Welcome

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve - Park Management Planning
Visit the stations to learn about Widgeon Marsh and potential park services, access opportunities and facilities for the future.

Ask questions  |  Share your ideas  |  Fill out a questionnaire before June 30th

www.metrovancouver.org search ‘Widgeon Marsh’

Management Plan Process

Design the Planning Process
First Nations engagement
Regional Parks Committee & Board
Pre-Planning
Research & Information Gathering
Online & other engagement
Management Planning

Draft Management Plan Development
Detailed Design

Revise Draft Management Plan
Construction

Regional Park Opening
Phased Development

Public Site Tours - June 3 & 8
Online Feedback - June 1 to 30
Open House - June 15

Open House & Online Feedback Spring 2018: Review and feedback on draft management plan
Further public engagement may be scheduled if needed
Regional Parks Mandate
1. Protect important natural areas
2. Provide opportunities for people to connect with nature

Annual total Regional Park visits have increased by 17% over the past 5 years
Annual total Regional Park visits continue to grow more rapidly year-to-year than the region’s population

Regional Parks Facilities:
These vary in each regional park, based on the park management plan.

Facilities in most Regional Parks
- Parking
- Washrooms
- Drinking Water
- Information Kiosks
- Waste Receptacles

Typical Regional Park Facilities
- Pedestrian trails
- Multiuse trails: pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians
- Picnic areas
- Group picnic shelters
- Group campsites
- Interpretive features and trails
- Nature centres
- Fishing access areas
- Non-motorized boat launch
- Viewpoints and viewing towers
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.
Cultural History

First Nations
The regional park reserve falls within the traditional homelands of nine Coast Salish First Nations and Tribal Councils. The marsh, river, and forest provide wildlife, fish, freshwater mussels, roots, and berries. These resources have been important to local First Nations’ people.

Silver Valley Gun Club
Built by Colonel Clarence Wallace and friends, the Gun club included a lodge with a live-in caretaker. Colonel Clarence Wallace served as the 18th Lieutenant Governor of BC from 1950 to 1955.

Logging, Gravel Mining, & Private Residences

1992
Parkland acquired in partnership with the Nature Trust of BC and Ducks Unlimited

2017
Regional Park Management Plan Process starts

Nearby Population Growth

Widgeon Marsh is about 15km from Coquitlam City Centre, making it easily accessible for nearby residents. A growing population will probably increase demand for the regional park. City of Coquitlam plans to add 24,000 to 30,000 new residents in the northeast area over the next 30 years.
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)
Wetland Ecosystems

Over 50% of Widgeon Marsh Regional Reserve is wetlands - biologically diverse and productive ecosystems that provide food, cover, shelter, and breeding habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Located on the Pacific Flyway, these wetlands are an important habitat for breeding, nesting, and wintering birds.

Stewardship and Research

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

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

**Katzie First Nation**, in conjunction with DFO, is restoring spawning habitat for Widgeon river-type sockeye salmon.

**Canadian Wildlife Services** conducts barn swallow research, looking at optimal habitat conditions.

**Hummingbird Monitoring Network** bands hummingbirds during annual migration.

**Burke Mountain Naturalists** maintain tree swallow nest boxes, and monitor bird and bat populations.

**Metro Vancouver** staff and volunteers have worked together to restore former residential sites back to natural habitat.

**Metro Vancouver** has begun removing invasive plant species. With a limited spread of invasive species in the area, it is a good ‘early intervention’ target.
Impacted Areas & Site Features

Four sites have been previously disturbed and are potential locations for amenity areas and facilities. The 3 kilometre one-lane gravel road has limited room for expansion due to steep slopes and drop-offs. The plan will likely locate all parking and some facilities at the Lower Landing and Entrance Spit areas. The remainder of facilities and trails within Widgeon Marsh would be accessible by bike, foot, or non-motorized boat.
## Potential Facilities

The Management Plan will define how we provide opportunities for people while protecting sensitive ecosystems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Facilities</th>
<th>Viewpoints</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking trails</td>
<td>Viewpoints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking / cycling trails</td>
<td>Interpretive signs, educational displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic areas with open space</td>
<td>Nature centres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic shelters</td>
<td>Non-motorized boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group camping</td>
<td>Research / Stewardship centre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Other - Use a sticky note to add your ideas here |}

What facilities would you like to see here?
Use your dots!
- green dot - Yes, I like this idea
- yellow dot - I’m not sure
- red dot - No, I don’t like this idea
What did we miss?
Share your ideas, suggestions, comments here...