Widgeon Marsh Regional Park
Help Shape the Future...

Metro Vancouver is developing a park management plan for Widgeon Marsh to guide how we continue to protect sensitive wetlands and ecosystems, and provide opportunities for visitors to connect with nature.

We’d like to hear your ideas, in person and online, this Summer 2019.
SIGN UP today to receive emails about opportunities to provide input, or sign up online at metrovancouver.org (search ‘Widgeon Marsh’).

Regional Parks Goals
1. Protect important natural areas
2. Provide opportunities for people to connect with nature

Annual total regional park visits have increased by 13% over the past 5 years

These are the 5 most popular activities in regional parks (from 2013 survey)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife/Nature</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
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Nearby Protected Areas

Widgeon Marsh is part of one of the largest protected areas in southwestern BC – a complex of protected areas shown below, including Pinecone Burke and Golden Ears Provincial Parks. It is located within the largest freshwater marsh in southwestern BC – an important Pacific Flyway stopover that provides wintering and year-round habitat for a variety of birds and animals.
Key Views

1. Entrance Gate
2. Spit
3. Burke Mountain
4. Widgeon Slough
5. Channel
6. Cove
7. Viewpoint
8. Mid-Island Landing
9. Stewart Creek
10. Main Meadow
11. Lower Falls
12. Upper Falls
13. Amphitheatre
14. Meadow
15. Upper Meadow Trail
Valuable Ecosystems

Within Widgeon Marsh, 73% of the ecosystems (dark red on map below) are ranked as highest priority for conservation within the Regional Parks rating system. By comparison, only one-third of all regional parklands fall into this category.

Ecosystem Highlights

- **2** Ecosystems at risk
- **7** Ecosystems of special concern
- **15** Species of special concern plants, amphibians, birds, & fish
Wildlife Habitat, Stewardship and Research

More than 50% of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve is wetland habitat that provides food, cover, shelter, and breeding areas for a wide variety of plants and animals. Located on the Pacific Flyway, Widgeon Slough and the adjacent streams and wetlands are important for nesting and wintering birds. Streams also provide habitat for coho, chum, sockeye, cutthroat throat and steelhead.

The remainder of the park is second growth forest and grassland habitats that serve as a wildlife corridor, and provide food sources for a high diversity of animals, from those as small as western toads to the secretive wolverine.

Stewardship and Research

Metro Vancouver has been working with partner and governmental organizations to research species and restore habitat.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada monitors Widgeon river-type sockeye salmon – a genetically distinct, late-run sockeye salmon that has adapted to Widgeon Slough tidal conditions.

Katzie First Nation, along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is restoring spawning habitat for Widgeon river-type sockeye salmon.

Hummingbird Monitoring Network bands hummingbirds during annual migration.

Burke Mountain Naturalists monitor bird and bat populations.

Metro Vancouver conducted a winter waterbird study in 2018 and 2019. Peak daily winter counts recorded over 1,000 waterbirds in Widgeon Slough.

Metro Vancouver staff initiated a wildlife camera study. Black bear, bobcat, cougar, coyote, wolverine and grey wolf have been recorded on site.

Stewardship Volunteers have worked with staff to remove invasive plant species and to restore previously developed areas to natural habitat.
What We Heard in 2017

In 2017, as the first phase of park planning, we engaged with First Nations, stakeholders, partners and the public to ask for input on park vision, planning considerations, and desired facilities and activities.

This engagement included:
- Three public park tours
- A public engagement event
- Meetings with First Nations, partners and stakeholders
- An online survey

We asked...
What are your top three priorities for the planning of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park?
Proposed Vision + Concept

Draft Park Vision

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park protects extensive wetlands and native forests and provides habitat for a diverse range of wildlife. The park will act as an outdoor learning environment by affording visitors a peek at wildlife, their habitat and sensitive ecosystems. Interpretative communications and programming will inspire visitors to develop a deeper appreciation of wetland ecosystems. Widgeon Marsh Regional Park will provide a place for visitors to recharge amongst serene wetlands and forested mountain landscapes with expansive mountain views by hiking, cycling, and paddling.

Draft Concept Plan

A multi-use trail will link parking, activity areas, viewpoints and hiking trails that appeal to a range of visitor fitness levels and interests. Proposed parking is located at the Gateway and Lower Landing activity areas.
Proposed Habitat Protection and Restoration

Ecosystem enhancement and restoration are important components of the draft management plan, as well as the following strategies to protect park habitat and wildlife:

- Prohibit dogs, horses and other domestic animals in the park.
- Set aside wildlife habitat areas, with permit-only access for activities such as research, habitat enhancement, and stewardship.
- Explore opportunities with Transport Canada to prohibit motorized boats in Widgeon Slough.
- Educate the public about safety around wildlife and develop a plan to manage human-wildlife conflict.

Draft Habitat Restoration Sites
Draft Activity Area Concept Plans

Three activity areas will be linked by a multi-use trail. Below are artist renderings of the activity areas.