible and resilient park infrastructure over the long term

4.6 Develop an inclusive approach to engagement that provides opportunity to hear a broad range of opinions

4.7 Utilize social science and other data sources to understand who regional park visitors are, barriers preventing use of regional parks, and benefits derived from visiting regional parks

4.8 Regularly collect data, including on ecosystems, wildlife, and visitor use, to inform and evaluate planning and management decisions

4.9 Report out on the *Regional Parks Plan* indicators every four years to assess progress in meeting the plan's goals

4.10 Participate in advancing the proposed Regional Green Infrastructure Network and regional efforts to enhance ecosystem connectivity and ecological health

Strategy 5 – Plan for climate change and other hazards

Supports Goals:



Planning for climate change and other hazards at the park and system level will be critical to managing impacts and supporting adaptation to changing conditions. The species, ecosystems, and infrastructure within regional parks face increasing impacts from climate change, often exacerbating existing hazards. These impacts include flooding, sea level rise, more extreme storms, increasing temperatures, and wildfires.

Metro Vancouver will strive to develop proactive approaches to incorporating climate change considerations into planning and design, focused on understanding vulnerabilities and developing flexible responses that can be adapted over time, based on new information and lessons learned.

Maintaining or enhancing connections between regional parks ecosystems and other protected areas supports resilience and will necessitate working together with other land managers.

Actions

- 5.1 Develop and implement a climate action strategy for regional parks
- 5.2 Improve understanding of climate impacts on regional parks ecosystems and infrastructure
- 5.3 Develop and update system and individual park emergency plans to guide staff in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from large scale emergencies
- 5.4 Incorporate climate change considerations into design and development of regional parks infrastructure
- 5.5 Participate in implementing *Climate 2050*, the regional climate strategy
- 5.6 Collaborate with others, including member jurisdictions and the provincial government, to enhance ecosystem connections between regional parks and other protected areas





Volunteer at a restoration event

Restore and Manage

Strategy 6 – Manage and restore park ecosystems and their components

Supports Goals:



Metro Vancouver is responsible for managing the long term health and integrity of park ecosystems. This is achieved through strategic management of natural resources that is knowledge-based and integrates the knowledge of others including First Nations. The regional parks ecological stewardship program provides opportunities for the public to connect with natural areas and fosters an appreciation for regional parks.

Actions

- 6.1 Implement the *Natural Resource Management Framework* to enhance and restore ecological integrity in regional parks
- 6.2 Work with First Nations to support guardian programs to advance shared learning and collaborative stewardship of the land
- 6.3 Look for unique ways to identify and support First Nations' traditional and contemporary uses of the land, in the context of managing regional parks
- 6.4 Continue to monitor forest health to inform long-term resilience of the forests in regional parks
- 6.5 Implement restoration efforts to enhance ecosystem connectivity in existing and new Metro Vancouver regional parks and greenways
- 6.6 Expand the ecological stewardship program to provide more opportunities for people to engage with regional parks
- 6.7 Develop and implement a coordinated natural asset management approach to maintain and enhance ecological health
- 6.8 Work with member jurisdictions and landowners to minimize negative impacts on regional park lands from activities in adjacent areas



Surrey Bend Regional Park

Strategy 7 – Manage visitor use to protect natural resources and support safe and high-quality visitor experiences

Supports Goals:



The balance between maintaining and enhancing ecological health, and providing access to nature remains the greatest challenge to managing the regional parks system.

Regional parks provide a range of different experiences for residents: the chance for quiet contemplation in nature and time with family and friends at the beach, challenging hikes on rough trails and relaxing bike rides on wide and flat trails. Protecting these diverse experiences will be achieved by assessing visitor use in the context of ecological, physical, and experiential impacts.

Metro Vancouver will manage visitor use and risk for the safety of visitors and the protection of ecosystems, and will work with others to manage impacts outside of park boundaries.

Actions

7.1 Develop a strategy for managing visitor use that takes into account the effects of visitor use on ecological, physical, and experiential conditions

7.2 Update the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw as needed

7.3 Develop and implement operational policies and procedures to manage risks to the safety of staff and visitors, the protection of built and natural assets, or the continuity of service delivery

7.4 Test and implement technological tools and other innovative approaches to visitor use management

Strategy 8 – Protect and manage cultural resources in regional parks

Supports Goals:



There are many historically and culturally significant places and features in regional parks. To support efforts to appropriately recognize, protect, and/or celebrate cultural resources, Metro Vancouver will work in partnership with First Nations and cultural organizations to establish clear protocols for the identification and management of these resources.

Actions

8.1 Work with First Nations to better understand the archaeological potential of lands within regional parks and review and update on an ongoing basis to incorporate new information

8.2 Work with First Nations to better understand cultural resources in regional parks, to enable respectful and appropriate protection and management protocols

8.3 Work with cultural organizations and communities to incorporate cultural information into planning and management





Build and Maintain

Strategy 9 – Provide high-quality, inclusive visitor experiences through the provision of well-maintained facilities and infrastructure

Supports Goals:



Facilities and infrastructure are key components of the regional parks experience – from trails and viewing platforms to washrooms and picnic areas. It is important that these facilities are well-maintained and safe, facilitating visitor's connection with nature.

Metro Vancouver will continue to construct new and retrofit existing facilities using innovative approaches and best practices, and will conduct responsible maintenance of existing assets. Through incorporation of universal design, learnings from human health experts, and low-carbon approaches, regional parks facilities and infrastructure will provide increased accessibility and health benefits, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions

- 9.1 Design and develop parks to provide a diversity of opportunities to connect with and be active in nature
- 9.2 Incorporate universal design and the use of sustainable materials in the construction and upgrade of facilities and infrastructure
- 9.3 Develop and implement strategies to reduce Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on increasing energy efficiency in buildings and electrifying vehicles and equipment
- 9.4 Develop operational levels of service, including standards for customer services

Strategy 10 – Manage assets proactively, for sustainable service delivery

Supports Goals:



Responsible asset management requires planning to manage risks, structure decision-making, and provide for sustainable service delivery. It also involves a process for evaluating and rationalizing the asset inventory to support continuous improvement.

The built assets in regional parks represent a significant investment and are key to connecting park users to nature. Incorporating built and natural assets within an asset management framework provides an integrated approach and supports protection of natural assets.

Actions

10.1 Update the asset management and related maintenance program using a continuous improvement approach

10.2 Develop resource management plans for built and natural assets for each regional park and greenway

10.3 Develop and implement a buildings strategy and other asset strategies

10.4 Integrate natural assets into the asset management program



Strategy 11 – Improve equitable access to regional parks and greenways via sustainable transportation options

Supports Goals:



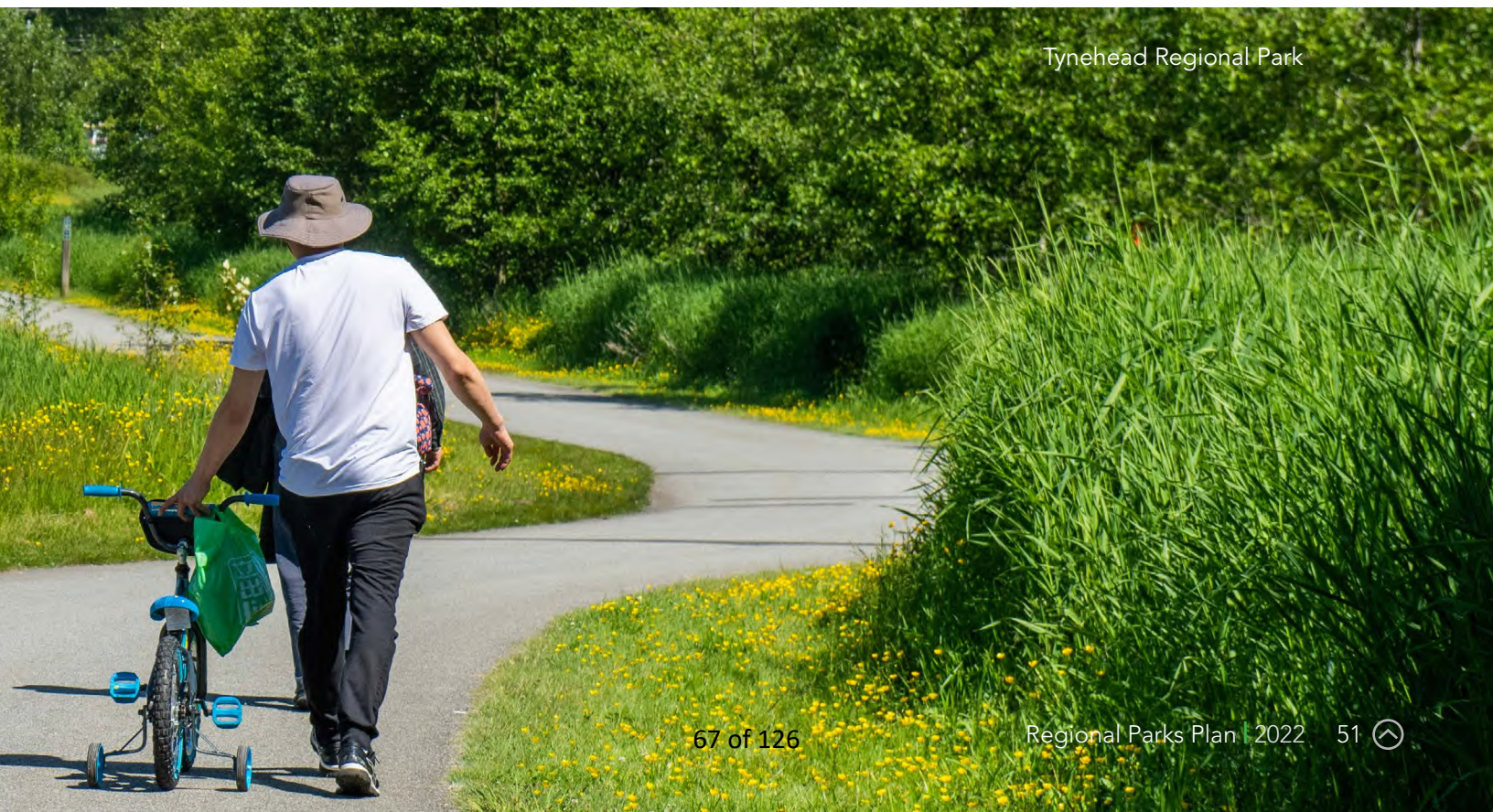
Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy and experience the benefits of regional parks. Access to regional parks is challenging without a vehicle in many locations. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will work with TransLink, member jurisdictions and other Metro Vancouver departments to improve access via transit and active transportation.

Actions

11.1 Build and upgrade the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' segments of the Regional Greenways Network

11.2 Develop and implement new approaches to encourage sustainable transportation options to regional parks

11.3 Collaborate with others to advance completion of the Regional Greenways Network



Tynehead Regional Park



Park interpreters engage with visitors to share information, inspire, and create positive experiences.

Engage and Program

Strategy 12 – Provide diverse and meaningful learning and volunteer opportunities that deepen people’s connection to nature

Supports Goals:



Through interpretive programming, education, and volunteering opportunities, Metro Vancouver fosters a deep connection between the region’s growing diverse population and the natural world. In addition to providing opportunities to spend time in nature, these programs provide social connection and opportunities for physical activity which contribute to individual and community health and well-being.

Actions

- 12.1 Implement the *Public Programming Strategy* to provide relevant content for the region’s growing diverse population
- 12.2 Continue to develop a relationship-based approach to ensure strong and diverse community partnerships
- 12.3 Deliver events that provide equitable opportunities for many people to experience interpretive and educational programming in regional parks
- 12.4 Provide a range of meaningful and relevant volunteer opportunities that support the mandate of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
- 12.5 Work with First Nations to better understand and include their respective histories, knowledge, and cultural practices in regional parks
- 12.6 Foster relationships with diverse communities to share histories, stories, and cultural interpretations of regional parks through public communications and programming
- 12.7 Develop interpretive plans for each regional park that tell the story of the park, incorporating natural and cultural history
- 12.8 Seek partnerships in program delivery, community engagement and provision of special programs where others have expertise

Strategy 13 – Tell Metro Vancouver Regional Parks stories to connect the region’s diverse population with nature and inspire its protection

Supports Goals:



Metro Vancouver engages with visitors and the region to share information, inspire, and create positive experiences that provide a sense of place and encourage the protection of nature.

Using a diverse range of communications tools, and considering overarching inclusion principles such as Indigenous perspectives, accessibility, and language, Metro Vancouver aims to reach a broad audience and foster appreciation of regional parks.

Actions

13.1 Use a range of communications tools from in-park signs to print materials to web-based and other digital resources that considers the full visitor experience cycle that starts before arrival and ends with memories of the visit

13.2 Continue the use of social media and explore additional new media as communications tools in reaching new audiences in the region



Aldergrove Regional Park

Study nature, love nature;
stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.

Frank Lloyd Wright



barred owl

Strategy 14 – Learn and share knowledge

Supports Goals:



Metro Vancouver works collaboratively with others to manage regional parks for long-term ecological integrity and resilience. Existing relationships will continue to be nurtured and new areas for increased collaboration and knowledge sharing will be explored, including cultural resource management, climate action, and the health benefits of parks.

Actions

- 14.1 Partner with health organizations to provide specific mental health and well-being opportunities in regional parks
- 14.2 Support research that helps to broaden understanding of natural resources in regional parks and informs management decisions
- 14.3 Collaborate with the health authorities, academia, and others to develop a greater understanding and awareness of the health benefits of nature
- 14.4 Collaborate with First Nations to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and values into planning, stewardship and other work for regional parks
- 14.5 Promote the sharing of expertise between member jurisdictions, First Nations, other orders of government, academia, the public, and other regional partners
- 14.6 Collaborate with member jurisdictions, First Nations, other orders of government, TransLink, Destination BC, and others on visitor use planning and management



Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Monitoring and Reporting






To ensure progress is being made towards *Regional Parks Plan* goals, indicators will be measured and reported on. The indicators represent qualitative and quantitative measures and will provide information about different aspects relating to the plan's goals.

Indicators are grouped by the goal they most strongly connect to, but many indicators provide information that relates to multiple goals.

Most of the indicators listed can be measured using existing data, and indeed many are already reported out on annually through the Metro Vancouver

Performance Monitoring Dashboard or the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks annual report. Proposed indicators are used to identify areas where an indicator is needed, but more work is required to determine what the indicator should be.

Every four years, a summary report of indicators will be produced, and the information used to determine if any adjustments are needed as we continue to work towards the plan's goals and vision.

GOAL	INDICATOR
 <p>Goal 1: The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.</p>	Area of regional parkland managed by Metro Vancouver
	Proportion of land acquisition budget spent
	Proportion of regional sensitive or modified ecosystems that falls within regional parks
	Area of sensitive or modified ecosystems within regional parks
	Cumulative area of ecological restoration areas (created or maintained)
	<i>Natural assets indicator relating to ecological function and management (to be developed)</i>
 <p>Goal 2: Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.</p>	Number of visits to regional parks
	Hours of volunteer time
	Number of participants in interpretive programs and special events
	<i>Equity baseline indicator relating to the demographic profile of regional parks visitors compared to demographic profile of regional population (to be developed)</i>
	<i>Trips made to regional parks by personal vehicle vs transit and active transportation (to be developed)</i>
	<i>Level of visitor satisfaction, expanding qualitative questions in the visitor satisfaction survey to improve measurement of the influence and effect of time spent in regional parks on visitor well-being (to be developed)</i>
 <p>Goal 3: Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.</p>	Percentage of regional parks with a current management plan
	Amount of grant funds received
	Proportion of capital budget spent
	Proportion of built asset classes that have achieved or exceeded a 'Fair' condition score
	Percentage change in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the operation of regional parks
	<i>Regulations and compliance indicator, relating to effectiveness or outcomes (to be developed)</i>
 <p>Goal 4: First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks.</p>	Number of park or system level studies collaboratively undertaken with First Nations
	Number of collaborative agreements in place, such as cultural planning and co-operation agreements
	Number of regional parks or park features named or renamed in partnership with First Nations
	Further indicators relating to Goal 4 will be developed over time with First Nations
 <p>Goal 5: Regional parks adapt to change and contribute to regional resilience.</p>	Indicators for Goal 1 and 3 also strongly connect to Goal 5 as they report on amount and condition of natural areas and infrastructure in regional parks
	<i>Ecosystem and infrastructure vulnerability and/or resilience indicators (to be developed through a climate action strategy for regional parks and Climate 2050)</i>

Indicators in italics will be developed in the future

Glossary

Active transportation includes self-powered modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, skateboarding, in-line skating/rollerblading, jogging and running, wheel chairing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Electric technologies such as bikes or scooters may be used to support electric mobility on active modes.

Benefits-based approach means that if more community benefit accrues from a service, then a lower cost rate is justified. If more personal benefit accrues from the service, then a higher cost is justified.

Biodiversity is the variety of species and ecosystems, and the ecological processes that they are part of.

Built assets are the buildings, trails and other infrastructure that have been constructed to protect natural assets and enable people to connect to regional parks.

Carbon sequestration is the removal of carbon dioxide from the air and the long-term storage of that carbon to mitigate climate change.

Climate adaptation means anticipating, planning for, and responding to the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimize the damage it can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. It has been shown that well-planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives later.

Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are monies that are collected from land developers by a local government, to offset some of the infrastructure expenditures incurred, to service the needs of new development, including roads, water, and parkland.

Ecological health captures the connection among healthy functioning ecosystems, the valuable services they provide, and human well-being.

Ecological stewardship is a management activity that contributes to the improvement of an area's ecological function through actions that monitor, maintain, protect, enhance, or restore natural resources. These actions must be guided by care, and lead to sustainable long-term results.

Ecosystems are all the plants and animals that live in a particular area together with the relationships between them and their environment.

Ecosystem connectivity is the physical and functional links between ecosystems that support biodiversity by allowing movement of species across the region.

Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including food, fresh water, shading, and human health and well-being.

Greenhouse gases are air contaminants that trap heat and are the cause of climate change. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, halocarbons, black carbon, and ozone. Limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions and removing these gases from the atmosphere (sometimes referred to as "climate change mitigation") is critical to avoiding catastrophic climate change.

Green infrastructure is the natural, enhanced, and engineered assets that collectively provide society with ecosystem services required for healthy living.

Local First Nations are First Nations with Reserve or Treaty Lands located in the Metro Vancouver region. Qayqayt First Nation is also one of the local First Nations; however, this Nation does not currently have a land base.

Natural assets are the stock of natural resources and ecosystems (including geology, soil, air, water, and all living things) that provide benefits to people. Examples include forests, wetlands, and streams. It is from these natural assets that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, that make human life possible.

"Nature needs half" refers to the international movement, backed by science, to protect 50% of the Earth for nature to support biodiversity, human well-being, and combat climate change. To read more, visit natureneedshalf.org/why-50/

Nature-based solutions are actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems but also address societal challenges (such as climate change), thereby providing both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Passive outdoor recreation:

- a. is unstructured, natural resource based, and occurs in large scale natural landscapes
- b. provides an opportunity to connect with and experience nature
- c. does not require the provision of extensive or specialized facilities
- d. results in minimal impact and/or disturbance to natural and cultural resources
- e. is primarily low intensity and of a day use nature
- f. is informal and self-directed

Reconciliation refers to those efforts made by individuals and institutions to raise awareness about the process of colonization in Canada, its ongoing effects on Indigenous Peoples, and to affect change through such means as education, relationship-building efforts, allyship, decolonization, and Indigenization.

Regional Greenways Network is the region's network of recreational greenways which support recreational walking, cycling, and, where appropriate, horseback riding.

Regional Growth Strategy is the regional vision for accommodating anticipated future growth to the region. The current version of the regional growth strategy as of publication of this document is called "Metro 2040." An update is underway, currently referred to as "Metro 2050."

Resilience is the capacity to prepare for, avoid, absorb, recover, and adapt to the effects of shocks and stresses in an efficient manner through the preservation, restoration, and adaptation of essential services and functions.

Social equity is the promotion of fairness, justice, and the removal of systemic barriers that may cause or aggravate disparities experienced by different groups of people.

Universal design is design that's usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialization.



Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority.

Metro Vancouver members:

- Village of Anmore
- Village of Belcarra
- Bowen Island Municipality
- City of Burnaby
- City of Coquitlam
- City of Delta
- Electoral Area A
- City of Langley
- Township of Langley
- Village of Lions Bay
- City of Maple Ridge
- City of New Westminster
- City of North Vancouver
- District of North Vancouver
- City of Pitt Meadows
- City of Port Coquitlam
- City of Port Moody
- City of Richmond
- City of Surrey
- Tsawwassen First Nation
- City of Vancouver
- District of West Vancouver
- City of White Rock

Regional Parks Committee members:

- McEwen, John (Chair) - Anmore
- Wiebe, Michael (Vice Chair) - Vancouver
- 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
- Ross, Jamie - Belcarra
- Soprovich, Bill - West Vancouver
- Trentadue, Mary - New Westminster

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Regional Parks Plan 2022 Engagement Summary

1.0 OVERVIEW

In 2021/2022, Metro Vancouver undertook an update of the 2016 *Regional Parks Plan*. Delivery of the Regional Parks Service is driven by the goals and strategies of the *Regional Parks Plan*. The plan:

- Provides strategic direction to guide the work of Regional Parks
- Identifies how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged
- Provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade

This document summarizes the results of the engagement activities for the draft *Regional Parks Plan*. The public and First Nations engagement period took place February 14 to April 20, 2022. This engagement summary is a key supporting document for the presentation of the *Regional Parks Plan 2022* to the Regional Parks Committee for review in July 2022.

The objectives of the engagement plan for the draft *Regional Parks Plan* were to:

1. Reach, involve and hear from First Nations, member jurisdictions, stakeholders and other orders of government who have interest in this plan
2. Engage in meaningful dialogue with the public, including equity denied groups and youth, and inform them about opportunities to provide input about the plan
3. Support informed engagement and share engagement outcomes
4. Raise awareness about Metro Vancouver's role in Regional Parks

Regional Parks Plan update engagement infographic:



2.0 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Staff organized a variety of engagement activities to solicit feedback on the draft plan from member jurisdictions, First Nations, other government agencies, community organizations, youth, and the public. This section outlines the engagement activities, as well as their respective audience(s), and how these activities were promoted.

The activities used to engage each audience are outlined in the table below.

Activity	Audience	Timing	Medium	Feedback Process
Meetings with Member jurisdiction/Metro Vancouver Advisory Committees	Member jurisdiction staff	February	Virtual	Direct through standing committees and subcommittees
Email invitation for feedback from interested and affected groups	Other government agencies, individuals with expertise and influence	February to April	Email	Written
Indigenous Working Group Meetings	First Nations	March 28 and April 20	Virtual	Direct and written
Email invitation for Indigenous review and comments	First Nations	March to May	Email	Written
Youth4Action Leadership Boot Camp	Youth	March 15,	Virtual	Comments and Q&A
CTS Youth Council Workshop	Youth	April 11	Virtual	Comments and Q&A
Webinars	Public, park associations, and community organizations	March 2 (evening) March 3 (morning) Recording placed online	Virtual	Comments and Q&A
Feedback form	Public, park associations, and community organizations	February to April	Online	Multiple-choice and written questions

2.1 Engagement with Member Jurisdictions, Other Government Agencies, and Individuals with Expertise and Influence

Staff attended five Metro Vancouver advisory committees, and one advisory committee of a member jurisdiction, to present on the draft *Regional Parks Plan* and invite comment. Additionally, other government agencies, and individuals with expertise and influence, were invited to provide written comments on the draft plan or complete the feedback form. See attachment 1 for list of advisory committees attended and organizations contacted to provide feedback.

2.2 First Nations Engagement

Metro Vancouver values and respects the knowledge, expertise, and perspectives of First Nations and recognizes Nations as rights-holders not stakeholders. As such, Metro Vancouver is working to better collaborate with First Nations by inviting Nations to provide input on the draft *Regional Parks Plan*. First Nations selected from the activities below depending on their internal capacity, interest and availability:

1. Attend *Regional Parks Plan* Indigenous Working Group Meetings to talk, learn together, and provide input
(2 meetings x 2 hours per meeting)
(meetings were held via videoconferencing)
2. Review and provide written comments on the draft *Regional Parks Plan*

An invitation letter to engage on the draft *Regional Parks Plan* was sent to 10 local First Nations and 24 First Nation communities with interests in the region, detailed in attachment 1.

2.3 Youth Engagement

For information on how webinars and a feedback form were promoted to youth, see section 2.5 – Targeted Promotion. In addition, staff held two online workshops with youth through Youth4Action and the CTS Youth Council. Youth4Action is a Metro Vancouver-led program that supports high school youth, and the CTS Youth Council is run by the non-profit organization CTS Youth Society for those aged 14-18.

2.4 Public Engagement Activities

Staff hosted two virtual webinars and promoted opportunities to receive feedback by completing a short online form or to write to a project email inbox. The webinars included a presentation about the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, followed by a Q&A portion where participants were encouraged to ask questions and provide comments or questions in the chat. The feedback form consisted of multiple choice and written questions about the goals, actions and strategies contained in the draft plan. These engagement opportunities were shared on the Metro Vancouver website and social media, promoted in newsletters to Regional Parks and Metro Vancouver news subscribers, as well as via email with park associations, community organizations, and equity denied groups.

2.5 Promoting the Regional Parks Plan and Public Engagement Opportunities

Staff developed a strategy to promote information to the public about the draft *Regional Parks Plan*'s purpose and benefits, as well as the opportunities to provide feedback. This strategy aimed to reach as many members of the public as possible, as well as reach diverse members of the public.

To accomplish this, staff shared information about the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, as well as the feedback form and webinars, on platforms ranging from traditional media (posters in regional parks kiosks, print ads), to the use of promoted social media posts to drive attention to the draft *Regional Parks Plan* project web site, online feedback form and webinars. Content was also shared via Metro Vancouver's newsletters and home page, and with member jurisdictions for promotion to their own networks. The following section provides data on the extent these promotional efforts were able to reach the public.

Website

Web content is found at www.metrovancouver.org/parksplan.

From February 14 to April 20, 2022, there were a total of 1,473 page views from 1,265 unique users. Visitors spent an average of 4:50 minutes on the site, which is very high when compared to the 1:47 minute average for visitors to Metro Vancouver's website as a whole, and indicates that users were reading the content.

Social Media

Social media was the primary tactic used to promote the engagement. Paid and organic posts were used across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to promote the opportunity to provide feedback, as well as attend a webinar or join a youth workshop. The social media content also built awareness of Regional Parks and the benefit they provide to the region. In total, there were over 600,000 social media impressions, nearly 49,000 videos views, 3,000 link clicks, and more than 1,000 social media likes, comments, and shares.

Facebook posts saw the best organic reach, while Twitter delivered the most link clicks and video views. There was a steady cadence of posts throughout the promotion period to not only drive feedback form responses but also to encourage webinar and youth workshop participation and build awareness of regional parks and the benefits they provide to the region. The best performing posts across the board were "engagement is open" and "last chance to provide feedback." Regional Parks staff were encouraged to share social media posts to their networks which amplified the message. For example, one shared LinkedIn post received 1,265 impressions and 39 likes.

Earned Media

There were two media articles about the *Regional Parks Plan* update including an article in the Delta Optimist that had a reach of 131,000.

Targeted Promotion

Staff promoted public engagement opportunities strategically to reach audience segments that more consistently face barriers to accessing regional parks than others:

- Audience: Those without a vehicle
 - Promotion tactics: Modo car share network, HUB Cycling' Bicycle Bulletin e-newsletter and Twitter
- Audience: Ethnic Minorities

- Promotion tactics: print ads in English-language ethnic publications (Asian Pacific Post, South Asian Post, Filipino Post, Indo-Canadian Voice) and community papers in municipalities with high populations of ethnic minorities (Burnaby Now, Tri-City News, Richmond News, North Shore News, Surrey Now Leader)
- Audience: Youth
 - Promotion tactics: Youth4Action social media, UBC Sustainability Newsletter, SFU Sustainability channels
 - Note: Staff also held workshops with youth groups, which is covered under a separate section

3.0 WHAT WE HEARD

The feedback received through the various engagement activities is summarized below, along with how the feedback informed the *Regional Parks Plan 2022*. More in-depth information on the feedback received during engagement is available in attachments 2 through 5.

3.1 Engagement with Member Jurisdictions, Other Government Agencies, and Individuals with Influence and Expertise

Questions were asked by the advisory committees on a range of topics, including land acquisition, greenways and improving access to nature for residents, and climate planning. Members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee also provided comments on the need to consider the impacts of increased visitation on working farmland adjacent to regional parks. This feedback will be taken into consideration through the development of a strategy for managing visitor use (draft *Regional Parks Plan* action).

In addition, staff received 12 written responses from: City of Surrey, Village of Belcarra, TransLink, BC Parks, Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, Destination BC, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, UBC Forestry (PhD Candidate), and HUB Cycling Tri-Cities Committee, HUB Cycling Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee.

Feedback varied significantly in both content and scope, but was broadly supportive of the goals, actions, and strategies in the draft plan. Climate change and resilience, protecting nature, equity, health, and sustainable transportation were key themes that came up in the feedback from many of the organizations that shared comments. Multiple organizations expressed a desire to collaborate more closely or continue collaborating on shared goals with Regional Parks, especially with regards to protecting nature, land acquisition, and/or research.

There was strong support for the following parts of the draft plan:

- Protection goals, especially regarding enhancing ecosystem connectivity
- Recognition of the value regional parks have for mental and physical health and regional resilience
- Increased collaboration with First Nations
- Improving access to parks by improving sustainable transportation options and managing and designing parks with the needs of equity denied groups in mind

Several organizations provided thoughtful suggestions for changes or additions to the draft *Regional Parks Plan*. This feedback was carefully considered and incorporated into the plan edits where appropriate. Additionally, comments that will be helpful during plan implementation or the development of other plans were documented.

Attachment 2 provides additional detail on the feedback received and how it was incorporated into the plan.

3.2 First Nations Engagement

Of the First Nations contacted, eight of the ten local First Nations attended meetings on March 28 and April 20, 2022. Written comments were also provided by seven of the ten local First Nations. The following First Nations provided feedback: Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, Kwikwetlem First Nation, Matsqui First Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

The following key themes were heard from engagement with First Nations:

1. **Plan framing:** Stronger framing for the plan is needed, recognizing the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples
2. **Embedding reconciliation:** Ongoing work is needed to embed reconciliation throughout the work of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
3. **Supporting Indigenous stewardship:** Metro Vancouver should look for ways to support Indigenous stewardship within regional parks
4. **Cultural recognition:** First Nations and their connection to the land should be recognized, in the plan and regional parks
5. **Supporting First Nations connection to the land:** Metro Vancouver should look for ways to support First Nations to practice aspects of their culture and connect with ancestral lands, including through increased access to regional parks
6. **Protecting and monitoring ecosystem health:** Concerns were raised about the impacts of visitor use on ecosystems within regional parks and the importance of collecting data on ecosystems and wildlife to monitor health

First Nations supported many of the proposed actions in the draft *Regional Parks Plan*, along with feedback on how they could be improved and strengthened.

Metro Vancouver received feedback from First Nations and subsequently made the following changes to the draft *Regional Parks Plan*:

1. **Plan framing:** An upfront section in the draft *Regional Parks Plan* titled “Working Collaboratively with First Nations” has been extended to:
 - Speak to the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples
 - Recognize First Nations as original stewards of the region’s lands, waters and air
 - Highlight several important themes heard during engagement, including recognizing the impacts regional growth and loss of natural areas has on First Nations and their ability to engage in cultural practicesFurther, the plan includes reconciliation as a guiding principle, meaning it is a fundamental value that guides the plan.
2. **Embedding reconciliation:** The final plan includes actions for Metro Vancouver to work with First Nations to develop collaborative agreements and an Indigenous Framework for planning and stewardship of regional parks. Feedback from First Nations resulted in edits to the wording of these actions. A new action was added to collaborate with First Nations to establish a regular forum to support ongoing discussion between Metro Vancouver and First Nations on regional parks related issues. In addition, an action has been added to the plan on providing cultural awareness training for Metro Vancouver staff.
3. **Supporting Indigenous stewardship:** The plan includes an action for Metro Vancouver to support First Nations guardian programs. Additional opportunities to support Indigenous stewardship will be sought out at the park level.

4. **Cultural recognition:** Information has been added to the plan, adjacent to the regional parks system map, demonstrating regional parks within the territories of local First Nations. In addition, several actions in the plan speak to the importance of recognizing First Nations and their connection to the lands throughout the work of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. Actions include:
 - Developing cultural recognition plans to guide approaches to respect and honour Indigenous Peoples' culture and connection to the land. This is a new action based on First Nations feedback
 - Collaborating with First Nations on the naming or renaming of regional parks and parks features. This action has been reworded based on feedback
 - Improved understanding of archaeological and cultural resources to enable respectful and appropriate protection and management protocols
 - Working with First Nations to better understand and include respective histories, knowledge and cultural practices. This action has been reworded based on feedback
5. **Supporting First Nations connection to the land:** Metro Vancouver will work with First Nations to identify ways to support First Nations cultural practices and access to the land, and this intention is captured in a *Regional Parks Plan* action. This can be advanced through ongoing dialogue with First Nations, as well as through the development of collaborative agreements.
6. **Protecting and monitoring ecosystem health:** The *Regional Parks Plan* commits to developing a strategy to manage visitor use. Metro Vancouver will collaborate with First Nations in its development. Wording has been added to an existing action on data collection, highlighting that this includes ecosystem and wildlife data. Additionally, the plan includes an action on the ongoing monitoring of forest health.

Metro Vancouver is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations by pursuing pathways to reconciliation such as increased engagement, dialogue, and collaboration. The opportunity to listen, share and talk together has created reflection and awareness that go beyond the development of the *Regional Parks Plan* and will continue to inform Metro Vancouver's work moving forward.

Attachment 3 provides additional detail on the feedback received from First Nations, and how it was incorporated into the plan.

3.3 Youth Engagement

Staff held two online workshops in Spring 2022 with a total of 16 youth participants.

Activity	Date	Number of participants
Youth4Action Leadership Boot Camp	March 15 (online)	12
CTS Youth Council Workshop	April 11 (online)	4

The primary themes that came from the workshops were environmental protection and climate change, barriers to youth accessing regional parks, and the value of regional parks to youth. Participants discussed how regional parks fit into wider discourse about climate change and protecting nature, such as how regional greenways act as a space for active transportation to reduce green house gas emissions, and how nature is protected in the context of regional parks. Participants also identified barriers to youth accessing parks. This included challenges with transportation and finding friends to visit parks together with, as well as ways to mitigate some of these barriers. Finally, there was discussion about the importance of parks as a place for connecting to nature and socializing, and the opportunities for regional parks to be a venue for education for youth.

Feedback received will inform work to improve access to regional parks by sustainable transportation, as well as future engagement and involvement opportunities with youth.

Attachment 4 provides additional detail on the feedback received through youth engagement.

3.4 Public Engagement

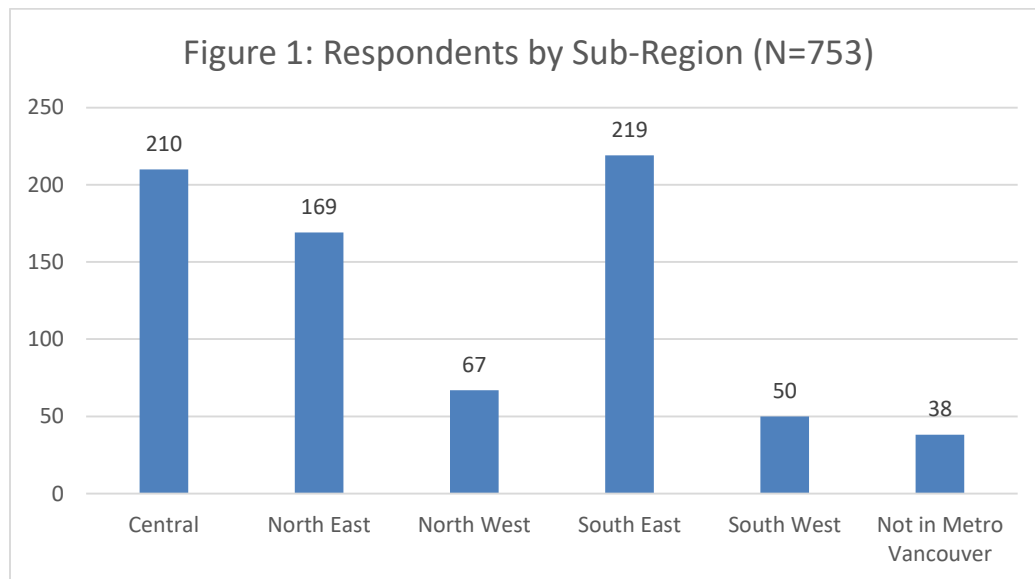
Activity	Date	Number of Participants
Webinar 1 (online)	March 2 (evening)	18
Webinar 2 (online)	March 3 (morning)	23
Webinar recording	March to April	26 views
Feedback form (online)	February to April	807 submissions

Opportunities to learn about and give feedback on the draft plan were provided through webinars, or by filling out the online feedback form. For analysis and reporting out, webinar feedback was combined with feedback form written comments given the similar scope and audience.

Feedback Form Participant Information

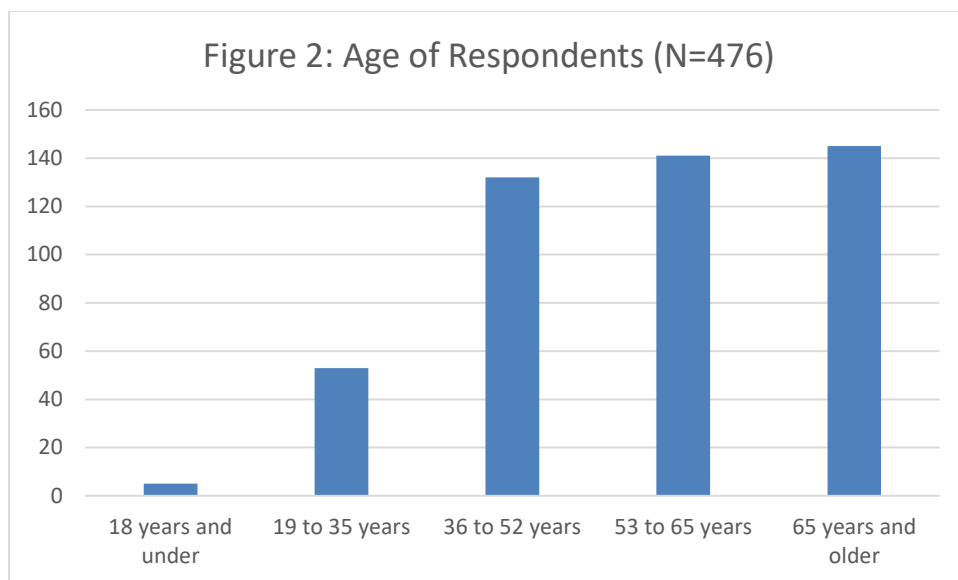
The feedback form had 807 submissions, with respondents from across the region. Not every respondent answered every question and the number of responses to questions is provided (as N=).

Figure 1 shows that there was representation from all sub-regions of Metro Vancouver among respondents who filled out the feedback form.

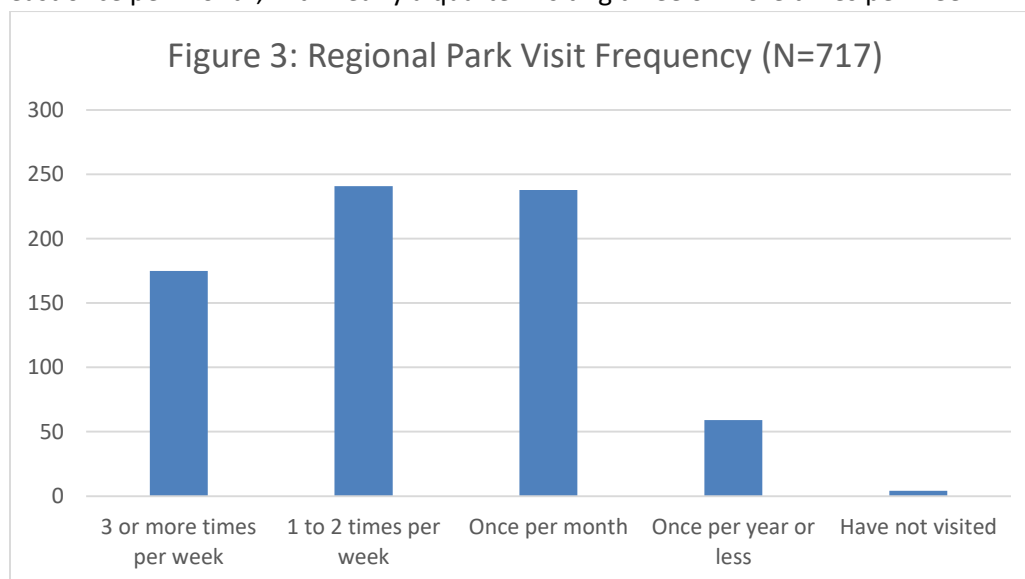


Respondents were asked about their ethnic origins and 54% (434) responded to this question by identifying one or more ethnic origin. The largest categories were Canadian (42%) and European (39%), with an additional 5% identifying as both Canadian and European. The remaining 14% identified with a variety of other ethnic origins.

Respondents were distributed quite evenly across all age brackets, although there were less respondents between ages 19 to 35, and only five respondents under age 18 (Figure 2).



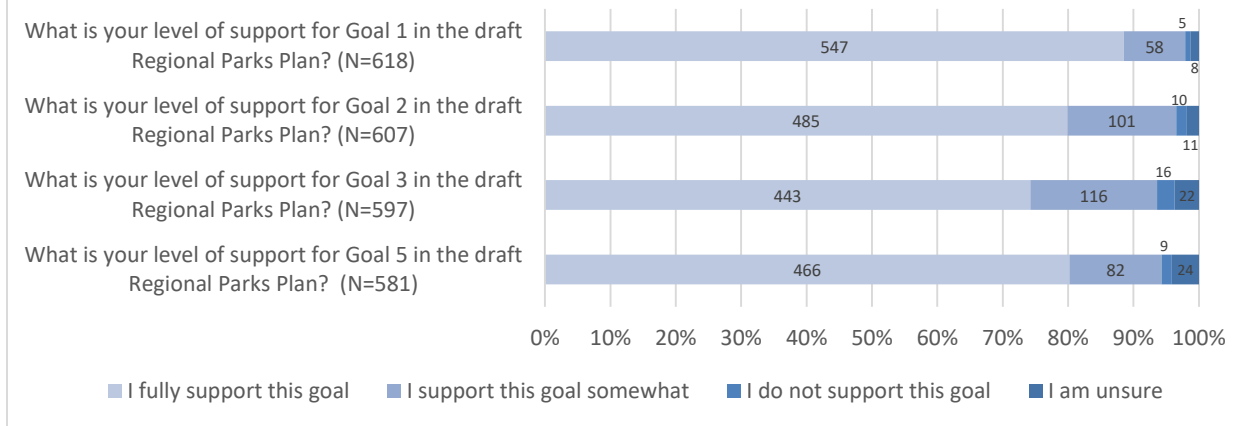
Feedback form respondents indicated that they visit regional parks regularly. Over 99% of respondents have visited a regional park at least once before, as shown in Figure 3. Over 90% visit regional parks at least once per month, with nearly a quarter visiting three or more times per week.



What We Heard from Webinars and Feedback Form

Respondents were highly supportive of the draft *Regional Parks Plan* goals (Figure 4). Full or partial support of the goals ranged from 94% (Goal 3) to 98% (Goal 1). Respondents were not asked about their level of support for Goal 4 (First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks) because engagement for this goal was focused on First Nations. Respondents were also asked about their support level for the draft *Regional Parks Plan* strategies and actions. Support levels were also quite high, with full or partial support ranging from 87% to 92%.

Figure 4: Support Levels for Draft Regional Parks Plan Goals



Through the feedback form and webinar, participants provided a total of over 1,500 comments. Staff documented the following key themes:

- Strong support for expanding regional parks and greenways through land acquisition
- Discussion around how regional parks can balance protecting nature with making space for a variety of uses of regional parks. More comments supported an emphasis on protecting nature
- Discussion around rules, enforcement, and reducing conflicts between user groups
- Support for improving sustainable transportation access and infrastructure
- Debate around balancing reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation to parks with maintaining easy access to parks, especially with regards to parking
- Discussion around the impact that climate change-driven natural hazards can have on regional parks and recognition of the role regional parks plays in climate change adaptation and regional resilience
- Discussion around the importance of reducing barriers to access regional parks, including through sustainable transportation options. Additional feedback spoke to the need for accessible facilities in regional parks

Feedback highlighted the challenges inherent in balancing the protecting natural areas while also providing access to people.

The feedback reflected the challenges that are highlighted in the draft plan, such as balancing protecting natural areas while also providing access to park visitors. Overall, the feedback received mostly supported the goals, actions, and strategies of the plan. Additionally, the comments helped staff identify unclear wording in the draft plan. Comments which provided insight that is specific to a particular park or which will be more helpful during the implementation of the plan were documented for future consideration.

Attachment 5 provides additional detail on the feedback received from the public, and how it was incorporated into the final plan.

Attachments

1. List of Organizations Contacted
2. Feedback from Engagement with Member Jurisdictions, Other Government Agencies, and Individuals with Influence and Expertise – Additional Information
3. Engagement with First Nations – Additional Information
4. Feedback from Youth Engagement – Additional Information
5. Feedback from Public Engagement – Additional Information

List of Organizations Contacted

This is a list of First Nations, stakeholders, and other governments contacted for input on the draft *Regional Parks Plan*.

Local First Nations:

Katzie First Nation	Qayqayt First Nation
Kwantlen First Nation	Semiahmoo First Nation
Kwikwetlem First Nation	Squamish Nation
Matsqui First Nation	Tsawwassen First Nation
Musqueam Indian Band	Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Additional First Nations and Tribal Council with interests in the region:

Cowichan Tribes	Snaw-Naw-As First Nation (Nanoose First Nation)
Douglas Band (Xa'xtsa)	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Halalt First Nation	Soowahlie First Nation
Lake Cowichan First Nation	St'at'imc Chiefs Council
Lyackson First Nation	Sto:lo Nation
Pauquachin First Nation	Sto:lo Tribal Council
Penelakut Tribe	Stz'uminus First Nation
Peters First Nation	Te'mexw Treaty Association
Samahquam First Nation	Tsartlip First Nation
Seabird Island Band	Tsawout First Nation
Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation	Tseycum First Nation
Skatin Nations	
Skawahlook First Nation	

Regional agencies:

Port of Vancouver
TransLink
Vancouver International Airport

Provincial agencies:

Agricultural Land Commission	Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
BC Parks	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
Destination BC	Vancouver Coastal Health
First Nations Health Authority	
Fraser Health	

Federal agencies:

Canadian Wildlife Service	Natural Resources Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Parks Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	

List of standing meetings where Regional Parks Plan update was on the agenda and feedback received:

Regional Parks Advisory Committee
Regional Planning Advisory Committee
Regional Planning Advisory Committee – Environment Subcommittee
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee – Climate Protection Subcommittee
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Bowen Island Municipality – Parks, Trails and Greenways Advisory Committee Meeting

Organization invitees:

This list includes organizations that were informed electronically of the *Regional Parks Plan* update, provided the draft plan, and invited to join a webinar or provide feedback by the online feedback form or email.

Abbotsford Mission Nature Club	Brazilian Community Association in BC
Access Advisory Community Council for Burnaby	Brittania Community Centre - Vietnamese Seniors Outreach Program
Accessible Nature Wellness Program	Burke Mountain Naturalists
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC	Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion
African Descendants Festival and Association	Burnaby Lake Park Association
African Stages Association of BC	Burns Bog Conservation Society
Amy Tsang Landscape Architect	Camosun Bog Restoration Group
A Rocha	Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC (Sasamat Outdoor Centre)	Campbell Valley Nature House Hosts
Association of United Ukrainian Canadians	Canada Vietnamese Society
Back Country Horsemen of BC	Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
BC Center for Ability Association	Canadian Iranian Foundation
BC Community Bat Program	Capilano University Sustainability
BC Geocaching Association	Carscadden, Stokes, McDonald Architects
BCIT, Communication Department	CNIB Foundation
BCIT, Ecological Restoration Program	Coastal Painted Turtle Project
BCIT, Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program	Coastal Partners in Conservation Society
BC Mills House Hosts	Colony Farm Community Gardens Society
BC Mobility Opportunities Society	Colony Farm Park Association
BC Nature	Colour the Trails
BC Parks Foundation	Communities Embracing Restorative Action
BC Wildlife Federation	Connex (SD42 Alternate)
Bench Landscape Architecture	Critter Care
Birds Canada	Croatian Community Centre
Black Arts Vancouver	Cross Cultural Walking Tours
Black Lives Matter Vancouver	CTS Youth Society
Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cultural Center Vancouver Canada	Delta Naturalists
Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club	Developmental Disabilities Association
Bowen Island Heritage Preservation Association	Disability Foundation
Bowen Island Horse Owners and Riders Association	Diwali Fest
Bowen Island Memorial Garden	Ducks Unlimited
Bowen Island Weed Warriors	Echo Ecological
	Elder Grove Rotary Club
	Environmental Youth Alliance
	First Nations Health Authority

Fort Camping/Duckworth Management Group
 Fort Langley Elementary - Langley
 Environmental Awareness Program
 Fraser Academy
 Fraser Health Authority
 Fraser Valley Conservancy
 Fraser Valley Regional Library - Aldergrove
 Library
 Fresh Voices
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
 Girl Guides
 Golden Age Hiking Club
 Greater Vancouver Bangladesh Cultural
 Association
 Great Lakes Networking Society of BC
 Hispanic Community Centre
 Hives for Humanity
 Hogan's Alley Society
 Horse Council BC
 HUB Cycling
 Immigrants Services Society
 Inclusion Society of Langley
 Indian Summer Arts Society
 Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation
 Council
 Indigenous women outdoors
 ISS of BC
 Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall
 Kanaka Education and Environmental
 Partnership Society
 Kerala Cultural Association of British Columbia
 Ki'lala Lelum (Urban Indigenous Health and
 Healing Cooperative)
 Langara VOLT Volunteer Program
 Langley Centennial Museum
 Langley Environmental Partners Society
 Langley Field Naturalists
 Langley Heritage Society
 Langley Speedway Historical Society
 LatinCouver
 Lebanese Canadian Society of BC
 Little Campbell Watershed Society
 Malaysian Association of British Columbia
 Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council
 Minnekhada Park Association
 Modo
 Mosaic
 Musqueam Road Warriors

Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Nature Trust of BC
 Nature Vancouver
 Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
 North Shore Black Bear Society
 Oceanwise
 Out About Vancouver
 Out and About Gay Men's Outdoor Adventure
 Society
 OWL (Orphaned Wildlife) Rehabilitation Society
 Pacific Academy
 Pacific Immigrant Resource Society
 Pacific Parklands Foundation
 Pacific Spirit Park Society
 Pearson Ecological
 Portuguese Cultural Centre
 Powell Street Festival Society
 Power for All Adventure Therapy Society
 Power to Be
 Progressive Intercultural Community Services
 Society
 Project Watershed Society
 PWL Partnership
 Qmunity
 Raincity Housing: The Vivian
 Raincoast Applied Ecological Consulting
 Raincoast Conservation Foundation
 Rainer Hotel (PHS Communities Services
 Society)
 Regent Christian Online Academy
 Richmond Nature Park
 Scandinavian Cultural Society
 Scouts Canada - Camp McLean
 Sea Kayak Association of BC
 Serpentine Enhancement Society
 SFU, Faculty of Education
 SFU, Faculty of Health Sciences
 SFU, Department of Biological Sciences
 Sher Vancouver
 South African Cultural Association of British
 Columbia (SACABC)
 South Coast Conservation Program
 space2place Landscape Architects
 Spanish Bank Streamkeepers
 Spirit of the Horse Garden
 Stanley Park Ecology Society
 Stream of Dreams
 SUCCESS

Surrey Christian School
Surrey Environmental Partners
Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society
Take a Hike Foundation
The Wheelhouse at Alouette Elementary
Tonari Gumi
Tourism Richmond
Tricity Iranian Cultural Society
Trinity Western University
Turkish Canadian Society
UBC, Centre for Interactive Research on
Sustainability
UBC, Department of Botany
UBC, Department of Zoology
UBC, Faculty of Forestry
UBC Vantage College
Uganda Cultural Association of British Columbia
United Filipino Canadian Associations in British
Columbia
Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA)
Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services
Society
Vancouver Airport Authority
Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society
Vancouver Avian Research Centre
Vancouver Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Latin America Cultural Centre
Vancouver Persia
Watari
West Coast Environmental Law
Western Canada Community Projects Society
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists
Wildlife Rescue Association
WildResearch
Wild Root Journeys
Wildsafe BC
Wooden Boat Society
Wreck Beach Preservation Society
YVR - Environmental Advisory Committee
YWCA

Feedback from Engagement with Member Jurisdictions, Other Government Agencies, and Individuals with Influence and Expertise – Additional Information

The following chart includes a summary of the written comments received from member jurisdictions, other government agencies, and individuals with influence and expertise.

Organization	Feedback	Response
City of Surrey	Noted common goals and desire to collaborate on planning for parkland acquisition and protecting nature	Comment noted
	Suggestion to make climate change and resiliency more prominent in the guiding principles and increase focus on innovation with regards to facility construction	Guiding principles are fundamental values that guide the plan rather than issues Innovation added to facility construction strategy description (strategy 9)
	Discussion on research and monitoring methodologies	Comment noted
Village of Belcarra	Desire to see more specific analysis and mitigation strategies with regards to the impact of climate change and wildfires	Wildfire risk assessments are being updated for regional parks in 2022. This information will guide work to reduce wildfire risk, in the context of managing regional park forest ecosystems
UBC Forestry	Suggestion to make connections to <i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> policy on developing healthy and complete communities	Added to table with linkages to other Metro Vancouver functions and plans
	Suggestions on how to incorporate health and wellbeing into action 4.7 and Goal 2 indicator on visitor satisfaction	Health and well-being incorporated into action 4.7 and Goal 2 indicator
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Expressed support for plan content on ecosystem connectivity, ecological health, adaptation, equity, and protection	Comment noted
	Suggested change to ecological line in the Protect-Connect Continuum for clarity	Protect-Connect Continuum graphic adjusted to reflect the comment
	Desire to share data on indicators, public opinion, and land acquisition	Comment noted
Parks Canada	Support for inclusion of adaptation and resilience in <i>Regional Parks Plan</i>	Comment noted
BC Parks	Suggestion to more strongly identify connectivity (ecosystem and sustainable transportation) between regional parks and Provincial Parks	Emphasis added to action 5.6 on ecosystem connectivity between regional and provincial parks
	Expressed support for plan content on social equity, mental health, climate change, visitor management, and the need to work	Comment noted

	collaboratively with First Nations on parks planning	
Fraser Health	Expressed support for plan content on reconciliation, ecosystem protection and restoration, climate change and resiliency, and the importance of improving access to regional parks for human health and social equity	Comments noted
	Provided recommendations on protection and restoration of forests and other vegetation to support adaptation benefits for residents	Comments noted. Monitoring forest health, tree planting, and other ecological stewardship work focus on maintaining and enhancing the health of regional park ecosystems
	Provided information on new research on the health benefits of nature for children	Comment noted
	Provided recommendations relating to visitor safety, accessible infrastructure and EV charging stations to support sustainable transportation	Visitor safety is a priority for Metro Vancouver. Comments on infrastructure will be considered during plan implementation
	Suggestion to explore ways to engage with Friendship Centres or other Indigenous Societies	Recommendation noted for future engagement
Vancouver Coastal Health	Expressed support for plan content on reconciliation, climate change and resiliency, and the importance of improving access to regional parks for human health and social equity	Comments noted
	Discussion on incorporating equity considerations with regards to enforcement and engagement	Comment noted. Inclusivity is a guiding principle to the plan and action 4.6 will develop an inclusive approach to engagement
	Suggestion to include the health authorities in the list of partners in the development of regional parks and greenways (Section – Working Together for Regional Parks)	Health authorities added to the list of partners
Destination BC	Suggestion to add reference to visitation from tourists and the role parks play in tourism	Incorporated into Challenges and Opportunities section
	Suggestion to collaborate more to better respond to visitor needs	Action added to strategy 14
Translink	Suggestions on how to incorporate emerging mobility technology and improve facilities for sustainable transportation	Comment noted and will be further explored through work on sustainable transportation
	Suggestion to incorporate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies within strategies 2, 7, and 11	Comment noted and will be considered as part of work on sustainable transportation
	Comments highlight that the draft <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> advances regional transportation	Comments noted

	goals and shares a focus with Transport 2050 on improving access to nature	
HUB Cycling Tri-Cities and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committees	Support for improving active transportation to regional parks. Provided detailed park-specific suggestions	Comment noted. Detailed recommendations on active transportation improvements shared with relevant staff

Feedback from Engagement with First Nations – Additional Information

The table below summarizes feedback received from the eight local First Nations who participated in the draft *Regional Parks Plans*’ engagement process.

Topic	Feedback	Response
Plan framing	Several First Nations highlighted the importance of stronger recognition of Indigenous rights and interests, as well as UNDRIP and DRIPA	These points have been reflected in the ‘Working Collaboratively with First Nations’ section
	Some First Nations asked for recognition that the cumulative effects of all the development taking place in the region and loss of natural areas mean less space for First Nations to practice their culture	
	One First Nation requested Metro Vancouver to co-develop a detailed preamble to the plan with First Nations	Feedback received was incorporated into the plan section ‘Working Collaboratively with First Nations’
	Add a definition of reconciliation	Added to the glossary
Embedding reconciliation	One First Nation suggested to add reconciliation or Indigenous-led stewardship as an overarching guiding principle of the plan	‘Reconciliation-focused’ is a guiding principle of the plan. Action 3.1 commits to collaboratively developing an Indigenous framework to guide working together to plan and steward regional parks. Establishing collaborative agreements with First Nations is another action in the plan (action 3.2). Through these mechanisms, we can lay a path to achieving Goal 4 – ‘First Nations having an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks is a goal of the plan’
	Several First Nations asked for more involvement for First Nations in management and stewardship of parks; development of a more Indigenous-focused framework; bi-lateral co-governance and co-management agreements important to recognizing and implementing Indigenous rights and reconciliation	
	One First Nation provided feedback on how working with First Nations is mentioned in relation to some but not all topics in the plan. Rather than mentioning working with First Nations in relation to certain actions, a better approach would be to outline how collaboration will be achieved for all actions	Different First Nations have different interests for collaboration. Through the development of collaborative agreements with respective First Nations, the breadth of what each Nation is interested in working on will be further understood. Further, action 3.5 will set up a regular forum to support ongoing collaboration, providing another opportunity to better understand each First Nation’s

		interest in working with Metro Vancouver
	Relationship building needed between First Nations governments and other government agencies to support co-decision-making	The plan lays the groundwork to support this relationship building
	One First Nation highlighted that working with individual First Nations on a park-by-park basis to develop Co-Operation Agreements or other plans presents capacity challenges for First Nations. Consider developing agreements / plans with one First Nation for multiple regional parks	Plan language has been adjusted to leave it open whether agreements / plans are park-by-park or by First Nation
	Add to the 'Visioning the Regional Parks System in 2050' language around co-management of parks and integrating Indigenous stewardship principles	These concepts have been added to the visioning section
Supporting Indigenous stewardship	Inclusion of the action to support First Nation guardian programs (action 6.2) was strongly supported	Comment noted
	As part of Metro Vancouver's financial planning, consider the resources needed to support First Nations guardian programs. Provide a definition of how Metro Vancouver intends to support First Nation guardian programs	Action 6.2 is for Metro Vancouver to support First Nation guardian programs. The type of support is undefined to leave room for the different needs of each First Nation or changing needs over time. Support could include financial, training, equipment, etc.
	Integrate Indigenous Guardians within ongoing park operations and management plans	As of 2022, there is only one pilot First Nation guardian program operating in a regional park. The current focus for Metro Vancouver is supporting more First Nation guardian programs, and learning alongside First Nations how to develop successful programs. At a future point Metro Vancouver and participating First Nations may consider integration
	Desire expressed by one First Nation to be informed of opportunities to join in on monitoring and restoration work	Comment noted

Cultural recognition	Multiple First Nations commented that the plan's regional park system map should include First Nations' territories	There are challenges in clearly presenting the shared territories of local First Nations on a map. Instead, a table is included showing which regional parks fall within each territory and this is situated next to the system map in the plan
	Strong support was expressed for the plan to include an action on the naming or renaming of regional parks and park features to affirm the history and importance of the lands to First Nations. However, wording of the draft action was felt to be colonial and needed editing	The action was redrafted based on feedback from First Nations and is now framed as a collaborative effort between Metro Vancouver and First Nations
	Multiple First Nations recommended Metro Vancouver commit to developing cultural recognition plans with First Nations for regional parks to guide approaches to respect and honour Indigenous Peoples' culture and connection to the land	An action was added for the development of cultural recognition plans
	Some First Nations provided recommendations on wording for action 12.5 on working with First Nations to include their histories and knowledge. Specifically, the removal of 'perspectives' and 'cultural interpretations' was requested as these imply that stories and histories are only a matter of perspective or interpretation rather than truth and history	Edits were incorporated into action 12.5
	Several other requests were made in relation to the cultural representation and visibility for First Nations, including through the <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> , Metro Vancouver media, online platforms and other materials. Requests were also made around seeing more Indigenous language, artwork, and signage in regional parks	Comment noted
	Some First Nations highlighted the importance of providing financial support for First Nations to participate and share knowledge	Comment noted
Supporting First Nations	Several First Nations raised the importance of creating space for reconnection to	The plan includes an action to establish collaborative agreements

connection to the land	ancestral lands and providing access to practice culture, including the right to harvest and hunt in regional parks	with First Nations, through which, discussions about access can be worked through. Additionally, the plan contains an action to look for ways to support First Nations traditional and contemporary uses of the land, in the context of managing regional parks. This could include access, harvesting, growing, and cultural activities
	One First Nation expressed a desire to see the plan enable exclusive and unique access to Regional Park Reserves and Ecological Conservancy Areas. Another First Nation provided feedback around wanting to see areas of park land set aside to be stewarded, managed, and used exclusively by Indigenous communities	
Protecting and monitoring ecosystem health	Concerns were raised by multiple First Nations about the impacts of visitor use on park ecosystems and wildlife. Specific concerns raised were around litter, dog waste, off-trail activities in sensitive habitats, harvesting, and the need for more enforcement	The plan recognizes the challenges of balancing protecting nature with providing opportunities for people to connect with nature. Action 14.6 speaks to the need to collaborate with First Nations and others on visitor use planning. Action 7.1 is to develop a strategy for managing visitor use which is intended to bring together a range of potential tools and approaches to help manage visitor use. There is also ongoing enforcement and education work
	Some First Nations raised the importance of monitoring and data collection to inform restoration	Restoration is largely managed through the <i>Natural Resource Management Framework</i> . The plan includes action 4.8 on regularly collecting data, including on ecosystems and wildlife, as well as action on monitoring forest health (action 6.4)
	Some First Nations spoke to the need to restrict access to sensitive habitats	The location and relative sensitivity of habitats is taken into account during planning to avoid or reduce impacts on sensitive habitats. Additionally, sensitive areas can be protected through fencing or other barriers
	One First Nation had concerns about impacts from activities taking place in areas nearby regional parks, such as logging	The plan recognizes the need to work with relevant jurisdictions and adjacent landowners to try and minimize impacts to regional park ecosystems (action 6.8)
	Other comments highlighted:	Comments noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of invasive species management • Consideration of the incorporation of the principle “net environmental gain” for park management plans, operations, and design standards • prioritization of green infrastructure • concerns about impacts on fish populations from pollutants 	
Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge	Several First Nations spoke to the importance of incorporating Indigenous and elder knowledge into park planning and management	Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge is included in the plan’s guiding principles (Knowledge-based: Decision-making is informed by data and science, and incorporates Indigenous Knowledge. We learn from others and share our knowledge generously). Action 14.4 speaks to the importance of incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and values into planning, stewardship and other work for regional parks
Economic opportunities	Two First Nations spoke to the importance of providing economic opportunities to Nations. One response referenced implementation of the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI)	Action 3.4 sets out the intention to work with local First Nations to explore potential economic development opportunities that are compatible with regional parks and in line with Metro Vancouver’s procurement policy
Land acquisition	Two First Nations provided feedback that they would like to receive early notification and consultation with respect to potential land acquisition opportunities	Metro Vancouver will explore future opportunities to better collaborate with First Nations on land acquisitions
	One First Nation requested consideration be given for the incorporation of Indigenous Management Agreements in newly established or enlarged park areas	Discussions around shared stewardship or management of regional parks can be advanced through the development of collaborative agreements
	One First Nation would like to use land acquisition to increase or protect ecosystem connectivity	The plan speaks to the importance of increasing ecosystem connectivity within and between regional parks in actions 4.10 and 6.5
Protecting archaeological resources	Some First Nations emphasized the importance of protecting archaeological sites and highlighted that information on archaeological potential will need to be	Metro Vancouver recognizes the importance of protecting archaeological sites in regional parks.

	updated over time to take account of new information	Action 8.1 has been edited to reflect ongoing updates to information
	One Nation requested Advanced Archaeological Overview Assessments for regional parks	Action 8.1 commits to working with First Nations to better understand archaeological potential of regional parks lands
Protecting cultural resources	One First Nation provided feedback wording related to cultural resources in regional parks. Suggestions included wording on collaboration with First Nations and adding the word 'Protect' to strategy 8 title	The suggested amends were made to strategy 8
Indicators	Some suggestions were provided on potential indicators relating to working with First Nations. One First Nation commented that a separate workshop on indicator development was needed	Suggestions noted. Indicators were developed based on information available currently, but will be amended as more information becomes available
Balancing objectives	Concern was expressed by one First Nation that the objective of connecting people to nature supersedes the right of Nations to use park lands	Through plan implementation Metro Vancouver will work to balance the objectives of connecting people to nature and finding ways to support First Nations' uses of the land in the context of managing regional parks
Plan timeline	One First Nation would like to see the <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> revisited every two years	The <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> is a 10-year plan. However, as reconciliation evolves there will be a need to make adjustments to the plan throughout that term and further opportunities to collaborate with Nations on park operations, maintenance, and development of collaborative agreements
Process	Support was expressed for the plan's engagement process. However, other comments were provided that co-developing the plan from the start would be a preferred approach. First Nations also raised concerns about their limited capacity to fully engage on the increasing number of projects and the need for capacity funding	Metro Vancouver is working to improve how we engage and work with First Nations. Feedback and learnings from developing the <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> will inform future work and processes

Additional feedback was provided on reconciliation at the organizational level which is beyond the scope of the *Regional Parks Plan*.

Feedback from Youth Engagement – Additional Information

The table below includes a thematic summary of the discussions that took place at two youth engagement sessions.

Theme	Content
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on how Metro Vancouver protects the environment in regional parks • Discussion on the environmental value of parks (e.g. as habitat for wildlife)
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about the challenges of balancing greenhouse gas emissions with transportation options to parks • Support for electrifying vehicles at regional parks • Discussion of the role greenways can play in providing safe and accessible active transportation options
Value of parks to youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around how parks provide youth with a connection to nature, access to sunshine, and a place to socialize
Reducing barriers to visiting parks – social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments about how it is difficult to find friends to visit parks with because it requires too much planning and their friends may not enjoy hiking • Visiting alone may not feel safe for youth, especially on longer hikes • Youth may be more likely to visit regional parks if there were organized ways to experience parks such as stewardship opportunities and walking tours
Reducing barriers to visiting parks – transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation is a major barrier for youth accessing parks • Safe, separated bike lanes, direct public transit, shuttle buses, and parks closer to home may help youth access regional parks easier
Reducing barriers to visiting parks – activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants want to try a range of activities at parks such as cycling and kayaking • Current offerings for activities at some regional parks may be quite specific and not appeal to some youth • This may be alleviated by having rental facilities available at regional parks
Reaching youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on how to better reach youth by using social media, internet/websites, and reaching them through school (e.g. assemblies or surveys)
Education in regional parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about how there can be more educational opportunities in parks, particularly about climate change and Indigenous culture/history/language through interpretive signage, interactive elements, and learning centres in parks

Feedback from Public Engagement – Additional Information

The table below includes a thematic summary of written comments from feedback forms submitted by over 800 members of the public. Comments and questions from two webinars were also taken into account in this summary.

Topic	Feedback	Response
Acquisition		
Acquisition of park land	Significant support for expanding existing parks/greenways and establishing new parks/greenways. Small amount of concerns about cost of land acquisition	Comments reflect support for ongoing work to expand regional parks and greenways
Funding	Discussion regarding pros and cons of various sources of funding such as philanthropy and taxes	Comments speak to the need to consider a variety of funding sources, with careful consideration of the pros and cons of each. This work is reflected in strategy 2 of the plan
Distribution of park land	Some requests and suggestions to establish more parks in denser parts of the region, or in other specific areas of the region	Comments are noted and will be considered as part of the land acquisition program of work, guided by the <i>Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy</i> (see strategy 1)
Protecting Nature		
Biodiversity	Discussion around the importance of protecting biodiversity and habitats	Much of the plan is concerned with the protection of biodiversity within regional parks, in line with the importance conveyed through feedback form responses
Concerns about impact on nature	Concerns about the environmental impact of human activities and presence in parks such as litter and noise pollution	Several parts of the plan speak to specific actions intended to reduce the impact of human activities. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy 4 - directing development away from the more sensitive areas within parks • Strategy 7 – visitor use management, and education and enforcement
Balancing visitor uses with protection goals	Significant discussion around the challenge of balancing visitor uses of parks with protection goals. The majority of comments on this topic favoured a focus on protection, and a smaller number preferring to prioritize	Comments reflect the challenge of balancing protect and connect, identified throughout the plan. The emphasis on protection in responses is noted

	the ability of visitors to use park spaces more freely	
Climate		
Natural disasters and climate change	Discussion of the impact of climate change on regional parks, including specific issues such as forest fires, heavy rain, and rising sea levels	Actions in strategy 5 speak to the importance of understanding climate impacts on ecosystems and infrastructure, and the development of a climate action strategy for regional parks
Climate resiliency	Support for emphasizing regional climate resiliency in the <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> , although a smaller number of respondents expressed the opinion that resiliency is not an important consideration for regional parks	The role of regional parks in regional resilience is reflected in the plan, as well as Metro Vancouver's <i>Climate 2050</i> , the regional climate action strategy
Carbon footprint from transportation	Some support for shifting away from the use of cars and towards sustainable transportation as a way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from transportation to regional parks	Strategy 11 advances actions to support sustainable transportation options to and within regional parks
Reconciliation		
Indigenous rights	Some comments in support of expanding and protecting First Nations' traditional use of land and returning park land to First Nations	Metro Vancouver continues to reflect on and explore pathways to reconciliation. The plan contains actions in strategy 3 and 6 that will look for more opportunities to support First Nations traditional and contemporary uses of the land, in the context of managing regional parks
Indigenous cultural representation	Support for increased visibility and education about Indigenous culture in regional parks, although a smaller number had concerns about implementing this	The <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> contains a number of actions relating to the incorporation of First Nations culture, including through interpretive programming and education led by First Nations
Cooperation with First Nations	Support for increasing Indigenous leadership opportunities, incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in park management, and engaging more closely with First Nations	Several actions in the <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> will increase opportunities for First Nations involvement in planning and stewardship of regional parks, including the development of collaborative agreements and an Indigenous framework for regional parks. Action 14.4 outlines the intent to work with First Nations to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and values into the work for regional parks

Equity		
Support for equity in parks	Support for increasing equitable access to regional parks for a variety of equity-denied groups, including persons with disabilities, youth, seniors, and low-income households	Actions in the plan on identifying barriers to access (action 4.7), developing accessible park infrastructure (action 4.5) and providing a diversity of experiences in nature (action 9.1), as well as advancing sustainable transportation options to access regional parks (action 11.2) will together support increasing equitable access to regional parks
Equitable facility design	Some suggestions for design standards for facilities such as trails and bathrooms to increase accessibility Discussion around balancing immersion in nature and accessibility, particularly regards to whether to pave trails	
Equity in transportation	Support for improving sustainable transportation options in order to make access to parks easier for people without vehicles	
Health		
Value of parks on mental health	Several comments about how parks are important assets for mental health and for access to nature and social connection	The plan recognizes the important role regional parks plays in human health. This role will be enhanced through actions to improve access to regional parks, as well as to work with health organizations and others to understand and enhance health and well-being opportunities in regional parks
Value of parks on physical health	Several comments about how parks are important assets for physical health because they act as a space for recreation	
Facilities and Infrastructure		
Facilities	Desire to see a variety of designs or styles in facilities such as trails. Suggestions for improving or increasing facilities such as trails, signage, washrooms, picnic areas, and rest areas	Comments noted. Relevant actions include developing accessible park infrastructure (action 4.5) and providing a diversity of experiences in nature (action 9.1)
Maintenance	Some comments about improving maintenance, such as managing vegetation and filling potholes	Comments noted
Transportation	Support for improving public transportation and active transportation connectivity to regional parks. Feedback responses provided insight on a debate around maintaining easy access for drivers.	The plan includes actions to improve sustainable transportation options to regional parks (action 11.2) and further develop the Regional Greenways Network (actions 11.1 and 11.3). Decisions about implementing other vehicle management

	Most comments about this topic opposed barriers to drivers such as parking fees, although some supported parking fees and other means of discouraging driving	measures such as parking fees are taken at a park-level, with careful consideration of specifics of that location
Experiences		
Interpretive programming	Comments requesting more interpretive programming, although several respondents also commented that they would prefer to enjoy parks on their own, without the structure of interpretive programming	The <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> includes actions to support the provision of diverse and meaningful learning opportunities, for those who wish to take part (strategy 12)
Connection to community groups	Respondents shared a desire to see Metro Vancouver working together with a variety of community groups	Metro Vancouver is strengthening the community relationship approach to ensure strong and diverse partnerships
Volunteering	Enthusiasm about increasing volunteer opportunities at Metro Vancouver parks to get citizens more involved in park stewardship, although some had concerns relating to resourcing and accountability of volunteers	Relevant actions are action 6.6 which speaks to expanding the ecological stewardship program to provide more opportunities for people to engage with regional parks, and action 12.4 on the provision of a range of meaningful volunteer opportunities
Managing Uses		
Variety of uses at the parks	Discussion of a variety of activities at regional parks, particularly equestrian, dog walking, camping, and cycling	Comments noted
Conflict of uses	Discussion regarding conflicts between user groups, such as equestrians, cyclists, and pedestrians. Support for increasing areas with designated uses, although a smaller number of respondents prefer that multi-use spaces be prioritized or feel that designated uses are too restrictive	In addition to ongoing park management and design that seeks to reduce potential conflict between park visitors engaged in different activities, Metro Vancouver will develop a strategy for managing visitor use (action 7.1) to bring together a range of potential tools and approaches to help manage visitor use and minimize conflict
Enforcement	Significant discussion of ways to improve enforcement of park rules, such as increasing staff presence, issuing fines, visitor education, and adding signage	Comments noted
Entry fees / registration system	Even though it was not specifically included in the draft <i>Regional Parks Plan</i> , there was discussion regarding	There are currently no entry fees or reservation systems to enter regional parks. Decisions about implementing

	entry fees and a reservation system for parks. Most comments were against implementing fees or a reservation system	other visitor use management measures are taken at a park-level, with careful consideration of specifics of that location
Increasing visitor numbers	Comments that regional parks sometimes feel crowded, which impacts the visitor experience and leads to concerns about ecological impact	Regional parks visitation continues to increase and Metro Vancouver works to protect nature and visitor experiences through park planning, design and management, as well as education and enforcement. Action 7.1, to develop a strategy for managing visitor use is particularly relevant here. This strategy will bring together a range of potential tools and approaches to help manage visitor use to protect nature and experiences

To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks
Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, Design and Development, Regional Parks

Date: June 23, 2022 Meeting Date: July 13, 2022

Subject: **Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated June 23, 2022, titled "Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan has been prepared following direction received at the April 14, 2022 Metro Vancouver Board Budget Workshop and continues to maintain Regional Parks customer levels of service.

As part of Metro Vancouver's focus on enhancing transparency and governance of the Capital Plan, this report allows for the Regional Parks Committee to provide comments on the draft Capital Plan, which will then be incorporated into the Regional Parks Financial Plan and included in the Fall budget presentations to the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board.

The estimated 2023 Capital Cash Flow is \$59.8M with a total estimated spend of \$169.8M over the five years. This is a \$12.5M, or 8.0% change from last year's five-year capital plan. This change is largely due to the introduction of a new project to plan, design and develop recently acquired parkland in Bowen Island Municipality.

PURPOSE

To present to the Regional Parks Committee the draft Regional Parks 2023-2027 Capital Plan for comments.

BACKGROUND

On April 14, 2022, Metro Vancouver held a Board Budget Workshop to seek direction for the preparation of the 2023-2027 Financial Plan. Metro Vancouver is enhancing the transparency and governance of the capital planning process by providing Metro Vancouver Committees with an opportunity for input in advance of final budget preparation and presentations to the Committee and Board in the fall.

REGIONAL PARKS CAPITAL PLAN

The Regional Parks Capital Plan reflects the *Board Strategic Plan 2019-2022*, *Regional Parks Plan*, *Regional Greenways 2050*, regional park management plans and ongoing natural and built asset management strategic planning.

Regional Parks continue to experience high visitation – in 2021 the Regional Parks system welcomed over 16.3 million visitors. The Regional Parks Capital Plan includes investments in enhanced access, carrying capacity and visitor experience, and ecological resilience so regional residents can access the health benefits and ecosystem services from regional parks over the long term.

Specifically, the Regional Parks Capital Plan is guided by the following customer levels of service:

- Expand the Regional Parks System to protect natural areas and connect people to nature
- Develop park amenities to expand capacity and accommodate increased visitation
- Enhance the resilience of the Regional Parks System to climate change and increased visitation
- Maintain park facilities in a state of good repair to ensure safety and reliability over the long term
- Work closely with First Nations to advance reconciliation, build and strengthen relationships
- Expand opportunities to connect with nature to support the mental and physical health of regional residents

CAPITAL PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Draft 2023-2026 Capital Plan includes two components: major capital and land acquisition. Minor capital, the maintenance and replacement of infrastructure at the end of its lifespan, is included in the operating budget and is not a part of this report.

The Regional Parks capital program is funded by reserves and external grants. The Draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan includes \$59.8M for 2023 and a total of \$169.8M over the five years, an average of \$33.9M per year (Attachment). In 2023, \$45M is allocated to land acquisition and \$14.8M is allocated to major capital, of which up to \$4.2M will be funded from external grants.

The key drivers for spending over the next 5 years include:

- **Land Acquisition** - Expanding Regional Parks System to protect natural areas and connect people to nature
- **Ecological Resilience** - Enhancing ecological function and resilience to climate change and increased visitation
- **Capacity and Growth** – Developing park amenities to expand capacity and accommodate increased visitation
- **Connected Network** - Expanding the greenway network to improve connectivity
- **Facility Replacement and Asset Management** - Lifecycle replacement of major regional park assets and upgrading, where required, to ensure long term resilience

In 2023, implementation of the MVRD Board approved *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050* strategy will continue. The following major capital projects will continue or begin implementation:

Key capital projects planned or ongoing in 2023-2027 for Regional Parks include the following:

Infrastructure Type	Project Name	Primary Driver	Proposed 2023 Cashflow
Land Acquisition	Regional Parks Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	44,990,000
Major Projects	Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development	Capacity/Growth	6,580,000
Major Projects	Grouse Mountain Regional Park Trail and Amenity Improvements	Capacity/Growth	1,000,000
Major Projects	Campbell Valley Management Plan Implementation	Capacity/Growth	1,000,000
Greenways	Aldergrove South Slope Greenway	Connected Network	1,250,000
Greenways	Tynehead Perimeter Trail	Connected Network	1,000,000
Park Development	Park Amenities and Visitor Experience	Capacity/Growth	500,000
	Other Projects	Various	3,450,000
			59,770,000

In 2023, advanced design will focus on the planning and design of recently acquired parkland, with an aim to provide public access as soon as possible.

Advanced design will also continue or be initiated for the Belcarra South Day Use Area, Delta Nature Reserve and Delta South Surrey Greenway, Belcarra Admiralty Heights restoration, Burnaby Lake Central Valley Greenway Connection, and the Boundary Bay Perimeter Trail. These projects will advance to implementation from 2023-2027.

Capital Plan Changes

Metro Vancouver's annual capital planning process allows the Board to adjust the capital budget once a year, in the fall, to accommodate changes required to fund projects in response to new or changing project needs, emerging issues, and changing priorities.

Proposed changes in the draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan can be described within the following categories:

- Projected Carryforward – Project expenditures which are expected to occur in 2022, but are now scheduled to occur in 2023.
- Net Deferral – Project expenditures that have been deferred or re-scheduled beyond 2026.
- Cost Adjustments – Project cashflow changes resulting from project budget changes not related to scope.
- New Scope – Project cashflow changes resulting from project budgets specifically related to project scope change

The breakdown of total draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan compared to prior cycle capital plan is summarized below:

(\$Millions)

Prior cycle Cashflow 2022- 2026	Cashflow 2022	Adjustments to 2023-2026 Capital Plan					Cashflow 2027	Draft Capital Plan 2023- 2027
		Projected Carry- Forward	Net Deferral	Cost Adjustments	New Scope	Total		
\$156.5	(31.3)		(1.3)		13.8	12.5	32.1	\$169.8

Adjustments to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan are due to the introduction of a new project to plan, design and develop recently acquired parkland in Bowen Island Municipality.

The scope of the Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development and the Campbell Valley Management Plan Implementation projects have been updated to reflect advanced project planning, design and costing.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan includes \$59.8M for 2023 and a total of \$169.8M over the five years, an average of \$33.9M per year. The intent is that the Regional Parks Committee provide feedback which will be incorporated into the final Capital Plan for presentation to the Committee and Board in the fall.

CONCLUSION

The 2023-2027 Capital Plan supports expansion of the Regional Parks system to protect natural areas and connect people to nature, development of park amenities to expand capacity and accommodate increased visitation, enhanced resilience to climate change, and the maintenance of facilities in a state of good repair to ensure safety and reliability over the long term.

The presentation of the draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan provides the opportunity for input from the Committee which will be incorporated into the fall budget presentation to the Committee and Board.

Attachment

Draft Regional Parks 2023-2027 Capital Plan

53675205

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
CAPITAL PORTFOLIO
REGIONAL PARKS

DRAFT 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET AND 2023-2027 CAPITAL PLAN

	PROJECT BUDGET FOR APPROVAL	2023 CASH FLOW	2024 CASH FLOW	2025 CASH FLOW	2026 CASH FLOW	2027 CASH FLOW	2023 to 2027 TOTAL	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
Major Projects									
Grouse Mountain - Regional Park Trail and Amenity Improvements	3,075,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	-	2,000,000	Construction	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Widgeon Marsh - Regional Park Development	19,100,000	6,580,000	6,500,000	-	-	-	13,080,000	Construction	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Campbell Valley - Management Plan Implementation	8,100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	7,000,000	Construction	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Belcarra - South Day Use Area	5,950,000	250,000	2,200,000	3,500,000	-	-	5,950,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Bowen Island - Park Development	15,800,000	400,000	4,000,000	5,800,000	3,600,000	2,000,000	15,800,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Codd Wetland - Park Development	-	-	-	-	-	900,000	900,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
West Creek Wetlands - Park Development	-	-	-	-	300,000	750,000	1,050,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Burns Bog - Fire Restoration	-	-	-	-	500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Major Projects Total	52,025,000	9,230,000	14,700,000	10,300,000	5,400,000	7,650,000	47,280,000		
Greenways									
Aldergrove - Southern Slopes Greenway	1,250,000	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	1,250,000	Planned	Connected Network
DNR/DSSG Management Plan Implementation	10,600,000	500,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	4,600,000	10,600,000	Planned	Connected Network
Boundry Bay - Perimeter Trail	1,650,000	150,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,650,000	Planned	Connected Network
Tynehead - Perimeter Trail	2,500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	2,500,000	Planned	Connected Network
Burnaby Lake - Glencarin Greenway Connection	-	-	1,500,000	2,000,000	-	-	3,500,000	Planned	Connected Network
Other Greenways Upgrades	-	-	-	100,000	200,000	200,000	500,000	Planned	Connected Network
Greenways Total	16,000,000	2,900,000	5,500,000	4,100,000	2,700,000	4,800,000	20,000,000		
Service Facilities									
Burnaby Lake - Service Yard Building Replacement	1,700,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	-	1,500,000	1,700,000	Construction	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Capilano - New Service Yard	943,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	150,000	Construction	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Service Facilities Total	2,643,000	200,000	50,000	100,000	-	1,500,000	1,850,000		
Park Development									
Crippen - Davies Orchard	1,750,000	250,000	500,000	-	-	-	750,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Colony Farm - TMX Agreement Projects	1,000,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	-	-	900,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Belcarra - Admiralty Heights Trail Decomissioning	1,050,000	150,000	150,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,050,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Campbell Valley - Little River Loop Boardwalk	1,700,000	200,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,700,000	Planned	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Minnekhada - Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	650,000	650,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Lynn Valley - Cable Pool Bridge Replacement	-	-	-	100,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	2,600,000	Planned	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Burnaby Lake - Nature House	-	-	-	50,000	150,000	2,000,000	2,200,000	Planned	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Pacific Spirit - Beach Access & Trail Improvments	-	-	50,000	100,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,650,000	Planned	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Park Amenities and Visitor Experience	2,350,000	500,000	300,000	300,000	250,000	1,000,000	2,350,000	Planned	Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience
Other Replacement, Restoration & Upgrade Projects	9,865,000	1,050,000	3,130,000	850,000	1,905,000	3,930,000	10,865,000	Planned	Facility Replacement & Asset Management
Park Development Total	17,715,000	2,450,000	5,930,000	1,950,000	4,305,000	10,080,000	24,715,000		
Regional Parks Land Acquisition									
Regional Parks Land Acquisition	44,990,000	44,990,000	7,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	75,990,000		Land Acquisition
Regional Parks Land Acquisition Total	44,990,000	44,990,000	7,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	75,990,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	133,373,000	59,770,000	33,180,000	24,450,000	20,405,000	32,030,000	169,835,000		

	PROJECT BUDGET FOR APPROVAL	2023 CASH FLOW	2024 CASH FLOW	2025 CASH FLOW	2026 CASH FLOW	2027 CASH FLOW	2023 to 2027 TOTAL	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
SUMMARY BY DRIVER									
Capacity, Growth & Ecological Resilience	58,175,000	10,430,000	15,950,000	11,150,000	5,900,000	9,550,000	52,980,000		
Facility Replacement & Asset Management	14,208,000	1,450,000	4,730,000	1,200,000	3,805,000	9,680,000	20,865,000		
Connected Network	16,000,000	2,900,000	5,500,000	4,100,000	2,700,000	4,800,000	20,000,000		
Land Acquisition	44,990,000	44,990,000	7,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	75,990,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	133,373,000	59,770,000	33,180,000	24,450,000	20,405,000	32,030,000	169,835,000		

To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: June 20, 2022

Meeting Date: July 13, 2022

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information report dated June 20, 2022 titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attachment to this report sets out the Regional Parks Committee Work Plan for 2022. 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 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks engages with visitors and the region to share information, inspire, and create positive experiences that provide a sense of place and encourage the protection of nature. Using a diverse range of communications tools from in-park signs to print materials to web-based and other digital resources, Metro Vancouver aims to reach a broad audience and foster appreciation of regional parks.

Here are some examples that illustrate the breadth and reach of communications tools.

Nature Program Guide

Published in the spring, summer and fall/winter, the nature program guide 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. We distribute an average 22,000 hard copies of the nature program guide seasonally.

Regional Parks Newsletter

This monthly e-newsletter highlights behind-the-scenes stories as well as the latest Regional Parks news and events.



There are 5,564 subscribers to the Regional Parks email list who receive the Regional Parks newsletter and nature program guide.

Regional Parks Facebook

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. 9,147 people follow the Regional Parks Facebook page and the number continues to grow. Last year, there were 91,909 Facebook engagements (includes reactions, comments, shares).

Humans of Regional Parks



Aldergrove Regional Park

This series provides a glimpse of Metro Vancouver's regional parks through the eyes of our visitors. Featuring interviews with bird watchers, volunteers, photographers, dog walkers, and more, the goal is to share stories as diverse as our park users as they answer the question "what makes regional parks special to you?". The stories are featured on our website, social media and nature program guide.

Humans of Iona Beach Regional Park

"I'm here just to check out this new mat on the beach to see if it's accessible and see how far I can go. In the past we've gone along the jetty, which is very accessible. I used my scooter all the way down and back, and I like it. Accessibility means a lot. It makes you feel like you are part of the general public, and that you can go on the beach if you want to, just like anyone else."

Humans of Aldergrove Regional Park

"We like this park a lot because it's very quiet and peaceful. Also, it has many different areas where kids can explore things. As a family with kids we try to spend time outdoors as much as we can. This park is our favourite. We have been going here since 2013. In the pandemic we used to go 3 times in a week, which was our only outing."

Other stories in the series can be found on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference).

REGIONAL PARKS EVENTS UPDATES

Kanaka Creek Regional Park – Goodbye Chums

Metro Vancouver park staff partnered with Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society to bring back a community favourite, Goodbye Chums.

The return of this event brought out over 500 visitors to learn about protecting watersheds and salmon habitat through fun and exciting hands-on activities. Some of these interpretive activities included making your own environmentally friendly cleaner to take home, an investigating invertebrates station and salmon predators.

Various partner groups, such as Pacific Parklands Foundation, CTS Youth Society, NatureKids of BC, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Wildsafe BC and the City of Maple Ridge also joined us to set up engaging booths to talk about the importance of healthy watersheds.

The Goodbye Chums event's highlight is the release of young salmon into Kanaka Creek by participants. A record high of 26,000 chum fry were released this year.



Kanaka Creek Regional Park

Tynehead Regional Park – Salmon Send-off



Tynehead Regional Park

Metro Vancouver staff supported the popular Salmon Send-off event hosted by the Serpentine Enhancement Society in Tynehead Regional Park.

Almost 900 participants lined up outside the Hatchery gate waiting for the opportunity to release salmon to the ocean.

A Metro Vancouver park interpreter engaged participants with salmon activities, including asking participants to make a promise to protect salmon.

Campbell Valley Regional Park – Spring into Summer Nature House Opening

It was the perfect sunny day to open up the doors of the Campbell Valley Nature House again and welcome almost 200 keen nature lovers back.

As in previous years, Metro Vancouver park interpreters worked with the dedicated volunteer hosts to create engaging and interactive displays, scavenger hunts and discovery packs for visitors to learn about and explore the park.

Kwantlen First Nations Elder, Karen Gabriel, and local community groups like the Langley Environmental Partners Society and Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society were also invited to celebrate opening of the nature house. The festive atmosphere was complete with a grassroots band playing acoustic music in the heritage grey barn that was opened specially for this event.

Attachment

Regional Parks Committee 2022 Work Plan

Reference

[Metro Vancouver Humans of Regional Parks](#)

53609127

Regional Parks Committee 2022 Work Plan

Report Date: June 20, 2022

Priorities

1 st Quarter	Status
Regional Parks Committee Priorities and 2022 Work Plan	Complete
Draft Regional Parks Plan	Complete
Surrey Bend Regional Park - Province of BC Habitat Compensation	Complete
Delta Nature Reserve Phase I Engagement Summary	Complete
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Complete
Iona Island WWTP PDR & Conceptual Design	Complete
Iona Island WWTP PDR - Engagement Results	Complete
Burnaby Lake Regional Park Lease Renewal Update	Complete
Manager's Report (Monthly)	
2 nd Quarter	
Iona Island WWTP Land Exchange – MoU between MVRD and GVS&DD	Complete
Iona Island WWTP Projects – Authorization of Land Exchange between MVRD and GVS&DD	Complete
Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Wreck Beach – Access and Security	Complete
Draft Nature and Ecosystems Road Map (Climate 2050)	Complete
Regional Parks Annual Report 2021	Complete
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Complete
Bedwell Bay Road - Port Moody Transportation Study	Complete
Alternative Transportation Study – Phase 2	Complete
Regional Parks Land Dedication Bylaw	Complete
Manager's Report (Monthly)	
3 rd Quarter	
Nature and Ecosystems Road Map (Climate 2050)	Pending
Regional Parks Plan	Pending
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Pending
Burnaby Lake Regional Park Lease Renewal	Pending
Regional Parks Community Relationships Strategy	Pending
Regional Parks Committee Tour of Regional Parks	Pending
Review/Renew Park Association Contribution Agreement – Colony Farm Regional Park	Pending
Pacific Parklands Foundation Update	Pending
Pacific Parklands Foundation Agreement	Pending
Cultural Planning and Cooperation Agreement- Tsleil-Waututh Nation Update	Pending
Regional Parks Real-time Parking Availability Pilot	Pending
Manager's Report (Monthly)	
4 th Quarter	
Regional Parks Public Programming	Pending
Regional Parks Capital Development Update	Pending
2023-2027 Financial Plan – Regional Parks	Pending
Regional Parks Natural Assets	Pending
Regional Parks Regulation Amending Bylaw	Pending
MVRD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Amending Bylaw	Pending
MVRD Ticket Information Utilization Amending Bylaw	Pending

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Pending
Manager's Report (Monthly)	

Status = Pending, In Progress or Completed

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

Upcoming Events June to September 2022

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
15 JUN 2022	The Secret Life of Trees PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
18 JUN 2022	Learn to Hike TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK
19 JUN 2022	Indigenous Plant Walk CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
22 JUN 2022	The Secret Life of Trees DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK
23 JUN 2022	Forest Bathing PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
	Indigenous Plant Walk SURREY NATURE CENTRE
25 JUN 2022	Oregon Spotted Frogs CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
06 JUL 2022	Nature Watch by Canoe DEAS ISLAND REGIONAL PARK
07 JUL 2022	Woodhaven to Sasamat Evening Hike TƏMTƏMÍXʷTƏN/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK
09 JUL 2022	Secret Life of Trees TYNEHEAD REGIONAL PARK
12 JUL 2022	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
15 JUL 2022	What Lies Beneath? TƏMTƏMÍXʷTƏN/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK
17 JUL 2022	Get Your Pants On KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK

21 JUL 2022	Evening Hike to High Knoll MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
28 JUL 2022	Evening Hike to Jug Island Beach TƏMTƏMÍX˘TƏN/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK
03 AUG 2022	Mysterious Bats MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
05 AUG 2022	Mysterious Bats MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
09 AUG 2022	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
10 AUG 2022	Mysterious Bats MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
11 AUG 2022	Seashore Safari BOUNDARY BAY REGIONAL PARK
12 AUG 2022	Mysterious Bats MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
14 AUG 2022	Pond-ering Amphibians KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK
10 SEP 2022	Once Upon a Field CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
	Rainforest by Night MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK
11 SEP 2022	In your Wildest Streams KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK
13 SEP 2022	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

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