AGENDA

PARKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 5, 2011
9:00 a.m.
2nd Floor Boardroom
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC

Committee Members:
Chair, Director Gayle Martin, Langley City
Vice Chair, Councillor Pietro Calendino, Burnaby
Director Peter Frinton, Bowen Island
Councillor Scott Hamilton, Delta
Director Maria Harris, Electoral Area A
Director Marvin Hunt, Surrey
Councillor Mel Kositsky, Langley Township
Director Don MacLean, Pitt Meadows
Director George Peary, Abbotsford
Director Tim Stevenson, Vancouver
Director Richard Stewart, Coquitlam
Director Wayne Wright, New Westminster

Please advise Melanie Taylor at (604) 451-6176 if you are unable to attend.
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
PARKS COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 5, 2011
2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 October 5, 2011 Regular Meeting Agenda
Staff Recommendation:
That the Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for October 5, 2011 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 September 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes
Staff Recommendation:
That the Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held September 7, 2011 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS
No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS
No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 2011 Programs and Priorities of Parks Committee
Designated Speaker: Gaëtan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Recommendation:
That the Parks Committee endorse the proposed programs and priorities as outlined in the report dated September 23, 2011, titled “2012 Programs and Priorities of Park Committee”, as the basis for the budget to be considered at the Board budget workshop scheduled for October 19, 2011.

5.2 Experience the Fraser – Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan
Designated Speaker: Wendy DaDalt, Experience the Fraser, Interregional Project Coordinator/East Area Regional Parks Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Recommendation:
That the Board:
a) endorse in principle the report ‘Experience the Fraser - Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan’ dated September 21, 2011 as the basis for ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, governments, First Nations, and agencies; and
b) given the provincial funding for the Experience the Fraser project ends June 2012, request that the Chairs of the Metro Vancouver Board and Fraser Valley Regional District Board meet with the Premier of British Columbia to seek support and funding to further this project.

5.3 Draft Regional Parks Plan
Designated Speaker: Bonnie Blue, Acting Division Manager, Planning Resource Management and Development, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Recommendation:
That the Board:
a) adopt the draft Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan dated September 2011; and
b) direct staff to continue to work with member municipalities, stakeholders and other partners to generate an implementation plan as a companion document.

5.4 Manager’s Report
Designated Speaker: Gaëtan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Recommendation:
That the Parks Committee receives for information the report dated September 27, 2011 titled “Manager’s Report”.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Correspondence

6.2 Special Events

7. OTHER BUSINESS
No items presented.

8. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING
No items presented.

9. ADJOURNMENT
Staff Recommendation:
That the Parks Committee conclude its regular meeting of October 5, 2011.
MINUTES
GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
PARKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Parks Committee held at 9:11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 in the 2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

PRESENT:
Chair, Director Gayle Martin, Langley City
Director Peter Frinton, Bowen Island
Councillor Scott Hamilton, Delta
Director Maria Harris, Electoral Area A
Councillor Mel Kositsky, Langley Township
Director Don MacLean, Pitt Meadows (arrived at 9:16 a.m.)
Director George Peary, Abbotsford
Director Tim Stevenson, Vancouver
Director Richard Stewart, Coquitlam

ABSENT:
Vice Chair, Councillor Pietro Calendino, Burnaby
Director Marvin Hunt, Surrey
Director Wayne Wright, New Westminster

STAFF:
Johnny Carline, Chief Administrative Officer/Commissioner, Chief Administrative Officer’s Department
Ann Marie Lanz, Assistant to Regional Committees, Board Secretariat and Corporate Information Department
Gaetan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department
Mitch Sokalski, Parks West Area Division Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 September 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Parks Committee:
  a) amend the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for September 7, 2011 adding a letter and email correspondence relating to item 5.2 Tobacco Smoking Policy Additional Information; and
  b) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

9:16 a.m.
Director Maclean arrived at the meeting.
2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 June 14, 2011 Special Joint Meeting Minutes

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Parks Committee receive for information the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional District and the Metro Vancouver Parks Committee held June 14, 2011 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

2.2 June 29, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held June 29, 2011 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

2.3 July 20, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its special meeting held July 20, 2011 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Brittney Parks, Health Promotion Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society

Brittney Parks, Health Promotion Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society, provided members with a presentation in support of a tobacco control policy and included the following information:

- Protection from second-hand smoke is critical, as second-hand smoke is known to be extremely toxic, containing at least 50 known cancer causing substances.
- Smoking restrictions aid in motivating smokers to cut back or even quit smoking.
- A tobacco control policy assists in decreasing negative role modeling behaviour in children.
- A tobacco control policy would help in protecting the environment and reduce general litter in parks areas.
- Fire hazard risks would greatly diminish if a smoking ban was implemented.

Presentation material was provided at the meeting and is retained with the September 7, 2011 Parks Committee regular agenda package.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Parks Committee agree to hear the late delegation presentation from the Wreck Beach Preservation Society and add this item to the agenda for the regular meeting scheduled for September 7, 2011.

**CARRIED**
3.2 Late Delegation: Judy Williams, Chair, Wreck Beach Preservation Society

Judy Williams, Chair, Wreck Beach Preservation Society provided members with a presentation opposing a tobacco smoking policy within Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, offering the following information:

- A tobacco smoking ban will be largely un-enforceable on Wreck Beach due to stretched park resources.
- Smoking restrictions are already in place during extreme or high fire hazard conditions within the park.
- Smokers should have the right to smoke during times of personal stress while enjoying the wilderness areas of Wreck Beach.

Presentation material was provided at the meeting and is retained with the September 7, 2011 Parks Committee regular agenda package.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Regional Parks Plan Update

Report dated August 17, 2011 from Bonnie Blue, Acting Division Manager, Planning and Resource Management and Development, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department and Craig Sobering, Senior Park Systems Planner, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department, advising the Parks Committee on the development of an update to the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan.

Members discussed the Regional Parks Plan strategic goals, performance measures and proposed outreach activities. In addition, consideration was given to the expansion of plan reporting, programming and working cooperatively with other government agencies to encourage healthy lifestyles.

It was MOVED and SECONDED That the Parks Committee direct staff to receive feedback on the draft plan, revise the plan based on the feedback, and report back on the results at its October meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 Tobacco Smoking Policy Additional Information

Report dated August 5, 2011 from Gudrun Jensen, Operations Services Division Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department, together with the on table correspondence, providing further information on the implications of a tobacco smoking policy within Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.
Discussion ensued on the following:
- The implications regarding the designation of smoking versus non-smoking areas.
- The role and scope of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks with regards to the promotion of healthy lifestyles for the region.
- Enforceability of ban and policy implementation strategies.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Board prohibit smoking in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks effective January 12, 2012.  
DEFEATED

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Board prohibit smoking in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks except for those areas designated as smoking areas, effective January 1, 2012.  
CARRIED

Director Stewart absent at vote.

5.3 **Proposal to Co-host the 2013 Special Park Districts Forum**
Report dated August 15, 2011 from Stephen Suddes, Public Programs and Community Development Division Manager, Regional Parks Department, seeking approval for Metro Vancouver to co-host the 2013 Special Parks District Forum with the Capital Regional District.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Board grant approval to co-host with the Capital Regional District the 2013 Special Park District Forum.  
CARRIED

5.4 **Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Fees and Charges Amending Bylaw Number 1149, 2011**
Report dated August 15, 2011 from Stephen Suddes, Public Programs and Community Development Division Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks Department, seeking approval for the adjustment of existing regional park fees and charges for 2012, and seeking adoption of Amending Bylaw Number 1149, 2011.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Board:

a) approve proposed amendments to Regional Park fees and charges for 2011, as outlined in the report titled “Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Fees and Charges Amending Bylaw Number 1149, 2011”;

b) give leave to introduce Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Fees and Charges Amending Bylaw Number 1149, 2011 and that it be read a first, second and third time; and

c) reconsider, pass and finally adopt Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Fees and Charges Amending Bylaw Number 1149, 2011.  
CARRIED
5.5 Manager’s Report
Report dated August 22, 2011 from Mitch Sokalski, Acting Parks Manager, Regional Parks Department, providing the committee with information regarding the Experience the Fraser Project progress report, Aldergrove Lake Regional Park Management Plan Open House results, Colony Farm Transportation Investment Corporation Habitat Enhancement Project, Colony Farm Park Plan and Academy for Sustainable Food Production, Upcoming Forums Involving Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society, Update on Enhanced Services and the Park Committee 2011 Workplan.

Members were also informed that Metro Vancouver Regional Parks had successfully completed the purchase of the Carvolth Schoolhouse as an addition to Campbell Valley Regional Park. In addition, preliminary trends were discussed regarding the ongoing vending machine beverage pilot project and two iPhone applications featuring Regional Parks programs.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Parks Committee receive for information the report dated August 22, 2011 titled “Manager’s Report”.

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Correspondence
6.2 Special Events

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Parks Committee receive the following items for information:
6.1 Correspondence
6.2 Special Events

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS
No items presented.

8. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Parks Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for September 7, 2011 pursuant to the Community Charter provisions, Section 90 (1) (e) as follows:

“90 (1) A part of a committee 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
9. ADJOURNMENT

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**
That the Parks Committee conclude its regular meeting of Wednesday, September 7, 2011.  

**CARRIED**  
(Time: 11:25 a.m.)

___________________________ ________________________
Ann Marie Lanz Gayle Martin, Chair
Assistant to Regional Committees

5420945 FINAL
REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF
To: Parks Committee

From: Gaëtan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks

Date: September 26, 2011

Subject: 2012 Programs and Priorities of Parks Committee

Recommendation:

That the Parks Committee endorse the proposed programs and priorities as outlined in the report dated September 23, 2011, titled “2012 Programs and Priorities of Park Committee”, as the basis for the budget to be considered at the Board budget workshop scheduled for October 19, 2011.

1. PURPOSE

To present the 2012 programs and priorities under the purview of the Parks Committee for discussion and/or amendment for Board consideration at the Board budget workshop.

2. CONTEXT

The current phase of the budget process is a review of the 2012 programs and priorities by all Metro Vancouver Committees. This submission is based on broad Board objectives and approved Board plans. A thorough annual Administrative Review was completed in September. All proposed program costs were examined in detail including priorities, phased out, or cancelled programs. The review assessed the appropriate staff complement within the context of the principles and priorities contained in the Sustainability Framework as approved by the Board. Deliberations on all Metro Vancouver budgets will be the subject of the Finance Committee meeting and the Board Workshop, both scheduled in October.

3. DISCUSSION

Programs and priorities for the Parks Committee include:

- Strategic priorities and related implementation priorities (in other words those actions that are important elements for implementation of the Board's strategic priorities).
- Operational priorities (those priorities that are important to Parks operations).
- Longer term priorities.

Working in partnership, Metro Vancouver acquires and cares for a diverse range of conservation and outdoor recreation lands in regional parks and greenways that are much valued by residents and visitors to our region.
2011 Accomplishments

The Metro Vancouver Regional Parks team:
- Attracts nearly 10 million visits to its regional parks and greenways annually;
- Manages 13,800 hectares of park land;
- Operate and maintains over $125 million of park facilities;
- Delivers education, interpretation and special events to 39,700 people per year;
- Offers web-based services that draw 30,000 page visits/views per month;
- Books commercial filming and watershed tours serving 19,500 people per year;
- Administers filming for 80+ productions (to date) of which 32 were in regional parks;
- Provides facilities for private group events serving 111,500 people annually;
- Engages hundreds of partners and volunteers; and
- Helped Pacific Parklands Foundation generate $3.2 million in non-tax revenue in past decade and $311,000 to end Sept. 2011 (additional $350,000 expected by year end).

The Parks Committee can take pride in having completed an extremely productive year. The Committee contributed to several corporate plans, such as the Ecological Health Action Plan, and made significant progress with the Regional Parks Plan, Experience the Fraser Draft Concept Plan, Colony Farm Sustainability Plan and the region-wide Outdoor Recreation Demand, Supply and Trends Study. This suite of plans builds a solid foundation for profound and tangible improvements to take place over the next few years.

The Parks Committee also steered staff efforts in strategic land acquisitions to expand our Regional Parks and supported a series of much needed capital investments to meet the increasing demands of our growing population. Projects such as the Tynehead Perimeter Trail, the new Meunch Bar day-use area, and new trails at Derby Reach, Seymour Valley and Campbell Valley will provide decades of enjoyment for nearly 10 million park patrons.

Finally, the Parks Committee and staff have to be recognized for their ability to keep community associations and stewardship groups fully engaged in supporting our programs, events and maintenance activities, thus leveraging thousands of hours of community work from hundreds of volunteers in all parts of the region.

Other strategic and operational accomplishments for 2011 are listed at Attachment 1.

3.1 Strategic Priorities and Related Initiatives

This section is structured to match the four goals of the Regional Parks Plan. Although the RPP is not yet approved (see item 5.3 in this agenda package), it is essentially an update of the existing Regional Parks & Greenways Plan adopted in 2005. Strategic priorities for 2012 will help Metro Vancouver implement the four goals of the Regional Parks Plan as follows:

Goal 1. Promote Ecological Health
- Acquire or partner to protect significant wetlands parcels to support Sustainable Region Initiative goal of protecting all wetlands by 2015.
- Complete sensitive ecosystem inventory maps for the region, create a catalogue of habitats and corridors with high ecological value and share this information with other governments and agencies to assist in their ecosystem protection initiatives.

Goal 2. Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness
- Develop a detailed Implementation Plan for the new Regional Parks Plan.
- Advance major plans including:
• Parks Canada National Parks Reserve proposal for Crippen Regional Park.
• Colony Farm Sustainability Plan and Academy for Sustainable Food Production.
• Sumas Regional Park Plan in partnership with FVRD.
• Aldergrove Lake, Matsqui Trail and Barnston Island Management Plans.
• Experience The Fraser (ETF) Implementation Plan.

Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships
• Develop programs to support Metro Vancouver’s food strategy.
• Continue expansion of new media and IT to reach and engage more park users.
• Work with KEEPS and DFO Partners to re-develop the Kanaka Creek Hatchery.

Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities
• Create an inventory of disturbed and non-environmentally sensitive lands within parks and assess their suitability for potential development of revenue opportunities.
• Develop a list of potential revenue generation opportunities and assess their suitability.

Additional details are found in Attachment 2.

Ongoing operation and maintenance of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks form an important part of the annual work program. Although the Committee is normally focused on the development of new park plans, consideration of new initiatives and implementation of new policies, ongoing operations consume a significant portion of Metro Vancouver’s budget and the bulk of the resources allocated to the Parks function. Programs are structured to achieve excellence in the delivery of the following operational priorities:
1. Keep Parks Safe, Clean & Accessible
2. Offer Outdoor Recreation, Education, Entertainment & Involvement
3. Conserve Species, Habitat and Ecosystems
4. Conserve & Develop Economic Capital

Additional details are found in Attachment 3.

3.2 Financial Implications

The Parks programs are deeply affected by continuing expansion of the park system. Land acquisitions add to the inventory of lands, forests and water under our stewardship. New trails and opening of new lands for public use expose areas formerly held in reserve. Well-documented community needs place additional pressure on existing Parks programs. New public amenities add to the department’s existing workload and drive costs upward. Given Metro Vancouver’s growing population and increasingly litigious society, risks and liability associated with public access also increase. Documenting our due diligence in maintaining assets and investigating incidents require more time and oversight. New policies, whether to control dogs, recycling or smoking, place new demands on parks staff.

3.3 Communication and Outreach

It is anticipated that several Metro Vancouver Parks initiatives will require significant communication and outreach support to implement major plans. These include the Regional Parks Implementation Plan, Enhanced Park Services and the new tobacco smoking policy for Regional Parks, endorsed by the Board in September 2012.
3.4 Program Summaries

Complete program descriptions and level of resources are summarized in the Grey book. Attachment 4 provides the Program Summaries under the purview of this Committee.

4. CONCLUSION

The programs and priorities presented in this report will be the foundation for the program budgets for 2012. While adjustments can be made throughout 2012, as circumstances change, it is important to note that the expansion of the scope of any program subsequent to adoption of the budget could only be made if corresponding re-allocations can be made from programs elsewhere within the same overall function.

Attachments:
1. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Key Strategic and Operational Priority Accomplishments in 2011
2. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks 2012 Strategic Priorities and Related Initiatives
3. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks 2012 Operational Priorities and Future Directions
4. Program Summaries for Parks Committee
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Key Strategic Priority Accomplishments in 2011

1. Completed the 2011 Regional Parks Plan update.
2. Developed an Ecological Health Action Plan for Metro Vancouver.
3. Provided a West Nile Virus coordination service to member municipalities, helping with program implementation, liaison with health authorities, mosquito control on public lands and data management.
4. Convened a Sumas Mountain Interregional Park working group to establish guiding principles and terms of reference for a potential Interregional Park.
5. Completed construction of the ETF demonstration project.
6. Completed demolition and site rehabilitation of Aldergrove Lake swimming facility.
7. Completed site survey and preliminary design at Surrey Bend.
8. Updated Colony Farm Sustainability Plan, developed phased implementation approach, started public consultation program.
9. Confirmed Centennial Beach Site Plan with Corporation of Delta, allowing 2012 redevelopment construction to proceed.
10. Finalized an approach to assess the environmental sensitivity of parkland allowing for the creation of mapped sensitivity zones in parks. Completed the analysis at Aldergrove Lake, Campbell Valley and Capilano River Regional Parks.
11. Completed phase I of an Outdoor Recreation Demand, Supply and Trends Study and initiated phase II to create an inventory of outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities offered by municipal, provincial and private partners across the region.
12. Completed a preliminary inventory of endangered wetlands in the region with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment and Ducks Unlimited Canada, and informed the park committee about regional trends in wetland conversion [loss study] and prioritization.
13. Supported the development of the Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre project to replace and expand the aged Bell-Irving Hatchery and build on the educational and stewardship programs and initiatives offered from this base in partnership with the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.
14. Developed tobacco smoking in parks policy.
15. Installed web cams featuring nesting barn owls and offered live internet video access.
16. Continued production of new media, producing park profiles and special features.
17. Hosted a nationally-profiled event to launch the Robert Bateman Get to Know 2012 art calendar and writing contest; the event was streamed live as webinar.
18. Initiated enhanced park services projects including automated vending, dog obedience classes and a new iParks Navigator application available on a fee per download basis.
Key Operational Priority Accomplishments in 2011

1. Commenced operations at new public facilities and new or newly operationalized land at Aldergrove Lake, Barnston Island, Campbell Valley, Derby Reach, Delta South Surrey Greenway, Kanaka Creek, Matsqui Trail and Tynehead.
2. Converted 13 rental properties to park use and programming.
3. Opened Tynehead Perimeter Trail, picnic area and improved dog leash-optional area.
4. Opened new Meunch Bar Day-use area and new trail in Derby Reach’s west-end lands.
5. Opened new section of Campbell Valley Perimeter Trail and lands accessed by the new route.
6. Completed the development of 1.5 km section of the Seymour River Greenway in partnership with the District of North Vancouver, the Province, and Capilano University.
7. Executed new 20-year lease with Corporation of Delta for Centennial Beach.
8. Completed design, awarded tender and commenced construction of the new washroom/concession building for Centennial Beach.
9. In partnership with Delta, completed Phase 1 study on the BBECA East-West ditch drainage plan to mitigate South Fraser Perimeter road construction impacts.
10. Completed building design and landscape plans for new Wreck Beach toilets.
11. Completed trail surfacing of the Olund Trail Corridor through Matsqui First Nation while creating employment opportunity for MFN.
12. Completed significant flooding site clean-up at Matsqui Trail.
13. Initiated pilots at several sites (Capilano River) to test feasibility of dog waste management strategies.
15. Rebuilt and opened fire-damaged Cleveland Dam public washroom building.
16. Introduced improved beach maintenance and cleaning program at White Pine Beach including purchasing specialized equipment for beach sand cleaning.
17. Increased water-based operations along Fraser River park lands.
18. Mapped sensitive and important ecosystems throughout the region to input to the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory and associated analysis.
19. Completed extensive review and data collection to produce new emergency maps.
20. Designed and implemented a data collection and management system to support the Invasive Plant Management Program.
21. Updated Wildfire Risk Management System risk maps, distributed the information and trained operations staff on impacts and expected behaviours.
22. Documented the implementation strategy, planned, equipped and established a Parks Departmental Operations Centre as required in Parks Departmental Emergency Plan.
23. Established the Parks Respiratory Protection Program to address field risks, particularly for supporting extraction system installations in workshops.
24. Completed hazardous materials assessments on all non-heritage Parks rental houses and added the date to the asbestos inventory as required by regulation.
25. Implemented a Bylaw Ticket Management System.
26. Developed and implemented a case file management system integrated with the Bylaw Ticket Management System, to support Parks Public Regulatory Compliance program.
27. Completed Heritage Apple Orchard with Derby/Brae Island Parks Association including tree planting, plaque, interpretive panel and Royal Engineer Self-guiding brochure.
28. Helped volunteers plant 3,000 native plants along the new Tynehead Perimeter Trail.
29. Supported Vancouver Avian Research Center volunteers in bird banding and monitoring program at Colony Farm.
30. Supported Park Partnership associations programs at Burnaby Lake (nest box cleaning, Weedbusters, Western Painted turtle monitoring)
31. Supported Minnekhada events (Art in the Park event, Heritage Sunday Open House).
32. Hosted tour for 2011 Celebrating Partners.
33. Completed the placement and official openings of the Catch the Spirit Youth Society and BC Mobility Opportunity Society trailers at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.
34. Hosted a special 2-day workshop for regional park managers from across British Columbia, in conjunction with the BC Recreation and Park Association (BCRPA).
35. Enhanced fish rearing habitat in Aldergrove Lake’s Tanaka Creek in a high profile location as a public demonstration and educational project.
36. Treated invasive species including knotweed at several parks.
37. Extended the contract with Ecosystem Restoration Associates and planted 12,000 trees.
38. Completed first phase of eco-hydrology study at Surrey Bend.
39. Completed license agreement with Transportation Investment Corporation (Port Mann highway #1 project) to build, monitor and maintain $3M project to create fish habitat at Colony Farm. Initiated construction.
40. Completed Ramsar application for Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area as part of a larger ecological area of wetlands including Boundary Bay, Sturgeon Bank, South Arm marshes and Roberts Bank in cooperation with Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, including Delta.
41. Initiated scientific research program at Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area.
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
2012 Strategic Priorities and Related Initiatives

Promote Ecological Health
- Acquire or partner to protect significant wetlands parcels to support SRI goal of protecting all wetlands by 2015.
- Complete sensitive ecosystem inventory maps for the region, create a catalogue of habitats and corridors with high ecological value and share this information with other governments and agencies to assist in their ecosystem protection initiatives.

Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness
- Develop a detailed Implementation Plan for the new Regional Parks Plan.
- Assess and respond to Parks Canada National Parks Reserve feasibility study for Crippen Regional Park.
- Complete Colony Farm Sustainability Plan, including the Academy for Sustainable Food Production.
- Establish an incubator farm at Colony Farm.
- Develop Sumas Regional Park Plan in partnership with FVRD.
- Complete Aldergrove Lake, Matsqui Trail and Barnston Island Management Plans.
- Complete regional outdoor recreation gap analysis to determine gaps, strengths, and opportunities in the region; share with municipal parks organizations.
- Complete the Experience The Fraser (ETF) Implementation Plan.
- Complete construction of new gravel parking lot in Derby Reach to support TCT and ETF Demonstration project use.
- Seek opportunities to support the ETF Project and create partnerships to make acquisitions and initiate projects if feasible.
- On a willing seller basis, acquire lands identified as needed to complete existing park sites (known as park land deficiencies).
- Conduct in-park recreation use and satisfaction survey.
- Construct Wreck Beach washroom facilities in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.
- Undertake phase 2 implementation of Centennial Beach redevelopment.
- Complete facility assessment and finalize replacement strategies for the redevelopment of Camp Capilano, including investigations of management, operating and funding options; building & site programming; and alternative site assessments.

Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships
- Develop agricultural land use policy for regional park land.
- Respond to corporate food strategy and support public education regarding the regional food system.
- Continue expansion of new media and IT to reach and engage more park users.
- Work with KEEPS and DFO Partners to re-develop the Kanaka Creek Hatchery.
- Provide $500K seed funding for Kanaka Watershed Stewardship Centre and substantially complete construction works by end of year. Complete associated operating agreements.
- Initiate plans to co-host 2013 Special Parks District Forum with Capital Regional District.
• Complete Park partnership framework document to guide and direct the development and operation of the MV Park Partnership Program, and prioritize deliverables.

Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities
• Continue enhanced park service initiatives started in 2011.
• Create an inventory of disturbed and non-environmentally sensitive lands within parks and assess their suitability for potential development of revenue opportunities.
• Develop a list of potential revenue generation opportunities and assess their suitability.
• Continue to develop innovative programs and new revenue streams in efforts to reduce the portion of the budget that is supported by the levy.
• Complete study and present final report with recommendations for the long-term management of the filming program.
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
2012 Operational Priorities and Future Directions

2012 Operational Priorities

1. Keep Parks Safe, Clean & Accessible

1.1 Operate and maintain parks:

- Implement new operations at:
  - Campbell Valley, Derby Reach & Tynehead trails.
  - Former rental lands at ALD (36ha), Campbell Valley, Kanaka Creek, Tynehead (110ha).
  - Centennial Beach concession building.
  - Fraser River marine operations at Derby Reach, Kanaka Creek, Matsqui Trail.

- Complete facility upgrades & improvements:
  - accessibility functions at most parks.
  - trails at Belcarra, Brunette Fraser Greenway, Burnaby Lake, Campbell Valley, Derby Reach, Glen Valley, Kanaka Creek, Pacific Spirit.

- Develop operational plan for toilets at Wreck Beach in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

- Complete transition to municipal water system for potable water at Belcarra Picnic Area and White Pine Beach and implement separate water system for flush toilets.

- Implement Colony Farm operational response to TI Corporation habitat project, including liaison during construction; communications with public and TI Corp, inspections, pump house, drainage changes and monitoring.

- Complete Deas Slough float and ramp design/repair.

- Develop a funding strategy for Crippen heritage cottage restoration.

- Repair Aldergrove Lake barns in farming license operations.

- Implement a Parks asset management system.

- Complete in-depth review and gap analysis of Parks departmental and site emergency plans; update & complete plans accordingly.

- Complete fire safety plans for Minnekhada Lodge, Cammidge House, Inverholme Schoolhouse and BC Mills House.

- Develop a Parks risk management program to identify risk tolerances, and train park staff in compliance with Occupier’s Liability Act obligations.

- Develop a repeatable operational audit to measure performance and enhance continual improvement of customer service.

- Complete condition assessments (building, water & septic systems) of 11 heritage houses used as rentals.

1.2 Provide facilities and infrastructure:

- Complete redevelopment of the Centennial Beach area of Boundary Bay, including group picnic facilities, pond enhancements, facilities for beach and picnic activities and landscaping.

- Facilitate major capital project at Mission Bridge area of Matsqui Trail Regional Park.

- Construct 500m extension of Campbell Valley Perimeter Trail.

- Replace Derby Reach toilets in Edge Bar day-use area.
- Replace in-park signs and kiosks to new Metro Vancouver standards.
- Identify designated smoking areas and install associated signage.

1.3. Operate a bylaw compliance program:
- Implement a system-wide dog management program, focusing on internal and external messaging.
- Review, update & amend or replace Parks Regulation Bylaw 1048, Ticket Utilization Bylaw 1050 & Bylaw Notice Bylaw 1117.

2. Offer Outdoor Recreation, Education, Entertainment & Involvement
- Pilot Barn Owl Webinar with elementary schools.
- Complete the implementation of an online booking and program registration system.
- Facilitate one pilot partnered youth program in Township of Langley/Abbotsford.
- Implement 2011 Forum review recommendations to meet system levels needs, identified by Park Partners.
- In partnership with Park Partners and PPF, host Ideas Fair and Parksfest celebration and training events. Develop program and host Celebrating Partnerships event.
- Deliver new program at Boundary Bay Regional Park, co-planned and delivered with Boundary Bay Cammidge House Group, Delta BC Nature and Bird Studies Canada.
- Develop Deas Island historical attributes QR-code project, including self-guided interpretive signs, QR code decals, and associated on-line media.
- Facilitate Cammidge House Committee/Boundary Bay Regional Park Volunteers collection of project for Cammidge House Grounds Concept plan.
- Explore greater involvement of Burnaby Lake Partner Association volunteers with lake clean-up events & turtle monitoring.
- Formalize invasive species control and Minnekhada Lodge landscape maintenance program with Minnekhada Park Association volunteers.
- Explore with Minnekhada Park Association a celebration of “100 years of the name Minnekhada”.
- Facilitate capacity building of KEEPS to transition from working to governing board.
- Capilano River Regional Park Dog Management program, implement dog management strategy based upon 2011 pilot program and Park Committee direction
- Deas Island Regional Park, Implement and monitor new license agreement with Delta Deas Rowing Club

3. Conserve Species, Habitat and Ecosystems
- Investigate pesticide-free invasive management methods.
- Implement integrated pest management program for invasive plant species.
- Treat knotweed in 6 regional parks and continue to map existing and new infestations.
- Complete habitat restoration projects in 5 regional parks.
- Complete planting with Ecosystem Restoration Associates and plant up to 40,000 trees.
- Continue beaver management programs.
- Develop best management practices for trail placement, construction and management for Regional Parks.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program to assess environmental impacts of off-leash dogs and mitigation options.
- Monitor Colony Farm fish habitat compensation project developed by TI Corp and coordinate public communication about progress and results.
• Develop and implement restoration plans for former rental properties at Tynehead Regional Park and restoration plan for Perimeter Trail.
• Multidisciplinary geo-referenced database for Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area.
• Participate with Ducks Unlimited in developing strategies for water level management at Minnekhada Marsh.

4. Conserve & Develop Economic Capital
• Complete final selection of food and retail concession operators for new Boundary Bay facility and ensure full operation in time for visitor season.

Future Directions

1. Promote Ecological Health
• Develop and implement best management practices to protect species, habitats and ecosystems.
• Complete mapping environmental sensitivity in all regional parks.

2. Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness
• Implement priority projects and actions identified in the Concept Plan for “Experience the Fraser”.

3. Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships
• Integrate a new Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre into education programs.
• Develop kiosks, displays, interpretive signs to inform park users about the region's natural and cultural heritage as represented by the resources in regional parks.
• Provide interpretive messaging using hand held electronic devices in parks and emerging media such as apps, blogs, podcasts & social networking sites.

4. Operate and Maintain Parks
• Identify and implement procedures that reduce and/or eliminate the use of pesticides and chemicals.
• Identify and implement procedures that reduce energy and materials consumption, and reduce/offset carbon and GHG emissions.
• Identify new skill sets required to manage and operate the regional park system in an increasingly complex and challenging urban environment.
• Continue to map geographic data related to natural assets, built assets and visitor use to provide analytical, tracking and modeling capability that assist park management.
• Review the long term future of rental properties in parks and provide a business case for repair, maintenance and demolition decisions.
• Develop a long term strategy to maintain all heritage buildings in regional parks.
Parks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2011 Budget</th>
<th>2012 Budget</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Current Staffing</th>
<th>Staffing Changes</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>10,270,898</td>
<td>$ 10,942,515</td>
<td>$ 671,617</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labour inflation and $300k for replacing signage</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Services</td>
<td>1,756,540</td>
<td>1,782,061</td>
<td>25,521</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Administration</td>
<td>$ 1,642,993</td>
<td>1,668,966</td>
<td>25,973</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Services</td>
<td>1,565,796</td>
<td>1,422,152</td>
<td>(143,644)</td>
<td>(9.2)%</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Reduction of two temporary staff positions from 2011</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Research</td>
<td>1,179,149</td>
<td>1,111,329</td>
<td>(67,820)</td>
<td>(5.8)%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Reduction of one temporary staff position from 2011</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Services</td>
<td>687,032</td>
<td>688,507</td>
<td>1,475</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Labour inflation offset slightly by reduction in consulting from 2011</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Planning</td>
<td>538,977</td>
<td>445,593</td>
<td>(93,384)</td>
<td>(17.3)%</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Reduction in consulting from 2011</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>432,420</td>
<td>437,661</td>
<td>5,242</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Program</td>
<td>453,588</td>
<td>402,085</td>
<td>(51,503)</td>
<td>(11.4)%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Lower maintenance costs due to a reduction in rental house inventory</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Resource Management</td>
<td>411,772</td>
<td>395,774</td>
<td>(15,998)</td>
<td>(3.9)%</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Reduction in consulting from 2011</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Generation</td>
<td>290,958</td>
<td>292,693</td>
<td>1,735</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance-Burns Bog Eco Conservancy</td>
<td>239,976</td>
<td>243,194</td>
<td>3,218</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Control</td>
<td>132,575</td>
<td>138,258</td>
<td>5,683</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Labour inflation</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Services</td>
<td>219,002</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(219,002)</td>
<td>(100.0)%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Program amalgamated into one for Planning, Environment and Parks - Department Support</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Metro Vancouver
**2012 Draft Budget**
**Parks Committee - 2012 Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2011 Budget</th>
<th>2012 Budget</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Current Staffing</th>
<th>Staffing Changes</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Office Administration</td>
<td>332,134</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(332,134)</td>
<td>(100.0)%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Program amalgamated into one for Planning, Environment and Parks - Administration</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Facilities-Capital</td>
<td>3,763,000</td>
<td>3,978,500</td>
<td>215,500</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capital programs comprise annual requirements included in the Parks long range capital plan.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Replacement - Capital</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
<td>(5.9)%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capital programs comprise annual requirements included in the Parks long range capital plan.</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Parkland Acquisition Fund - Capital</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capital programs comprise annual requirements included in the Parks long range capital plan.</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Capital - Parks</td>
<td>6,867,735</td>
<td>7,499,203</td>
<td>1,080,038</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More funding required to complete capital work as part of the management plan</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Program-Parks</td>
<td>1,148,562</td>
<td>565,524</td>
<td>(583,038)</td>
<td>(50.8)%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Two debt issues maturing</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parks, Electoral Area, Environment & Energy, Regional Planning and Waste Management Committees:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2011 Budget</th>
<th>2012 Budget</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Current Staffing</th>
<th>Staffing Changes</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Environment and Parks-Department Support</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>730,086</td>
<td>730,086</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amalgamation of budget for new department</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Environment and Parks-Administration</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>351,096</td>
<td>351,096</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amalgamation of budget for new department</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Program: Parks-Operations & Maintenance

**Department:** Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks

**Committee:** Parks

#### Description
Supervise and maintain public facilities, infrastructure, trails; organise public, group use; provide on-site PR, information, education, patrols, visitor security; monitor land-banked & conservation sites; enforce bylaws, regulations; assess risks, manage occupier liability; coordinate emergency response; respond to natural resource/property threats; maintain a safe work environment, provide effective supervision of staff, volunteers, caretakers, partners, contractors; ensure adequate staff training/development; ensure decentralized field delivery consistent with standards, policies, priorities; deliver long-term operational planning, budgeting, policy needs; supplement capital development program with skilled labour, supervision of work crews and contractors.

#### Purpose
Provides supervision, staff, supplies, services for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of Parks' sites, facilities, activities, resources; and long-term operations planning.

#### Outputs
- Enthusiastically serving the region by operating and maintaining 32 regional park, greenway, reserve and ecological conservancy area sites, over 13,800 hectares, pursuing best management practices to conserve natural capital while providing exemplary parks services to the public.

#### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Implement new operations added for 2012 at:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sumas lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Campbell Valley, Derby Reach &amp; Tynehead trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Operationalized former rental lands at ALD (90 acres), Campbell Valley, Kanaka Creek, Tynehead (110ha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Boundary Bay interface with new concession building &amp; operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fraser River marine operations at Derby Reach, Kanaka Creek, Malsqui Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Complete facility upgrades &amp; improvements:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• accessibility functions at most parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• trails at Belcarra, Brunette Fraser Greenway, Burnaby Lake, Campbell Valley, Derby Reach, Glen Valley, Kanaka Creek, Pacific Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Deas Island slough ramp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pacific Spirit Wreck Beach toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Belcarra municipal potable water &amp; separate flush toilet systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Serve over 9.2 million visitors annually in day visits, group use, overnight camping, special events and interpretive programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2012</td>
<td>Implement dog management program at Capilano River.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implement system-wide dog management approach, focussing on internal and external messaging.

Partner with:
- Coquitlam re Minnekhada bear management
- Ducks Unlimited re Minnekhada marsh water level regime
- Ridge Meadows Parks/Leisure & Trails BC re Pitt River Greenway signage

Work with community partners to achieve mutual conservation, recreation and education goals.

9/27/2011 2:06:02PM
Outcomes
Decentralized field delivery of park services is consistent with and demonstrates Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework values, policies & aspirations.

Using best management practices and a total systems approach, protects ecosystems and land in our stewardship while delivering to the public well-maintained and accessible parks and facilities, operated with minimum risk to people, facilities and land every day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program: Parks-Operations &amp; Maintenance</th>
<th>Operating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee: Parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2012 Staffing

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
<td>49.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>37.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Staffing (FTE):** 89.45

### Total Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Belcarra Park</td>
<td>$1,056,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Brunette Fraser Greenway</td>
<td>$167,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Burnaby Lake Park</td>
<td>$427,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Colony Farm Park</td>
<td>$346,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-General Costs</td>
<td>$253,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Minnekhada Park</td>
<td>$394,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Surrey Bend Park</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Thwaytes Landing Recreation Area</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Tynehead Park</td>
<td>$428,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-Central-Widgeon Marsh Park</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Aldergrove Lake Park</td>
<td>$471,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Blaney Bog</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Brae Island Park</td>
<td>$111,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Campbell Valley Park</td>
<td>$624,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Codd Wetlands</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Derby Reach Park</td>
<td>$597,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-General Costs</td>
<td>$394,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Glen Valley Park</td>
<td>$73,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Grant Narrows Park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Kanaka Creek Park</td>
<td>$542,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Matsqui Trail Park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Pitt River Greenway</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-Sumas Mountain Park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-East-West Creek Wetlands</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Boundary Bay Park</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Capilano River Park</td>
<td>$701,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Crippen Park</td>
<td>$330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Deas Island Park</td>
<td>$385,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Delta Airpark</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-General Costs</td>
<td>$303,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Iona Beach Park</td>
<td>$188,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Lynn Headwaters Park</td>
<td>$363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-O&amp;M-West-Pacific Spirit Park</td>
<td>$1,333,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Expenditure: $10,943,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program:</th>
<th>Parks-Visitor Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee:</td>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

The Visitor Services program delivers a number of highly visible, integrated public services which are key in communicating important messages for Metro Vancouver’s sustainability framework. Emphasis is placed on themes associated with ecological health, biodiversity, protection of species. Important services include interpretation programs for the public, curriculum-based programming to schools and educators, park information services, registration services for programs and facility rentals, fee collection and special events. A variety of techniques are used including personal contact, publications, displays and new media. Interpretation programs inspire residents of the region to learn about Metro Vancouver -- its mission, mandate, values and principles as outlined in the sustainability framework. Programs encourage awareness of ecological health, stewardship, environmental citizenship and outdoor recreation in a manner which demonstrates respect for the land, personal responsibility, and is key to achieving a sustainable region. Park information services include basic directional signs, safety signs, park information kiosks and interpretive signs. This program also facilitates program announcements, and coordinates parks input to the corporate program brochure (Check It Out). Other deliverables include maps, brochures and information on services in direct support of visitor enjoyment and appreciation. Facility rentals provide safe, well-maintained facilities; registration helps to ensure equitable access and fee collection provides a revenue stream to offset costs and ensure efficient use of facilities. Visitor Services provides registration services to other departments including O&M (watershed tours) and Corporate Relations (workshop registrations). Special Events are offered as family and community-oriented programs that help to promote values founded in Metro Vancouver’s sustainability framework. Special events are centred on traditional park messaging but also integrate emerging themes such as regional culture, food security, farming, and youth.

**Purpose**

A key driver will be to support the goal of 10 million regional park visitors annually by year-end 2012. Programs are delivered in an integrated way and broaden opportunities for citizen involvement through environmental education, outdoor recreation, stewardship and citizen engagement. Delivery is strategic and reinforces the environmental, social and economic contributions made by Metro Vancouver through its programs.
**Program:** Parks-Visitor Services  
**Department:** Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks  
**Committee:** Parks

### Outputs
Collaboration with other departments and external partners in delivering workshops and training sessions for educators, promoting use of regional parks as venues and as outdoor classrooms; Group programs are targeted to regional educators in all 33 school districts in the region. Content including treatments, scripts and imagery for new / rich media showcasing themes, programs, educational opportunities, features and events at regional parks.

- In-park interpretation-education programs and services delivered for 25,000 people; - Continued operation of four Park Centres and one Nature House with support of volunteers.  
- Provision of outdoor recreation, health and wellness opportunities in regional parks.  
- Special and community events in regional parks attended by 20,000 people. Metro Vancouver is profiled at major community events and festivals throughout the region. Youth are provided with meaningful opportunities for engagement through regional park programming. Openings and ceremonies are held jointly with partners for donor recognition and celebrating key openings.  
- Park entrance signs, directional signs, park kiosks and safety signs are maintained and current, and comply with standards respecting corporate visual identity  
- Quality registration services are provided for Metro Vancouver facilities and services; fees are collected in accordance with bylaws;

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2012</td>
<td>Implement two pilot projects for the delivery of group programming in the context of enhanced services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12/31/2012 | Implement innovative new media integrating web content with rich media (video), social media, and new methods of delivery (QR codes, handheld devices) and at three regional parks.  
Assess effectiveness of smartphone apps (iParks Navigator) released in 2011.  
Rollout smartphone app (iParks Navigator version 2.0) for release early summer 2012. |
| 3/31/2012  | Complete initial planning, agenda and business case for 2013 Special Park District Forum to be held in Metro Vancouver.  
Complete catalogue and design standards for park signs and non-personal media. |
| 7/1/2012   |  
8/31/2012  |  
9/30/2011  |
Outcomes
A range of appropriate services catering to visitor and client needs are provided; park visitors have an increasing range of healthy food choices available from vendors.

Effective delivery of curriculum-based programs and activities related to major themes including biodiversity and ecological health are delivered to students and teachers, and where appropriate offered collaboratively with partners.

Enhanced engagement with community, ethnic & social organizations to expand recreation and wellness opportunities.

Improved health, wellness & social well being of residents & reduce those costs through programming, recreation opportunities & partnerships.

Increased public awareness and enjoyment of participation in, and appropriate behaviour towards the natural environment and heritage resources in the regional parks system and of the role Metro Vancouver plays in providing environmental, social and economic benefits in the region.

Successful delivery of education programs to foster environmental stewardship, personal safety & social responsibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-VisitorServ-Area Interpretation-Central</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-VisitorServ-Area Interpretation-East</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-VisitorServ-Area Interpretation-West</td>
<td>$351,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-VisitorServ-Head Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-VisitorServ-Special Events</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,782,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Program:** Parks-Area Administration  
**Department:** Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks  
**Committee:** Parks

### Description

Regional Parks is structured into three operating areas to facilitate effective integration and implementation of all Parks programs and activities, and provides direct staff liaison with surrounding communities, agencies, municipal staff and park partners. In each of the three operating areas this program is responsible for advising on and implementing corporate and departmental policy, plans, procedures and priorities, developing Area Work Plans, records management, and training and support activities for staff and volunteers. The program ensures Regional Parks' compliance with municipal, provincial and federal regulations. Area Offices also provide meeting, training and work space for the Parks Partnership Program volunteers. Area Office meeting space is also used for staff training, education and instruction. Area Offices serve as park centres providing departmental and corporate information to the public.

### Purpose

This program provides: decentralized administration support, technical/research support, supervision, area wide coordination, planning, and oversee the implementation of all corporate and departmental policy and programs in each of the three operating areas managing 22 Regional Parks, 3 Regional Reserves, 5 Greenways and 2 Ecological Conservancy Areas.

### Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports to Committee and Board; responds to public requests, complaints, and suggestions; provides overall supervision of all park programs and staff within the area and some system-wide coordination responsibilities; ensure compliance with corporate and departmental policy and procedures, records management, operating agreements and permits; full administration support to area staff and volunteers; information to agencies, citizen groups, non-profits, and individuals; timekeeping, budget management and expenditure reports; revenues, collection and deposit from specific facilities or programs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design and implement departmental databases, consistent with corporate direction for public comments, images and mailing lists; and develop associated procedures.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement case file management processes to support the Public Regulatory Compliance Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and evaluate Parks intranet structure and produce recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training to staff for new Human Resources Payroll system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcomes

Through a decentralized point of contact foster and develop active public, agency and private sector involvement for a grouping of Regional Parks, Greenways and ECA's, provide effective administration and supervisory services in the planning and delivery of Corporate and Departmental programs and activities, and provide advice to Committees and Board.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Parks-Area Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th>Total Staffing (FTE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Area Admin-Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Area Admin-East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Area Admin-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Description**

Supports & coordinates decentralized field operations delivery to ensure consistency with program, departmental & corporate standards, policies & priorities; accomplished through a collaborative approach between three decentralized operating areas and Operations Services division; supervises & implements departmental safety program & emergency management planning; oversees public regulatory compliance program; identifies evolving operating issues & coordinates staff & outside experts to resolve; generates long-term operating forecasts for staff and other expenditures, monitors property tax, utility, permit costs & log booming revenues; directs & administers the rental housing portfolio through GVHC; coordinates Parks equipment purchases, vehicle procurement, radio system & insurance. Oversees Parks Duty Officer system.

**Purpose**

Provides a strong central core of products & services geared to identify & implement effective & sustainable parks operations & maintenance approaches which fully support & enhance consistent & coordinated decentralized delivery of field operations services to the public across 3 operating areas. Administers centralized responsibilities such as safety program, emergency management planning, public regulatory compliance, equipment purchases, fleet vehicle requisitions, insurance, legal costs, property costs & revenues, and rental housing management.

**Outputs**

Field operations conducted using Sustainability Framework principles and actions and meeting consistent safety and performance standards in 32 regional park, greenway, reserve & ecological conservancy area sites over 13,800 hectares, serving over 9.2 million visitors annually.

**Milestones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2012</td>
<td>Complete in-depth review and gaps analysis of Parks departmental and site emergency plans; update &amp; complete plans accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Complete fire safety plans for Minnekhada Lodge, Cammidge House, Inverholme Schoolhouse and BC Mills House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/2012</td>
<td>Review, update &amp; amend or replace Parks Regulation Bylaw 1048, Ticket Utilization Bylaw 1050 &amp; Bylaw Notice Bylaw 1117.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2012</td>
<td>Develop a Parks risk management program which identifies risk tolerances, and informs park staff on what actions to take and when, to balance public safety, park enjoyment and resource protection with Occupier's Liability Act compliance obligations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcomes**

High-quality, consistent park services are delivered to the public, and rental assets are well-managed, using a total systems approach for decision-making.

**2012 Staffing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Ops Serv-Department Safety &amp; Emergency Management</td>
<td>$224,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Ops Serv-Equipment</td>
<td>$338,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Ops Serv-Property Costs</td>
<td>$127,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Ops Serv-Public Regulatory Compliance</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks-OpsServ-Operations Coordination</td>
<td>$710,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,423,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description
Planning and Research undertakes long range planning and supportive research for the Parks Division and for the Corporation to identify and respond to outdoor recreation trends, acquiring land for of regional parks, greenways and conservation areas. Planning & Research collects, analyzes and maintains environmental data related to corporate initiatives such as sensitive ecosystem mapping and the protected area network (also called Green Infrastructure Network).

It identifies natural regional features to be protected; develops parks and greenways plans; prepares policy recommendations, resource management prescriptions, mapping and technical support for site management and planning for the park system.

Purpose
To define sustainable system-wide recreation and conservation strategies, policy and program targets and plans to achieve regional parks, regional conservation and greenways objectives, and to provide leadership coordination for overall outdoor recreation & conservation planning in the region.
### Outputs
- Participate in integration of Parks and Greenways with corporate plans and goals
- Provide guiding policy and long range planning for Parks and Greenways system across region
- Analysis and response to supply, demand and trends in outdoor recreation & conservation
- Greenways Planning and partnerships with other agencies to create a network of recreation connections
- Set priorities and create long range strategies to guide land acquisition ensuring conservation of natural capital
- Provide access to accurate data related to Natural and Infrastructure assets
- Maintain systematic approach to collect and manage natural resource information within our Parks and ECAs.
- Applied research and policy reports on natural resource issues, recreation, legislative and conservation issues.

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete the ETF Implementation Plan.</td>
<td>3/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop agricultural land use policy for regional park land; respond to corporate food strategy; parks to support public education re regional food system.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in development of integrated regional strategy to create a Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) to support connectivity for the region.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete remaining classes for sensitive ecosystem inventory and analysis as part of development of Green Infrastructure Network (GIN); protection of wetlands and parks sensitivity zoning.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commence development of a Regional Parks and Greenways Implementation Plan.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct in-park recreation use and satisfaction survey.</td>
<td>10/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete regional outdoor recreation gap analysis to determine gaps and strengths in OR opportunities in the region; share with municipal parks organizations.</td>
<td>7/2/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes
1. Systematic approach to identifying future land and facility requirements to achieve Parks' Open Space goals based on Metro Vancouver's Sustainability Principles.

2. Regionally significant recreation and conservation lands and features are protected, contributing to the natural capital of Metro Vancouver.

3. Reliable resource information provided for land acquisition and operation of a parks and greenways system built on Metro Vancouver Sustainability Principles.

4. Regional coordination for planning and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities that contribute to health and wellness while ensuring the conservation of our ecosystems.

5. Accurate visitor use statistics for planning, operations, and management decision-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>$1,111,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>$1,111,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>$1,111,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description
This program manages Parks built assets, erosion protection measures, dyking systems and slope stability works by providing inspection, design, and project management services as well as delivering operations and maintenance projects. The Parks Capital Replacement and Basic Facilities Capital Programs are also managed through this program.

Purpose
To provide technical expertise for the execution of Parks Capital Replacement and Basic Facilities Programs and to develop an asset management program utilizing the corporate Enterprise Asset Management system, Infor.

Outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prepare engineering reports, studies, project planning and preparation of conceptual through detailed designs incorporating sustainability principles including water management, energy conservation, material reuse and waste management</td>
<td>Implement Infor EAM (currently used by O&amp;M) as the Parks asset management system in 2012. Future applications would include mobile usage throughout our parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Contract preparation and tendering, request proposals for projects requiring specialized expertise, provide inspection services, provide assist Operations staff in technical matters. Obtain approvals from external agencies</td>
<td>10/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manage the Capital Replacement and Basic Facilities Programs, develop and update the Capital Replacement 5 Year Plan, manage water systems and water quality monitoring program.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Manage and maintain inventory database, manage and advance the development of the asset management system in accordance with the corporate Enterprise Asset Management program.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes
The Parks Capital Replacement and Basic Facilities Programs are executed in a sustainable manner that conserves and develops natural, economic and social capital to ensure visitor safety, service level obligations and access to outdoor recreation.
Program: Parks-Engineering Services
Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Committee: Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Engineering Services</td>
<td>$689,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$689,000
Description
Staff manage and coordinate the interpretation of biophysical data and cultural resource information, and utilize site knowledge to determine suitable land use, management, public facility requirements and design within regional parks. Staff work with park partners to help them deliver their programs and projects in a manner consistent with park management plans and operating policies.

Key operating program responsibilities include: preparing park management, concept and site plans; designing formal and informal public consultation processes; resolving public issues; working with community and partner groups; initiating and supporting stewardship projects; facilitating capital projects; developing and coordinating the implementation of agreements; developing and presenting administrative and planning presentations and reports to Park Committee, municipal councils, and other decision-makers and agencies.

Staff evaluate external proposals for park land use. The workload associated with this component is dependent upon the number of unsolicited proposals received. In addition, staff participate in adjacent land use planning initiatives with municipalities and other agencies. Staff manage available resources, supervise specialist contractors and consultants, consult on plans and issues, and support partner and non-profit group projects and processes. Grant funding is secured in collaboration with non-profit groups and other agencies to provide new facilities, environmental enhancement, events and other activities within parks. Staff participate actively in departmental policy development. Staff support park operations, and partners, volunteers and fund raising in a variety of ways.

Purpose
Within the framework provided by corporate and departmental policies, to provide planning for land use, stewardship, and facility design and capital projects in 32 park and reserve sites and greenways striving to balance the needs of the people and communities served with environmental conservation and financial sustainability. To ensure public involvement and collaboration in park planning and decision making and park projects.

Outputs
Annual outputs include: one to three park management plans underway at one time with adoption of approximately one plan every year; design and specifications for park projects and capital projects, assessment of external project proposals, participation in major corporate, departmental, municipal and senior government planning initiatives affecting parks, planning assistance consultation and guidelines for capital projects, planning assistance to park operations, park associations, partners, licensees and volunteers, coordinate and keep up to date a variety of license and legal agreements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Aldergrove Lake and Barnston Island Management Plans</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Colony Farm Sustainability Plan, including the Academy for Sustainable Food Production</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete design for Centennial Beach upgrades at Boundary Bay, for facilities at Surrey Bend, and Mission Bridge area at Matsqui Trail</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiate planning for redevelopment of Camp Capilano</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiate visionary Sumas Regional Park Plan and Master Development Plan with FVRD.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish incubator farm at Colony Farm.</td>
<td>4/12/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes
Park plans guide site management and decision making.
Park visitors provided with well designed, safe and long lasting facilities which incorporate sustainable elements; park land is protected and enhanced; community satisfaction and engagement maintained through inclusive processes.
Resolution of competing demands achieved in a fair and inclusive way. Member municipalities served and engaged. Municipal, private and non profit group requests for use of park land or projects that affect park land evaluated in a timely fashion.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program:</td>
<td>Parks-Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee:</td>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

The program uses a community development approach to conserve and build social capital and to facilitate meaningful and enduring citizen engagement in how regional parks are cared for, used and protected. This program facilitates the development of community-based park associations and develops partnerships in park related projects and strategic initiatives on a region-wide basis; strengthening links with other societies, associations, community groups and volunteers to encourage and enable people of all ages, interests and abilities to support and participate in Regional Parks. The program provides coordination, strategic direction and supports major project implementation.

**Purpose**

To provide and support opportunities for meaningful citizen engagement in Regional Parks. Through a community development approach this program ensures social, environmental and economic sustainability objectives are achieved through citizen engagement and partnership in planning, management and implementation of stewardship, conservation, educational and recreational activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program:</th>
<th>Parks-Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee:</td>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outputs

**Program Development** - Develop and application of Park Partnership program vision, mission and principles, core program documents and instruments including agreements, grants to external organizations such as Park Associations, Catching the Spirit Youth Society; and forming strategic partnerships.

**Capacity Building** - education, training, workshops and coaching staff and partners.

**Communication** - Communication and dissemination of core corporate, department and program messages; partner and volunteer print and web-based media, articles, presentations and displays are facilitated and coordinated. Relevant program articles, presentations, reports are prepared and shared. Park Partner website, newsletter, are supported and updated.

**Administration** - budget, records management, policy development, integration of corporate and department policies into program delivery, volunteer data collection.

**Program planning and Implementation** - support Park Associations and partner groups, implementation of park projects and initiatives, outreach and links between groups, committees and working groups.

### Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Park partnership framework document to guide and direct the development and operation of the MV Park Partnership Program, and prioritize deliverables.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define and confirm role and responsibilities of Community Development Coordinators with Pacific Parkland Foundation and Park Planners.</td>
<td>6/29/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and deliver Park Partnership Program training modules for MV Park Staff and potential park partners to ensure program principles and deliverables are fully understood.</td>
<td>9/28/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes
Citizens with the tools and skills working together more effectively and respectfully.

Expanded community commitment and support for regional parks and greenways.

Strong civil society engagement in parks care and decision making; responsible individual behavior in parks; individual and community aspirations are achieved all supportive of the sustainability framework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Partnerships-Central</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-Partnerships-East</td>
<td>$94,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-Partnerships-General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-Partnerships-West</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$437,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 37 residential properties, land-banked for future park use, are rented for income to reduce departmental tax levy until either the land is required for active park use or the building or utility services condition warrant demolition. The housing portfolio is managed by GVHC; directed & administered by Park Operations Services. Using external contractors the program provides consistent repair services at any hour without significantly affecting park operations staffing and union agreements.

Purpose

Produces on-going non-tax revenues to support Parks programs while maintaining rental properties on land banked for future park use.

Outputs

About 37 residential units produce a net income of approximately $77,000.

Outcomes

Through a small portfolio of rental housing, delivers shelter, a non-tax revenue source, security and stewardship of Parks' assets and lands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parks-Rental Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>$402,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$402,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Resource Management Program contributes to the development coordination and implementation of best practices in order to comply with environmental legislation and ensure habitat/species protection. The program also assists to coordinate and conduct research and biophysical assessments of natural assets. Specific resource management issues are assessed and strategies developed to resolve use conflict and protect natural features in a sustainable manner. Local community knowledge, expertise of subject matter experts, park staff and other agencies are used to assist in the development of resource strategies, practices and policies. The Program also responds to external drives such as climate change, regional and municipal planning initiatives, boundary encroachments and partner/public requests for stewardship activities.

**Purpose**

- To assist in developing resource management plans for parks, conservation sites, greenways by providing a local perspective and knowledge;
- To facilitate best practices and permitting in order to comply with environmental legislation;
- To train staff to implement best practices, assist with enhancement projects and management programs in order to achieve planned objectives;
- To provide or oversee the collection of baseline biophysical data in accordance with system standards and priorities for park management and site planning;
- To protect natural resources in parks, conservation and greenway sites in partnership with environmental organizations, educational institutions and agencies to support sustainable land management practices;
- Provide input into educational materials to inform both staff and public regarding natural resources, sensitive areas, species and best practices.

**Outputs**

- Biophysical assessments, policies, guidelines and interpretive information on natural resource, stewardship and recreation management issues.
- Design and management guidelines for facility maintenance, new facilities, and revenue initiatives; best practices and permitting for compliance.
- Habitat enhancement, rehabilitation or creation projects in order to improve overall biodiversity and sustainable carrying capacities.
- Resource management plans for parks, conservation sites and greenways.
- Resource management programs, policies, guidelines and best practices to deal with specific issues for resource protection such as: invasive species control, species at risk protection, old field management, integrated pest management, specific species management (beaver, bats, bears, barn owls).
- Targets and measures for monitoring ecological health and sustainability.

**Milestones**

- Implement the integrated pest management program for invasive plant species. Date: 12/31/2012
- Develop and implement monitoring program to assess environmental impacts of off-leash dogs and mitigation options. Date: 12/31/2012
- Develop best management practices for trail placement, construction and management for Regional Parks. Date: 12/31/2012
- Assess all parks for sensitive ecosystem context and condition as part of the parks environmental sensitivity zoning. Date: 12/31/2012
Program: Parks-Area Resource Management
Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Committee: Parks

Outcomes
A total systems approach to improved inventory and overall resource knowledge of parks, conservation sites and greenways enabling informed decision making.

Captured community resources, creativity and knowledge for park initiatives.

Habitat enhancement, restoration and/or creation.

Improved educational materials and/or programs.

Improved regulatory compliance.

Protection of critical habitats, sensitive areas, species at risk and heritage features.

Quality partnerships with environmental organizations, educational institutions and other agencies.

Special resource management initiatives for habitat types (ponds, wetlands, fields, forests, bogs, riparian areas), specific species (bats, bears, beaver, barn owls) or pests (invasive species, mosquitoes).

Supporting acquisition of habitat and conservation lands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<thead>
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<td>Parks-Area Resource Management-Central</td>
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<td>Parks-Area Resource Management-East</td>
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<td><strong>$395,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Description

Parks and other Metro Vancouver sites, buildings and facilities are rented for film production through the Metro Vancouver Film Coordination Office staffed by Regional Parks and guided by the Metro Vancouver Filming Policy and Regulations. Filming site supervision is contracted out. Costs are recovered from the production companies and revenue is generated from site and facility rental fees. Filming currently provides the major source of business revenue for Regional Parks.

Purpose

To generate reliable non-tax business revenue as part of Parks' resourcing strategy by taking advantage of Parks' physical assets and the business opportunities presented by the rapidly growing film industry in the region.

Outputs

Bookings for filming shoots, revenue from filming. The Metro Vancouver Filming Coordination Office generates an annual summary report, produces the Metro Vancouver Locations For Film Makers electronic "binder", updates and reviews annually the Metro Vancouver Film Policy & Regulations, and develops site procedures and guidelines for filming.

Outcomes

Film production students are sensitized to Metro Vancouver's filming policy and regulations and hopefully go on to be responsible film makers. Revenues from filming at LSCR and corporate locations are returned to those programs. Revenue generated offsets operating costs for the Filming Coordination Office and helps pay for park facilities and services for the public.

Milestones

Based on recommendations of 2011 study into the management of filming in Metro Vancouver assets, provide a final report with recommendations for the long-term management of the filming program.

2012 Staffing

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Total Expenditure

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Revenue Generation</td>
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</table>
This sub-program supports the regional parks O&M activities at Burns Bog, Parcel 2 and the newly opened section of the Delta South Surrey Greenway by providing resources to undertake basic site management activities; patrol to address encroachments, trespass, conduct access orientations, maintain relations with emergency response agencies, liaise with Corporation of Delta and others to ensure SIR activities are consistent with BBECA Management Plan.

Purpose

To provide operation staff, services, materials and supplies for day-to-day operation at BBECA and Delta South Surrey Greenway. All activities at BBECA are guided by the 2007 Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area (BBECA) Management Plan, SAP research program and Delta water regime and fire management plan.

Outputs

This program supports Metro Vancouver activities related to:
Conserving natural capital and the bog's ecological integrity, reducing liability, security, safety, and operations including coordination and documentation of property boundaries, management issues, related public inquiries, commercial neighbours, hunting issues and trespass. Take lead role in the coordination and development of written protocols with Corporation of Delta with current water regime and fire management strategies. Control access for research activities and monitor researchers' in the Bog.

Milestones

Participate in the transfer of Delta Nature Reserve Lands and operating responsibilities 12/31/2012
Provide operating input and monitoring of Gateway's south Fraser Perimeter Road 12/31/2012

Outcomes

Burns Bog's ecological integrity and natural processes are restored and self-sustaining contributing to the natural capital of the region.

2012 Staffing

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Total Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-Operations &amp; Maintenance-Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area</td>
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</table>
Description
The collection and analysis of drinking water and bathing beach samples from Metro Vancouver parks.

Purpose
To provide analytical and field services for monitoring drinking water quality (bacteriology and chemistry) and bathing beach bacteriological quality in Metro Vancouver Parks.

Outputs
Data and reports on the quality of the drinking water samples and bathing beach samples collected in Metro Vancouver parks.

Metro Vancouver laboratories analyzed 996 samples and completed 3,031 tests for the Parks Water monitoring program in 2010.

Outcomes
Drinking water supplies and bathing beach bacteriological water quality in Metro Vancouver parks are monitored on an ongoing basis.

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<td>1.41</td>
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</table>
Program: INACTIVE-Parks-Department Services
Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Committee: Parks

Description
The program provides services that are common to all programs such as department reception, administrative services, procurement of legal, appraisal and Properties services, procurement of hardware and software requirements for the department, and coordination of staff development and training. The program also supports the Park Committee and Parks Management Group, including action item follow-up. Provides departmental direction to the Parks Administration Coordination Group (ACG) for development, coordination and implementation of corporate policies, procedures & processes. Responsible for ongoing communication & liaison with other departments on the implementation of corporate initiatives.

Purpose
The program is service delivery focused and continually seeks to improve work processes to deliver products. The program is accountable for department admin services, Board and Committee support, Corporate Administrative Liaison, Financial Services liaison and supports corporate response to Freedom of Information requests. The program is responsible for development of and on-going review of policies, procedures and standards for administrative and financial business processes to ensure effective implementation and delivery within the decentralized structure of Parks.

Outcomes
The program continues to improve efficiency by ensuring consistent administrative support to the Parks Department, Regional Parks Committee, volunteers, staff and the public.

Outputs
Coordinates and provides direction to Parks Admin group on corporate procedures and coordinates with other departments on the implementation of corporate initiatives and programs.
Provides direction on administrative policies, procedures & standards for Parks programs in collaboration with the Parks Admin Coordination Group (ACG) and acts as liaison to other Metro Vancouver departments and the Office Management Group.
Provides administrative services common to Parks functional programs including development of departmental procedures & processes for records management, staff recruitment, budget & accounting, procurement of IT equipment and software, temporary staffing and coordination of staff development and training.
Provides admin services to the Parks Committee and Parks Management Group; responsible for preparation & distribution of agendas as per corporate standards.
Consider options for a departmental public comment database.
Evaluate and redesign Parks Intranet site.
Catalogue Parks images

Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinates and provides direction to Parks Admin group on corporate</td>
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<td>procedures and coordinates with other departments on the implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>of corporate initiatives and programs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides direction on administrative policies, procedures &amp; standards</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>for Parks programs in collaboration with the Parks Admin Coordination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group (ACG) and acts as liaison to other Metro Vancouver departments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Office Management Group.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides administrative services common to Parks functional programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>including development of departmental procedures &amp; processes for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>records management, staff recruitment, budget &amp; accounting, procurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>of IT equipment and software, temporary staffing and coordination of</td>
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<tr>
<td>staff development and training.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides admin services to the Parks Committee and Parks Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group; responsible for preparation &amp; distribution of agendas as per</td>
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<tr>
<td>corporate standards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider options for a departmental public comment database.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate and redesign Parks Intranet site.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogue Parks images</td>
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</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Total Expenditure: $0
Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks

Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Committee: Parks

Program: INACTIVE-Parks-Head Office Administration

Description
The Program supplies policy and priority direction on strategic planning, budgets, partnership associations, internal policies, for 20 programs, 30 parks and 4 greenways.

On behalf of the Parks Department the Program serves the Parks Committee, local member, and council needs; establishes, communicates, and coordinates internal policy for all Parks Programs (including the three off-site operating areas); establishes Parks strategic plans, priorities, and budgets; produces or vets bylaws and program proposals; and approves and monitors capital and operating expenditures. Training and clerical support is coordinated, as needed by operating units.

Purpose
To provide management leadership, general departmental coordination, and administrative services for the Parks Department Head Office and three Area Offices. To provide support and information to the Parks Committee and Metro Vancouver Board.

Outputs
Contribute to Management Team/CAO initiatives; lead partnership and fundraising strategies; oversee and control department's budget; direct bylaw development and compliance; ensure compliance with statutory and corporate procedural requirements.
Provide advice and support for Parks Committee and Board decisions on park programs, budgets and community issues.
Provide overall Parks vision and program direction; build effective organizational design; lead Parks Management Group.

Outcomes
Informed political decision-making; effective expenditure of budgets, integration with corporate initiatives and priorities and responsiveness to community wishes, needs and initiatives.

Staffing 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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Total Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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The Basic Facilities Program funds project costs for concept development, engineering studies, site plan development and detailed design, preparation of contract documents and construction. All projects are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. Revenues and grants are used to supplement allocated funding whenever available.

The Pacific Parkland Foundation provides supplementary funding for enhancement and value added public amenities in parks.

**Purpose**
To deliver major facility and infrastructure development in new park sites. To expand facilities in existing parks where demand and current use are high.

**Outputs**
Provide facilities to support outdoor recreation that contributes to health and wellness while respecting and protecting our land base, natural resources and ecosystems; capital improvements include:
- Parking, washrooms, signs
- Walking, cycling and equestrian trails
- Picnic sites and group facilities
- Heritage building restoration, service yards
- Shoreline access, boardwalks
- Water, sewer, power and fire protection utilities

**Outcomes**
New park infrastructure and land base is managed in a manner supporting sustainable principles to ensure visitor safety, service level obligations and access to outdoor recreation.

**Total Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-Basic Facilities-Projects from 2013-2022</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Boundary Bay-Centennial Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Lower Fraser River Corridor</td>
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<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Pacific Spirit Wreck Beach Washrooms</td>
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<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Small Basic Facilities projects</td>
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<td>Parks-BasicFacilities-Surrey Bend</td>
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**Total Staffing (FTE)**

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### Program Capital Costs

- **Actual Costs Prior to 2012**: 0
- **Capital Costs 2012 to 2021**: 0
- **Capital Costs After 2021**: 0

**Total Capital Costs**: 0

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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**Total Cost**: 0
Description
This program funds the repair, replacement or upgrading of existing park physical assets. These assets are estimated to have a total replacement value in excess of $140 million. The program also protects the Parks land base through slope stabilization measures and erosion and flood control systems. The projects in this program are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. Revenues and grants are used to supplement allocated funding whenever available. Services to carry out this program are provided primarily through the Parks Engineering Services Program.

Purpose
To repair, replace and upgrade existing park infrastructure to appropriate standards of safety or service level and to protect the Parks land base in a cost-effective manner.

Output
More than 100 projects involving the repair, upgrading or replacement of Parks infrastructure are scheduled, designed and executed annually.

Milestones

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
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<td>Trails $251,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Land Protection $69,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Bridges &amp; Boardwalks $110,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Utilities $100,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Barriers $37,500</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Sigange $20,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Furniture $15,000</td>
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<td>12/31/2012</td>
<td>Emergency/Vandalism &amp; Contingency $401,000</td>
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Outcomes
Existing park infrastructure and land base is maintained and if required, replaced, in a manner based on sustainable principles to ensure visitor safety, service level obligations and access to outdoor recreation.

2012 Staffing

<table>
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<th>Staffing Type</th>
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Total Expenditure

Parks-CapRepl-Projects $1,600,000

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<table>
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<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Costs 2012 to 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Costs After 2021</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
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<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<td>Jan 2012</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
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</table>

| **Total Cost**                      | 0    |                     |            |          |
Description
The Land Acquisition program acquires new land, accesses, or rights-of-way to expand existing Parks, complete or expand greenways and develop new parks within Metro Vancouver.

The HPAF supports appraisals, negotiations, purchase and legal costs for acquisition and disposal, site protection, restoration and rehabilitation of acquired sites. Land acquisition decisions are based on how candidate sites support a sustainable region by providing quality recreation experiences; protecting critical habitat and species at risk, and protecting heritage values.

The regional greenways program is also supported by HPAF including acquisition of public access right-of-ways, waterfront access, staging areas for recreation oriented greenways and riparian / habitat protection for environmental greenways.

Purpose
To acquire regionally important conservation and recreation lands to support environmental, social and economic sustainability of the region, including managing the disposal of surplus lands.

To create working partnerships with other groups and agencies for acquisition and management of key sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actions and negotiations to acquire by grant, lease or purchase or disposal by sale or trade of specific lands to increase regional representation, secure threatened ecological areas and expand recreation opportunities</td>
<td>On a willing seller basis, acquire lands identified as needed to complete existing park sites (known as park land deficiencies).</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acquire or partner to protect significant wetlands parcels to support SRI goal of protections of wetlands by 2015.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek opportunities to support the Experience the Fraser Project and create partnerships to make acquisitions if feasible.</td>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes
Acquisition of natural landscapes, habitats, ecosystems and heritage features to ensure the conservation and appropriate development of natural capital by promoting regional biodiversity while providing access for outdoor recreation opportunities.
### 2012 Staffing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>FTE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
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### Program Capital Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Costs Prior to 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Costs 2012 to 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Costs After 2021</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Costs</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks-Heritage Parkland Acquisition Fund</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Cost**

0
Description
Payments saved on matured debentures are applied to current capital projects, thereby decreasing future long term debenturized debt.

Purpose
To reduce interest costs on future borrowings for capital projects.

Outputs
Dependence on debenture financing is reduced.

Outcomes
The cost of financing of Parks capital projects is reduced. Progress is made toward funding all future capital projects through "Pay as You Go".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Staffing</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description
The Program provides annual interest and principle payments as required by the legal agreements of each outstanding debenture issue. The payments ensure the future retirement of the issue on or before the maturity date.

The Program also ensures that short term financing obligations are met until the outstanding balance is repaid or transferred to long term debt.

Purpose
To repay financing costs on funds borrowed for capital projects.

Outputs
The Program provides annual interest and sinking fund payments on all short and long term debt associated with capital programs.

Outcomes
Legal obligations are satisfied and the District maintains a favourable credit rating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Full Time</td>
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<td>Regular Part Time</td>
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<td>Total Staffing (FTE)</td>
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Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debt Program-Parks</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Expenditure

$566,000
| Program: Planning Environment and Parks-Department Support | Allocation |
| Department: Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks | |
| Committee: Parks, Elec, Env&E, RegPln and WMgmt | NEW |

**Description**

This program provides office management direction and clerical support services for the Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks department at the Kingsway offices. Promotes an efficient and effective operation of the department by ensuring that staff are properly trained and supplied with the essential resources to support and deliver corporate and departmental programs.

**Purpose**

To provide office management, and administrative support for the Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manage and maintain clerical services. Tracks and follows up on incoming and outgoing communication, and internal service requests. Provides administration support to undertake and achieve corporate needs such as budget support, assembling documents for public tender, assembling progress payment documents, arranging for office space, performing records management - both electronic, hard copy and as-built drawings. Ensures that administrative processes comply with corporate standards. Manages and organizes meeting requests received from external organizations and individuals, responds to public enquiries for program or plan information in person, by phone or email. Prepares, coordinates and assembles staff reports to Metro Vancouver Board and Metro Vancouver Committees, such as Agriculture Committee, Electoral Area Committee, Environment and Energy Committee, Parks Committee and Regional Planning Committee. Processes documents and maintains a variety of data base, including regulation and enforcement, stakeholder consultation, mailing lists, research publications and plans, and issuance of permits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcomes**

Effective and efficient customer service for public, agencies and private sector

Effective management and administration services for Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program:</th>
<th>Planning Environment and Parks-Department Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee:</td>
<td>Parks, Elec, Env&amp;E, RegPln and WMgmt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2012 Staffing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Environment and Parks-Department Support</td>
<td><strong>$730,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Description
This program provides senior level leadership, management and associated administrative services required by all programs within Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks. Key to the successful implementation of this program is the relationships established with Metro Vancouver Board and Committees, member municipalities, senior levels of government, Translink, other air quality authorities in the airshed, health authorities, public, non profit organizations, park partners, and private sector. This program also includes representation on the Metro Vancouver Management Committee and liaison with other Metro Vancouver departments on corporate issues.

Purpose
To manage and administer all Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks programs.

Outputs
This program provides advice to Committees and Board and direction to staff.

Outcomes
The effective management and administration of Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks.

### 2012 Staffing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012 Staffing (FTE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Temporary Full Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Part Time/Auxiliary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staffing (FTE)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.95</strong></td>
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### Total Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Environment and Parks-Administration</td>
<td>$351,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To: Parks Committee

From: Gaëtan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks
Wendy DaDalt, Experience the Fraser, Interregional Project Coordinator/East Area Regional Parks Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks

Date: September 21, 2011

Subject: Experience the Fraser - Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan

Recommendation

That the Board:

a) endorse in principle the report ‘Experience the Fraser - Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan’ dated September 21, 2011 as the basis for ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, governments, First Nations, and agencies; and

b) given the provincial funding for the Experience the Fraser project ends June 2012, request that the Chairs of the Metro Vancouver Board and Fraser Valley Regional District Board meet with the Premier of British Columbia to seek support and funding to further this project.

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Board about progress and key activities in the Experience the Fraser (ETF) – Lower Fraser River Corridor Project and present the Experience ETF Draft Concept Plan (Attachment 1) which will be used as the basis for ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, governments, First Nations, and agencies about the Concept Plan and advancing implementation strategies. The ETF Concept Plan is a deliverable in the 2011 Metro Vancouver Action Plan.

2. CONTEXT

Since 2009 the Province of BC, Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and Metro Vancouver (MV) have been collaborating on the Experience the Fraser - Lower Fraser River Corridor Project. The Province provided $2.5 million to be shared equally by the two Regional Districts to prepare a Concept Plan and develop a project in each region to demonstrate the ETF vision and themes and get started on the ground. The overall intent was to develop a conceptual framework for the long-term development of an integrated land and water-based recreation and cultural network to showcase the Fraser River from Hope to the Salish Sea.

Governance of this project is through a Joint Political Steering Committee consisting of two political representatives from each partner (two MV Directors, two FVRD Directors and two MLAs). Assisting the Steering Committee are a Municipal Staff Liaison Committee and a joint staff planning structure. The project team successfully completed research, data collection, opportunity identification and assessment. There has been extensive and ongoing outreach to engage First Nations and dialogue with numerous key agencies and
stakeholder groups identified as ETF relevant. This work and input has informed the development of the Draft Concept Plan.

Demonstration Projects

To showcase the ETF vision, each Regional District completed a demonstration project (profiles of the Demonstration Projects are provided as Attachment 2).

- The FVRD partnered with the District of Mission to create a community waterfront gathering place, public art and dyke-top trail.
- Metro Vancouver partnered with the Township of Langley to establish a 12km Trans Canada Trail link from Historic Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge. This project included the construction of 2.8km of new trail and related amenities in Derby Reach Regional Park.

Public celebrations were held to open both projects.

Draft ETF Concept Plan

The Draft Concept Plan lays out the framework for infrastructure to support a range of land and water-based recreational and cultural opportunities that would appeal to residents and stimulate tourism along the river corridor from Hope to the Salish Sea. A proposed “Canyon to Coast” Trail and Blueway would facilitate an experiential journey through the Lower Fraser River Corridor along which stories would be revealed about the river’s ecology, people, history, communities, and industry.

Existing recreational, cultural and interpretive attractions and points of interest are captured as ‘amenity and feature points’ along the Trail and Blueway. New and enhanced amenities and experiences will support and strengthen the overall experience.

Theme and Brand

The Draft Concept Plan presents an Illustrative Foundational Program that once completed will serve to define an Experience the Fraser identity and brand. While a catchy brand that captures the public’s imagination and anchors a tourism strategy is yet to be developed, the Concept Plan provides a solid framework from which to continue to build the project.

Vision and Goals

The vision for Experience the Fraser is an invitation to “experience and explore the dynamic Lower Fraser River Corridor from Hope to the Salish Sea... to celebrate the spirit and stories of its varied landscapes, diverse communities and rich natural and cultural heritage”.

There are four goals that guide the realization of the Experience the Fraser vision:

**Goal 1  Connect Hope to the Salish Sea**
This connection is made by means of over 550 kilometres of trails, 43% of which are already in place. The river, a scenic recreational opportunity, adds the Blueway component to this connectivity. The Trail and Blueway are the backbone of the project. They connect communities, parks, natural features, historic and cultural sites, and experiences along the river. This will be one of the world’s great trails.

**Goal 2  Link and inspire experiences along the river**
There are many opportunities already in place to experience the Fraser River. This goal is about linking these experiences, packaging them with a common *Experience the Fraser* brand and recognizing their latent appeal and promotional value. This goal is also about enhancing and adding to what is already in place. Implementation of this goal would allow existing experiences to serve as a catalyst upon which to
build an integrated and well connected suite of recreation, cultural and heritage amenities and features. The outcome will be a world class tourism destination that can be traveled end to end or theme by theme, or enjoyed in part.

**Goal 3  Develop enduring and committed partnerships**
The success of ETF relies on developing and sustaining long-term partnerships among:

- Different levels of government,
- First Nations,
- Land owners,
- Private sector partners,
- Non-profit organizations,
- Stewardship groups,
- Other agencies, and
- Individual donors and citizens.

Because Experience the Fraser is a long-term vision that will be realized over a number of decades, building deep understanding and support will help ensure that the ETF Concept remains a shared vision for planners and decision-makers who develop local projects along the ETF corridor. Integral to the success of the vision is the development of sustainable governance and financing models to support leadership and commitment to long-term implementation.

**Goal 4  Build and deepen connections to the river**
Experience the Fraser strives to build and deepen people’s physical, emotional, and spiritual connections to the river. This goal is about getting people to view, touch, experience and celebrate the river itself and its rich cultural and natural heritage. It is about exposure and reconnection, not just in a physical sense, but also a cognitive one. Through exposure and experience come understanding and appreciation – and from these come a sense of ownership and protection.

**Plan Elements**
The ETF Concept is spatially based around locations where stories about the Fraser River Corridor can be told.

**Trail and Blueway.** The proposed “Canyon to Coast” Trail and Blueway link river communities and bring residents and tourists to Fraser River experiences. Once complete, the Trail and Blueway will provide the glue and brand for the vision. They will attract hikers and paddlers. They will offer new experiences for residents to participate in. They will offer new opportunities for the tourism industry to capitalize on. The Blueway is synonymous with the river and ETF; this includes the Fraser, Harrison and Lower Pitt Rivers. The Blueway is best expressed through the supporting infrastructure that facilitates water access and river use such as boat launching sites, signage, day-use facilities, piers, view points and camping.

**Amenity and Feature points.** Over 300 amenity and feature points were identified as opportunities to experience the river along the Trail and Blueway. These points represent discrete ‘projects’ that are either infrastructure (e.g. facilities or amenities), program-based (e.g. education or interpretive activities or events) or system-wide opportunities.

**Portals.** Portals are the main entry points to Experience the Fraser. There are three proposed portals that anchor the project and serve as points of welcome in Hope, New Westminster and Delta. Portals are more than trailheads – they are gateways
to ETF where a number of amenities, features and experiences exist in close proximity.

**Nodes.** There are 26 nodes that are destinations along the Trail and Blueway. They facilitate local access to the Fraser River and act as a point of introduction, information and orientation to the Trail. They are characterized by having a cluster of amenities, features and experiences close together. They are located where there is an existing or planned population density or community. Nodes provide an access point and amenities for the Blueway.

**Illustrative Foundational Program**
The Illustrative Foundational Program consists of 60 actions and projects that contribute to building a strong and recognizable ETF identity. It is a recommended set of priority actions. It is intended to have the flexibility to be guided by the various partners who choose to participate in delivering projects. There is no proposed timeline. As funding is secured, elements of the program can advance. If resources or priorities change, the Foundational Program can adapt and projects of similar benefit may be substituted.

This program includes the top 20 per cent of the 300+ amenity and feature points identified in the Draft Concept Plan. These top projects were evaluated for ‘fit’ with ETF and alignment with existing plans and resources. They also ensure that the Trail is navigable between portals since they all support infrastructure for the Blueway. They are distributed about ‘day’s paddle’ or 15 kilometers apart. These projects will close 50 per cent of the Trail’s gaps resulting in nearly 75 percent of the Vision Route being completed.

**Planning Atlas and Opportunities Database**

A **Planning Atlas** and complementary **Opportunities Matrix** serve as the repository for ETF’s vast collection of research and knowledge. The database contains the results of a recreational, cultural and heritage amenity and opportunity inventory, undertaken in partnership with municipalities and other agencies. It also contains the resulting gap analysis. The Planning Atlas plots this work into a GIS map format. The Planning Atlas also houses proposed trail alignments, both Interim (short-term) and Vision (long-term). It allows navigation of the Draft Concept Plan at different scales, from the overall Lower Fraser River Corridor, to specific river reaches, right down to short trail segments and individual features. In the long term, the Planning Atlas will serve as an evaluation tool that, based on set criteria, can test each of the proposed ‘opportunities’ for fit and readiness. This tool will greatly assist future decision-makers in determining implementation priorities.

**Discussion**

The Draft ETF Concept Plan complements and supports a number of Metro Vancouver corporate plans as described below.

**Sustainability Framework**

In the Sustainability Framework, Metro Vancouver makes a commitment to ‘protect and restore an interconnected network of habitat and green space, account for ecosystem services and enhance the connection between people and nature’. ETF represents an important next step in meeting that commitment.

**Regional Growth Strategy**

The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) contains a policy stating that Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with other agencies, will develop and manage the Metro Vancouver Regional Recreation Greenway Network. Once completed, ETF’s “Canyon to Coast” Trail will
significantly contribute to that network. At a broad level, the RGS also supports and recognizes the importance of connectivity for both recreational and ecological reasons.

**Regional Parks Plan**
The ETF Concept Plan is consistent with all four goals in the draft Regional Parks Plan.
1. The ETF Concept Plan *promotes ecological health* by proposing activity zones that are appropriate to different environmental areas and a host of sub-projects.
2. It clearly *promotes outdoor recreation for human health and wellness* by increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences for regional residents.
3. The ETF Concept Plan also *supports community stewardship, education and partnerships*. In fact this goal is analogous to the ETF vision.
4. Finally, there is no question that the ETF will *promote philanthropy and economic opportunities*.

**Ecological Health Plan**
The draft Ecological Health Plan advocates the needs for connectivity through a green infrastructure network that capitalizes on recreational corridors and supports salmon in the city. ETF strives to bring people to, and teach people about, the Fraser River, the largest salmon producing river in the country. ETF will therefore complement the EHP’s efforts around the multiple benefits, including ecological ones, of trails and greenways.

**Outreach on the Draft Concept Plan**
The Draft Concept Plan will form the basis for continued discussions with municipalities, First Nations, relevant agencies and NGOs over the remainder of 2011. The ETF team intends to hold a stakeholder workshop in November 2011. The team will also continue to communicate with stakeholders and interested parties to receive feedback on the Draft Concept Plan and collect information about potential implementation strategies.

Many parties have submitted ideas. Most have seen only those parts of the ETF Concept that are more directly relevant to their specific interest, infrastructure or geography. The next step to solidify the Concept Plan, build awareness and foster potential partnerships is to pursue a broader dialogue with stakeholders about the Concept as a whole. The focus of this consultation will be to identify missing elements and get feedback on how the plan is responding to identified priorities and service gaps.

**Implementation Strategies**
It has always been recognized that ETF is bigger than any of its three founding partners. To grow and implement the vision, the two regional districts and the Province must continue to nurture a collaborative venture that involves many stakeholders including First Nations, municipalities, other agencies, the private sector, community groups and citizens. The project’s success is contingent upon strong partnerships, a shared common vision, partners who recognize the multiple benefits of participation and commitment to bring the project to fruition. As a result, there are a number of strategies that require further discussion and development to help guide the Concept from Plan to Implementation. These strategies include developing:

- robust, long-term partnerships;
- a sustainable governance and financing model;
- resilient resourcing;
- a compelling identity through branding and marketing;
- strong communications and public outreach; and
• collaborative solutions to cross-jurisdictional obstacles (e.g. best practices and protocols for dyke access, agricultural/recreation interface, industrial/recreation interface and environmental stewardship).

The ETF team proposes to continue project planning into mid-2012 based on the attached ETF Draft Concept Plan. Following extensive outreach, the team will develop an Implementation Plan that will outline options for ongoing governance, partnerships and actions. This work will continue to be supported by the initial Provincial ETF grant.

It is intended that an ETF Implementation Plan be considered by the Metro Vancouver Board, the Fraser Valley Regional District and other partners by early summer 2012. Upon delivery of the Implementation Plan, provincial funding will have been exhausted. Options will be investigated by the ETF partners regarding potential funding and governance for the continued promotion of the project and monitoring the progress of the Implementation Plan. If funding is not available, both the Concept Plan and Implementation Plan will remain as valuable tools to assist future decision-making.

It is understood that Metro Vancouver, along with other parties leading this process, are not bound by any commitment to implementation or timeline. Future projects may or may not involve Metro Vancouver but if they do, they would follow normal processes including specific requests, review by Committees and Board approval.

3. ALTERNATIVES

That the Board:

OPTION 1

a) endorse in principle the report ‘Experience the Fraser - Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan’ dated September 21, 2011 as the basis for ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, governments, First Nations, and agencies; and

b) given the provincial funding for the Experience the Fraser project ends June 2012, request that the Chairs of the Metro Vancouver Board and Fraser Valley Regional District Board meet with the Premier of British Columbia to seek support and funding to further this project.

OPTION 2

Provide alternative direction to the ETF team.

4. CONCLUSION

The Experience the Fraser Project is a dynamic and extensive long-term vision to celebrate the Lower Fraser River Corridor and its cultural and natural heritage. The Draft Concept Plan has evolved through the coordinated efforts of the founding partners, municipal staff, First Nations, agencies and other contributors. Many external stakeholders provided extensive input over the past two years.

The final ETF Concept Plan has the potential to energize and expand tourism opportunities across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District. Residents in our two regions already benefited from this provincial investment through valuable demonstration projects. The vision set out in the ETF Concept Plan will bring a new level of coherence to projects that municipalities and other partners are already planning to implement along the corridor. The Concept Plan will also be an invaluable resource over the next few decades as various agencies work together to fill gaps on the ground and in our collective memory.
The next steps in the project are for outreach and consultation to be undertaken to receive feedback about the Experience the Fraser Draft Concept Plan, complete the ETF Concept Plan and Implementation Plan, and explore options with the Province and other partners for the funding and governance of the ETF initiative.

Attachments:
1) Draft ETF Concept Plan, September 2011
2) ETF Demonstration Project Profiles
This Draft Concept Plan has been prepared with the help and input of a number of people under the guidance of a Joint Political Steering Committee representing the three founding partners of Experience the Fraser, the Province of BC, the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver. The Concept Plan in its entirety should be viewed as illustrative of what is possible for Experience the Fraser. While the authors agree to the content of the plan, this does not suggest agreement or commitment from the various organizations associated with the project. Each party identified will need to review, provide input on, and determine which parts of the Concept Plan, if any, will be undertaken. As the plan moves forward, new information from interested parties will be garnered and the concept will continue to evolve.
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   1.6 Themes
   1.7 A Storied River

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   2.3 Illustrative Foundational Program
   2.4 Aspirations – More BIG Ideas

3.0 NEXT STEPS
   3.1 Implementation Strategies

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  Figure 2 – Connected Networks: Situating Experience the Fraser (ETF)
Inside Front Cover

“At Hope, the Fraser River abandons the last remnants of its wild past, swings westward in a great 90 degree arc and assumes a tranquil face as it flows majestically, unhurriedly, towards the Pacific Ocean. Still 140 kilometres from the sea, the river at Hope is only about five metres above salt water. For a while mountains loom darkly overhead, reluctant to let the river go; discreetly, they withdraw to a respectful distance. Now, at last, the Fraser has space enough to assume a width appropriate to its grandeur. The valley widens, fertile with soil carried by the river from eroding slopes hundreds of kilometres upstream. Caressed by a gentle oceanic climate, the green and pleasant land is a widening cornucopia pouring its wealth toward the sea.”

Richard C. Bocking - Mighty River, A Portrait of the Fraser (1997)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Experience the Fraser (ETF) is a recreational, cultural and heritage project that extends along the Lower Fraser River Corridor connecting Hope to the Salish Sea. The ETF Concept Plan expresses the Project’s Vision and Goals and presents a framework for the long-term development of this land and water based initiative that aims to showcase the Fraser River and its rich natural and cultural heritage. It presents Trail and Blueway routes which form the signature backbone of the project, and which link communities and Fraser River themed features, amenities and experiences. The Concept Plan presents a number of opportunities to add to and build upon these experiences, therefore in sum creating an outstanding world class destination. The Plan also offers an Illustrative Foundational Program that once completed would define an ETF identity and brand, and provide a solid presence and framework from which to continue to build the project. A series of implementation strategies is also identified, establishing strategic priorities to move the project toward implementation.
1.0 EXPERIENCE THE FRASER: A BOLD VISION

1.1 VISION

Experience the Fraser invites the world to “experience and explore the dynamic Lower Fraser River Corridor from Hope to the Salish Sea... to celebrate the spirit and stories of its varied landscapes, diverse communities and rich natural and cultural heritage.”

Experience the Fraser is a recreational, cultural and heritage project defined by the Fraser River that seeks to connect communities and the places where Fraser River themes and stories can be experienced from canyon to coast. At its heart, ETF is defined by over 550 kilometres of trails and a recreational blueway with ample amenities to support both land and water based use. The Trail will connect existing points of interest, amenities and features along the Lower Fraser River Corridor, and once in place, will also be a catalyst for others to package and add their own Fraser River experiences. The result will be the creation of a unique product that provides unprecedented opportunities to celebrate shared culture and heritage; to showcase the Lower Fraser River Corridor and its landscapes, features, wildlife and people as one of the great river communities of the world; to link and create a suite of outstanding tourist attractions; encourage active and healthy living; and to enhance land and water-based recreational opportunities throughout the region. Figure 1 depicts ETF’s Project Area.

Experience the Fraser invites the world to “experience and explore the dynamic Lower Fraser River Corridor from Hope to the Salish Sea... to celebrate the spirit and stories of its varied landscapes, diverse communities and rich natural and cultural heritage.”

Figure 1: The Project Area

The Project Area extends 160 km from Hope to the Salish Sea. Its width varies to capture as many Fraser River communities and experiences as possible and to allow for trail routing. Additionally, the following areas were intentionally included: the BC Ferries Tsawwassen Terminal and Causeway; the Tsawwassen First Nation and Delta waterfronts; Pitt River to the Pitt River Bridge; Kanaka Creek to Rolley Lake and south along the Hayward Lake and Stave River; Harrison River to Harrison Lake; Sumas Mountain; the Vedder Canal to the Keith Wilson Bridge; and a couple of routing options through Kent and Electoral Area B. The Project Area is 102,653 hectares in size, 8,281 hectares of which are existing parkland.
The Fraser River travels nearly 1,400 kilometres from its headwaters in the Rockies to the Salish Sea\(^1\). The ‘Mighty Fraser’ drains a quarter of British Columbia and is the tenth longest river in the world. By the time the river runs past Hope, it has flowed from rushing river to alluvial plain, characterized by large gravel reaches, and soon slows and stretches further into the Fraser estuary. The Lower Fraser is home to more than 2.2 million people and is the confluence of a myriad of cultures, values, interests, and activities that interact with, and are often dependent on, the river. The Fraser River has an incredible history and continues to be a defining feature in the Province of British Columbia, playing an integral role in the lives of Lower Fraser River residents. Here are just some of the values, interests and activities associated with the river:

- **First Nations** have lived, travelled and traded along the lower reaches of the river for thousands of years. The Stó:lō, whose traditional territory spans beyond the entire project area, are known as the People of the River. By believing in S’ólh Téméxw te ikw’élə - Xólhmet te mekw’ stám it kwelát, which means “This is our land - We have to look after everything that belongs to us,” protecting, preserving, and managing heritage and environment in a way that is consistent with Stó:lō values, beliefs, and traditions, is an overarching guiding principle.

- **Named after Simon Fraser**, the first European to fully travel its waters in 1808, the Fraser River was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1998 to honour its rich cultural and natural history\(^2\).

- Parts of the Lower Fraser were initially dyked in the 1860s and 1870s by early settlers to create and protect agricultural lands. Early dyking efforts were found in Chilliwack, Sumas and Matsqui prairie areas as well as on Lulu Island. The Fraser Delta has some of the richest agricultural soils in Canada, is home to diverse agricultural operations growing over 130 different products, and although it comprises only 1.5 percent of the total agricultural land in BC, it generates over a quarter of the Province’s gross farm income.

- The Fraser River estuary, one of the largest along the west coast of North America, is recognized as a globally important ecosystem\(^3\). It has the largest wintering concentrations of water birds and raptors in Canada, and provides significant habitat and feeding areas along the Pacific Flyway. It is the largest salmon producing river along the Pacific Coast and is one of three rivers in BC in which white sturgeon spawn.

- The Fraser River is integral to industry as a transportation corridor and location for businesses, including pulp and sawmills, piling and dredging companies, fisheries, and fish processing. It plays a vital role the region’s economy.

- **Port Metro Vancouver** cargo terminals and other port activities are essential to the functioning of our economy and metropolitan region. Their jurisdiction stretches across 600 kilometres of

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\(^1\) The Province of BC, jointly with Washington State, officially named the area covered by the inland waterways of the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound the Salish Sea in 2010. This official name pays homage to the Coast Salish peoples’ collective history and this rich and diverse marine ecosystem.

\(^2\) The Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) Board, made up of private citizens and officials appointed by federal and provincial governments called the Fraser a ‘river of superlatives’. The CHRS was established in 1984 to conserve rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and recreational heritage, to give them national recognition, and to encourage the public to enjoy and appreciate them. Today, there are 41 Canadian Heritage Rivers.

\(^3\) RAMSAR site at Alaksen National Wildlife Area has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance; proposed as a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network, an international initiative that identifies and protects habitats used by migrating shorebirds.
shoreline and waterways including the Fraser River up to Kanaka Creek. The Port trades $75 billion in goods annually with more than 160 trading economies, generating over 125,000 jobs, and $10.5 billion in GDP.

- A number of **communities** line the banks of the river and people continue to be drawn to live along its edge.
- The Lower Fraser River Corridor also provides ample *recreation* opportunities including wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking, geocaching, cycling, camping, boating, or horseback riding.
- The Lower Fraser River Corridor is an integral part of BC’s **Tourism** industry which generates $12.7 billion in revenues annually. People come from all over the world to experience a combination of the interests and themes listed above. ETF will create an even greater draw to this part of the province.

### 1.2 GOALS

There are **four** goals that guide the realization of the Experience the Fraser vision:

**Goal 1  Connect Hope to the Salish Sea**

Experience the Fraser will connect Hope to the Salish Sea along the Fraser River by means of a network of over 550 kilometres of trail, 43% of which is already in place along regional, municipal and community trails. In addition, the river itself and associated stream networks provides an incredible recreational opportunity and adds a Blueway component to this goal of connectivity. The Trail and Blueway networks are the backbone of the project and will connect communities, parks, natural areas, historic and cultural sites and other experiences along the river. The intent of the goal is to draw upon the rich natural and cultural heritage along the river, to better integrate the waterway into the lives of residents and visitors thereby fostering a stronger sense of place and stewardship. The Trail and Blueway networks will provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities that promote active, healthy living for Lower Fraser River residents. Also, this network will enhance land and water-based recreational amenities positioned strategically to fill service gaps and support tourism.

**Goal 2  Link and inspire experiences along the river**

There are already a multitude of existing opportunities to experience the Fraser River. For example, there are Circle Farm tours, farm gate sales, and wineries. From an outdoor recreation and environmental perspective, there are parks and trails that provide river access, and amazing fishing spots and that interpret the river’s ecological importance to salmon, raptors, and bird migrations. Heritage and culture can be explored at the X:aytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre, Fraser River Discovery Centre, Britannia Shipyards, Fort Langley and Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Sites, Hyack’s Fraserfest, the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival and the Artists on the River, all of which provide opportunities to celebrate the river’s heritage and cultural values.

The first part of this goal speaks to linking these experiences, to knitting them together with a common Experience the Fraser brand and to recognizing the appeal and promotional value in their synergy. ETF offers a way to build on and package these experiences and opportunities. The second part of the goal is about enhancing and adding to what is already in place – about utilizing the Trail and existing
experiences and amenities as a catalyst upon which to build an integrated suite of recreation, cultural and heritage amenities and features. The outcome will be a world-class tourism destination that can be traveled end to end or theme by theme. The Lower Fraser River Corridor will be promoted and known as one of the great river destinations of the world, inspiring participation, generating economic growth and jobs, and fostering pride and sustainability.

**Goal 3  Develop enduring and committed partnerships**

The success of ETF is reliant on developing and nurturing long-term partnerships among different levels of government, First Nations, other agencies, the private sector, non-profit organizations and citizens. Because Experience the Fraser is a long-term vision that will be realized over a number of decades, building understanding and support helps ensure that the ETF concept is a shared vision and at the forefront of people’s minds when planning and developing local projects. Integral to the success of the project is the development of sustainable governance and financing models to support leadership and long-term implementation.

**Goal 4  Build and deepen connections to the river**

Experience the Fraser strives to build and deepen people’s physical, emotional, and spiritual connections to the river. Utility and transportation corridors and industrial, residential and agricultural uses separate communities and people from the river so that its physical closeness is often imperceptible. We cross over the river in our cars on our daily commute, but how often do we dip our toes in it, walk along its edge or understand the diversity and dynamism that it represents? This goal is about celebrating the river itself and its rich cultural and natural heritage – it is about exposure and reconnection, not just in a physical sense, but also a cognitive one. Through exposure and experience come understanding and appreciation – and from these come a sense of ownership and protection.

Connectivity is important from an ecological perspective, and linking parks and open space helps to protect habitat, remedy the effects of fragmentation and support biodiversity. ETF embraces environmental sustainability objectives critical to maintaining the ecological health of the Lower Fraser River Corridor, and is committed to enhancing awareness and stewardship of these values through education and interaction with river ecology.

### 1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Lower Fraser River Corridor has been the focus of attention and planning for many people, agencies, businesses, groups and partnerships for years. There is a substantial body of work, research and relationships to draw upon. ETF hopes to continue to build with these partners and on the work they have completed. In addition, ETF complements a number of existing initiatives associated with the Fraser River including the Fraser River Discovery Centre, the Trans Canada Trail, and Heart of the Fraser.

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4 Extrapolated from Freeman Tilden’s “through interpretation, understanding, through understanding, appreciation, through appreciation, protection” (1957)

5 In 2009, The Fraser River Discovery Centre opened its doors to a 17,000 square foot space that offers displays and exhibits, a resource centre and a place showcase the living, working river. The Trans Canada Trail’s route through the Lower Fraser River Corridor mutually supports ETF.
ETF seeks to highlight and link the multiple values and interests Fraser River stakeholders embody through a tangible, overarching vision for recreation, culture and heritage.

The inspiration of ETF was the idea for a continuous trail along the Fraser River between Hope and the Salish Sea on both sides of the river with crossings creating a series of loop options and connections to major trails beyond the region. Because of this original idea, ETF is a project that is rooted in an outdoor recreation perspective - assuming that the user will be on foot, bicycle, horseback or boating. Therefore, the next step was to look at what kind of support, both infrastructure and program, would be required to facilitate this form of experience in terms of staging areas, parking, washrooms, boat launches, camping opportunities, and dyke and trail upgrades.

The challenge was posed – if a user is travelling along this trail, what would they be interested in seeing, doing, and experiencing along the journey? What would lead them to take the journey in the first place and inspire them to explore further? This prompted an inventory of existing recreational, cultural and heritage features, the result being the development of a multi-dimensional project that seeks to link together, via the ETF Trail and recreational Blueway, the multitude of experiences the Lower Fraser River Corridor has to offer.

In April 2009, the Province of BC provided the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and Metro Vancouver (MV) $2.5 million dollars to undertake ETF planning and to implement two demonstration projects. $2 million was allocated toward developing a comprehensive Concept Plan by Fall 2011.

An integral component then was to “demonstrate” the potential of Experience the Fraser in communities along the river and to provide an opportunity for people to understand what an “experience” of the Fraser might in fact be. As a result, $500,000 was allocated for two demonstration projects to ‘get started on the ground’.

- The Mission Waterfront Demonstration Project, a partnership between FVRD and the District of Mission, opened on May 15, 2010. It includes an elevated square, trail, living plant wall, benches, picnic tables, banners, lights, and unique First Nations’ public art.
- The Historic Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge Demonstration Trail Project, a partnership between Metro Vancouver, Township of Langley, and Trails BC, provides an important segment of the Trans Canada Trail. The first project phase, from Edgewater Bar in Derby Reach Regional Park to 208th Street including trail, interpretive art and riverside amenities, opened on July 23, 2011.

1.4 CONNECTED NETWORKS... Linking Experience the Fraser

One of the primary objectives for trail routing is to fill the gaps in the existing trail network along the Lower Fraser River Corridor between Hope and the Salish Sea. Embodied within this objective is the desire to ensure connectivity to, and integration with, existing and planned community trail networks

Heart of the Fraser is a conservation initiative founded in 2006, supported by The Nature Trust of BC, BCIT, the North Growth Foundation and the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council. It is focused on acquiring lands along the Fraser River, from Hope to Mission, and it seeks to boost public awareness of this area’s outstanding attributes while promoting the need to set aside key properties for conservation purposes.
and waterfront community centres with an aim to improving access to the Fraser River and connections among communities and trails.

While these local and regional connections are vital, so is ensuring connectivity to trail systems outside the Lower Fraser Corridor to help build a provincial trail network for residents and visitors alike. Integral to the planning and development of the Experience the Fraser route is the integration and inclusion of the Trans Canada Trail as it proceeds through the Lower Fraser River Corridor and connects with the rest of Canada from sea to sea. Looking beyond our national border, ETF seeks to make connections south to the United States. Therefore, once completed and connections are put in place, Experience the Fraser will provide not only an inter-regional trail between Hope and the Salish Sea, but it will also link to other regional, provincial, national and international trails, effectively nesting it within other initiatives and providing connectivity at multiple levels (Figure 2). Once complete, Experience the Fraser aspires to connect to:

**International**

- **Pacific Northwest Trail:** The 1,200 mile trail runs from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean and is considered to be among the most scenic trails in the world. It is connected to the Pacific Crest and Coast Millennium trails.

- **Pacific Crest Trail (PCT):** Extending from the Canadian to the Mexican border, the PCT boasts the greatest elevation changes of any of America's National Scenic Trails and passes through six of North America's seven eco-zones. It offers users a unique, varied experience and connects into Canada at Manning Provincial Park.

- **Coast Millennium Trail:** A trail initiative that strives to connect Bellingham, Washington to White Rock along Boundary Bay with future phases envisioned to extend the trail south to Seattle, and north to Vancouver connecting to other regional trails including Experience the Fraser.

**National**

- **Trans Canada Trail:** A mosaic of local and regional trails built by provincial and territorial members of the Canadian Trails Foundation extending from Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans and providing 22,000 kilometres of trail linking 1,000 communities and 33 million Canadians.

- **National Hiking Trail:** An initiative for a pedestrian trail from Cape Spear, Newfoundland to White Rock, British Columbia.

**Regional**

- **Sea-to-Sky Trail:** A partnership initiative led by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, the Sea-to-Sky Trail links communities from Horseshoe Bay north to Lillooet.

- **New Pathways to Gold Society:** A society that supports economic development through heritage tourism, First Nations Reconciliation, and community projects such as the Hudson's Bay Company (1849) Heritage Trail. The trail extends from Barkerville to Hope area and through the Gold Rush region of BC.
• **Spirit of 2010 Trails**: Four regional Rail to Trail initiatives that make up a portion of the Trans Canada Trail connecting Hope to Nelson including: The Hudson’s Bay Company Heritage Trail from Hope to Tulameen and the Kettle Valley Rail Trail from Hope to Castelgar.

• Vancouver Island Trails: The **Lochside Regional Trail** begins at the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal and connects to the **Galloping Goose Regional Trail** north to the Nanaimo Regional District where the Trans Canada Trail currently arrives on Vancouver Island at the Nanaimo Ferry Terminal.

Figure 2 – Connected Networks: Situating Experience the Fraser (ETF)

### 1.5 LEARNING and DRAWING INSPIRATION from OTHER SUCCESSES

There are a number of projects analogous to Experience the Fraser throughout North America. This is no surprise, as waterfront cities recognize the merit of collecting and showcasing their amazing amenities and features into a synergized, value added package. Several of these projects bill themselves as recreational, cultural and heritage initiatives that act as catalysts for tourism, economic development, active, healthy living, and partnership development. Below are three examples of visionary, successful projects.

**Mountains to Sound**

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle across the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington, ensuring a long-term balance between people and nature. This project is organized around Highway I-90, and since 1991, 87,000 hectares of land have been conserved and over $275 million invested. Today, the Greenway
Trust, the body responsible for the project, encompasses a 60-member Board of Directors, a 30-member Advisory Council, a 100-member Technical Advisory Committee, a 15-member staff, and a community of hundreds of citizens and dozens of interest groups.

**Waterfront Trail**

The Waterfront Trail stretches from Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario to the Quebec border, along the shores of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The Trail includes 41 communities, 182 parks, 152 arts and culture heritage attractions and 37 major annual waterfront festivals. 780 km of trail have been built and/or designated. The project is run by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, and partners with CIBC, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Province of Ontario, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Welcome Cyclists, Ontario Trails Council, 63 local governments and Conservation Authorities, two cycling groups and three other private sector companies.

**The Confluence**

Located in the heart of the St. Louis Region at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the Confluence is a dynamic conservation, heritage and recreation corridor. The project area is 52,000 hectares. The Confluence Project is an ambitious, long-term undertaking where investments in land conservation, facilities and public programs for this unique regional initiative will ultimately exceed $200 million. Today, the Confluence is an evolving system of conserved open space, parks, museums, heritage sites, and recreational trails along the Great Rivers of the bi-state St. Louis area. By reconnecting the public to the wealth of natural, historic and recreational resources at the heart of the community, this project contributes significantly to quality of life and economic competitiveness in the 21st century. Currently, over $150 million has been secured or committed by various governmental agencies and non-profit organizations, and the transformation of riverfronts is well underway. An impressive set of early achievements encourages community residents and tourists to care and protect the land and water in the Confluence region as they reconnect to two of America’s great rivers.

### 1.6 THEMES

Concept planning and trail route identification included an inventory of existing Fraser River amenities, features and experiences. As this work progressed, it became apparent that these points of interest could be grouped or categorized into themes. Consequently, part of the trail routing resulted from the gathering or linking of these features, points of interest and amenities. Many plan contributors and participants have identified locations where these themes can be explored, illustrated, and experienced. This has led to the Concept Plan being more infrastructure or spatially based, focusing on acknowledging the venues where these themes can be experienced rather than interpreting the themes themselves. The project’s focus is the Trail and Blueway and providing a way to link or package the experiences together. As a result, the project is informed by the following eight Fraser River themes:

**Agriculture** *(Farms, wineries, local food, farmers’ markets, agri-tourism, parks, museums, education and interpretation)*

**Celebration** *(Festivals, celebration, tours and events that promote and advance river connections, Fraser River Festival, arts and cultural events, Rivers Day, educational & historical tours)*
Environment and Nature (Parks, Conservation Areas and Ecological Reserves, stewardship and volunteer opportunities, salmon runs, education and interpretation, bird and wildlife habitat, marshes and mudflats)

First Nations (Cultural and historical interpretation, industry and commerce, tourism and economic development opportunities, festivals and community celebrations)

Heritage and Culture (Historic sites, museums, cultural centres, guided heritage tours, landscapes, festivals, settlements, businesses)

Industry and Transportation (The role and importance of the “working river”, fisheries, log booms, tug boats, debris trap, water dependent industry, port & rail operations, access & crossings, infrastructure and new technologies)

Outdoor Recreation (Parks, trails, water access and boat launches, camping, fishing, day-use facilities, wildlife viewing, marinas)

Riverfront Communities (Connecting to and integrating with the river, trail and blueway connections, river access, orientation and wayfinding, education and interpretation, food and accommodation services, business development and sales, waterfront revitalization initiatives)

In addition, the themes provide a framework for others (e.g. the private sector or other potential partners) who want to: a) package and program these points of interest and utilize the trail as a means of travel or connection (e.g. a tourism opportunity such as winery or heritage tours by bike or foot); or b) add a new experience / amenity along the river that ‘fits’ with one of the themes therefore creating an added value for themselves of having other similarly themed experiences be in close proximity with them connected by the trail (e.g. an economic development opportunity such as bicycle or boat rentals or a trail-side café).

1.7 A STORIED RIVER ... stories of people and place

The myriad of stories related to the Fraser River are as plentiful and intertwined as the tributaries which flow into it. Experience the Fraser recognizes the importance of these stories in enhancing the recreational and cultural experiences of each visitor. Certain stories lend themselves to being told through multiple venues over the length of the Lower Fraser River Corridor. A sampling of five of these stories is presented here. These stories would be developed and programmed by historians, First Nation elders and other willing story-tellers. They hint at the incredible influence the river had, and continues to have, on our lives and the connections that flow strongly among stories, people and places.

The Story of the Living River...from Salmon to Sandpiper

This journey highlights the story of the Fraser River’s natural history and paints an ecological picture of one of the most biodiverse areas in Canada.
Sidebar: *Interpret* ... and understand the river hydraulics and the evolution of the river course, the geology and the forces which have shaped this iconic landscape and delta over millennia.

- The Fraser produces more salmon than any other river system in the world;
- The Fraser is one of just three rivers in British Columbia in which the white sturgeon spawn;
- The Fraser River Estuary is one Canada’s premier Important Bird Areas providing a crucial staging area on the Pacific Flyway;
- The dynamic river conditions of the Fraser from the canyon to the coast;
- The future of the living river is another critical storyline for interpretation. Humans have put pressures on the river system, and changed it from its natural course. Much of the Fraser Valley is naturally a floodplain, but is now protected by dykes which prevent the river from inundating the land and people have influenced the life of the Fraser, just as the river has permeated our lives;
- The formation of the wetlands and bogs of the Lower Fraser (e.g. Burns Bog);
- Augment the work currently being done to tell the Living River story by enhancing this work through coordinating resources and introducing new outlets.

The Living River stories could be presented through a Living River Tour supported with a smartphone interpretive guidebook application.

**The Story of the Working River...from Canneries to Cargo**

This journey presents storylines that relate to the commerce of the Fraser River over time from First Nations fur trading through the harvesting of a variety of natural resources to the present river-based economy and industry.

- Fishing industry (sustenance, commercial and recreational);
- Salmon fishing through the ages (Aboriginal to present day; salting and canning);
- Forestry (sawmills, shingle mills, log booming);
- Mining and gravel extraction;
- Agriculture and floodplain;
- Port activities (cargo terminals and goods movement).

The Working River storyline could be enhanced through a focus on the Fraser River Discovery Centre for major Working River interpretive exhibits. Ideas for supporting the telling of the story could include interactive historical activities about fishing, farming, milling, and towing, an important and particularly representative industry on the Lower Fraser.

Sidebar: *A wealth of resources ...* learn about the working river and the importance of the Lower Fraser as a place of industry and commerce and a source of economic prosperity in BC.

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6 There are other venues where these stories could be explored and told including: the Fort Langley and Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Sites and Britannia Shipyards. In addition, this is only one of many stories interpreted at the Fraser River Discovery Centre.
The Story of Travel on the River...from Cedar Canoes to Tug Boats

This journey would tell the story of the Fraser River as the historical main transportation conduit from the coast to the interior of BC.

- Historical accounts of different British Columbians’ journeys up and down the Fraser through time (Aboriginal, Simon Fraser, present day explorers);
- Railways;
- Bridges and Crossings of the Fraser;
- Boats of the Fraser across time: First Nations canoes, steamboats, paddle wheelers, barges, tug boats, fishing boats, present day kayaks;
- Role in supporting the region – goods and services and movement;
- Recreational Blueway.

Travel on the River stories could be told through:

- River education and interpretation centres (i.e. Mission Harbour River Interpretation Centre);
- Bridge and crossing signage and interpretation program;
- A land based “shipyard” museum and playground.

Sidebar: Transport … see the barges, fishing boats and container ships and become connected to this waterway and its importance in our society as a lifeline and transportation corridor.

The Story of Communities on the River... from Village to Settlement to City

This journey would tell the stories of the many communities that were and are established along the riverfront, how they came to be, and the cultural landscapes that emerged.

- First Nations villages and settlements;
- European settlement – Fur trading (HBC), resource based communities, dyking, flooding and the development of agriculture based communities, historic river landings;
- Stories of ethnically rich communities along the river (e.g. Hawaiian community at Kanaka Creek, Japanese community on Don Island, Chinese community on Lion Island, Greek community on Deas Island);
- The stories of real people of the river – First Nations, immigrants and migrants, entrepreneurs and homesteaders.

Communities of the River stories could be told through:

- A Geo-caching and Passport program telling the stories of various journeys and travel routes (i.e. gold, fur, fish, trading, First Nation, pioneer).

Sidebar: Connect…to the 10,000 years of stories of the river and of this place and the people who have lived, traded, fished, explored and adventured on and around its waters.

Sidebar: A place to call home … how did our present day communities come to be? From Forts and Furs to Fields and Farming, learn about the importance of the river as the home for generations of families.
The Story of the Fraser River Dykes ... from Floods to Fortification

This journey would tell the unique story of how the Fraser River was dyked to manage its seasonal floods, develop rich agricultural lands from the floodplain, and protect large parts of the region’s infrastructure and population.

- May, 1894, largest flood on record, but property damage was limited as settlement was sparse;
- 1948 flood led to evacuation of 16,000 people, damage or destruction of 2300 homes, and recovery costs of over $150 million;
- Early efforts to manage flooding and develop agricultural lands along the lower reaches;
- Sumas Lake (10,000 acres in size) was drained to create farmland;
- Scope and scale of the dyking system in the Lower Fraser River Corridor – now over 600 km of dyke structures, 400 floodboxes and 100 pump stations in the Fraser Basin;
- Future concerns given climate change and sea level rise.

Given that the dyke system forms a significant part of the trail itself, the Fraser River Dyke story could be told through interpretive signage, viewpoints, photos of the major floods and other means. These stories could also be told at the Fraser River Discovery Centre amongst other locations.

2.0 EXPERIENCE THE FRASER: THE CONCEPT

2.1 THE CONCEPT

The Experience the Fraser Concept is, at its heart, quite simple - it is a recreational, cultural and heritage project that seeks to connect Hope to the Salish Sea along the Fraser River and to link and inspire river and other theme-based experiences. The Trail and recreational Blueway serve as the connectors, linking communities, the multitude of stories, river-based amenities, and the natural, recreational, cultural and heritage features and experiences that the Lower Fraser River Corridor offers.

The Experience the Fraser Concept builds from a strong base of existing infrastructure, amenities, features and Fraser River attractions. About 43% of the proposed Trail is already in place along segments provided by regional districts, municipalities and others. There are 15 sanctioned boat launches along this stretch of the river and many riverfront parks that provide water access and amenities. There are a number of cultural and heritage attractions and festivals for residents and visitors alike and several businesses that rent bicycles, boats and offer tours. Experience the Fraser is not starting from scratch. ETF simply seeks to fill the connectivity gaps and add to the experiences available.

The result will be a project that ties together, and adds strength and dynamism to, local tourism and economic development efforts as well as cultural, heritage, and recreational amenities. All of which will be branded under one banner. ETF will become an anchor enticing other tourism opportunities. The Lower Fraser River Corridor will be showcased and promoted as one of the world’s great river destinations. People will be inspired to respect and protect its value. It is important to recognize that the Concept is a long-term vision and will be implemented by many, over decades.
The Concept is structured around five elements: portals, nodes, the Trail, the Blueway, and amenity and feature points based on the eight Fraser River themes introduced above (Map 1: Experience the Fraser Concept Plan). This structure highlights and facilitates connectivity among communities, features, amenities and ultimately, Fraser River experiences. It also highlights connections to, and overlap with, the Trans Canada Trail, and expresses a desire to expand the Project Area to include the North Arm of the Fraser River in the future.

In addition, Sumas Mountain is identified as an Interregional Project on the Concept Plan Map. Sumas Mountain is a dominant and unique landscape feature in the Fraser Valley that captures the appreciation and imagination of many. It holds special significance to First Nations, is popular with trail users and has high conservation values. The mountain also straddles regional park service areas of the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver, creating a unique opportunity for collaboration to advance outdoor recreation, cultural and conservation objectives supporting ETF goals, for the two regional districts and other partners.

Map 1: Experience the Fraser: Concept Plan – See Attached

A Planning Atlas and complementary Opportunities Matrix serve as the repository for ETF’s collected knowledge. The Planning Atlas is the tool that allows navigation of the Concept at different scales, showing the Project from the Lower Fraser River Corridor scale, to specific river reaches, to community nodes, right down to a specific segment of trail, amenity or feature level (Figure 3). Although this level of specificity cannot be shown here, the Planning Atlas is essential for providing detailed planning information as the project moves forward to implementation.

2.2 ELEMENTS

The ETF Concept is spatially based around locations where the stories about the Fraser River, its history, industry, culture and environment can be told. As a result, there are five concept elements – “Canyon to Coast” Trail, recreational blueway, amenity and feature points, nodes and portals.

‘Canyon to Coast’ Trail

The “Canyon to Coast” Trail is the backbone of the project, linking together river communities, the amenity and feature points, and Fraser River experiences. Once complete, it will provide the glue, brand, or impetus for new experiences to join, participate in, and capitalize on Experience the Fraser. Over 550 kilometres of trail are a part of the project, spanning from Hope to the Salish Sea on both sides of the river.

Many participants in the planning process articulated that the Trail needs a brand that expresses the geography, themes or intent of the project more clearly than the Experience the Fraser Trail. The “Canyon to Coast” Trail seems to excite and resonate, since it clearly references the geography of the Lower Fraser River Corridor and begins to connect people to place.

In the short term, a proposed Interim Route would utilize existing trails and roads allowing users to travel from end to end in the short term. This alignment is subject to agreement and participation by the agencies, organizations, and local governments along the route. There is also a Vision Route which is
over 550 kilometres long. Although this length may sound daunting, 43% of the Vision Route is already in place coinciding with regional and municipal park and community trails. The Vision Route is a long term objective and will be implemented over decades.

The primary objective when developing the Vision Route was to develop a continuous east /west connection from Hope to the Salish Sea. The intent was to follow and feature the Fraser River as closely as possible: however, the long-term route will be aligned to harmonize with working river industrial activities, sensitive natural features, private land and First Nation land interests. Most times it will mean going around these features, but creative ways of integrating the Trail into such landscapes and uses can produce the richest experiences. The preferred alignment also reflects the original partnership between the Province, the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver, therefore reflecting the desire to connect provincial and regional parks and facilities and to include sufficient amenities to facilitate multi-day travel (e.g. camping). It was also an objective to advance the Trans Canada Trail alignment through the Lower Fraser River Corridor.

The Trail’s Vision Route status and needs in the eastern (Fraser Valley Regional District) and western (Metro Vancouver) parts of the Project Area are somewhat different. In the eastern part of the Project Area, the Vision Route is 244 kilometres long and 27% (or 66 kilometres) is in place. In the western part of the Project Area, the Vision Route is 308 kilometres long, and approximately 55% (or 173 kilometres) is in place. Of the remaining 313 kilometres required to complete the ETF Trail’s Vision Route, approximately 79 kilometres are located on dyke structures, which require recreational access but do not have the same cost implications as a new trail. Therefore, about 234 kilometres of trail need to be built to fully realize the Vision Route.

Because the Trail is the linear connection that links experiences, it also facilitates the telling of the stories introduced in section 1.7 along the length of the river and other projects that lend themselves to being explored or introduced from end to end – for example, public art expressing Fraser River themes.

The non-motorized ETF Trail will accommodate pedestrians along its length. Cycling and equestrian uses will be added where appropriate and there will be sections of universal accessibility. As time, resources, land tenure and priorities permit, the gaps in the Vision Route will be filled.

**Recreational Blueway**

The Blueway is synonymous with the river. In the Project Area, this includes the Fraser, Harrison and Lower Pitt Rivers and their main tributaries. Because of the many river routes, whether meandering through a number of Fraser River Islands for the day or taking part in a multi-day paddling adventure, the Blueway is best expressed through the supporting infrastructure that facilitates water access and Blueway use such as launching sites, signage, day use facilities, piers, view points and camping. It is this supporting infrastructure that is shown on the Concept Plan. The river connects the portals, the nodes and numerous water-based experiences. The Blueway links communities along the river and complements the coastal based BC Marine Trail Network. It is planned as part of a formalized Blueway network.

To accommodate multi-day journeys, there needs to be supporting infrastructure appropriately spaced along the river including water access, day-use facilities and camping or fixed accommodation. Whether kayaking the islands of the Fraser delta for the day, taking a water taxi to cross from the north to the
south shore, or setting out on a multi-day journey tracing a historical storyline, the possibilities are endless.

**Amenity and Feature Points**

As part of the concept planning process, over 300 Amenity and Feature Points were identified as locations to experience the river. These points represent discrete ‘projects’ that are either infrastructure (e.g. facilities or amenities), program-based (e.g. education or interpretive activities or events) or system-wide opportunities (to be applied across the entire Project Area). One way of better understanding the diversity of amenity and feature points and what they consist of is by reflecting on the demonstration projects. Each of these is part of the ETF Concept, and is a distinct point opportunity that helps create and solidify the ETF identity.

There are numerous existing amenities and features along the river, and for those that are not yet in place, many are already planned as part of municipal Official Community Plans or park and trail plans, ensuring that ETF is well integrated with other agencies’ existing plans. Other ‘points’ were contributed at community forums and other events.

The Planning Atlas captures all of the Amenity and Feature Points identified as well as both Interim and Vision Trail alignments. Within this tool, a set of evaluation criteria based on the ETF’s objectives and eight themes were used to test the fit with the project and readiness for implementation. This filtered set of opportunities, including Trails and Blueways, signage, and other highly ranked elements were consolidated to assist in the development of an Illustrative Foundational Program (Section 2.3).

**Nodes**

Nodes are destinations along the Trail and Blueway or locations where people can come to the project to ‘experience the Fraser’ without having to travel the Trail. They are characterized as having a cluster of amenities, features and experiences close together, are in a location where there is an existing or planned population density or community, are intersecting with the trail, and are providing an access point and amenities for the blueway. There are 26 nodes envisioned between Hope and the Salish Sea, some of which exist, and others that are planned in municipal Official Community Plans or as an integral part of ETF. They are intended to motivate and facilitate engagement with the Fraser River and will have a kiosk to act as a point of introduction, information and orientation to the Trail. Travelling downstream, these envisioned nodes are:

A. **Hope**

Hope is one of British Columbia’s oldest settlements. Before the municipality was established, the Stó:lo tribal village of Ts’qo:ls existed along the banks of the Fraser River. When visiting the local museum visitors can learn about explorer Simon Fraser’s arrival in 1808 and the establishment of Fort Hope trading post by the Hudson’s Bay Company forty years later. This destination also offers the opportunity for First Nations to share their culture and heritage with visitors. Today four major highways converge at Hope, enabling it to serve as a gateway to rest of the province. Combined with stunning geography, this hub provides a key stop for visitors to experience an abundance of recreational adventures from the Fraser River up to the peaks of the surrounding mountains.
B. **Seabird Island**

Seabird Island is located along the north shore of the Fraser River in the upper Fraser Valley, three kilometres northeast of the town of Agassiz and home to the Seabird Island Indian Band. This storied island derived its name from the June 1858 grounding of the transport paddle-wheeler ‘Sea Bird’. This destination could offer visitors authentic cultural and heritage tourism experiences, and already has as the annual Tulips of the Valley Festival and First Nation Festival. If the breathtaking backdrop does not give a true appreciation for the ecological importance of the area, then Maria Slough which surrounds the Island will certainly do so. It is known for its ecological importance for amphibians, fish, birds, and several species at risk.

C. **Harrison Hot Springs**

Nestled against magnificent mountains and the sandy beaches of Harrison Lake, Harrison Hot Springs is a destination filled with history and natural wonders. Although the hot springs were not discovered until the Cariboo Gold Rush in the late 1850s, the village appeared on maps several years earlier. Harrison Lake is accessible for boaters via several launches and offers year round wildlife viewing with common sightings of eagles, herons, salmon, and seals. The natural beauty of Harrison Hot Springs is brought to life with several annual events and celebrations. This node provides a treat for visitors looking to relax and rejuvenate.

D. **Rosedale / Popkum**

Located amidst Chilliwack’s agricultural lands, Rosedale presents future opportunities to experience the area’s plentiful agricultural operations and offerings along the dyke system. Nestled under Mount Cheam, the breathtaking Coastal Mountains offer awe-inspiring scenery. Underneath the Agassiz–Rosedale Bridge is Ferry Island Provincial Park which is used for day fishing and as a boat launch. Rosedale is also a place to tell stories of the past related to industry and transportation. Many of the earliest mill development took place here and before the bridge existed, travel crossing the river was done by boat and ferry.

E. **Sts’ailes-Chehalis**

The Chehalis River delta is known for its natural beauty and serves as a prominent environmental feature along the Harrison River Blueway. This node is embedded in the Sts’ailes Band (formerly Chehalis Indian Band) traditional territory and is a place where culture, heritage, and the environment meld together into a truly powerful experience. Sts’ailes is actively promoting tourism initiatives through the Sasquatch Eco-Crossing Lodge, Sts’ailes Lhawathet Lalem (Chehalis Healing House), Heritage Trail, and, in the future, Sp’óq’es (Bald Eagle) Café, which could become the country’s first major bald eagle orientated educational-tourist venture. This area is also proposed by the Province to become a Wildlife Management Area since the areas river and delta habitat support important staging and wintering habitat for bald eagles and trumpeter swans and significant spawning habitat for salmon and white sturgeon. This area is referred to as a “Salmon Stronghold” since all species of salmon return here. With chartered tours down the Harrison River Blueway visitors can fully immerse themselves in this node’s historic features, abundant scenery, wildlife, and other natural features.

F. **Harrison Mills**

Located at the confluence of the Harrison and Fraser Rivers, the only reminder of the once thriving community of Harrison Mills is the Kilby Historic Site, which provides visitors with a realistic glimpse into early twentieth century pioneer history. Also tucked away in this rural pastoral setting is Kilby Provincial Park which offers boating and boating on the Harrison River and easy access to the
Fraser and Harrison Lake. With Canadian Pacific Railway’s main transcontinental line passing right by, this is a place to tell the rural lifestyle story of industry and transportation.

G. **Chilliwack Waterfront**
Chilliwack Landing was first settled in the 1850’s and consisted of a Paddle Wheeler dock, hotel and service buildings. As there was limited space in this location, the town of Chilliwack was established ‘Five Corners’. This node presents an opportunity to reconnect the community with the Fraser River and to bring together First Nations’ culture and history, early settlement, and outdoor recreation. Today, Chilliwack offers a variety of tourist attractions, world-class sports fishing, white water river rafting, beautiful lakes, hiking and biking trails, and great festivals. Adjacent to the node is a regional park that has the potential to be a flagship in the region.

H. **Barrowtown**
Tucked beside Sumas Mountain, Barrowtown offers a lush array of environmental surroundings and outdoor experiences (Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area, eastside of Sumas Mountain Regional Park, Barrowtown Pump Station Staging Area, and Sumas River Dyke Trail). When connected by way of spanning the Sumas River, visitors will be able to explore the Fraser River’s floodplain all the way up to the peak of Sumas Mountain. Barrowtown is a location that could also show how best to integrate railways and crossings in close proximity to the river.

I. **Mission Waterfront**
Coastal mountains, sprawling farmland, and the imposing Fraser River give Mission instant visual appeal. Yet beyond the visual, this rural Fraser Valley community also boasts a thriving cultural scene and numerous recreational activities. Mission’s waterfront is undergoing redevelopment and is already a key destination for year-round fishing and experiencing the ‘Mighty Fraser’ during freshet at the Mission Demonstration Project. In the future visitors will be able to walk and cycle the entire foreshore as the dyke trail is developed.

J. **Abbotsford**
This node is on the edge of downtown Abbotsford and includes urban amenities as well as the historic Clayburn village. ETF travelers can take a side trip along the Discovery Trail into the heart of Abbotsford to explore its many festivals and cultural amenities, or hike to the top of Sumas Mountain to be rewarded by sweeping vistas of the surrounding flat lands.

K. **Stave**
Located in a forested setting, Stave is a recreational paradise that is complimented by a rich industrial past. At the Stave Falls Powerhouse visitors can experience a historic perspective on hydroelectric power and in the surrounding mountains they can touch the huge cedar stumps that drew sawmilling and cedar shingle interests. Today and continuing into the future this area will grow as a recreational hub with Rolley Lake Provincial Park, Mission Interpretive Forest, and BC Hydro’s Stave Lake, Hayward Lake, and Ruskin recreational sites.

L. **Fort Langley**
One of the best known heritage sites in the Lower Fraser River Corridor, Fort Langley has many historic buildings, the Parks Canada Fort Langley National Historic Site, the BC Farm Machinery & Agricultural Museum, the Fort Langley Heritage CN Station, and the Langley Centennial Museum. Brae Island Regional Park is part of this node, offering connections to and from the river and Bedford Channel and Fort Camping offers sites and programming on the river. The eastern end of
McMillan Island is home to the Kwantlen First Nation. The Fort to Fort Trail connects to Fort Langley to Derby Reach Regional Park.

M. Port Haney
Port Haney is a heritage waterfront community, historically important for its rail station and regular steamboat traffic as well as its brick works and farming. The community hosts the Haney Farmers Market and Music on the Wharf and residents enjoy Fraser River access at the historic Haney Wharf or along nature trails that weave through Kanaka Creek Regional Park to the riverfront.

N. Bonson
Bonson, a relatively new Fraser River community, is located in Pitt Meadows in close proximity to the Pitt Meadows Airport and the Golden Ears Bridge. The community waterfront incorporates the Pitt River Greenway, a riverfront trail along the dyke connecting the Golden Ears and Pitt River Bridges. A new community centre, river viewing piers, and waterfront commons allow for direct connections to the river. There are many opportunities to learn and discover stories about the surrounding agricultural landscape, the log booms on the waterfront, the Katzie First Nation and long history of the Stó:lō people.

O. Surrey Bend
The Surrey Bend node is anchored by Surrey Bend Regional Park, a complex wetland home to a diversity of wildlife and one of the few remaining undyked floodplain areas on this stretch of the Fraser River. Visitors can wander through the park or hop on a ferry to Barnston Island, a quiet agricultural community which is home to fewer than 100 residents, the Katzie First Nation, and Metro Vancouver’s parkland.

P. Citadel
The Citadel is situated at the riverfront community of Citadel Landing and includes a waterfront boardwalk, Peace Park and staging area. Adjacent to this node is the confluence of the Coquitlam, Pitt and Fraser rivers, the south Pitt River section of the Traboulay PoCo Trail, Colony Farm Regional Park, and the Coquitlam River Wildlife Management Area. These locations provide connections to the river, the area’s rich biodiversity and it’s working industry. The Wildlife Management Area is home to one of the largest Great Blue Heron colonies in BC, and provides habitat and feeding grounds for many other birds and animals. Colony Farm Regional Park provides dyke trails, a community garden and is the former site of the historic Essondale psychiatric asylum and provincial demonstration farm. The Kwikwetlem First Nation lands are located on the Coquitlam River adjacent to the regional park and the First Nation operates a Colony Farm bike tour and rental business.

Q. Coquitlam Waterfront
Once the site of the largest sawmill in the British Empire, the Coquitlam Waterfront node is planned to become a town centre, mixing new residential, commercial and light industrial. This Village at Fraser Mills will be oriented towards the water, providing piers, a boardwalk and other recreational activities. Industry that is adjacent to the East and West could provide for educational opportunities about solid waste management, sustainable energies and the active industrial landscape.

R. New Westminster Quay
The City of New Westminster is an urban centre with a strong connection, both historic and present, to the Fraser River. It is the oldest city in western Canada – and the original capital of British
Columbia. Queen Victoria named the city, thus it is also referred to as the ‘Royal City’. There is already an extensive waterfront trail system in place here, with interpretive signs that echo the themes and stories of the Fraser. There is also a public market, the Fraser River Discovery Centre, a historic downtown, a cultural and event presence and plans for further connections east to Sapperton Landing.

S. Brownsville
Located amidst Surrey’s industrial lands, Brownsville presents the opportunity to expand waterfront programming and recreational opportunities and to increase connectivity to the Fraser River where public access is currently limited. This is a key location for interpreting different marine-dependent industrial uses and their reliance on the Fraser River. This node provides a venue for small events and enjoyment of a waterfront park and beach areas.

T. Queensborough
A quiet community developed on lands once set aside for a military reserve, Queensborough initially provided cheap housing for mill and cannery workers, leading to a mix of ethnicities. Recent investment and revitalization of this community helped provide a new waterfront trail, boat landing and piers. This is a place to enjoy a stroll along the river, imagine what life would be like on a houseboat, and interpret the many bridges crossing the Fraser River and how their placements have shaped the region.

U. Tilbury
A future eco-industrial development, Tilbury is envisioned to include a public waterfront area with shops and restaurants to attract visitors. It will showcase sustainability principles through building design and operation as well as environmental stewardship, and will be a place to express and interpret the importance of industrial land preservation in our region. Tilbury is the site of stilt homes on the river, and is adjacent to the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area.

V. Riverport
A recreation and entertainment hub, Riverport is a place where visitors can catch a movie, play hockey, go for a swim or grab a pint with friends. Nestled between industrial and agricultural lands, visitors and residents can also enjoy the waterfront trail, launch a kayak at the dock, or pick up some fresh produce at the local farm market.

W. Steveston
The Steveston waterfront once lined by canneries and still home to Canada’s largest commercial fishing harbour, is now a pedestrian-oriented mix of boardwalks, piers, park areas and homes. A bustling tourist destination with bike rentals, whale watching and plethora of cafés, restaurants and shops, it charms visitors and residents with its historic feel and offers cannery and shipyard tours. There are many celebrations and events including the Farmers and Artisans Market, the Tall Ships Festival and the Salmon Festival.

X. Ladner
Ladner, a historic fishing and farming village, has plenty to experience including farmers markets, shops, restaurants, and adjacent environmental and agricultural areas including the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary and South Arm Wildlife Management Area. A redevelopment strategy for the waterfront area is complete, with planned public access and amenity improvements. This is a
key stop to or from the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal where visitors can learn about the area’s history, explore the marshlands or check into a Bed and Breakfast.

Y. Tsawwassen

The Tsawwassen people assert that the Fraser River is their lifeblood. They are a proud, seafaring Coast Salish people who have inhabited this part of the river for thousands of years. TFN completed a Land Use Plan in 2009, and is presently exploring a variety of sustainable developments on TFN lands, including residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial projects. This node is surrounded by agricultural land and is strongly connected to the Salish Sea. It borders on Roberts Bank and Sturgeon Banks, intertidal and marsh areas that are critical habitat for migrating waterfowl.

Z. Ferry

The Ferry node includes the BC Ferries’ Tsawwassen Terminal and its Causeway and is an entrance to the Lower Fraser River Corridor. The Causeway itself has been used for many years as an informal recreation site, and the surrounding tidal marshes make it an important place for many birds, including the Great Blue Heron, the Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, and the Western Sandpiper.

Portals

Portals are the entry points to Experience the Fraser. There are three portals envisioned that anchor the project and that serve as points of welcome: in Hope, New Westminster and at the Salish Sea. Portals are more than trailheads – they are gateways to ETF where a number of amenities, features and experiences exist in close proximity. Each portal is characterized by an ETF Pavilion, a place of information, interpretation and orientation, and of sufficient scale and presence to excite users and to introduce them into their first ETF experience. There is also a staging area with amenities and services. Finally, portals are places of connection to other regional and provincial trail systems: to the east, New Pathways to Gold Society and the 2010 Spirit Trails, and to the west, via BC Ferries, the Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and the Capital Regional District’s Lochside and Galloping Goose Trails.

East Portal

As you travel south down the Fraser Canyon or west from the interior of the province, all routes converge at Hope. This corridor connects the Lower Mainland to the rest of the province and therefore is a critical hub. At this eastern portal, there are opportunities to partner with the District of Hope, Chawathil First Nation, BC Parks and others. Chawathil First Nation’s Telte Yet campsite and Xwelqamex (Greenwood Island) connect to the Fraser River. At these locations there is a vision to create an authentic tourism interpretation destination. The District of Hope is surrounded by towering peaks, mature forests, and quality trails waiting for visitors to explore. The municipality has several parks which allow for outdoor recreation opportunities such as boat launching, fishing, picnicking and birding. The Centennial Park in downtown Hope offers visitors one of the most easily accessible and best views of the Fraser River anywhere. In addition, this portal already has a thriving community network that will only be strengthened with ETF. This portal is envisioned to be a place of greeting and orienting visitors by way of wayfinding and interpretation features.

Urban Portal

The portal at the New Westminster Quay is an important ETF point of entry for the urban population of the Burrard Peninsula, Richmond and the North Shore. It is also a transit and trail hub with
connections to SkyTrain, the BC Parkway and the Central Valley Greenway. The Fraser River Discovery Centre facilitates this portal’s function as a significant point of entry, introduction and orientation and is an exciting location to learn about the river’s history and present. The New Westminster waterfront is also home to Hyack’s Fraserfest, Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours, the Quay marketplace, bicycle tours and rentals, museums and theatre, and the waterfront boardwalk.

**West Portal**
The western portal is where the Fraser River flows into the ocean, creating rich marsh and intertidal habitat along Sturgeon and Roberts Banks. The Tsawwassen First Nation is located at the ocean’s edge - a growing community with a strong history and dynamic future vision. The Corporation of Delta and the community of Tsawwassen are also located in close proximity to the western waterfront. This area is further enlivened by BC Ferries’ Tsawwassen Terminal and causeway, a vibrant and busy transportation hub for the province and recreation amenity. The extensive Port Metro Vancouver and rail infrastructure at Deltaport is a major terminal operation for Canada. Nearby there are numerous parks and community trails connecting to a myriad of historic, cultural, environmental and agricultural experiences. At the western portal, there are opportunities to partner with the Corporation of Delta, BC Ferries, Port Metro Vancouver, the Tsawwassen First Nation, the BC Ministry of Transportation and others.

### 2.3 ILLUSTRATIVE FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

The Illustrative Foundational Program consists of 60 actions and projects essential to building a strong and recognizable ETF identity. It is a recommended set of priority actions and is intended to have the flexibility to be guided by the various partners choosing to participate in delivery. As funding is secured, the program can advance. However, if resources or priorities changes, the Foundational Program can adapt and projects of similar impact may be substituted. The Illustrative Foundational Program includes the top 20% of the over 300 amenity and feature opportunities identified for the Concept Plan which were evaluated for ‘fit’ and ‘readiness’ with ETF or alignment with existing plans and resources. It also includes a number of recommended projects that are already planned but which demonstrate how association with and connection to ETF will amplify tourism, economic development, recreation and other benefits. The Illustrative Foundational Program is laid out to align with the five concept elements, but also includes some actions that are either not geographically based, or that span the entire project area. The Illustrative Foundational Program will:

- result in sufficient on the ground presence that ETF has a recognizable, well branded identity that reflects project goals;
- ensure that the “Canyon to Coast” Trail is navigable from Portal to Portal;
- have Recreational Blueway support infrastructure for a daily paddling distance (approximately every fifteen kilometers); and
- fill 50% of the “Canyon to Coast” Trail’s Vision Route gap, (completing over 70% of the Vision Route).

**‘Canyon to Coast’ Trail**

- The “Canyon to Coast” Trail’s Interim Route will be designated, in place and signed sufficiently for users to navigate from Portal to Portal.
• **Seven** trail segments will fill priority gaps in the “Canyon to Coast” Trail’s Vision Route:
  - Hope to Agassiz along the north side of the river (waterfront) – improves connectivity for an alternate Trans-Canada cycling route (~34 km);
  - Mission along the north side of the river (waterfront) from Silvermere Lake east to Hatzic Lake (~16 km);
  - Matsqui Trail west to Fort Langley (~18 km);
  - Derby Reach Regional Park west to the Golden Ears Bridge (~2 km) – will improve connectivity for the Trans-Canada Trail;
  - Pitt River Greenway east to the Maple Ridge waterfront at Port Hammond (~2 km);
  - Surrey waterfront between the Port Mann Bridge and Surrey Bend Regional Park (~6 km); and
  - New Westminster Pier Park to Coquitlam (~3 km).

• Recreational access will be secured through agreements with the Province, First Nations and others along **six** dyke structures to fill priority gaps in the ‘Canyon to Coast’ Trail’s Vision Route:
  - Chilliwack from the Agassiz Bridge west to Sumas Mountain (~20 km);
  - Kent-Agassiz dyke system (16km);
  - Part of the Nicomen Island dyke system (~20km);
  - Part of the Dewdney dyke system (~9km);
  - Delta between the Tsawwassen First Nation and Ladner (~8 km); and
  - Tsawwassen First Nation between the BC Ferry Causeway and Corporation of Delta Dyke Trail (~4 km)

• **Five** pedestrian/cycling water crossings to advance connectivity over the river:
  - Upgrade the Mission Railway Bridge to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists;
  - Upgrade the Kettle Valley Railway Bridge underneath the Fraser Bridge (Trans-Canada Highway) in Hope to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists;
  - Harrison River between Harrison Knob and Harrison Mills;
  - Sumas River Crossing between Sumas Mountain and Chilliwack; and
  - New Westminster Railway Bridge: between the Quay and Queensborough – acknowledged as a potential and desired connection in the City of New Westminster’s Official Community Plan.

• The points of intersection with the Trans Canada Trail (e.g. west side of the Pitt River Bridge, the Vedder Canal and at the two Portals) are acknowledged and highlighted on the ground to facilitate users’ experiences.

• Existing bridges become more than just connections - they have been upgraded or modified to include a dedicated trail (pedestrian and cycling access), viewpoints, theme interpretation, public art, and ETF branding.

• Improved pedestrian and cycling access on the Agassiz Bridge or replacement bridge.

• Improved pedestrian and cycling access on the Patullo Bridge or replacement bridge.

• If a new Fraser River bridge is built near the George Massey Tunnel, good pedestrian and cycling access is ensured, or at the very least there is improved functionality through the tunnel.
Recreational Blueway – Supporting Infrastructure

There are currently fifteen sanctioned, motorized boat launches in the Project Area. To facilitate recreational boating and use of the Blueway for day and multi-day trips, **eight** new or enhanced boat launches between the Alex Fraser Bridge and Hope are proposed in the following locations:

- Hope;
- Dewdney / Deroche;
- Island 22 Regional Park;
- Chilliwack – Rosedale area;
- the Mission Bridge area;
- Pitt Meadows at Ferry Slip Landing – under consideration by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and Pitt Meadows;
- Langley waterfront between Fort Langley and Glen Valley Regional Park – under consideration by the Township of Langley; and
- Surrey at Brownsville Node.

- A Blueway Signage & Wayfinding System is in place.
- All regional parks on the river will provide water access and some amenities to support Blueway use.
- In addition, the following locations will provide clear access to the Blueway and sufficient amenities to facilitate Blueway use:
  - Hope (Chawathil First Nation - Telte-Yet Campsite);
  - Laidlaw (FH Barber Provincial Park);
  - Rosedale (Ferry Island Provincial Park); and
  - Harrison Mills (Kilby Provincial Park).

Amenity and Feature Points

Infrastructure

- Improved access, trails and natural and cultural interpretation in Sumas Mountain Regional Park.
- One enhanced and one proposed new FVRD regional park (Island 22, and Landstrom Ridge).
- Enhanced camping for paddling groups at Matsqui Trail Regional Park and three downstream regional parks (recommended at Barnston, Glen Valley and Deas Island) and new camping facilities at Chilliwack.
- Improvements to Ferry Island Provincial Park including: boat launch, camping, and day-use amenities.

Programming

- ETF information is provided on BC Ferries traveling to and from the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal.
- Parks Canada will work with ETF to nominate the Fraser River Dyking System as a national historic event and develop associated programming at Parks Canada properties along the river.
• Advance the Chawathil First Nation’s proposed “Living Village Experience” – at the Telte-Yet Campground in Hope. Through this experience, Chawathil First Nation’s culture and heritage would be shared through both land and river based tourism services and products.

• The Sts’ailes Band’s Sp’óq’es - Bald Eagle Café will be developed. This café would be a paid viewing site for people to come and observe, appreciate, and photograph thousands of bald eagles who are feasting upon surplus spawned out salmon carcasses – a natural occurrence that could be promoted as a world class tourism experience through this café.

• Xá:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre is located at BC’s oldest known settlement and contains over 9,000 years of Stó:lō First Nation’s history, spirituality, and culture. It is a National Historic Site - one of the first Native spiritual sites in Canada to be formally recognized in this manner. A heritage centre at Xá:ytem reflecting the values and the spiritual, cultural and archaeological traditions of the Stó:lō Nation will be developed that does not compromise the natural or spiritual integrity of this very special place.

Nodes

• Kiosks will act as a point of introduction, information and orientation to the Trail and will be in place in existing nodes where the Interim Route and Vision Route coincide. This occurs in 18 locations: Seabird Island, Harrison Hot Springs, Rosedale-Popkum, Harrison Mills, Chilliwack Waterfront, Barrowtown, Mission Waterfront, Stave, Abbotsford, Fort Langley, Port Haney, Bonson, Citadel, New Westminster Quay, Queensborough, Steveston, Ladner, and Ferry nodes.

Portals

• A pavilion will be in place at each portal to mark the beginning of the ETF Trail and Recreational Blueway. These will be of sufficient scale to denote this as an entry point to ETF and to provide information, orientation, and interpretive opportunities.

• There will be a staging area with services and amenities at each portal.

• The Urban Portal at New Westminster will be an important point of entry from the Burrard Peninsula, Richmond, and the North Shore. The Fraser River Discovery Centre will facilitate this portal’s function as a significant point of entry, introduction, and orientation to ETF with a film and a small exhibit dedicated to promoting ETF. In addition, the Fraser River Discovery Centre will be enhanced through the completion of its fixed exhibits featuring the bold landscapes of the Fraser River from Mount Robson to the Pacific Ocean.

System-wide Initiatives

• ETF is well branded including logo, tag line, and marketing strategy.

• ETF website.

• ETF smart phone “app”.

• Five Fraser River stories will be developed and programmed along the “Canyon to Coast” Trail.

• Two annual events in different parts of the corridor will be held where ETF can be celebrated.

• A full scale Way-Finding System will be in place from Hope to the Salish Sea.
2.4 ASPIRATIONS... More BIG Ideas

Whereas the Foundational Program is focused on practicality and priorities, the project can stretch further. There are a multitude of creative, big ideas that could help define Experience the Fraser and set it apart as a world class outdoor recreation, cultural and heritage destination. This list is illustrative and is intended to inspire potential partners to see themselves in the Project.

- **Cable Car Crossings**: Self propelled cable cars speed visitors across watercourses as part of the trail experience.
- **DeltaPort Overpass** at the entrance to DeltaPort: The waterfront dyke trail is discontinuous at this location. A trail overpass will provide connectivity and interpret port and rail activities.
- **Experi-turismos**: Based on the Italian ‘agriturismo’ concept where people vacation on a working farm and participate in its daily activities, imagine participating in a First Nations’ longhouse and village, working on a pioneer heritage farm, becoming a Royal Engineer for the day, or living at a working Fort.
- **ETF Bus Tour** from Hope to the Salish Sea.
- **‘Floatels’** Imagine waking to the sound of the water lapping at your door in a floating Fraser River hotel or Bed and Breakfast.
- **Floating Event Venue**: An ETF barge that is used as a stage or venue moves along the river for various celebrations, festivals and events.
- **Fraser Ghost Ships Park**: A new park highlighting the various boats used on the Fraser through history, including First Nations canoes, a paddle wheeler, steamboat, tugboat, and fishing boats. With their hulls partially buried, visitors can come on board and explore the boats and the river’s history.
- **Fraser River Island Hopping**: Paddling and camping tours through the Fraser River Islands (e.g. Bristol, Island 22, Greenwood, Croft, Vasasus, Herrling group or others with expanded First Nation partnerships). A water taxi or water bus provides transportation and regulates visits.
- **Pocket Picnic Riverside Parks**: Small, riverfront parks, possibly linear, with a high level of accessibility, contain enclosed picnic shelters and tables for all-season use. In urban areas, food carts or vendors are located in close proximity.
- **Port Park**: A new waterfront ‘Port Park’ where the industrial working river is showcased and interpreted. Proposed location is in Richmond at the Riverport Node.
- **Railway Park**: A linear ‘Railway Park’ where historic and present railway stories are interpreted. The proposed location is in Surrey at Thornton Railyards.
- **River Rail tour**: Travel along the Fraser River by rail and experience the Lower Fraser River Corridor from end to end in one day!
- **Snorkeling with the Salmon**: Guided snorkeling tour on Harrison River gets people into the river swimming or floating down the river in the midst of a salmon run.
• Underwater Viewing Cavern: Located on the Harrison River, this facility would provide people with a window into river life – they will see spawning salmon and other types of freshwater fish in their natural habitat.

• A suite of visitor or presentation centres that are multi-experiential and partnership driven (either building from existing locations or new) that interpret Fraser River themes and support Experience the Fraser.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Experience the Fraser was initiated by the Fraser Valley Regional District, Metro Vancouver, and the Province: however, it has always been recognized that ETF is much bigger than these three parties. Growing and implementing the vision must to be a collaborative venture that involves many stakeholders including First Nations, municipalities, other agencies, the private sector and motivated community groups and citizens, with ongoing support and participation from the regional districts and the Province. It has already been stated that this project’s success is contingent on strong partnerships where a common vision is shared, where partners recognize the multiple benefits of participation and are committed to seeing the project come to fruition. As a result, there are a number of strategies that need further discussion and development to help guide the Concept from Plan to Implementation.

Ongoing partnership development must be the first priority. This Concept Plan illustrates what can be achieved and attempts to entice potential partners with a compelling vision, but these relationships need to be cultivated and it remains to be determined who key implementers will be and who will administer the project over time.

A related strategy is developing a sustainable governance and financing model. As the project moves toward implementation, there is an opportunity to open up the dialogue about governance and invite others to participate in the project in different and more direct ways. ETF crosses a number of administrative boundaries and has a large number of stakeholders, all of whom could be involved in realizing or facilitating implementation of the ETF Vision. Once it is known who is interested in participating in implementation, a sustainable governance model will define the roles and responsibilities including decision-making, accountability, project management and administration, strategic planning and priority development, and the flow of information and resources. Strongly connected to governance is a financing model that determines the longevity of the project and resourcing for administration, branding and marketing, outreach and public involvement and capital development.

There are a number of issues that challenge linear corridor and trail projects, including the fact that trails cross administrative boundaries and the challenges of land use conflicts or the geography of a region. A key ETF implementation strategy is to look at some of these cross-jurisdictional and other barriers from a regional perspective, to develop best practices and to facilitate partnerships and consistently applied solutions. Examples include securing recreational dyke access through a dyke
protocol, addressing recreational interfaces with agriculture and industrial land uses, and developing an effective and consistent ways of dealing with regulatory aspects of implementing the plan.

As the ETF Implementation Strategies evolve with input from stakeholders and interested parties they will be incorporated into an Implementation Plan along with identified partners and actions. This process will be influenced by the wisdom of those who are Fraser River passionates who feel strongly that: “it’s time to focus this kind of attention on the value of the river in our daily lives and as an environmental, recreation and tourism resource and source of inspiration.”
Metro Vancouver has partnered with Township of Langley to establish a 12km Trans Canada Trail (TCT) link from Historic Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge. This vision is realized by designating 2.5 km of accessible walking/biking trail in Derby Reach Regional Park and Township of Langley (TOL) right of way. 

**ETF Demonstration Section Features**
- 100 Acres of landscaped parkland opened to public use
- Existing natural settings
- Six interpretive features
- 2.5 km of accessible walking/biking trail
- New rail trail extension
- Former Trans Canada Trail (severed with Albion Ferry closure)
- New rail construction
- New highway replacement
- Former Trans Canada Trail (severed with Alden Ferry closure)
- New highway extension
- New rail construction

**ETF Demonstration Section**
- **Location:** Township of Langley
- **Budget:** $550,000

**Core Partners**
- Metro Vancouver (MVR)
- Township of Langley

**Lead Agencies**
- Metro Vancouver

The ETF Demonstration Section provides new archaeological resource management, ETF themes and programming, NGE planning and implementational collaboration, interpretation of interpretive recreation infrastructure planning, and demystifies creativity and best practice experiences in keeping with the ETF vision. This vision is realized by designating 2.5 km of accessible walking/biking trail from Historic Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge. The vision is realized by designating 2.5 km of accessible walking/biking trail from Historic Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge.
DEMONSTRATION ELEMENTS

AGRICULTURE-RECREATION INTERFACE PLANNING

• Agricultural strategy prepared to ensure minimal impact on adjacent farm operations
• Engagement of neighboring farmers and discussion with the Agricultural Land Commission
• Agricultural inspired interpretive features located along the trail corridor
• 'Agricultural interface zone' design treatment educates trail users

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

• Project was co-managed by MV and TOL
• Collaborative approach to First Nation and community engagement
• Collaborative planning, design and construction
• Capital funding provided by municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments

ETF THEMES AND PLACEMAKING

• Trail route moves through varied landscapes, includes nodes and points of interest
• Interpretive displays along the trail celebrate ETF themes and adjacent cultural landscape
• The Muench Bar Rusk Picnic Area provides direct contact with the Fraser River

ARCHAEOLOGY

• Archaeological Overview Assessment completed to identify key areas of concern along trail corridor
• Archaeological Impact Assessment completed in key areas of concern along trail corridor
• Strategic design decisions and trail routing reduced risk of disturbing archaeological resources

NGO PARTNERING

• MV and TOL leveraged capital funding to secure $107,000 TCT Foundation grant towards trail construction
• Community and partner groups were engaged and in turn provided support for grant construction

Environmental Collaboration

• Trail users are educated to respect natural habitats and cultural landscapes
• Collaborative partnerships with First Nation and community groups
• Trail design and construction reduce impact on adjacent archaeological resources
SYNOPSIS

The Mission Waterfront Demonstration Project was a joint venture between the Fraser Valley Regional District and the District of Mission’s Spirit Square at Jack Poole Harbourside Park. It opened on May 15, 2010 marking one of the first stages of Mission’s waterfront revitalization and providing the first new project and trail segment for Experience the Fraser in the Fraser Valley.

The Mission Waterfront Demonstration Project was anticipated to expand over time, responding to ongoing waterfront development. The square provides a great location for future Fraser River celebrations. It showcases the community of Mission’s riverfront and provides a focal point to reconnect residents and introduce visitors to the Fraser River.

As a demonstration project, the Mission Waterfront Project illustrates the kind of amenities and features that Experience the Fraser aspires to, and is a physical expression of innovative dyke planning and design with exceptional recreational benefits.

FEATURES

- Elevated square and trail on a dyke
- Unique First Nation public art of a life-size sturgeon
- 175m of universally accessible walking/cycling trail
- Public amenities of benches, picnic tables, banners
- Public art of a life-size sturgeon

LOCATION

District of Mission
Fraser Valley Regional District
Province of British Columbia

Budget

$960,000

CORE PARTNERS

District of Mission
Fraser Valley Regional District
Province of British Columbia
Mission Harbour Authority

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Includes the first segment of a waterfront trail that will eventually span from East to West Mission and connect to other communities
- Provides a variety of access and seating options for all mobility levels, universally accessible ramps

CELEBRATION

- The square offers a waterfront community gathering space with benches and picnic tables for families to enjoy
- Serves as a place where people can come and watch the river rise and fall

RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY

- Marks the beginning of Mission’s waterfront revitalization and is a catalyst for future exciting opportunities supporting community enjoyment, recreation, and a sense of place
- Provides a variety of access and seating options for all mobility levels, universally accessible ramps

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Experience the Fraser provided additional vision and resources to the Spirit Square project adding public art
- The Demonstration Project connects to the recently expanded Mission Harbourside Park's River Interpretation Centre
Recommendation:

That the Board:

a) adopt the draft Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan dated September 2011; and

b) direct staff to continue to work with member municipalities, stakeholders and other partners to generate an implementation plan as a companion document.

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Parks Committee with a summary of outreach and communication activities related to the draft 2011 Regional Parks Plan Update and to present the new Regional Parks Plan to the Parks Committee and Board for their consideration and adoption.

2. CONTEXT

Background
In 2005, the Board approved the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan (RPGP) to guide the delivery of its regional parks function. The RPGP was the first of a series of corporate management plans created to address delivery of services according to the principles of sustainability under the framework of the Sustainable Region Initiative.

The RPGP is being updated in 2011 because many actions in the 2005 plan are well underway or complete; some actions have changed in scope or detail and need to be reconfirmed; and a new format and actions are needed to ensure consistency and integration with Metro Vancouver's overall suite of sustainability plans.

On September 7, 2011 staff presented a draft of the new Regional Parks Plan (RPP) to the Park Committee and described the updated goals and strategies from the proposed plan. The Parks Committee provided staff with guidance on the draft RPP and the outreach process. They directed staff to receive feedback on the draft plan, revise the plan based on the feedback, and report back on the results at its October meeting.
Outreach and Communications Overview

Public outreach on the draft 2011 RPP occurred in early September. Metro Vancouver staff discussed the plan with approximately 83 interested parties at open houses and through a webinar. In addition to receiving verbal comments at the open houses, 23 online feedback forms, and 10 webinar comments and questions were received. MV also received 22 letters and e-mails from individuals and organizations. Attachment 1 provides a list of organizations that were represented either officially or unofficially. Specifically, the outreach included:

- Website posting of the draft document with an online feedback form;
- One evening open house at the Metro Vancouver head office;
- One daytime webinar for municipal staff, other agencies and the public; and
- Three evening meetings for invited park partners.

The outreach opportunities were advertised in newspapers, on the Metro Vancouver website, and through a press release. Direct invitations were sent to MV’s sustainable region outreach mailing list of approximately 7,000 addresses.

Key Stakeholder Comments and Responses

In general, there was broad support for the majority of the goals, strategies and actions contained within the plan. Several people expressed appreciation, saying they find a lot to support in the new plan including:

- The RPP vision is important and is a good starting point for the rest of the plan.
- Goal 1 is our most important goal. Without it, the other goals cannot be addressed.
- Goal 2 is much more important than it looks. Without the exposure to nature, there will be little future support and understanding of environmental aspects of the first goal.
- General support was expressed for additional acquisition of land for parks to address growing population and the need for connectivity.
- General support was expressed for the land uses, programs, and management regimes that regional parks currently include. Some people indicated that they are happy with the current MV regional park approaches.
- This is an overall ‘green flag’ plan that just needs more detail.

In general, negative comments or concerns revolved around 3 broad issues:

- Some felt regional parks should be used exclusively for environmental conservation and recreation and not for agriculture and commercial activities.
- Some, particularly those who opposed elements of the plan, felt there should be more time allocated for outreach.
- Confusion over terminology.

A consolidated overview of comments specific to the draft plan is provided in Attachment 2.

Highlighted comments arising from input received during outreach activities and a staff response are provided in Table 1:

Table 1: Highlighted Comments and Staff Responses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Staff Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requests to provide more information about terminology:</strong></td>
<td>Staff has prepared a short glossary for the RPP and included terms such as ecological health, basic services, and enhanced services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We need to know the definition of some of this before we can agree or not. I’m not sure if I support enhanced services for example since I don’t know what your definition is.</td>
<td>The definition of ecological health, for example, includes environmental integrity and species at risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What is ecological health? Does that include environmental integrity and species at risk from the 2005 plan?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requests for more detailed information and additional forums to consider the issues:</strong></td>
<td>The RPP is an update to the 2005 Plan rather than a wholly new plan. It is a high level strategic document. A more comprehensive implementation plan will be prepared to provide additional detail. The public will be consulted during the preparation of the implementation plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The plan is too vague and enables too much future latitude in implementation. Stating that you will provide opportunities to experience working farms and will develop sustainable farming principles does not provide adequate direction or strategies to comment on. Why not provide the public with sufficient time and access to provide meaningful input on such a critical issue?</td>
<td>We currently have farming in our parks in the form of haying, orchards and community gardens. Likewise, we already have enhanced services such as canoe rentals and concession stands. The public will be consulted on new initiatives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The New 2011 Regional Parks Plan

The 2011 RPP is attached for the Committee’s consideration (Attachment 3). This update does not substantially change the core objectives of the regional parks program but the plan has been restructured to coordinate with the regional suite of sustainability plans. It reorganizes the plan under four new goals:

**Goal 1: Promote Ecological Health**

**Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness**

**Goal 3: Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships**

**Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities**

Under these 4 goals reside new and reconfirmed strategies and supporting actions to further advance the regional parks program over the next 5 years. The supporting actions reinforce each other to create a high level framework for delivery of park services at the regional level.

With the addition of a glossary and some minor changes to wording, the 2011 plan is presented to the committee for final consideration.

### Financial Implications
There are no immediate financial implications to the adoption of this new plan. Staff believes that the new plan can be delivered within the existing budget.

**Next Steps**
An implementation plan will be prepared to provide detail on land acquisition, visitor experience, resource management, partnerships, operations and other elements of the plan. The implementation plan will explain how each park works to support the goals of the system.

**3. ALTERNATIVES**

The Park Committee may:

Option 1: Adopt the draft Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan dated September 2011, and direct staff to continue to work with member municipalities, stakeholders and other partners to generate an implementation plan as a companion document.

Option 2: Direct staff to undertake further work before resubmitting the plan for consideration by the Park Committee and the Board.

**4. CONCLUSION**

The 2011 work program includes an update to the 2005 Regional Parks and Greenways Plan. Action on this item is a key deliverable in the Metro Vancouver Action Plan for 2011. Staff prepared a draft Regional Parks Plan update as the basis for consultation with regional stakeholders and has completed the approved outreach.

Public comment on the updated plan was largely supportive, but with a strong underlying interest in more detail. Support for a few actions such as agriculture and enhanced services was tentative.

The appended Regional Parks Plan does not substantially change the core objectives of the regional parks program but was designed to coordinate with the regional suite of sustainability plans. Staff recommends option 1.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. RPP Public Outreach Respondent Affiliations (where reported)
2. Draft Regional Park Plan Public Outreach Opportunities: Consolidated Responses
3. Draft Regional Parks Plan, September, 2011 – Coloured copies provided under separate cover.

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RPP Public Outreach Respondent Affiliations (where reported)
In addition to the general public, the following organizations were represented either officially or unofficially:

Non Government Organizations
- Delta Heritage Air Park
- Surrey Environmental Partners
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- BC Nature
- Trails BC
- Byrne Creek Stream Keepers
- Haney Horsemen
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
- Minnekhada Park Association
- Pacific Spirit Park Association
- Colony Farm Community Gardens
- Urban Development Institute
- A Rocha Canada
- Burke Mountain Naturalists
- Wreck Beach Preservation Society
- Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association
- Langley Speedway Historical Society
- Burns Bog Conservation Society
- Pacific Spirit Park Society
- Pacific Spirit Trail Riders
- Colony Farm Park Association
- Pacific Parklands Foundation
- Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
- Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
- Colony Farm Park Association
- Coquitlam Farmers Society

Municipal Government
- Translink
- City of Vancouver
- City of Coquitlam
- District of Maple Ridge
- City of White Rock
- City of Surrey
- District of West Vancouver

Provincial Government
- BC Hydro
- Fraser Health Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Agricultural Land Commission

Federal Government
- Port Metro Van

Business Community
- Encorp Pacific
- RENERGY Foods
- Lees & Associates
- Dillion Consulting Ltd
- Zerowaste Products Inc.
- Wild Play
- Big Green Island Transportation Inc.
Draft Regional Park Plan Public Outreach Opportunities: Consolidated Responses

Metro Vancouver staff discussed the plan with approximately 83 interested parties at open houses and through a webinar. We received 22 letters and e-mails from individuals and organizations in addition to the open house verbal comments, online feedback forms and webinar questions.

Vision, Opportunities & Context

2 Pro; 8 Con; 0 Neutral/Qualified

- The vision statement, “Healthy Parks – Healthy People” is forward looking and appropriate.
- MV appears to be attempting to be all things to all people. What are your priorities?

Goal 1: Promote Ecological Health

Strategy 1.1

4 Pro; 9 Con; 13 Neutral/Qualified

- Ecological health must be more fully defined especially in regard to maintaining biological integrity, protecting biodiversity, enabling robust ecosystems and providing critical habitat for species at risk. The conservation values inherent in “ecological health” have been almost completely overlooked – something which is quite shocking in a Regional Parks Plan.
- The regional parks in my immediate area (Colony Farm, Minnekhada, Burnaby Lake, Belcarra) are REALLY important to how I view the livability of my little portion of the world. And I REALLY care about how they are managed for both people and wildlife. Having functioning natural systems for wildlife alone is justification enough for me -- all the bits about parks providing humans with clean air, etc are a distraction. I can't see anywhere in the plan where the spiritual rejuvenation of 'functioning ecosystems' is seen as a goal and a value.
- I am unable to support strategy 1.1, particularly given action 1.1.6. Why permit sustainable farming at the cost of further loss of significant ecosystems and endangered species, such as in Colony Farm?
- Compared to the 2005 Regional Parks and Greenways Plan, the 2011 draft is lacking in specific details for action and is superficial in its descriptions. We prefer the stronger and more specific actions of the 2005 plan.
- The draft 2011 plan commits to “manage regional parks to protect and improve ecological health” but does not mention biodiversity, critical habitat, environmental integrity or conservation lands as components of ecological health.
Strategy 2.2

6 Pro; 1 Con; 3 Neutral/Qualified

- This goal is commendable and the strategy to “Promote the physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation” contributes well to the vision of “Healthy Parks-Healthy People”.
- “Mental health benefits” doesn’t capture what I get from a visit to a park. Put some poetry in it and use the word ‘spiritual’.

Strategy 2.3

5 Pro; 0 Con; 3 Neutral/Qualified

- A necessary and vital strategy.

Goal 3: Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships

Strategy 3.1

4 Pro; 1 Con; 2 Neutral/Qualified

- Develop a pilot project for a summer day camp program in a park such as Pacific Spirit. I was involved in a summer-long program of day camps at Southlands Heritage Farm this year and they were so popular kids were being turned away.

Strategy 3.2

3 Pro; 0 Con; 12 Neutral/Qualified

- Investigate possible uses of heritage resources such buildings, perhaps in conjunction with summer day camps.
- Youth! Further develop and integrate regional park use into school curriculum / science field trips, etc.
- This goal is commendable and Metro Vancouver shows leadership in achieving this goal.

Strategy 3.3

1 Pro; 0 Con; 3 Neutral/Qualified

- Why do you need these policies?

Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities

Strategy 4.1

7 Pro; 10 Con; 15 Neutral/Qualified

- I would qualify the strategy to partner with businesses to ensure that commercialization does not make the parks like the areas outside the parks. Any business that can operate outside, should.
Strategy 1.2

3 Pro; 0 Con; 3 Neutral/Qualified

- We certainly support the acquisition of land with high ecological values but recommend that grassland habitat be included in this list. Such habitat supports several species at risk but protected grassland habitat is a rare feature in the lower mainland.
- In particular I affirm the protection of ecologically significant habitat.
- Acquisition of critical pieces of habitat to expand and connect existing parkland should be the major focus of park acquisition.

Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness

Strategy 2.1

14 Pro; 15 Con; 34 Neutral/Qualified

- Providing public education opportunities to help people understand and appreciate nature should receive some recognition here.
- I oppose the introduction of working farm landscapes in park sites as noted in action 2.1.5. Why sacrifice natural habitat for new landscapes, with less benefit for wildlife?
- The action statements in the draft plan could be interpreted as a major thrust to encourage farming, including commercial farming in regional parks. This would not be appropriate. Clarification of the scale and extent of what is being proposed for farming is needed.
- If Metro Vancouver wishes to promote food production, encouraging community and allotment-type gardens for Metro Vancouver residents to grow food would be a much more suitable activity in the park system.
- The future expansion of the regional population should be matched by the expansion of regional recreation areas. I consider Action 2.1.3 to be the most critical in this regard.
- I suggest that Metro Vancouver create a unique designation of “Agricultural Reserve” for the Class 1 and Class 2 soil zones in Colony Farm Regional Park. “Agricultural Reserves” would be designated for agricultural use and would be protected by drainage improvement, invasive species control, and actual farming use. Just as Metro Vancouver has designated certain areas as “Conservation Reserves” and “Ecological Conservation Areas”, with limited or no public access respectively, than “Agricultural Reserve” would be a designated area where agricultural uses would take precedent over natural habitat and public access values.
- The American Trails Association integrated recreational play areas into their natural setting. The business of play needs to be integrated rather than the focus being on education.
• Not if it means sacrificing wildlife habitat.
• I am very uncomfortable with the bits about "revenue generation" in our parks. Slippery slope there! I want to know exactly what is meant by this. Commercial activity of some sort?
• Be careful to limit the footprints of businesses that want to get involved in our parks.
• Each proposal should be carefully evaluated including timely and full public review, within the context of a particular park plan. The public must be involved to assess the benefits to the public of such revenue generation.
• The strategy should be better defined by giving examples of the types of economic opportunities that are and would be considered appropriate within regional parks.
• These are public parks, stop taking away access from the public and catering to the private sector.
• We do not think it is appropriate to promote economic activities within regional parks except for those services which augment the outdoor experience, e.g., bike and canoe rentals, etc.

**Strategy 4.2**

*4 Pro; 0 Con; 2 Neutral/Qualified*

• Along with tax dollars, other income is helpful.
• We agree with promoting philanthropy.

**Planning/Public Outreach Process**

*3 Pro; 11 Con; 1 Neutral/Qualified*

• The timeline for feedback is not realistic. We cannot provide meaningful feedback with a 2 week turnaround time. This timeframe is too short. We would like the opportunity to provide input into this plan and request that you consider extending your timeline. (District of West Vancouver).
• Why force us to quickly choose between urban agriculture and preservation of wildlife habitat and endangered species in our regional parks? Why not provide the public with sufficient time and access to provide meaningful input on this issue? For such a critical issue why is such a short time period allowed for input and only one public forum being conducted for this review?
• I am very upset about the short consultation period for the draft of your new plans for regional parks. Less than two weeks of consultation and one open house is NOT acceptable.
• Please extend the public consultation period so you can hear what people think. Why aren't you hosting more public meetings to make your plans known?
General Comments

3 Pro; 5 Con; 33 Neutral/Qualified

- I have reviewed this material online and support the approaches proposed. With our steadily growing and aging population and the increased recognition of the health benefits of regular outdoor exercise Metro Parks offers facilities that will only grow in importance. Keep up the great work.

- In the current draft parks plan, attention appears to have shifted from one of the core goals of the park system, i.e. conservation of significant ecosystems plus opportunities for passive recreation, to one of opportunities for economic development, revenue generation and commercial farming within regional parks. I do NOT think these are in any way compatible with a public park as it is viewed by most of the people who support it.

- We do recommend a glossary so that there is clarity on what Ecological Health, Ecosystem Services, High Ecological Value, Farming, Adaptive Use and other phrases mean to MV and in this context.

- I believe that the regional park plan needs to be more specific and define targets for park acquisition and recreation opportunity-which regional landscapes/special areas/regionally significant areas are you wanting to protect and which ones are you missing? How much recreation opportunity to you wish to provide vis-a-vis other recreation providers and what/how much needs to be provide?

- Ecological health must be more fully defined especially in regard to maintaining biological integrity, protecting biodiversity, enabling robust ecosystems and providing critical habitat for species at risk. The conservation values inherent in “ecological health” have been almost completely overlooked – something which is quite shocking in a regional parks plan.

- Why does it appear that Metro Vancouver is moving away from its previous objectives as stated in the 2005 parks plan: i.e., “securing and enhancing regionally significant landscapes and critical habitat, as well as managing conservation lands and habitat to protect their biodiversity, environmental and cultural integrity”?

- Is the switch now to supporting “ecological health” just to justify economic activity in regional parks?
Cover photo credits (clockwise from bottom left):

Buntzen Lake, Lindsay Loop Trail, Photo: Jeremy Plotkin

Barnaby Lake Regional Park

Pacific Tree Frog, Kanaka Creek Regional Park, Photo: Mike Stefiuk, Courtesy of KEEPS;

A Midsummer Fête, Colony Farm Regional Park
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VISION

THE REGIONAL PARKS PLAN

Regional parks contribute to a healthy, sustainable region by conserving natural assets and promoting a healthy society. They enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors by providing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to experience nature while simultaneously promoting ecological health by protecting and enhancing regionally important natural landscapes. The Regional Parks program fosters environmental stewardship through community development and promotes a sense of responsibility and connection to the place that we live.

This Regional Parks Plan sets strategic direction for the parks function at Metro Vancouver and will be followed by an implementation plan as well as individual park management plans.

Metro Vancouver’s vision is:

Healthy parks – healthy people
PART ONE: PLAN OVERVIEW

Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework

Since 2002 Metro Vancouver has formally put the concept of sustainability at the centre of its operating and planning philosophy and advanced its role as a leader in the attempt to make the region one which is explicitly committed to a sustainable future. This comprehensive endeavour became known as the Sustainable Region Initiative, or more familiarly as the ‘SRI’. In 2008, Metro Vancouver’s Board adopted a Sustainability Framework outlining its vision, mission, values, sustainability imperatives, and sustainability principles. Depicted in Figure 1, the Sustainability Framework provides the foundation for Metro Vancouver’s suite of plans, including the Regional Parks Plan.

Regional Vision

Metro Vancouver has an opportunity and a vision to achieve what humanity aspires to on a global basis—the highest quality of life embracing cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social justice and compassion, all nurtured in and by a beautiful and healthy natural environment.

We will achieve this vision by embracing and applying the principles of sustainability, not least of which is an unshakeable commitment to the well-being of current and future generations and the health of our planet, in everything we do.

As we share our efforts in achieving this vision, we are confident that the inspiration and mutual learning we gain will become vital ingredients in our hopes for a sustainable common future.

Metro Vancouver is a political body and corporate entity operating under provincial legislation as a ‘regional district’ and ‘greater boards’ that delivers regional services, planning and political leadership on behalf of 24 local authorities. It is comprised of:
The Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework

**REGIONAL VISION** The highest quality of life embracing cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social justice and compassion, all nurtured in and by a beautiful and healthy natural environment. Achieved by an unshakeable commitment to the well-being of current and future generations and the health of our planet, in everything we do.

**METRO VANCOUVER ROLE AND MISSION** Serve the region and attain excellence in meeting these responsibilities. Plan for the future by developing and using an integrated system of plans. Facilitate collaboration with local governments and citizens.

**VALUES** Integrity is our foundation. Passion for our work and pride in our accomplishments are our drivers. Respect for the public and compassion in our relationships are our guideposts.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVES** Have regard for local and global consequences and long-term impacts. Recognize and reflect the interconnectedness and interdependence of systems. Be collaborative.

**SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES** Protect and enhance the natural environment. Provide for ongoing prosperity. Build community capacity and social cohesion.

...these are the foundation for Metro Vancouver’s three interconnected roles:

1. **Political Forum**
   - Building and facilitating collaborative processes among governments and citizens
   - Policy including: Drinking Water, Liquid Waste, Solid Waste, Parks, Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy, Ecological Health, Affordable Housing, Growth Management, Food System, Regional Emergency Management, Other issues including: Transportation, Policing, Economic Dev’t, Ports

2. **Policy**
   - Developing and using an integrated system of plans; includes some regulatory responsibilities
   - Policy including: Drinking Water, Liquid Waste, Solid Waste, Parks, Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy, Ecological Health, Affordable Housing, Growth Management, Food System, Regional Emergency Management, Other issues including: Transportation, Policing, Economic Dev’t, Ports

3. **Services**
   - Providing services to local governments and their communities
   - Services including: Utilities, Environment, Physical & Social Development, Cultural Grants and Information

Progress towards a sustainable region is measured by

**METRICS, TARGETS and KEY DELIVERABLES**

which establish strategic priorities and key activities
Context for the Regional Parks Plan

History

In 2005, the Board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District approved the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan to guide the delivery of its regional parks function for the next decade and beyond. The Board committed to monitoring the implementation of the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan and undertaking a review of the plan after five years with the objective of providing updates and revisions where required.

The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan was the first of a series of corporate management plans created to address delivery of services according to the principles of sustainability under the framework of the Sustainable Region Initiative. The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan is being updated in 2011 to provide a new format and actions to ensure consistency and integration with Metro Vancouver’s overall suite of sustainability plans.

Trends, Challenges, Opportunities

Metro Vancouver’s population growth is expected to continue with one million more residents added to the region in the next 30 years. To accommodate future growth without further sprawl, the Regional Growth Strategy aims to create compact, complete, healthy communities. Protection of the environment is one part of achieving that goal. The Regional Parks Plan supports the Regional Growth Strategy by protecting lands for recreation as well as conserving and enhancing natural features and regional connectivity.

Past population growth and associated impacts of urban development have threatened the health and function of the region’s natural environment. The key challenge of the Regional Parks Plan is to help promote regional ecological health and maintain the health of Regional Parks while providing good access to outdoor facilities and amenities within complete communities. To accomplish this, the Regional Parks Plan addresses the following issues:

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The natural landscapes of the region are highly valued for their scenic qualities. In fact, many of the region’s natural assets are of national and international significance. Nevertheless, it is for the basics of life – their ecosystem services - that our natural assets require our utmost attention. Ecosystem services include vital benefits like water purification, biodiversity, pollination, clean air and stable, fertile soils.

A network of connected protected spaces is necessary in order to maintain a resilient natural system that ensures room for ecological processes to occur, allows for species movement between patches, provides opportunity for gene flow between individuals and populations, and is resilient to disease and the possible impacts of climate change. The challenge is to maintain and enhance these assets for the benefit of current and future generations while accommodating increasing regional population and associated urban development. The large natural areas contained in Regional Parks play an important role in maintaining regional ecosystem services. Parks also provide an important opportunity to provide public education about such topics as climate change carbon sequestration, water filtration, biodiversity, and hydrology.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLNESS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Across North America, two trends have been identified as acting to reduce the physical and mental well being of people. The first is a dramatic rise in the number of serious health issues (e.g. Type II diabetes and obesity) due, in part, to sedentary lifestyles. The second trend is lack of contact with and understanding of nature. Research indicates that access to green space tends to improve overall physical and mental health; therefore investing in parks and protected areas is part of improving the health and wellness of regional residents. Creating healthy complete communities requires, in part, providing access to a diversity of activities and experi-
ences that encourage all people regardless of age, background or ability, to connect with their community and with nature. In a region where private outdoor space is becoming a luxury and residents highly value outdoor recreation, we aim to improve quality of life for residents by providing good access to public open space close to home.

**ACQUISITION AND OPERATING PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnering is a key component of Metro Vancouver’s regional parks program. On occasion, Metro Vancouver finds that it is more efficient to enter into agreements with another park agency or organization to purchase and operate all or a portion of a Regional Park. These relationships are developed as required to meet unique circumstances which emerge over time. Although the traditional regional park service delivery model is to ‘buy and operate’, the best way to maximize outcomes for the public is to take advantage of complementary expertise, organizational capabilities, budgets and staff resources.

**PUBLIC ACCESS**

Regional Parks will be operated and managed in a manner that ensures reasonable public access either immediately or in the future. From a conservation perspective, some highly sensitive sites provide value to the region without providing human access. In these situations Metro Vancouver will provide interpretation from adjacent sites or limited access under controlled circumstances.

When Metro Vancouver grants exclusive use of Regional Parkland to individuals, corporations or organizations, it will ensure that these agreements generate public value and maintain reasonable public access where appropriate.
REVENUE GENERATION AND ENHANCED PARK SERVICES

The plan commits staff to pursuing opportunities to generate revenue through enhanced services. Due to the shortfall between the regional park system’s core funding and demand for expanded park facilities and programs, accessing alternative revenue streams is of great interest to Metro Vancouver. Revenue obtained via federal and provincial grant programs, philanthropic donations, partnerships, and enhanced park service fees are important sources of complementary funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

METRO VANCOUVER

Metro Vancouver focuses on protecting exceptional representative regional landscapes and providing opportunities for passive outdoor recreation, nature study and community stewardship. The regional parks function addresses the issue of unequal distribution across the region of significant natural features such as mountains and beaches and spreads the financial obligation to protect and manage these regional assets among all users. Over time, in response to increased demand and historic property agreements, there has been minor duplication of service between provincial, municipal and regional parks. A few municipalities provide access to regionally significant conservation and nature based recreation and MV provides some activities in a limited manner, like camping, that are traditionally the purview of the province. Some of these overlaps existed prior to the creation of the Regional Parks function. Overall, we strive to complement what others are doing. The Regional Park System is composed of 22 regional parks, 5 greenways, 2 ecological conservancy areas and 4 regional reserves with over 13,780 ha of parkland.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government focuses on protecting exceptional representative natural landscapes, important historic places and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. In the region, they operate several national historic sites through Parks Canada and two national wildlife areas managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Widgeon Valley and Alaksen Wildlife Areas encompass almost 425 hectares of land managed for research, conservation, and interpretation purposes. Metro Vancouver often works with federal agencies such as the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Port Metro Vancouver on conservation related issues.
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND CROWN CORPORATIONS

The provincial government focuses on protecting nationally and internationally significant natural and culture features and outdoor experiences. The responsibility for outdoor recreation and conservation is spread amongst several ministries. BC Parks has the largest mandate for providing conservation and recreation opportunities in the province. However, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations manages fishing and hunting activities as well as several wildlife conservation programs. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for ensuring that sustainable fisheries, healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems, and recreation and wildlife opportunities are available to all. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provides and invests in cycling networks. The Agricultural Land Commission Act and regulations provide conditions under which conservation and passive recreation uses are allowed on farmland located within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Crown corporations, such as BC Hydro also have mandates to provide recreation opportunities; balancing energy needs with preservation of the natural environment.

BC PARKS

Provincial parks are managed by BC Parks under the Ministry of Environment for conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and research. There are seven provincial parks in Metro Vancouver. These parks provide camping facilities, ski hills and extensive wilderness areas for summer and winter backcountry recreation. BC Parks also manages six Wildlife Management Areas and two Ecological Reserves for conservation values. Approximately 62,000 hectares are protected and managed by the Province within the MV region.

MUNICIPALITIES

Member municipalities typically provide facilities and opportunities to support sports, leisure, and cultural programs and services. Depending on the type of lands within their jurisdiction, they may also provide lands for conservation purposes. Many municipalities focus their outdoor recreation efforts on providing facilities for active sports with conservation and nature based recreation making up an important but minor portion of the services they provide. The Regional Parks Plan recognizes the need for connections to local parks and open space plans to advance outdoor recreation services and environmental stewardship. Municipal partnering is a key component of Metro Vancouver’s regional parks program.
TRANSLINK
Translink’s Transport 2040 initiative promotes walking and cycling as part of healthy communities. They manage the BC Parkway and coordinate development of the Central Valley Greenway with municipalities and non government organizations. The Regional Parks Plan supports the Transport 2040 initiative by promoting a regional greenway network to improve the walk-ability and cycle-ability of Metro Vancouver.

FRASER RIVER ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FREMP)
FREMP brings together agencies responsible for land and water management of the Fraser River, downstream from Kanaka Creek Regional Park. As a FREMP partner, Metro Vancouver participates in long range planning to ensure a sustainable future of the Fraser River estuary. The primary objectives of FREMP align closely with the goals of the Regional Parks Plan. This is of particular importance due to the number of parks and greenways located along the Fraser River.

NGOS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in efforts to conserve important habitats around the region through fundraising, advocacy, and stewardship activities. They are also active in promoting and building recreational trails and delivering environmental education programs. These groups are mainly composed of volunteers who dedicate large amounts of time to the health of the natural environment.

REGIONAL PARK PARTNERS
Metro Vancouver’s park system receives strong support from its Park Partners. Supported by Regional Parks’ staff, our Park Partners are community-based associations comprised of volunteers that help plan, manage and implement the stewardship, conservation, educational and recreational interests of regional parks.

FIRST NATIONS
First Nations have constitutional rights which are taken into account in park planning processes. As a treaty First Nation, the Tsawwassen First Nation also has specific treaty rights requiring consideration.
Coordinating with other Metro Vancouver Plans

The Regional Parks Plan is one plan among a suite of interconnected management plans developed around Metro Vancouver’s Sustainability Framework (Figure 2). The following section summarizes key links where actions identified in other Metro Vancouver plans affect the Regional Parks Plan, and conversely where actions in this Plan make a contribution to the goals of other Metro Vancouver plans (Table 1).
Linkages Between Metro Vancouver Plans

**Regional Food System Strategy**

Supports the creation of incubator farms and the expansion of community gardens in regional parks that will benefit economic development and quality of life in the region.

**Regional Parks Plan**

Manages regional parks that will support ecosystem services required for agriculture.

Retains and celebrates examples of the agricultural history of the region and engages the public on the value of sustainable agriculture, native pollinators as well as conserving and restoring fish habitat.

**Regional Growth Strategy**

Protects Conservation and Recreation areas in the region and supports the preservation and enhancement of parks, greenway networks, regionally significant habitat, other natural areas, as well as public recreation facilities.

Promotes development of complete, healthy communities with access to a range of services and amenities including outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Regional Parks Plan**

Secures and enhances regionally significant landscapes and critical habitats as well as provides and expands recreation facilities for outdoor experiences.

Manages lands in regional parks to protect environmental and cultural integrity as well as biodiversity.

Maintains regional trails and greenways to support walking and cycling.

**Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan**

Implements a social marketing campaign to reduce waste that should help reduce the amount of garbage left in regional parks.

**Regional Parks Plan**

Provides opportunities and venues to increase public awareness and engagement in the value of waste reduction and recycling.
Linkages Between Metro Vancouver Plans

**INTEGRATED LIQUID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (ILWRMP)**

Upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities along with efforts to reduce water pollution associated with sanitary and storm sewers will benefit natural systems and people enjoying recreational activities.

- **INPUT**
- **REGIONAL PARKS PLAN**
- **OUTPUT**

Actions to expand the regional greenways network will involve work with water and wastewater utilities.

**INTEGRATED AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT PLAN (IAQGGMP)**

Actions that lead to reduction of air contaminants and greenhouse gases emissions will benefit natural systems and people enjoying recreational activities.

- **INPUT**
- **REGIONAL PARKS PLAN**
- **OUTPUT**

Protects and enhances landscapes in regional parks that sequester carbon.

**DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Public access in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve provides opportunities for recreational activities, outdoor experiences and programs that foster environmental stewardship that compliments similar work in regional parks.

- **INPUT**
- **REGIONAL PARKS PLAN**
- **OUTPUT**

Actions to expand the regional greenways network will involve work with water and wastewater utilities.
PART TWO: GOALS, STRATEGIES and ACTIONS

The Regional Parks Plan has four goals, which are addressed by ten strategies and supporting actions. The supporting actions reinforce each other to create a context for delivery of park services at the regional level.

An implementation plan will be prepared to provide additional detail on land acquisition, land use policies, site priorities, visitor experience, natural resource management, partnerships, and operations. The implementation plan will explain how each park works to support the goals of the parks system and the region.

As ecological health reflects the essential link between human health and well-being and the health of the natural environment, it is critical that we protect the wide range of ecosystem services nature provides. These include services such as the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. Through its sustainability framework, Metro Vancouver committed to ecological health as one of ten strategic priorities. The commitment is reflected in the various Metro Vancouver plans and is crystallized in the Metro Vancouver Ecological Health Action Plan.

Through its Regional Park’s function, Metro Vancouver acts as a steward to a valuable inventory of natural landscapes and the species they support, making a major contribution to ecosystem services in the region. Parks can preserve natural ecosystems and biodiversity, filter and clean air and water, maintain ecosystem function and foster human contact with the nature.
Goal 1: Promote Ecological Health

**Strategy 1.1 Manage Regional Parks to protect and improve ecological health**

An ecosystem based approach to land management based on principles of sustainability, adaptive management and interconnectedness, provides the foundation for deciding between competing objectives and accommodating a range of objectives while preserving ecological health.

**MÉTRO VANCOUVER WILL:**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>Develop management plans for every park in the regional system including establishing activity zones appropriate to different environmental areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.2</td>
<td>Identify damaged and debilitated ecosystems within regional parks and implement regional park conservation activities and projects to restore or enhance their ecological health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3</td>
<td>Restrict public access to sites that are too environmentally sensitive for human use while seeking ways to provide off-site interpretation and education opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4</td>
<td>Manage invasive species that threaten the structure, function or composition of regional park ecosystems using an integrated pest management approach and best management practices for the safe disposal of invasive plants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.1.5 Incorporate carbon sequestration strategies into park plans whenever appropriate.

1.1.6 Develop sustainable farming principles to ensure that farming in regional parks contributes to ecological health.

1.1.7 Implement a full cost accounting system for park facility development using estimates of the ecosystem benefits provided by regional park land, together with measures of social and economic benefits to the region.

1.1.8 Develop and maintain inventories of physical, historical and natural assets on regional park land to support sustainable park use and natural resource management planning, inform public outreach, and efficient management of park assets.

### Strategy 1.2 Protect regional landscapes with high ecological value or high regional significance.

The supply of ecosystem services is directly related to the existence of large, highly diverse and interconnected natural areas which contain habitats for a variety of species. These lands are defined as having high ecological value.

**METRO VANCOUVER WILL:**

1.2.1 Secure land with high ecological value to the region, particularly wetlands, riparian zones, upland forests and critical connections between such habitats.

1.2.2 Partner with other levels of government, educational institutions, private landowners and conservation organizations to expand Metro Vancouver’s ability to acquire and protect land with high ecological value.

1.2.3 Complete sensitive ecosystem inventory mapping for the region, create a mapping catalogue of habitats and corridors in the region with high ecological value, and share this information with other governments and agencies to assist in their ecosystem protection initiatives.
Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness

Metro Vancouver provides a Regional Park system, including valuable natural places with basic public access and facilities for outdoor recreation, enabling regional residents to pursue outdoor activities and a healthy lifestyle.

Strategy 2.1 Increase outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences for regional residents

A physically active population that has frequent opportunities for contact with nature is a healthier one. Providing residents with opportunities for a variety of outdoor experiences in a range of landscapes encourages appreciation and better understanding for nature and ecology and increases the depth and range of human experience and enjoyment of the natural environment.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

2.1.1 Give high priority to the replacement and upgrading of facilities that are now reaching the end of their useful life.

2.1.2 Expand the number and capacity of basic facilities in regional parks to meet the growth in demand.

2.1.3 Increase park system capacity by acquiring lands with high outdoor recreation potential.

2.1.4 Increase universal access to regional park facilities through the implementation of an incremental barrier removal strategy including use of accessible design approaches and re-fits wherever feasible.
2.1.5 Provide opportunities to experience working farm landscapes in appropriate park sites through the establishment of an active farm program and academy for sustainable food production, and the development of policies to fit agriculture within regional park settings. Promote education, demonstration and observation of farm activities where appropriate.

2.1.6 Support regional tourism initiatives such as the Experience the Fraser project through parkland acquisition, facility development and program development where the goals and activities support those of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Strategy 2.2 Promote the physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation.

Communicating the contribution of parks and nature as a means of improving and maintaining health will encourage residents to use parks as a step towards healthy lifestyles.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

2.2.1 Develop and deliver a communication and education strategy to promote the physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation; develop relationships with health authorities and social service agencies to incorporate the therapeutic benefits of parks into public policy, programs, and research.

2.2.2 Collaborate with a broad range of regional partners to expand opportunities, programs and services within regional parks that promote physical activity, social interaction and healthy lifestyle choices.

2.2.3 Ensure that policies developed and actions taken by Metro Vancouver in Regional Parks model and encourage sustainable and healthy choices.

Strategy 2.3 Provide safe and well maintained outdoor recreation facilities to park visitors.

Operating large, natural parks and outdoor recreation facilities so that they are accessible, safe, clean and meet all current public health and safety standards is an underlying requirement of park and recreation service delivery.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

2.3.1 Continue to provide uniformed operating staff at all park sites with broad roles including visitor services, maintenance, and regulatory compliance.

2.3.2 Apply a maintenance management system for capital assets to ensure timely repair or replacement of facilities and efficient use of funds.

2.3.3 Implement a regional parks risk management program, including guidelines for staff on risks, risk avoidance and appropriate responses.

2.3.4 Expand public regulatory compliance through bylaw enforcement as necessary assisted by programming tools and tracking systems.
Goal 3: Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships

The regional parks system plays a crucial role in connecting people to the natural environment, increasing understanding and a sense of responsibility for the ecosystems that support human life.

Regional parks also provide an opportunity to protect and showcase valued cultural assets including understanding and actively managing cultural resources and providing access to cultural programs like music and art.

Strategy 3.1 Provide education programs in regional parks to foster stewardship, health and wellness, personal safety and social responsibility.

Regional parks are excellent venues in which to foster environmental and cultural stewardship, provide information on healthy lifestyles, promote personal safety in the outdoors and encourage community responsibility for parks and protected areas.

**METRO VANCOUVER WILL:**

3.1.1 Provide a range of educational and recreational program experiences for park visitors to promote understanding of ecology, environment and healthy living with a special emphasis on children, youth and under-represented demographic groups such as new Canadians and ethnic groups.

3.1.2 Offer educational programs such as bear and dog awareness, backcountry safety, dressing for the weather, and walking with a partner that promote the safe use of regional parks for outdoor recreation.
**Strategy 3.2** Seek partnerships to improve program delivery and provide special facilities where others have expertise.

Metro Vancouver adds value to the regional parks programs experience by partnering with others who have expertise.

**METRO VANCOUVER WILL:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.2.1</th>
<th>Partner with and give recognition to non-profit societies to provide and maintain appropriate specialized facilities and programs in parks, where this is preferable to the use of public funds.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Support, engage, and train park associations, community organizations and individual volunteers to design, develop and implement effective stewardship activities in regional parks such as habitat restoration, heritage restoration, species recovery, community gardens and other activities of their choosing in alignment with regional parks goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Partner with education institutions to use regional parks for research, curriculum instruction and occupational training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Work with municipalities to ensure a rational distribution of local and regional responsibilities for parkland, facilities and programmes between local and regional parks authorities and explore the use of local development control mechanisms as a potential complementary land acquisition tool for regional parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.5</td>
<td>Prepare a framework, policies and tools for the park partnership program to ensure integration with corporate strategies.</td>
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**Strategy 3.3** Implement adaptive reuse of acquired heritage resources where appropriate.

Heritage resources which have been acquired through purchase acquisition or relocated to public areas can be adapted to add value to the park experience.

**METRO VANCOUVER WILL:**

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<tr>
<th>3.3.1</th>
<th>Develop and implement a heritage resource management and acquisition policy framework.</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.3.2</td>
<td>Develop and implement a heritage resource adaptive reuse strategy.</td>
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</table>
Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities

Regional parks can support regional economic development by providing opportunities for enhanced recreation and environmental services in cooperation with the private sector.

Strategy 4.1 Partner with businesses and organizations to provide enhanced services for visitors

Working with businesses and other organizations may enable Metro Vancouver to increase the range of outdoor recreation opportunities within regional parks using non-tax based revenue streams.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

4.1.1 Identify potential enhancements to services and programs consistent with park setting and regional sustainability goals and principles, and seek partnership with the private sector and other public sector entities to provide such enhancements.

4.1.2 Integrate regional tourism strategies into regional park facility and program planning, development and operations, which are consistent with park settings and regional sustainability goals and principles.

4.1.3 Develop guidelines for business case analysis and cost/revenue sharing for enhanced revenue partnerships.

Strategy 4.2 Encourage Philanthropy

Philanthropy is a non-tax based source of funding for the regional park system. Supporting philanthropic endeavours helps Metro Vancouver further advance the recreation and conservation facets of the sustainability framework.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

4.2.1 Support the Pacific Parklands Foundation and other fundraising organizations in their efforts to raise funds for conservation, stewardship, development, programs and services.

4.2.2 Develop an annual set of priorities for projects and programs for consideration for fundraising by philanthropic organizations.

4.2.3 Encourage and negotiate private land and capital donations which expand recreation opportunities and conserve regional biodiversity.
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The following performance measures will monitor progress in achieving the specific goals of the plan while also informing future updates of the plan.

**Goal 1: Promote Ecological Health**

- Hectares of environmentally sensitive and natural parkland secured annually by Metro Vancouver
- Percentage of the sensitive ecosystem inventory updated within the last 5 years

**Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation and Human Health and Wellness**

- Number of annual visits to regional parks compared to previous years
- Number of new recreation facilities opened annually
- Number of rebuilt major facilities

**Goal 3: Support community stewardship, education and partnerships**

- Number of people participating in education programs annually compared to previous years
- Number of people participating in stewardship programs annually compared to previous years
- Number of volunteer hours contributed in regional parks

**Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities**

- Annual non-tax revenue generated from enhanced services, grants, donations and through Pacific Parklands Foundation

Adaptive Management

A key feature of the Regional Parks Plan is adaptive management which uses the best science or information available to write and implement policies and practices, then monitors and makes changes as necessary to achieve the desired outcome. Through monitoring, assessment and collaboration with partners, Metro Vancouver will continue to adapt in response to new information and will employ the precautionary principle to ensure the ecological and cultural values of parks are not compromised.
**GLOSSARY**

**ECOLOGICAL HEALTH**
This concept captures the connection between healthy functioning ecosystems, the valuable services they provide and human health and well being. It recognizes that maintaining and enhancing the integrity of ecosystems and other natural assets is essential for ensuring that residents of the region continue to benefit from the stream of ecosystem services that contributes to our well-being and economic prosperity.

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICE**
These are the vast range of benefits nature provides that support and enhance our quality of life. They can be grouped into four types: Provisioning, Regulating, Cultural and Supporting. Biodiversity and habitat for species are two important Supporting ecosystem services.

**BASIC SERVICE**
These are services supported by the tax levy. Examples include access roads, parking lots, trails, beaches, toilet facilities, picnic shelters and tables, boardwalks, viewing towers, interpretive signs, educational displays, interpretive programs and special events. Most basic park services are free but some involve a fee which is set out in the Regional Parks Fees and Charges Bylaw.

**ENHANCED SERVICE**
These are value added services involving individual or group exclusive use, for services requiring additional capital and operating resources beyond that funded through the tax levy. Enhanced services involve a fee. Services may be provided directly, or through business agreements with third-parties. Examples include reserveable facilities, group camps, private special events, camping, food services, rental of canoes, kayaks and bicycles as well as park tours offered through third parties.
To: Parks Committee  
From: Gaëtan Royer, Manager, Metropolitan Planning, Environment and Parks  
Date: September 27, 2011  
Subject: Manager’s Report  

Recommendation:  
That the Parks Committee receives for information the report dated September 27, 2011 titled “Manager’s Report”.

Proposed Transfer of Barnston Island Diking District to Metro Vancouver  
The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations received the July 20, 2011 letter from Metro Vancouver Chair Lois Jackson to Minister Steve Thomson requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed transfer of the Barnston Island Diking District to Metro Vancouver. In response, the Minister asked his staff to meet with Metro Vancouver staff. This meeting will take place in mid-October. Director Maria Harris and Metro Vancouver staff met with MLA for Surrey Tynehead, David Hayer, to explain the situation and Mr. Hayer offered to discuss Metro Vancouver’s concerns with Minister Thomson.

Orientation  
A number of familiarization visits of various sites is an important part of staff orientation. The Manager took part in the Coho Walk at Capilano River Regional Park, the Country Celebration at Campbell Valley Regional Park, Rivers Day at Kanaka Creek Regional Park, Nature BC Nature’s Fall general meeting at Boundary Bay Regional Park, Heritage Apple Fest at Derby Reach Regional Park. The Manager also attended public consultation meetings regarding the proposed Regional Parks Plan in the West, Central and East areas.

Healthy By Nature  
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks partnered with BC Provincial Park, City of Vancouver and Ministry of Health to host 200 planning, recreation and health professionals including visitors from Australia for a three day conference focused on the critical links between health, well-being, urban design, parks and nature. Wendy DaDalt will provide a verbal report.
6.1

CORRESPONDENCE
August 31, 2011

Ref: 178921

James Atebe and Gayle Martin
Co-chairs, Experience the Fraser
Political Steering Committee
c/o Metro Vancouver
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5H 4G8

Dear Mayor Atebe and Councillor Martin:

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, has asked me to follow up on her letter of July 14, 2011, regarding the Experience the Fraser project.

I know that I speak on behalf of the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, as I re-affirm this Ministry’s cooperation, and my particular role in facilitating staff contacts with provincial ministries and agencies.

We look forward to sharing the challenge and opportunity of the Experience the Fraser project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter Walters
Assistant Deputy Minister
Major Projects, First Nations and Community Opportunities

pc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Randy Hawes, MLA, Abbotsford-Mission
Marc Dalton, MLA, Maple Ridge-Mission
July 14, 2011

James Atebe and Gayle Martin  
Co-chairs, Experience the Fraser  
Political Steering Committee  
c/o Metro Vancouver  
4330 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8

Dear Mayor Atebe and Councillor Martin:

Thank you for your letter following up on our meeting regarding the Experience the Fraser project in May.

I appreciate the time that you have taken to provide me with an update on this project and note that you have also shared your correspondence with Peter Walters, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister, for his information as well. I have asked Minister Thomson to ensure that either he, or Assistant Deputy Minister Walters, follows up with you directly on my behalf. You will be hearing from either the Minister, or the Assistant Deputy Minister, in this regard at the earliest opportunity.

Again, thank you for writing. It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Christy Clark  
Premier

pc:  Honourable Steve Thomson  
     Peter Walters, ADM  
     Randy Hawes, MLA for Abbostford-Mission  
     Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission
6.2

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
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### Summary of Public Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events completed since last Parks Committee Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Familiar Five – Ferns</strong> - Participants join a park interpreter for a short guided walk to learn to identify five ferns.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tynehead Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Invasive Species Removal</strong> - During this work party, volunteers tackle invasive species—non-native plants that have become established and replaced native species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Derby Reach Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Learn to Fish</strong> - Participants learn how to identify fish, properly handle them, and spend time fishing along the banks of the Fraser River. Equipment is provided. Parent participation required. This program is offered in partnership with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and supports the Learn to Fish program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday September 11</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Coho Walk</strong> - Celebrates the community effort that keeps this river ecosystem flourishing; over 1600 participants followed the journey of salmon from hatching grounds to ocean, enjoying discovery stations along the 4.5 km walk from Cleveland Dam to the Capilano Suspension Bridge, or the 8.5 km trail to Ambleside Park for the Coho Festival.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday September 14</strong>&lt;br&gt;Boundary Bay Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Casual Birding Outing</strong> - Participants joined members of the Delta Naturalists’ Society, as informal birdwatchers for a 2.5 hr walk. Highlights included viewing resident and migratory inhabitants including shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and smaller birds. The outing ended with a beverage and snack at historic Cammidge House.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 17 – Sunday September 18</strong>&lt;br&gt;Campbell Valley Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Country Celebration</strong> - Annual fall fair in its 33rd year. This is a big family event; participants enjoyed live music, jugglers, clowns, Scottish dancing, pony rides, animal demonstrations, children’s crafts, roving performers, kite making and other fun activities for kids. Vibrant marketplace for baked goods, plants, art, and local crafts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 17</strong>&lt;br&gt;Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Nuts About Squirrels</strong> - This adventure is for pre-schoolers. Children searched the forest for squirrel homes, listened for squirrel calls and tried to find squirrel food. Included were innovative games for children -- squirrelly games and nutty activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 17</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tynehead Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Fresh Air Hike – Perimeter and Serpentine Loop</strong> - A walk around the new Perimeter Trail, and through fields and clearings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 17</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>FLOW for youth</strong> - With water forecast to be ‘the next ‘oil crisis’, we featured a film that examines global water issues. This was followed by a presentation and discussion from local “Youth 4 Tap” student leaders. The program will finish with a short walk to highlight our watersheds.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday September 18</strong>&lt;br&gt;Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Weedbusters</strong> - During this work party volunteers removed invasive species—non-native plants that have over time become established, and replanted with native species.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday September 23</strong>&lt;br&gt;Colony Farm Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Coyotes by Night</strong> - During this night time program, participants will spend an evening with family or friends on a coyote prowl. Goals are to look for coyotes, learn how they hunt, and what they like to eat. Participants gain an appreciation of coyotes and their survival skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 24</strong>&lt;br&gt;Minnekhada Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Millipedes, Slugs and Bugs</strong> - This activity is for pre-schoolers. An opportunity for children to discover harmless, friendly millipedes, banana slugs and other invertebrates that live near the ground in fall. Parents/Guardians join their child on a bug hunt, nature games and outdoor activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 24</strong>&lt;br&gt;Belcarra Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Searching for Salamanders</strong> - Shy, timid salamanders are often found under leaf litter. They hide by the day and hunt insects and other small invertebrates by night. Participants will search for and learn about these intriguing amphibians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday September 24</strong>&lt;br&gt;Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Animal Tracks and Signs</strong> - During this program, participants look for animal signs such as scratch marks, gnawing and scat (animal droppings), as they learn to identify some the tracks of local wildlife.</td>
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**Upcoming Programs & Events**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday October 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Beaver Buddies</strong> - Participants will look at beaver lodges, chopped trees and beaver trails. Learn about the Canadian Beaver, play games and make a craft to take home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday October 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crippen Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Bowen Island Apple Fest</strong> - Participants will enjoy a variety of heritage apples to taste, games for children, apple pie-baking contest, local food and tours of the Heritage Museum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday October 11</td>
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<td>Aldergrove Lake Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Familiar Five - Birds</strong> - Celebrate the Township of Langley’s WaterWeeks and join a park interpreter for a short walk to get to know five familiar birds in your watershed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday October 15</td>
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<td>Minnekhada Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Fresh Air Hike</strong> - Participants will walk through moss-strewn rainforests, by quiet marshes, and over natural granite knolls. Spot migrating birds while you enjoy the views. This is a moderate hike with hill sessions and natural rock stairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday October 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Belcarra Regional Park</td>
<td><strong>Searching for Salamanders</strong> - Participants will search and learn about Salamanders. Shy, timid salamanders are often found under leaf litter. They hide by the day and hunt insects and other small invertebrates by night.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday October 15</td>
<td>Campbell Valley Regional Park</td>
<td>Demystifying Mushrooms</td>
<td>During this event participants will learn the basic characteristics of different fungi families and how to recognize common wild mushrooms. This workshop is a guided walk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 16</td>
<td>Kanaka Creek Regional Park</td>
<td>Return of the Salmon</td>
<td>This event is presented by Metro Vancouver and Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society. Witness the return of spawning salmon to Kanaka Creek at this Maple Ridge fall classic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday October 22</td>
<td>Burnaby Lake Regional Park</td>
<td>Critter Capers – Case of the Monster from the Marsh</td>
<td>Eerie night calls ring out as a strange silhouette slinks into the marsh. Is there a monster living at Burnaby Lake? Who is responsible for the giant tracks and animal bones? Participants discover clues to solve this mystery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 5</td>
<td>BCIT (Burnaby Campus)</td>
<td>Fall Parksfest 2011</td>
<td>Metro Vancouver’s annual day of learning for regional park partners. Also, an important opportunity for Metro Vancouver to acknowledge and thank our many volunteers and park associations; includes presentations and practical workshops. Pre-registration required.</td>
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2011 Health and Wellness Programs
*Designed to encourage participants to spring into action at one of Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks.*

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, September 6 to November 8</td>
<td>Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td>Silver Sneakers Hiking Club – Level 1</td>
<td>Encourage measures which promote long term health. Increase visits to Metro Vancouver outdoor recreation space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, November 15 to December 27</td>
<td>Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td>Silver Sneakers Hiking Club – Level 2</td>
<td>Seniors are invited to challenge their bodies, balance their minds and renew their spirits on these moderate to advanced level weekly hikes along the forested trails of Lynn Headwaters Regional Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, September 7 to November 9</td>
<td>Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td>Baby and Me Hiking Club</td>
<td>Guided hikes for new and expecting moms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, November 16 to December 28</td>
<td>Capilano River Regional Park</td>
<td>Baby and Me Hiking Club - Guided hikes for new and expecting parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, September 6 to October 5</td>
<td>Capilano &amp; Lynn Headwaters Regional Parks</td>
<td>Grannies, Gramps, Nannies, Mommies and Daddies Trek - Easy two hour guided hikes for anyone who looks after little trekkers.</td>
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