

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

**9:15 AM**

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

**A G E N D A<sup>1</sup>**

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1 September 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda**

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for September 21, 2022 as circulated.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**2.1 July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held July 13, 2022 as circulated.

**3. DELEGATIONS**

**4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF**

**5.1 Community Involvement Review Update**

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report, dated August 24, 2022, titled "Community Involvement Review Update."

**5.2 Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update**

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report, dated August 24, 2022, titled "Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update."

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.

**5.3 Manager's Report – Regional Parks**

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated August 29, 2022 titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island**

**6.2 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – September & October 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.*

**10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of September 21, 2022.

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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, July 13, 2022 in the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 (departed 10:19 a.m.)  
 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  
 Hadir Ali, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

\*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by Section 3.6.2 of the *Procedure Bylaw*

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1 July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**2.1 June 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**3. DELEGATIONS**

**3.1 Paul Hundal, Old Growth Conservancy Society**

Paul Hundal, Old Growth Conservancy Society, spoke to the Regional Parks Committee regarding the Lynn Headwaters Regional Park, requesting that Metro Vancouver obtain a 999-year lease to ensure the permanent protection of cedar trees in the park.

In response to questions, members were advised that lease negotiations between Metro Vancouver and the Provincial government for Lynn Headwaters Regional Park are currently underway and there is an anticipated one-year delay on agreement finalization.

**4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Irene Lau, Chair, Burnaby Lake Park Association**

Irene Lau, Chair of the Burnaby Lake Park Association, provided the Regional Parks Committee with a presentation on the Burnaby Lake Association highlighting the background of the Association, the work undertaken by the association, stewardship activities, removal of invasive species, outreach and community engagement.

Presentation material titled "Burnaby Lake Park Association" is retained with the July 13, 2022 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

**4.2 Maddie Edmonds, Coordinator, Colony Farm Park Association**

Maddie Edmonds, Coordinator, Colony Farm Park Association, provided the committee with a presentation on the Colony Farm Parks Association, highlighting the work of the Colony Farm Park Association, and the various monitoring and volunteer programs that are managed by the association.

Committee members commented on the impact of the Trans Mountain Pipeline using a portion of the park as a staging area. Members were informed that there are agreements in place to ensure that the area is restored to its original condition once staging for the pipeline has concluded.

Presentation material titled “Colony Farm Park Association” is retained with the July 13, 2022 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

**5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF**

**5.1 Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary**

Report dated June 10, 2022 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks and Jamie Vala, Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management, Regional Parks, communicating the results of the engagement process for the draft Regional Parks Plan, and seeking MVRD Board approval of the “Regional Parks Plan 2022 – Final Plan and Engagement Summary”.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Regional Parks Plan 2022, highlighting project timeline, vision and goal, community engagement, stakeholder feedback and First Nation engagement.

Presentation material titled “Regional Parks Plan 2022” is retained with the July 13, 2022 Regional Parks Committee agenda.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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.”

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Draft 2023-2027 Regional Parks Capital Plan**

Report dated June 23, 2022 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks and Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, Design and Development, Regional Parks presenting the Regional Parks Committee with the “Draft Regional Parks 2023-2027 Capital Plan” for comments.

Member were provided with a presentation on the customer level of service objectives, capital plan drivers, 2023 capital development and advanced design, regional parks 2023 – 2027 capital plan expenditures, proposed capital plan changes and next steps.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

10:19 a.m. Mayor Harvie departed the meeting.

**5.3 Manager's Report – Regional Parks**

Report dated June 20, 2022 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks providing the Regional Parks Committee with a Regional Parks communications and events update.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Regional Parks Upcoming Events – June & July 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 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.

**CARRIED**

**10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

(Time: 10:22 a.m.)

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Hadir Ali,  
Legislative Services Coordinator

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John McEwen, Chair

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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor & Operations Services

Date: August 24, 2022 Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Subject: **Community Involvement Review Update**

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated August 24, 2022, titled "Community Involvement Review Update."

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strong community partnerships are critical in engaging the diverse communities in Metro Vancouver's regional park system. Through interpretive programming, education, and volunteering opportunities, Metro Vancouver fosters a deep connection between the region's growing diverse population and the natural world. Currently there are formal agreements with six community associations for service delivery. Each agreement is unique with respect to the park, the activities and the association involved.

In support of the 2022 Regional Parks Committee work plan, a review of the Regional Parks - Park Partnership Program was completed. The consultant firm "Park People" was retained to assist Regional Parks with this review. The *Community Involvement Review* provides a systems thinking framework including guiding principles, strategic directions and actions to continue supporting and effectively engaging current and future community partners.

## PURPOSE

To provide the Regional Parks Committee with an update regarding the 2022 *Community Involvement Review*.

## BACKGROUND

The current park partnership model was envisioned in 1995 through a policy developed to support Park Associations as an alternative to staff-run volunteer programs and provided enhanced community led opportunities. This included the provision of annual funding through formal contribution agreements to support association activities. The Park Partnership model was revised in 1998, and 2014 building on the long history of community involvement and further articulating the Park Association model based on past priorities and community development principles.

In 2022, there are currently six Park Associations in six of Metro Vancouver's 23 regional parks, each association receives contribution funding through agreements with Metro Vancouver to support the provision of stewardship and nature education programs.



These Community Associations are:

- Burnaby Lake Park Association
- Colony Farm Park Association
- Derby Reach / Brae Island Parks Association
- Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society
- Minnekhada Park Association
- Pacific Spirit Park Society

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Since the last review of the program in 2014, there have been changes in the focus for Regional Park programming, in particular, the 2016 and 2022 *Regional Parks Plans* both focused on Regional Parks' mandate to 'protect and connect'. Nature based programming became a focus and general community interest in supporting stewardship initiatives in Regional Parks became increasingly more popular. On review it is noted that the traditional Park Association agreements and activities can also benefit from, and be strengthened, with thoughtful consideration of First Nation interests in the Regional Park system.

Volunteerism within Regional Parks has also changed over the past several years. There has been a significant growth of volunteerism in the ecological stewardship program and a decreased desire for volunteers to be involved in the long-term traditional governance of Park Associations. For example, volunteers are preferring to support episodic events such as stewardship or "one-off" activities. Corporate social responsibility initiatives are also now more common with the emergence of corporate and community targeted events.

Over time, some community associations have also decided that their volunteer efforts would be better suited with no formal agreement in place and have chosen to dissolve, this was recently evident with both the Campbell Valley Park Association and the Boundary Bay Park Association.

### **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan and 2022 Regional Parks Plan Strategies and Actions:**

The *Community Involvement Review* supports the 2019-2022 Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan – Regional Parks Services goal three:

*"FOSTERING COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS: Strengthen awareness and engagement with the public, members, other orders of government, and key stakeholders on a range of initiatives regarding the role and value of regional parks."*

Also supported is strategy 12 from the Board approved 2022 Regional Parks Plan: Protect and Connect, to Provide Diverse and meaningful learning and volunteer opportunities that deepen people's connection to nature, and strategy 8: Protect and manage cultural resources in regional parks. Specifically, the following actions are supported:

*8.3: "Work with cultural organizations and communities to incorporate cultural information into planning and management."*

12.1: *“Implement the Public Programming Strategy to provide relevant content for the region’s growing, diverse population.”*

12.8: *“Seek partnerships in program delivery, community engagement and provision of special programs where others have expertise.”*

Finally, there is a strong Metro Vancouver desire to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion goals by intentionally including community groups that better represent the region’s demographics.

**Strategic Review:**

Regional Parks retained the consultants “Park People” to review the existing Park Partnership program and provide recommendations for enhancing the program, specifically:

- Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ approach to managing community relationships
- The potential for broadening and enhancement of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ community relationships
- To assist in resource allocation and prioritization for the allocation of staff and budget resources to address these opportunities

The *Community Involvement Review*, (Attachment) focused on understanding why Metro Vancouver works with community partners and made strategic recommendations to broaden and enhance Regional Parks’ community relationships by:

- Confirming the vision, goals, and desired outcomes of community relationships and partnerships
- Evaluating the existing relationships against the vision, goals, and desired outcomes
- Identifying community interests and gaps in the current relationship
- Identifying ways to work with other potential types of community partners to help achieve goals
- Sharing best practices and approaches to relationship building with community partners
- Providing recommendations on Regional Parks’ approach to managing community relationships
- Determining the functional relationships among staff that are involved with community involvement and relationship building within Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

**THREE PHASES (CONSULTATION, ANALYSIS, RECOMMENDATIONS)**

The *Community Involvement Review* was divided into three phases. Phase one focused on consultation. “Park People” reviewed key documents, conducted interviews, consultations and focus groups with staff, management, and community partners, conducted research on comparable partnership programs and interviewed key peers in park departments and partnership programs in other cities.

Phase two was the analysis phase of the review. It involved reviewing staff and partner feedback from the consultation phase, scholarly research, leading practices research, and external interviews

with park departments or organizations working on a similar scale of community partnerships. This research uncovered several key insights that will guide an enhanced community partnership program.

Phase three involved drafting recommendations for an evolving *Park Partnership Program*. Eleven recommendations were divided into three strategic directions. These recommendations aim to formalize some of the work currently being undertaken by Regional Parks staff in managing relationships with community partners while working to develop more consistency across relationships with partners, and creating more opportunities to connect with under-represented community partners.

The strategy provides a set of tools for staff to better assess partnerships and make decisions on how to allocate resources in order to best serve the community. These recommendations will help to efficiently manage existing relationships and provide space for new relationships that would be strategic for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Each recommendation includes a description of the current situation, a rationale, an example of a best practice of similar processes across the North America, and implementation considerations. A summary of the recommendations is provided in the attachment.

### **Next Steps**

In support of the implementation of the Regional Parks Plan, the *Community Involvement Review* will be used by staff as a tool/guide to cultivate new relationships, nurture and develop existing relationships and to foster strengthened community capacity across the Regional Park system. The plan will also be shared with municipal partners through the Regional Parks Advisory Committee.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this time. Should the implementation of any of the recommendations require new or additional budget resources, these will be built into future annual budget requests.

### **CONCLUSION**

The *Community Involvement Review* analyzed the existing Regional Parks' community partnership program to develop further understanding of the program's impact while evaluating it against leading practice models, identifying areas for enhancement of engagement and improvements to how the program is resourced. Attention was given to determine how Regional Parks can achieve greater diversity amongst partners, including multicultural groups.

Strong community partnerships are critical in engaging diverse communities in Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks system. Throughout Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' history, many citizens have demonstrated that they want sustained involvement in the system. This involvement is valued and the recommendations within this *Community Involvement Review* will continue to foster and strengthen these relationships for the future. This will help grow the individual capacity of groups, and encourage greater involvement and deeper engagement of partnerships in Regional Parks.

**Attachment**

*Community Involvement Review* - Executive Summary

47429810



# Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

## Community Involvement Review

### 2021

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strong community partnerships are critical in engaging diverse communities in Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks system. Throughout Metro Vancouver Regional Park's history, many citizens have demonstrated that they want sustained involvement in the system beyond just being park visitors and using park facilities and trails.

Following recent 2020 reviews of the [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy](#) and the [Regional Parks Natural Resource Management Framework](#), a final review was required of the Community Relationships Strategy to update Metro Vancouver's partnership approach.

[Park People](#) was retained to support Metro Vancouver Regional Parks with a review of their current partnership work to guide the development of an enhanced Community Relationships Approach.

This strategy has been informed by a thorough review of current practices in Metro Vancouver across the staff teams whose work intersects with community engagement, relationship building and partnership work, as well as a review of best practices and growing trends in park partnerships across North America.

The proposed **Community Relationships Approach** is informed by the following guiding principles:

**Clarity and definition of roles and expectations** for both community partners and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

**Consistency** of messaging and approach embedded across the system

**Equitable and effective allocation of resources**, staff time and expertise across the whole partnership approach

**Increase equity and diversity** of partnerships through the intentional inclusion of community groups that better represent the region's demographics

**Instill flexibility and an iterative process of evaluation** to allow groups to engage in the most relevant type of relationship with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks as their groups grow or subside

**Relationships based on clearly defined expectations and outcomes** (as opposed to a fixed definition) to allow for periodic review and reconsideration

**Balancing community leadership and autonomy** with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' priorities and responsibilities as land managers



The following **three strategic directions and 11 recommendations** are articulated in full in an internal working document to be refined into an implementation plan by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff and management:

## Improving consistency across the system

These recommendations will help ensure that partners are treated fairly across the spectrum of engagement with clarity on how to access an integrated team of Metro Vancouver staff and what to expect from the partnership:

1. Working as a partnership team
2. Clarifying expectations for partners and Regional Parks
3. Partner evaluation to suit engagement level

## Growing a Park Partner Network

These recommendations will help grow both the individual capacity of groups as well as the impact of the whole system of park partners, encouraging greater involvement and deeper engagement in Regional Parks:

4. Balancing support for different types of partnerships
5. Invest in volunteer coordination
6. Use regular training opportunities / offerings to grow capacity across the Park Network
7. Reinststate an annual event
8. Communications and user-friendliness

## Growing Internal Capacity

These recommendations will help ensure that Regional Parks has the financial resources to support a growing park partnership program that embodies equity and is designed to grow and evolve to continue to best meet its goals:

9. Explore creative funding + granting models
10. Incorporate Equity, Inclusion + diversity goals
11. Overall Program Evaluation

Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association



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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor & Operations Services

Date: August 24, 2022 Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Subject: **Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update**

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated August 24, 2022, titled “Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update.”

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the April 2020 MVRD Board approval of the Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy, several initiatives have been completed or are ongoing to advance implementation of the strategic goals. This report provides an update on the deliverables of the strategy in the following five strategic theme areas described in the report:

- Broaden Your Base
- Extend Your Reach
- Make a Deeper Connection
- Invest in Children and Youth
- Ensure Financial Sustainability

The report fulfills the commitment to report out on the progress of the strategy as part of the Regional Parks Committee 2022 Work Plan.

### PURPOSE

To provide the Regional Parks Committee with an implementation update regarding the *Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy* (2020).

### BACKGROUND

The *Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy* received the endorsement of the MVRD Board on April 24, 2020. The strategy provides strategic direction for interpretive staff delivering public programs and events within regional parks. The strategy includes a number of recommendations and deliverables for implementation between 2021-2025, grouped within the following five themes:

**Broaden Your Base:** Metro Vancouver is one of the most culturally diverse of Canada’s metropolitan areas, yet that diversity is not reflected in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ programming audiences. Work needs to be done to expand programming styles to connect with culturally diverse families, seniors, young adults and older teens. To ensure continued relevance, programming will need to acknowledge the full diversity of the public.

**Extend Your Reach:** According to the 2017 Coleman Canada Get Outside survey, 29% of Canadians say they spend less than a half hour per week outside, and 64% are enjoying the outdoors for less than two hours per week. In Metro Vancouver, awareness of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks' outdoor programming is still low. Public programs are not always fully subscribed, and many new programs are only offered once. Over 300 regional schools have never taken advantage of the high quality, low fee experiences offered in regional parks. The program's potential is unrealized; as regional residents are increasingly disconnected from nature.

**Make a Deeper Connection:** Currently, the role of Indigenous themes and Indigenous people in programming is vague and falls short of its potential and staff lack specialized training in programming techniques beyond the "by-naturalists-for-naturalists" paradigm.

The deliverables here aim to increase the quality and memorability of programs and events by updating professional skills; adding a cultural component to nature programs; partnering with Indigenous programmers to present relevant Indigenous content; increasing experiential and dialogic programming and continuing to move away from presentational programming styles.

**Invest in Children and Youth:** Children today lead structured lives, and much of that structure keeps them indoors. Today's children spend an average of seven hours each day looking at screens. When they do get outside, they may be carefully constrained and supervised by parents worried about their safety. Many of the region's children live too far to walk to a green space or a regional park. Research shows that for children, a profound experience in nature facilitated by a trusted mentor can foster a lifetime of environmental engagement.

To achieve Metro Vancouver's long-term vision of a community of engaged stewards of their environment, public and school programs should continue to connect with children and youth.

**Ensure Financial Sustainability:** Program fees are currently set based on an analysis of operating costs against a detailed review of fees for services offered by member municipalities and other government and non-profit agencies. Research is completed on comparable programs and events in municipal park systems in Metro Vancouver. A median rate is targeted for Metro Vancouver's fees as to generally stay in line with comparable market rates and not unduly subsidize program and event costs through the tax levy. Educational programming is relatively expensive, and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks must adhere to sound financial management and strategic long term planning.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan and 2022 Regional Parks Plan Strategies and Actions:**

The Public Programming Strategy supports the 2019-2022 Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan – Regional Parks Services goal three:

*"FOSTERING COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS: Strengthen awareness and engagement with the public, members, other orders of government, and key stakeholders on a range of initiatives regarding the role and value of regional parks."*



Also supported is strategy 12 from the Board approved 2022 *Regional Parks Plan*: Protect and Connect, to provide diverse and meaningful learning and volunteer opportunities that deepen people's connection to nature. Specifically,

12.1: *"Implement the Public Programming Strategy to provide relevant content for the region's growing, diverse population."*

12.3: *"Deliver events that provide equitable opportunities for many people to experience interpretive and educational programming in regional parks."*

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."*

The strategy makes recommendations to streamline program and event development and delivery, and to increase the return on investment.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION FOCUS 2021 - 2025**

Guided by the five strategic directions, the *Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy* identifies milestones and actions looking out to the year 2025. Staff have been committed to these new directions despite the challenges faced during the pandemic. The attachment (Implementation Focus – Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy) provides a summary of the completed and ongoing actions grouped by strategic theme.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this time. Any additional financial implications to advance the implementation of the Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy will be considered as part of the annual budgeting process.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Public Programming Strategy confirmed the need for regionally provided nature-based public programs and events and provided clear recommendations on how Regional Parks programming and interpretation will help Metro Vancouver Regional Parks meet the future needs of the region's growing diverse population. Of the 31 deliverables created as a result of the Strategy, several are now complete, and many are underway.

Staff working on each of the five strategic themes continue to successfully implement the deliverables, and have a clear plan to help guide them over the coming years. The implementation of the deliverables will ensure Metro Vancouver Regional Parks programs are engaging, high quality,

memorable, authentic experiences that reach a representative sample of Metro Vancouver's regional population.

**Attachment**

Regional Parks- Public Programming Strategy Implementation Focus Update 2022

54403591

## Regional Parks- Public Programming Strategy Implementation Focus Update 2022

### BROADEN YOUR BASE

Currently Regional Parks is not engaging all segments of the community and the goal of the Broaden Your Base deliverable is to improve upon that. To create a sense of belonging, all community members need to see themselves and their culture in regional parks. Connection to these audiences will come through development of new programming that acknowledges diversity and attracts these new audiences on their own terms. There are ways that Regional Parks can create a more inclusive environment and encourage new audiences to explore and connect.

*Deliverable: Regional parks programming audience will reflect the demographic diversity of the Metro Vancouver community.*

*Deliverable: Underserved municipalities will be better represented in public programming audiences through targeted programming and promotion.*

The desired outcome is to connect with new audiences that will include the four priority audiences as identified in the PPS.

- Unserved school groups: Lesser-served schools; schools with high economic need and those where children have limited access to nature.
- Culturally diverse families: Ethnically diverse group of first and second generation immigrant families with younger children.
- Existing adult audiences: Educated, middle-class people with a strong level of environmental literacy and commitment, who seek to solidify their relationship with nature through education programs.
- Young adults: Young millennial/Gen Z (Age 20s) who are trying to balance the pressures of school, part-time jobs, lower income revenue and the demands of the dating scene.

Other priority audiences include seniors, older teens, and underserved municipalities.

To better understand the target audience segments listed above and the barriers they face in accessing public programming, and to understand what kind of programs people are interested in, In August, 2022, a survey was designed and launched by a contractor, *Sentis*, in collaboration with staff from External Relations.

The survey aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the audiences who are under-represented when it comes to their participation in Regional Parks public programming. The survey had a strong focus within the municipalities of Richmond and Surrey in order to understand the lack of representation within these jurisdictions, as identified in the PPS. The survey closed at the beginning of August and interpretive staff are awaiting a draft report.

The results of the survey will help staff develop programming for these under-represented audiences. Once the initial data has been compiled, staff will identify gaps and offer the survey in Chinese and Punjabi to ensure we fully engage with the target audiences.

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The survey will also establish baseline data for goals, understand what kind of programs people are interested in (gain a better perception of both current offerings and new ideas among specific audience segments) and inform the future development of a marketing and promotion strategy for public programs, which is another deliverable identified in the PPS.

## **EXTEND YOUR REACH**

The Extend Your Reach implementation plan focuses on the following strategies recommended in the PPS including considering a full marketing plan, including more interpretive nature content in social media and revamping the program registration process.

These recommendations will enable staff to increase the reach of nature-based interpretive offerings promoting to priority audiences, growing the awareness of public programming, and nurturing a sustained relationship with existing clients. The plan represents an ambitious shift in current practices with the main goal of increasing the number of regional residents connecting with nature in meaningful ways through public programming.

*Deliverable: Metro Vancouver will have an ongoing relationship with public programming clients, not a one-off affair with each booking.*

*Deliverable: Repeat clientele for public programming will have increased 30%.*

For the above two deliverables, the Extend Your Reach working group researched how to communicate with past program participants via ActiveNet, the current registration software. Staff discovered that they can email past participants about upcoming programs similar to ones they have already registered for. Because ActiveNet has a built in unsubscribe option, staff have ensured that Metro Vancouver is abiding by Canada's anti-spam legislation. In the fall, staff will utilize this feature to promote programs to past participants.

*Deliverable: The possibility of a Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Instagram channel will be investigated.*

*Deliverable: Metro Vancouver Regional Park's social media will include more interpretive content, presented in a voice that is appropriate to priority audiences.*

For these deliverables, three Regional Parks staff were given access to post to Metro Vancouver's corporate Instagram account. Staff have been provided with an overview of procedures and protocol, password access and scheduling options with Facebook and Hootsuite. This is a trial to determine if using Instagram is a helpful platform to promote Regional Parks programs and interpretive content, if Regional Parks staff have the capacity to maintain an Instagram channel, and if Regional Parks should create and manage a separate Instagram profile. The trial will be run over the summer of 2022 and then assessed to see if staff wish to continue to the end of the year.

*Deliverable: Public programs will be 90% subscribed.*

*Deliverable: Regional awareness of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks public programming will increase by at least 15%.*

These deliverables are more *measures/outcomes* but actions are still required to achieve them. Increasing awareness of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks public programming will help interpreters move towards equity in access to parks programming. Increased awareness will also help achieve other objectives in the PPS The Extend Your Reach team will utilize the results of the survey that the Broaden Your Base team conducted, and this will inform a marketing strategy.

### **MAKE A DEEPER CONNECTION**

The Make a Deeper Connection plan is to create a foundation to guide interpreters to create the best programs and experiences that connect Metro Vancouver residents to the regional parks. The population and landscape of Metro Vancouver has transformed in the past 25 years and programs need to respond to these changes. In this time of Indigenous reconciliation, park interpretation is moving to a cultural landscape approach to storytelling. Audiences expect deeper, more personal experiences from their outdoor pursuits.

*Deliverable: Each Regional Park that hosts programming will have its own interpretive plan. Within the plan, programs will be crafted around strong interpretive themes or Big Ideas, and evaluated against visitors' understanding and feelings of connection to them.*

Campbell Valley Regional Park will become the first park with its own interpretive plan. The park's new management plan will help inform the interpretive plan. A consultant will be hired to assist in writing, formatting and editing the plan that will be completed by end of summer. This new interpretive plan will provide a template for other interpretive plans to follow. Grouse Mountain Regional Park and Widgeon Marsh Regional Park will be the next two regional parks to have an interpretive plan developed.

*Deliverable: Interpreters will begin professional development and networking in up-to-date programming techniques, and new hires will have current skill sets.*

Interpretive staff started taking virtual training in Dialogic Interpretation in 2021 and continue to do so in 2022. Staff who attended training have shared their learnings with all interpreters in the system.

*Deliverable: Traditional territory will be meaningfully and sincerely acknowledged at all Metro Vancouver Regional Parks programs and events.*

All programs and events now begin with a site specific traditional territory acknowledgement. Acknowledging territory is a way of honouring and showing respect for Indigenous Peoples. It is recognition of their presence both in the past and the present. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations. These relationships are key to reconciliation. Staff undertook training, and worked closely with colleagues from Indigenous Relations to come up with ways to acknowledge traditional territory in authentic ways.

*Deliverable: Each public program will have its own evaluation framework with benchmarks and standards for attendance, revenue, satisfaction, thematic learning and feelings of connection.*

Research of best practices for evaluation and assessment is currently underway. A high level assessment tool is being crafted for current and new programs. This will ensure all programs meet the vision and mission of the new Regional Parks Plan, Deliverables of the PPS will contain themes identified in the park's

interpretive plan. A detailed program scoring tool will ensure that all programs measure success through attendance, ecological indicators, feelings of connection, intention to change behavior and cost. Staff expect to have a completed evaluation framework by year end.

### **INVEST IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The recommended actions set forth in this implementation plan will result in investing in children and youth through a variety of avenues (such as schools, community groups and volunteer opportunities), while paying close attention to those who come from under-served communities, those who have financial need and those with limited access to nature.

*Deliverable: Create online and physical Nature Connection Kits (referred to in the PPS as “Turnkey Kits”).*

Staff have created Nature Connection Kits to increase the knowledge and awareness of Regional Parks to youth across the region, and to align the content of the kits with both school curriculum and the Regional Parks mission to ‘protect and connect.’ The online kits will provide free and accessible resources to teachers and empower them to independently lead meaningful nature experiences for youth. Market research on similar kits has been completed.

Staff are excited to develop and move forward with these online resources to support educators who face barriers to getting to regional parks with their classes and to connect older youth to the diversity found in regional parks. After the online kits have been created, staff will create physical kits, so teachers and students will be able to get more out of their park visit when they come in person.

*Deliverable: Gain a better understanding of barriers facing underserved communities.*

Richmond and Surrey were identified as under-served communities in the PPS. In spring, 2021 Regional Parks strategically provided lower-income schools (formerly called “inner-city schools”) in Richmond and Surrey the first opportunity to book a new virtual pond peeking field trip for grades 2/3 free of charge. Over 60 classes booked, indicating the need to hold space for these under-served communities to facilitate access. Regional Parks will continue to ensure there is space for these under-served communities by setting aside program opportunities.

Staff have also planned programs with the Pacific Immigrant Resources Society and are collaborating with Mosaic to offer programs to immigrants and refugees. The goals of these programs are to help participants feel more comfortable accessing nature on their own and introduce them to Regional Parks.

*Deliverable: Create an Educators and Youth Advisory Committee (EYAC) that consists of separate nuclei of teachers, students and community partners.*

The Invest in Children and Youth team is working with External Relations to create a mutually beneficial opportunity for youth and K-12 educators to provide input to Metro Vancouver programs, projects, and policies while creating an engaging experience for them to learn more about Metro Vancouver, local government, and various initiatives. Proposed make-up of the Committee is: five people aged 13-18 (high school youth), five people aged 18-25 (post secondary youth), and five people who work in K-12 education. After the initiative receives Board approval of the Committee’s Terms of Reference, there will be a soft outreach to schools in the fall for recruitment. This Committee will benefit Regional Parks in the future by providing a forum to seek input from regarding program planning.

## ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The PPS stated that Regional Parks interpreters will continue to prioritize high-quality, interactive, experiential, nature-based programs and events; that Regional Parks will seek to manage the costs of providing its programming services while seeking opportunities to increase its overall revenue generation where appropriate; and that Metro Vancouver will consider opportunities to generate increased revenues from program registration (i.e. high-yield, low-ratio programs) as well as alternate forms of revenue including fund raising, donations and corporate sponsorship.

*Deliverable: Assess the Cost Recovery - Pyramid Model for Revenue Generation and determine its relevance to regional park public programming.*

One of the first steps to achieve these goals of this strategy was to develop a cost recovery model that would guide future decisions regarding pricing and investment. The model would help determine which costs to include when calculating cost recovery; classify programs into cost recovery tiers; calculate current cost recovery levels; and identify potential cost-plus opportunities (>100% cost recovery). Regional Parks contracted *Ryan Schwartz Consulting* to create a custom cost recovery model and pricing strategy for its public programming fees. The consultant evaluated current program prices and created a model that will assist staff to determine and evaluate pricing decisions for both current and future programs.

The consultant worked with staff to categorize programs and tally costs and then built a spreadsheet tool that will help staff to set public programming fees. The consultant suggested Regional Parks use a benefits based approach, meaning if more community benefit accrues from a service, then a lower cost recovery rate is justified (lower fees; higher subsidy); if more personal benefit accrues from a service, then a higher cost recovery rate is justified (higher fees; lower subsidy).

*Deliverable: Recover 25%-50% of immediate staff and materials costs through program fees by 2025.*

Using the Cost Recovery Model, the consultant examined several scenarios to determine if achieving 50% cost recovery was possible, or even reasonable. After this examination, the consultant assessed that the current cost recovery is only 11%, and that prices for public programs are generally appropriate. The consultant suggested several ways that Regional Parks could increase revenues, and noted that raising fees is not the only way to achieve this cost recovery goal. The new model enables staff to understand all the variables that contribute to cost recovery. However, it is not expected that cost recovery between 25%-50% can be achieved while keeping public program costs accessible for many in our communities.

*Deliverable: Invest cautiously, in high-yield, low-ratio experiential programming that recovers full costs + profit.*

The consultant suggested that introducing cost-plus programs may seem like a good idea to help increase cost recovery, but it's not worth it given the financial risks involved. There isn't enough certainty that enough people would register for these types of programs, and the consultant recommended we leave these types of programs for the private sector to offer. Staff will discontinue its consideration of this program direction based on this advice.

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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: August 29, 2022

Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

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

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated August 29, 2022 titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks."

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### **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.

### **PACIFIC PARKLANDS FOUNDATION - NOW METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION**

Pacific Parklands Foundation, the only charity dedicated to raising funds for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, has changed its name to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation (MVRP).

The MVRP Foundation funds projects in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. Examples include improving the habitats of at-risk and endangered species, funding free overnight camping for youth, and supporting volunteer environmental projects and community events in regional parks.

While their name, logo and branding have changed, their core mission stays the same. The foundation continues its commitment to protect, enhance and advocate for regional parks.

The MVRP Foundation has launched a new website: [mvrpfoundation.ca](http://mvrpfoundation.ca) (Reference 1)



*Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation - New Name, Logo and Branding*



**Təmtə́míxʷtən/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK – COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION**

The collaborative management of təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park by Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Metro Vancouver has created opportunities to integrate Indigenous knowledge with contemporary regional park management. Since signing the Cultural Planning and Co-Operation Agreement in 2020, staff from both parties have developed a joint work plan which will guide a range of projects over the next several years, from interpretive program and material development, to a Cultural Visibility Plan, to site planning, and stewardship projects.

Tsleil-Waututh Nation is currently leading a Cultural Heritage Study funded by Metro Vancouver to better understand the depth of their history in the area. The scope of the study includes compiling information on Tsleil-Waututh origins, archaeological evidence of Tsleil-Waututh occupation, colonial history, and plants. Learnings will be integrated into future planning and cultural visibility projects, such as new signage, ecological restoration, and cultural programming.

Projects implemented in summer of 2022 focused on increasing access to the park by creating reserved year-round parking spaces for Tsleil-Waututh members, and offering a complimentary water taxi service for Tsleil-Waututh families over Labour Day weekend. Metro Vancouver staff secured grant funding for this water taxi project from Creative BC's Reel Green initiative and the Pacific Parklands Foundation.

**GROUSE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – TREE REMOVAL FOR NEW GONDOLA SYSTEM**

Grouse Mountain Resort is planning for construction of a new gondola system to replace their existing 1960s blue tramway commencing this fall. Grouse Mountain Resort's existing tramway and proposed gondola right-of-way (RoW) is on GVWD lease land and directly adjacent to GVWD lands licensed to MVRD for Grouse Mountain Regional Park.

The new gondola alignment deviates from the existing, resulting in a 0.23-hectare expansion over the park lands. This expansion of the RoW and a 25-year lease extension were required and approved by the GVWD Board in January 2022. Grouse Mountain Resort is working through District of North Vancouver building permit requirements for the new gondola system, which includes significant area tree removal.

The RoW is 14 metres wide and 1.4 kilometres long from the base of the mountain to the chalet on the upper slopes; a total area of 1.96 hectares. 1,674 trees will be removed from the RoW and understory vegetation within the same footprint. 49 mature trees within the park boundary will also be removed or modified to allow for adequate clearance from the new gondola system alignment.

Tree work is expected to commence in September – October of this year over a three-week period. A combination of tree removal practices, including helicopter transport and cable yarding, will be utilized to remove the debris from the slopes to mitigate wildfire fuel accumulation.

Regional Parks is working closely with Grouse Mountain Resort and GVWD to ensure the safety of park visitors during the tree removal work. Some trail-use interruptions and temporary park closures

will occur, as well as concurrent maintenance closure of the two existing tramways, which many park visitors use to travel back down the mountain after hiking popular area trails.

## IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK – VISITOR EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

### Iona Picnic Area Improvements

With over 400,000 visitors to Iona Beach Regional Park in 2021, the need for recreational amenities at this site has increased substantially, outgrowing the current picnic area's capacity. There is high demand for picnic tables to gather with friends and family, share food, and rest. There is also a need to make the picnic area more accessible to diverse user groups by increasing the number of fully accessible picnic tables connected to the parking lot by an accessible gravel trail.



*Iona Picnic Area Improvements Concept Plan*

This summer, eight picnic tables were installed at the Iona picnic area, increasing the total to twelve picnic tables. These picnic tables will serve the growing and diverse user groups that visit the park.

In addition, two new refuse bins, with space for garbage and recycling, plus a new hot coal bin, were installed adjacent to the picnic area.

These site furnishings will help facilitate the operational management of this high

traffic area. A new accessible, gravel trail will connect the picnic tables in a small loop, and will seamlessly guide visitors from the parking lot to the picnic area.

The next phase of this project will feature the installation of sun shades and/or a weather shelter to create some much needed shade in the open Iona beach landscape. The incorporation of a shade feature is being considered in relation to the potential washroom upgrades and IIWWTP projects.

### Iona Washroom Feasibility Study

The existing washroom building at Iona Beach Regional Park provides an essential service for park visitors and is a focal point near the main parking area for the park.

The washroom building was constructed in 1990 and the architectural design was inspired by the site's contextual beach landscape with an undulating roof that mirrors the form of the adjacent sand dunes. The washroom building is sensitively located within the landscape and blends into its surroundings.



*Iona Beach Regional Park –Washroom Building with Undulating Roof*

While the architectural components of the washroom building are in good condition overall, upgrades are required given the age of the building. These upgrades will improve visitor comfort, enhance the capacity of the facility, to make the building more resilient to the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

A condition assessment has been completed and a feasibility study is currently underway to provide options on how to renovate and restore the existing washroom building. This project will increase the building's capacity and will see the conceptual design of two new gender inclusive and universally accessible washrooms.

## **REGIONAL PARKS EVENTS UPDATES**

### **Summer Special Events and Public Programs**

Since the beginning of July 2022 to mid-August, the interpretation team across the system has delivered 4 Regional Parks special events, over 25 public programs, and multiple roving days. Through sharing meaningful stories, knowledge and experiences with a diverse range of visitors, these events and programs have successfully served to meet the Regional Parks mandate by:

- directly deepening people's connections, understanding and appreciation of nature and our regional parks,
- strengthening collaborative relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations and community members that participated as event exhibitors, and,
- inspiring protection through volunteerism after participating in a public program.

### **Aldergrove Regional Park – Meteor Shower Watch: Webinar & In-Park Event**

In partnership with HR MacMillan Space Centre, a new webinar was delivered to over 90 households to help people learn about astronomy before the event. A record number 3,000 space-enthusiasts to travel to Aldergrove Regional Park to star gaze and look for Perseids meteor showers especially as the event returned to the much-loved camping format. Around 130 families booked for camping and many more were waitlisted.

Community partners like the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada joined us again to share their meteorite collection and love of astronomy. And volunteers like the Girl Guides were happy to help again, so that visitors could enjoy constellation and planet lantern-lit trails, a galaxy maze, black light skit, park interpreter constellation talks, and Coast Salish educator, Carman McKay's stories about the stars. Luckily, the night skies cleared enough for a visible moon, planets and a couple shooting fireballs!

Many visitors expressed that they had been waiting for 4 years to participate in this event and that it was worth the wait.

### **Kanaka Creek Regional Park – Interpretive Art Mural**

The Kanaka Creek Interpretive Art Mural is a multi-agency collaboration project with many educational components to engage the community. In February, Todd Polich, the artist and a MVRP park interpreter co-delivered art webinar workshops to 26 burgeoning new artists, many of whom

expressed appreciation for the new knowledge and tips on how to run an art business, and one artist's thanks for connecting her to her local artist community and work on other murals.

In Fall 2021, nature walks co-delivered by a Regional Parks' park interpreter and K.E.E.P.S. to over 100 local elementary and secondary students and teachers illustrated the importance of Kanaka Creek and the salmon rainforest and how people are connected to them. These were followed by Spring 2022 art classes and mural paintings that showcased their increased understanding of the salmon food web and new learning to see, draw and paint from various perspectives. Student conversations revealed their inspirational moments and confidence as one grade 2 student said, "I'm a pretty good artist because I've been colouring since I was 2 years old!"

As of August, Todd has finished the sculptural element and most of the mural that's incorporated student ideas and a Salish artist, Carman McKay's designs. Once the final three pillars are painted, we hope to launch a community celebratory event in Spring 2023.

More details as well as recent updates on the project can be found on the Pacific Parklands Foundation website (Reference 2).

### **Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Forest Harmonies**

Over 320 people strolled through the rainforest at the new and unique Forest Harmonies event. Visitors were delighted by musicians and interpretative displays that shared stories and illustrated the connections between nature and music.

Highlights included all local musicians (a harpist, flutist, guitarist, fiddler, saxophonist and cellist), music lyric scrolls posted along the trail, and the animal sound melodies emitting from the trees.

Members of the Pacific Spirit Park Society participated by volunteering at the musical instrument station where visitors tried their own hands at various musical instruments. When asked to write "nature" and/or "music" on a whiteboard in their first language, 10 different languages were recorded by visitors.



*Pacific Spirit Regional Park*

### **Attachment**

Regional Park Committee 2022 Work Plan

### **Reference**

1. [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Website](#)
2. [Pacific Parklands Foundation – Kanaka Creek Mural Project](#)

## Regional Parks Committee 2022 Work Plan

Report Date: August 29, 2022

## Priorities

1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	
Regional Parks Plan	Complete
Regional Parks Committee Tour of Regional Parks	Complete
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Development Update	Complete
Regional Parks Community Relationships Strategy	Pending
Review/Renew Park Association Contribution Agreement – Colony Farm Regional Park	Pending
Regional Parks Public Programming	Pending
Cultural Planning and Cooperation Agreement- Tsleil-Waututh Nation Update	Pending
Manager's Report (Monthly)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	
Nature and Ecosystems Road Map (Climate 2050)	Pending
Regional Parks Public Programming	Pending
Burnaby Lake Regional Park Lease Renewal Update	Pending
Regional Parks Real-time Parking Availability Pilot	Pending
Pacific Parklands Foundation Update	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

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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Nelson Szeto, Project Manager, Major Projects, Project Delivery

Date: August 16, 2022 Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Subject: **Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island**

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The attached report dated June 28, 2022 titled “Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island” was presented to the Liquid Waste Committee for information at its July 13, 2022 meeting. The report is presented to the Regional Parks Committee for its information only.

**Attachment**

“Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island”, dated June 28, 2022.

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To: Liquid Waste Committee

From: Nelson Szeto, Acting Director, Major Projects, Project Delivery

Date: June 28, 2022

Meeting Date: July 13, 2022

Subject: **Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Liquid Waste Committee receive for information the report dated June 28, 2022, titled "Climate and Seismic Resilience Planning at Iona Island".

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Board-approved conceptual design for the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant projects includes the integration of the upgraded treatment plant into the surrounding community and Iona Beach Regional Park.

At a May 4, 2022 tour of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and Iona Beach Regional Park for members of the Liquid Waste Committee, Regional Parks Committee and Climate Action Committee, participants expressed interest in receiving more information on what is being done to address the effects of climate change on the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and Iona Island as a whole.

Iona Island is likely to experience warmer average temperatures, drier summers, wetter winters, extreme precipitation, and rising sea levels as a result of climate change. Through project definition, these effects were considered for the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant projects, and park infrastructure and ecosystems.

Measures to increase treatment plant resiliency include a higher flood construction level, more resilient utilities and access, and ground improvements to ensure the facility is operational following a major earthquake. Regional park infrastructure will be progressively adapted as sea levels rise to protect park ecology and the island as a whole. The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant projects will collectively enhance ecosystems and improve resiliency for Iona Island and the surrounding area.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Liquid Waste Committee additional details on resiliency measures that are part of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (IIWWTP) projects to prepare Iona Island, including Iona Beach Regional Park (IBRP), for climate change and seismic impacts.

### **BACKGROUND**

At a May 4, 2022 tour of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and Iona Beach Regional Park for members of the Liquid Waste Committee, Regional Parks Committee and Climate Action Committee. Participants expressed interest in receiving more information on what is being done to

address the effects of climate change on the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and Iona Island as a whole.

Some of the projected impacts of climate change that will affect Metro Vancouver include warmer average winter and summer temperatures, drier summers, wetter falls and winters, extreme precipitation, and a projected sea level rise of approximately 1.0 meter by 2100<sup>1</sup>. The overall warming trend will likely give rise to more intense storms and wind events. Seasonal distribution of marginal increases in precipitation will be the most notable as wetter fall and winter weather and a decrease in precipitation in the summers. Changes in the establishment and range of insects and disease-causing microorganisms may occur because of an increase in temperature and precipitation levels favouring the growth and distribution of most pest species by providing a warm and humid environment and providing necessary moisture for their growth. Increased ocean acidification is anticipated – a result of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that is absorbed by the ocean. For Iona Island, changing weather patterns may affect temperature, and the timing, amount, and type of precipitation, which may affect patterns of flooding along the Fraser River. Unmitigated, these impacts of climate change will have implications for Iona Island, IBRP, and the new treatment plant.

Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050* Strategic Framework (see Reference) goals for seismically resilient infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities have been incorporated into the IIWWTP projects ensuring climate resiliency is incorporated into all aspects of the projects.

Specific measures include increasing climate and seismic resiliency of built infrastructure at the plant and park, piloting strategies that simultaneously mitigate climate impacts and enhance ecosystems, nature-based climate adaptation, and strategies that increase the resilience of ecosystems in a changing climate.

#### **IIWWTP Climate Change Resilience**

Sea level rise is projected to have tangible impacts on the IIWWTP projects. The conceptual design responds to this challenge by:

- Establishing a flood construction level for the WWTP's buildings and structures at 7.0 metre geodetic to account for sea level rise, land settlement, high tide, storm surge, wave effect, and a freeboard safety factor
- Locating all critical infrastructure (such as electrical equipment and control rooms) at or above the flood construction level
- Using watertight protection for any non-critical interior spaces located below the flood construction level
- Raising all roadways over time including building a bridge to replace the current Iona Causeway.

#### **IIWWTP Seismic Resilience**

Seismic resilience is also being stringently evaluated. Ground settlement and seismic analysis has been undertaken to ensure the treatment plant meets the criteria defined in the current BC Building Code. The treatment plant is designed as a post-disaster facility with a 2,475 year return period



earthquake (2% chance of exceedance in 50 years). Ground improvements including preload, stone columns, seismic barriers, and piles are currently proposed to meet the post-disaster facility criteria.

### **Iona Beach Regional Park Climate Change Resilience**

The conceptual design for IBRP is responsive to the impacts of climate change. Built assets will be constructed at elevations over time that avoid inundation and damage from sea level rise. Natural systems will be enhanced so they are regenerative and resilient to climate change.

Nature-based flood protection strategies are proposed for the park and connected natural areas. Iona Island's tidal habitats can adapt to sea level rise using projects such as thin layer sediment augmentation to mitigate wave energy and incrementally build new tidal habitat. Nature-based features such as sediment traps and breakwaters in the inter-jetty area are also proposed to enhance resilience. Protection, restoration and stewardship of sand dune ecosystems, tidal salt marsh and other important habitat types will encourage biodiversity, which is fundamental to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

### **Ecosystem-based Climate Adaption**

There are a range of strategies included in the IWWTP Projects concept design to provide a level of protection to the island, such as, restoring ecological processes in the foreshore, creating conditions to help these coastal ecosystems keep pace with sea level rise and other climate impacts. Some specific projects include:

- Piloting sediment augmentation, which means adding thin layers of sediment in selected parts of the foreshore to help the tidal habitats keep pace with sea level rise
- Piloting living wave breaks to reduce wave energy, enhance sediment accretion, and provide subtidal habitat (as a separate initiative, Metro Vancouver is exploring the feasibility of Biorock, an artificial reef material that is grown in situ to provide resilient protection of coastal infrastructure – and this will be looked at further as part of foreshore design work)
- Maintaining water levels in the park's freshwater wetlands, especially during hot summer months, with treated effluent

The design of the treatment plant itself also aims to protect existing wetlands and use green infrastructure to support natural wetland recharge (e.g. rain gardens, swales, permeable pavement, green roofs, and designs to minimize riparian encroachment).

### **Increase Resilience of Local Ecosystems**

Improving the health of ecosystems is important as healthier ecosystems are better able to bounce back from climate impacts. For aquatic ecosystems, this includes improved effluent quality, restoration of tidal habitats, reconnecting the river and the sea, and increasing forest cover to help shade areas during hotter summers. Terrestrial ecosystems will also be made more resilient through choosing indigenous plants that can withstand changing climate conditions and developing establishment plans to increase plant survival.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

## **CONCLUSION**

Climate change at Iona Island is expected to result in rising seas, changes in rainfall patterns, more severe coastal storm flooding, as well as consideration for seismic impacts.

The conceptual design for the new IWWTP projects has integrated nature-based adaptation methods to strengthen the resiliency of the park and the plant on Iona Island.

Natural areas can withstand climate change effects and build resilience of the land and for the community by protecting and restoring the park and providing stewardship opportunities.

While new buildings and other critical infrastructure at the plant meet the BC Building Code and are post-disaster facilities that will also withstand climate change effects, the inclusion of nature-based adaptation methods to restore ecosystems provides an added measure of protection for the park, plant, and island from sea level rise.

## **Reference**

[Climate 2050 Strategic Framework](#)

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## METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

### Upcoming Events

September to October 2022

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
21 SEP 2022	<b>Forest Bathing</b> PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
23 SEP 2022	<b>The Secret Life of Trees</b> PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
25 SEP 2022	<b>Kanaka Connections World Rivers Day</b> KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK
29 SEP 2022	<b>Forest Bathing</b> CAPILANO RIVER REGIONAL PARK
01 OCT 2022	<b>Heritage &amp; Apple Day</b> DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK
06 OCT 2022	<b>The Secret Life of Fungus</b> PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK

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