Overview

Metro Vancouver manages three water supply areas to provide 2.5 million residents with a clean, reliable and affordable supply of drinking water. Located in the North Shore Mountains, the Seymour Reservoir supplies a third of the region’s drinking water. Although the reservoir and watershed area is closed to public access, a spectacular 5,668 hectare forest valley south of the reservoir, called the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve (LSCR), is open to the public, offering many outdoor experiences for visitors.

This year, Metro Vancouver developed the LSCR Trails Strategic Plan for the future of approximately 100 kilometres of trails, primarily used for walking, hiking, cycling and horseback riding in the area.

Methodology

The LSCR Trails Strategic Plan draws from research conducted over the past 14 years, combined with results of an on-site survey of trail users from 2017 and 2018, recent trail counter data, and stakeholder engagement feedback.

Recommendations

Through analysis of these multiple sources of information, a set of recommendations will guide improvements to the LSCR trail network. The recommendations focus on five broad categories:

- Ecosystem Management
- Trail Network
- Visitor Experience
- Partnership and Stewardship
- Management and Maintenance

Implementation

In the spring of each year, Metro Vancouver will release a work plan for the LSCR trail network that will outline a set of work goals for the following year. In the spring of 2019, the LSCR work plan priorities for 2020 will be released, through our website, an E-Newsletter, and the LSCR Annual Event that takes place at Rice Lake every spring.
2019 Work Plan
(Not in schedule order)

**Ecosystem Management**
- Review updated Metro Vancouver Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory and identify trails that need environmental assessments
- Close Dog Mountain Trail for approximately two to three weeks to reduce soil erosion and trail degradation during the spring snow melt

**Trail Network**
- Develop an action plan for the future of the CBC Trail
- Upgrade the connections to the trail network following the construction of the Seymour River suspension bridge
- Develop a long range plan for Dog Mountain Trail and continue annual maintenance and restoration upgrades as per developed plan. The work plan for 2019 will be approximately 150m of trail upgrades and restoration
- Replace three bridges on Coho Trail
- Continue Fisherman’s Trail upgrades from Homestead Trail to Bone Creek (307m) along with repairing sections of trail from 2018 storm damage
- Remove boardwalk around Eco-Loop Trail near Rice Lake

**Visitor Experience**
- Install southeast trail network directional signage and new maps
- Develop a new brochure for trail users
- Continue with LSCR infrastructure replacements as per annual assessment
- Replace Rice Lake Wharf decking (North wharf)
- Continue with annual patrol plan to ensure visitor safety on trails

**Partnership and Stewardship**
- Organize LSCR Annual Event at Rice Lake in the spring
- Develop stewardship program
- Host a LSCR trail maintenance day (trail TBD)

**Management and Maintenance**
- Conduct annual trail assessments in the spring
- Continue to collect recreational user information
- Map old and unsanctioned trails on the southeast side of the trail network and develop a plan for the future of these trails

**Project Updates**
For additional information on this project, or to sign up for project updates, please visit [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org) and search: “LSCR Trails Strategic Plan.”

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