Widgeon Marsh
Regional Park
Management Plan 2019
**Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Management Plan**

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Management Plan was approved by the MVRD Board November 29th, 2019.

*That the MVRD Board approve the Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Management Plan, as presented in the report dated October 9, 2019, titled “Widgeon Marsh Regional Park – Engagement Results and Management Plan”.*

The management plan establishes a vision and framework for park development and operation that balances opportunities for people to connect with nature and strategies to protect and enhance park ecology.

Metro Vancouver acknowledges the input and feedback that contributed to the development of the Widgeon Marsh Management Plan. First Nations, agencies, partners, and the public shared their knowledge, time, and insight for the park which informed the management plan. The plan includes opportunities for ongoing engagement and collaboration. The support and guidance of Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks Committee is gratefully acknowledged.
## Contents

1.0 Introduction .............................................................................................................. 5

2.0 Process and Context .................................................................................................. 6
  2.1 Management Plan Purpose ..................................................................................... 6
  2.2 Planning Process ..................................................................................................... 7
  2.3 Metro Vancouver Policy Context .......................................................................... 7
  2.4 Park Formation ....................................................................................................... 7
  2.5 First Nations Context ............................................................................................ 8
  2.6 Local Context ........................................................................................................ 8
  2.7 Landscape Context ................................................................................................ 10
  2.8 Park Access and Connectivity ............................................................................. 13

3.0 Existing Conditions .................................................................................................... 14
  3.1 Overview ................................................................................................................ 14
  3.2 Park Purpose .......................................................................................................... 14
  3.3 Ecosystems ............................................................................................................. 15
  3.4 Biodiversity ........................................................................................................... 21
  3.5 Habitat Sensitivity Analysis .................................................................................... 22
  3.6 Climate Change ..................................................................................................... 23
  3.7 Previously Developed Areas and Features ............................................................. 25

4.0 Park Sub-Areas ........................................................................................................... 26

5.0 Park Vision and Goals ............................................................................................... 30
  5.1 Park Vision ............................................................................................................. 30
  5.2 Goals ..................................................................................................................... 31

6.0 Areas of Focus ........................................................................................................... 32
  6.1 Habitat Protection and Enhancement ..................................................................... 32
  6.2 Wildlife Disturbance Mitigation .......................................................................... 33
  6.3 Traditional First Nations Uses ............................................................................. 34
  6.4 Visitor Facilities .................................................................................................... 35
  6.5 Public Programming and Nature Interpretation .................................................... 36
  6.6 Seasonal Flooding ................................................................................................. 37
  6.7 Climate Change .................................................................................................... 38

7.0 Concept and Program ............................................................................................... 40
  7.1 Concept Plan .......................................................................................................... 40
  7.2 Activity Area Concept Plans ................................................................................ 42
  7.3 Site Objectives and Elements .............................................................................. 48

8.0 Operational Statement .............................................................................................. 50

9.0 References ................................................................................................................ 52
1.0 Introduction

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park includes 621 hectares of wetland and forest in northeast Coquitlam and Electoral Area A. The majority of the regional park lands were acquired in 1992 through a partnership with the Nature Trust of B.C. and Ducks Unlimited. Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is part of the largest freshwater marsh in southwest BC and protects some of the most sensitive lands in the regional parks system. Approximately two thirds of the regional park is wetland, providing important wintering habitat for water birds as well as year-round habitat for a variety of bird and mammal species. Channels feeding into Widgeon Creek and Widgeon Slough provide spawning and rearing habitat for coho, chum, sockeye, cutthroat trout, and steelhead.

The management plan focuses on protecting and enhancing the park’s habitat, and creating opportunities for people to experience and appreciate the park’s ecology and landscape. The park concept provides a trail network with hiking and multi-use trails that connect four activity areas.
2.0 Process and Context

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park Reserve is part of the regional parks system managed by Metro Vancouver, including 22 regional parks, 5 regional greenways, 2 ecological conservancy areas, and 3 regional park reserves (figure 1).

A park reserve is a regional park that is not yet open to the public. Widgeon Marsh will become a regional park once base park development is complete.

2.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to state the program, services, development, and conservation priorities for Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. The plan expresses a long term vision to guide the park over a 20 year horizon. It provides management strategies for natural area protection and for the management and development of facilities for visitors to connect with, enjoy, be active in and learn about the environment.
2.2 Planning Process

The management plan process (figure 2) began in 2015 with pre-planning for Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, including biophysical, site analysis, and archaeological studies. In the management planning phase, Metro Vancouver gathered insight and feedback through engagement with First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Engagement results informed the development of the draft management plan. The draft plan was tested and refined through a second round of outreach and engagement in 2019.

2.3 Metro Vancouver Policy Context

Metro Vancouver is a partnership of 21 municipalities, one electoral area and one Treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, and provides affordable housing.

The regional parks system currently protects approximately 13,557 hectares of land. The Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan (2016) describes the vision, mission, goals, and strategies for the delivery of Regional Parks Service, and provides a framework for the development of management plans for individual parks. The vision of the regional parks system is to protect natural areas and connect people to nature.

2.4 Park Formation

In 1992, the majority of lands at Widgeon Marsh Regional Park were purchased through a partnership between The Nature Trust of B.C., Metro Vancouver, and Ducks Unlimited. The Nature Trust of B.C. and Ducks Unlimited purchased over half of the lands – mostly wetland areas, which are under a 99-year lease to Metro Vancouver as a site of ecological interest and for park purposes. Metro Vancouver purchased the majority of the upland areas, and has continued adding to the park through subsequent land purchases. All three organizations recognize the high ecological value of the park. Recreational access and amenities outlined within this plan are compatible with conservation goals for the regional park.

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**FIGURE 2 – MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS**

- **A1**: Regional Parks Committee & Board
- **A2**: Regional Parks Committee & Board if needed
- **A3**: Regional Parks Committee & Board Report Management Plan Adoption
- **B**: Draft Management Plan Development
- **B1**: First Nations engagement
- **B2**: Online & other engagement
- **C1**: Public Site Tours – June 3 & 8, 2017
- **C2**: Online Feedback – June 1 to 30, 2017
- **C3**: Open House – June 15, 2017
- **D**: Revised Draft Management Plan
- **D1**: Engagement & online feedback spring and summer 2019: review and feedback on draft management plan
- **D2**: Further public engagement may be scheduled if needed
- **E**: Regional Park Opening
- **F**: Detailed Design
- **G**: Construction
- **H**: Regional Park Opening
2.5 First Nations Context

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park falls within the consultative areas of Katzie First Nation, Kwikwetlem First Nation, Stó:lō Tribal Council, Stó:lō Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, Soowahlie First Nation, Seabird Island Band, Shxw’ōw’hamel First Nation, and Skawahlook First Nation. A Katzie village site was situated adjacent to Widgeon Marsh on what is now Katzie First Nation’s Indian Reserve (Pitt Lake IR4). Katzie and Kwikwetlem First Nations both have place names for geographic and cultural features within and adjacent to the marsh (Katzie Development Corporation Archaeology, 2015).

Metro Vancouver will continue to build effective relationships with First Nations to ensure better alignment and achievement of common objectives. Metro Vancouver will continue to work with First Nations to understand traditional values and uses of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, and to strengthen relationships with First Nations. Where possible, Metro Vancouver will support actions to foster reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

2.6 Local Context

The southern portion of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is located in the City of Coquitlam and the northern portion of the park is in Electoral Area A.

COQUITLAM

Coquitlam is a major regional centre bordered by the Fraser and Pitt Rivers, Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park, and Eagle Mountain. It contains a rapidly growing and diverse residential community. The City’s Northeast Area Plan provides the framework for new neighbourhoods, neighbourhood densification, and a new neighbourhood centre within a fifteen-minute drive of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.

ELECTORAL AREA A

Electoral Area A comprises unincorporated areas and communities in Metro Vancouver, including the University of British Columbia, the University Endowment Lands, Barnston Island, Howe Sound communities (including Passage and Bowyer Islands), Indian Arm (including Boulder Island and Carraholly Point), and the west side of Pitt Lake. The lands surrounding Widgeon Marsh Regional Park in Electoral Area A are mostly parks and protected areas, along with a small number of private lands and cabins.
2.7 Landscape Context

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is characterized by its rural setting and is bordered by parks and protected areas, Pitt Lake IR4, rural homes, and an active gravel pit. The park’s size and adjacent natural areas (figure 3) allow the park to provide ecosystem connectivity for larger mammal species, such as black bear, deer, and cougars.

Protected Wetlands

The wetland complex at the mouth of the Pitt Lake is the largest freshwater marsh in southwestern BC. Large portions of the marsh are owned by the Nature Trust of B.C. These lands are protected within Widgeon Valley National Wildlife Area, Pitt Addington Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Pitt Polder Ecological Reserve, and Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. This wetland is an important stopover on the Pacific Flyway that provides wintering habitat for a variety of wetland birds, as well as year-round habitat for many other wildlife species. Wetlands provide a number of important ecosystem services including erosion control, flood protection, groundwater recharge, water purification, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, increased biodiversity, food sources, and landscapes of cultural and human value.

National Wildlife Area

Widgeon Valley National Wildlife Area, just north of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, protects 125 hectares of marsh and upland habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl. The national wildlife area lands are owned by the Nature Trust of B.C. and are managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The only access permitted is passage by non-motorized boat, for wildlife viewing.

Mountain Views

Widgeon Marsh is encircled by mountain peaks in the Coastal Range, including Widgeon Peak and Coquitlam Mountain (west), Osprey Mountain (northeast), Mount Judge Howay (northeast), Mount Robie Reid (northeast), Golden Ears (east), and Mount Crickmer (southeast). The views provide visual connection from Widgeon Marsh Regional Park to the larger mountainous landscape.

Pitt River

The Pitt River is a wide, fast flowing river that starts in Garibaldi Provincial Park, flows through Pitt Lake, and drains into the Fraser River. The lower river has an industrial character and is still used for log booming and barging.

The Pitt River is tidal. When the water level at the confluence of the Fraser and Pitt Rivers is higher than the water level on the Pitt River, the water flow of the Pitt River reverses, receiving water from the Fraser River. This tidal process leaves sediment at the mouth of Pitt Lake, accreting as a reverse delta.

The Pitt River can move quickly with strong currents and is frequented by power boats, although skilled paddlers do kayak and canoe the river.

Pitt Lake

Pitt Lake is one of the world’s largest freshwater tidal lakes. Pitt Lake has pockets of cabins on both sides of its shore, as well as boat access only campsites.
2.0 PROCESS AND CONTEXT

Provincial Parks

Pinecone Burke and Golden Ears Provincial Parks protect large wilderness habitat areas and provide front country and backcountry recreation opportunities including hiking, camping, and horseback riding. Both Pinecone Burke and Golden Ears Provincial Parks extend north to Garibaldi Provincial Park, protecting a vast area of southwest British Columbia. Surrounded by parks and protected lands, Widgeon Marsh Regional Park provides front country access to the larger protected area.

Urban Areas

A number of communities and urban centres are located within a 30-minute drive of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. Northeast Coquitlam is the closest community to Widgeon Marsh, with a 15-minute drive to the park entrance.
FIGURE 4: TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
2.8 Park Access and Connectivity

Quarry Road provides the only road access to Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. The last 4.5 km of the road leading to the park is gravel with steep sections and curves and is maintained to a rural road standard by the City of Coquitlam. Due to distance from residential neighbourhoods and challenging topography, it is expected that the majority of visitors will arrive at Widgeon Marsh Regional Park by car.

A portion of the road situated north of the Gateway sub-area and south of the Lower Landing sub-area runs through privately held land. Metro Vancouver has an easement for the use of this private road for purposes that include access, construction, maintenance, and improvements. The private property has an easement for the purpose of access on the portion of the road that runs through the Gateway sub-area.

The City of Coquitlam’s Master Trail Plan (2013) outlines a future off-road trail connection from the south entrance of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park to the Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam municipal trail networks (see figure 4). If built, this trail linkage would allow residents to walk and cycle more easily to the regional park. It would also create better trail connectivity between Minnekhada Regional Park, Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, and Pinecone Burke Provincial Park.

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park fits into existing water travel routes (see non-motorized boating routes on figure 4) as a future stop for paddlers travelling up and down the Pitt River, as well as for those headed to Widgeon Creek Campground in Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. Katzie First Nation operates a canoe rental and boat launch at the Pitt-Addington Wildlife Management Area across the Pitt River from Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.
3.0 Existing Conditions

3.1 Overview

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is located at the entrance to the Widgeon Valley in the Coast Mountains.

The regional park covers 621 hectares, of which two thirds are wetlands. The remaining lands include mostly steep hillsides of second growth forest containing several streams and riparian corridors with a few relatively level upland areas. The park includes a range of ecosystems from bogs, marshes, and streams, to fields and rocky outcrops. This ecosystem diversity provides habitat for species, such as sandhill crane and tailed frog, that are dependent on specific conditions as well as species, such as black bear and cougar, with larger home ranges.

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is closed to the public until planning is complete and funds become available to build park facilities, at which time it will be opened as a regional park. Metro Vancouver has been working with partner and government organizations to remove invasive plants, to restore habitats, and to monitor species including black bear, hummingbird, bat, and waterbird populations. Portions of the park have been used for commercial filming and youth camping trips run by non-profit organizations, through special use permits.

3.2 Park Purpose

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park protects important wetland ecosystems in an urban region where the majority of wetlands have been lost to development and agriculture. These wetlands provide habitat for a variety of bird species, as well as amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fish. This includes 12 species of special concern (blue-listed). Widgeon Marsh Regional Park has been and continues to be a culturally significant and rich resource area for First Nations (Katzie Development Corporation Archaeology, 2015). The park provides opportunities to experience high quality forest and wetland ecosystems, and scenic vistas of the Widgeon Valley and Pitt River marshes.

The purposes of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park are to:

- protect wildlife corridors facilitating migration between wetlands and adjacent subalpine mountain habitats;
- provide opportunities for groups and individuals to connect with nature through trails, viewpoints, water access amenities, stewardship, public programming and nature viewing;
- conserve regional biodiversity by protecting and enhancing sensitive ecosystems, including rare freshwater wetlands, riparian forests, and at-risk plant communities;
- protect traditional and cultural resources within Widgeon Marsh Regional Park in collaboration with First Nations; and
- enhance public understanding and cultivate appreciation of wetland and forest ecosystems.
3.3 Ecosystems

The landscape and context of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park has been shaped by glaciers and rivers. As glaciers retreated with the end of the last ice age, they scoured U-shaped valleys in the Coast Mountains, including Widgeon Valley which contains the park. Evidence suggests that Widgeon Valley became a fjord before it was cut off from the Salish Sea around 8000 years ago. The western edge of the park is still characterized by steep rocky slopes overlain by thin soils.

Sediment deposits from surrounding streams and rivers formed the foundation of Widgeon Marsh wetlands. These provided opportunity for wetland plant species to take hold and contribute to thousands of years of soil development and wetland diversification.
3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIGURE 5: WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK

Regional Park

Wetland Type (BC Wetlands Classification)
- RI - River (open water)
- AQ - Aquatic communities
- RG - Reed canarygrass marsh
- GM - Generic marsh
- SH - Swamp horsetail-beaked sedge
- SX - Sweetgale-Sitka sedge fen
- CB - Crabapple shrub swamp
- GB - Sweet Gale shrub swamp
- HB - Hardhack-Sitka sedge shrub swamp
- BH - Paper Birch swamp
- LS - Lodgepole pine-peatmoss bog
- CD - Cottonwood-Red alder/salmonberry
- MF - Mudflat

Data Source:

Blue listed ecosystem OR contains blue listed plants (of special concern)
Red listed ecosystem OR contains red listed plants (at risk of being lost; extirpated, endangered, or threatened)

0 500 1,000 m
Wetland Ecosystems

Unique hydrological characteristics and processes within the area have resulted in a high diversity of wetland types within Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. Heavy stream flows, tidal influences, and the development of complex alluvial fans have contributed to the development of 17 distinct wetland plant associations including aquatic, marsh, bog, fen, swamp, and floodplain-forest. These include one wetland ecosystem at risk (red-listed) and two wetland ecosystems of special concern (blue-listed). Two new wetland plant associations were observed at the park and have been recommended for consideration as ecosystems at risk (red-listed) to the Provincial Conservation Data Centre.

Sweet gale shrub swamp is the dominant wetland and ecological community in Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. Swamps typically contain high tree and shrub cover, along with well-developed shrub layers. This vertical structure provides cover and nesting habitat for many bird species.

Marshes account for one quarter of the park. These are shallow areas well adapted to variations in flood levels and sedimentation. Marshes are typically productive ecosystems that contain abundant vegetation as well as plankton and aquatic invertebrates. Marshes are the ecosystem community most heavily used by wetland wildlife.

Traditional food sources in the wetlands for First Nations include wild rice, bog cranberries, bog blueberries, water plantain, and wapato. Wapato, also known as Sagittaria latifolia, is a wetland tuber traditionally managed and harvested by First Nations. Wapato historically grew throughout the Pitt River wetlands and provided an important winter food source. The wapato plants in the park are one of the few wild patches of wapato remaining in the region (Katzie Development Corporation Archaeology 2015).
3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIGURE 6: TERRESTIAL ECOSYSTEMS, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK

Primary ecosystem
- Western hemlock - Flat moss
- Douglas fir - Western hemlock - salal
- Red cedar - sword fern
- Red cedar - Western hemlock - Deer fern
- Red cedar - foamflower
- Lodgepole pine - Sphagnum
- Red cedar - Stika spruce - Skunk cabbage
- Buildings, parking etc.
- Landscape grass and shrubs
- Old field
- Talus

Blue listed ecosystem OR contains blue listed plants (of special concern)
Red listed ecosystem OR contains red listed plants (at risk of being lost; extirpated, endangered, or threatened)

Data Source:
Forest Ecosystems

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is within the Coastal Western Hemlock dry maritime (CWHdm) biogeoclimatic zone. Historic logging and quarry operations within the park area have resulted in a varied forest age structure. Dominant tree species include western hemlock and western red cedar, with lower abundance of Douglas fir and Sitka spruce. Most of the forested areas are second growth, ranging from 30 to 100 years in age. The youngest stands have a significant amount of young big leaf maple and red alder.

There are seven distinct forested ecosystems identified within the park. Approximately one-third of forested land is western hemlock - flat moss ecosystem and another one-third is red cedar - sword fern ecosystem. Three of the ecosystems are of special concern (blue-listed) and one, western hemlock - red cedar - deer fern is endangered (red-listed). Most of the forested lands have well-developed moss, herb, and shrub layers. Traditional food sources in the forested areas for First Nations include bracken fern, coastal strawberry, salmonberry, black caps, trailing blackberries, salal berries, thimbleberries, red and blue huckleberries, Saskatoon berries, crab apples, and Labrador tea.
Aquatic Ecosystems

The steep mountain slopes and valley bottoms have numerous streams feeding into the low elevation wetland areas. While Widgeon Slough and Widgeon Creek are outside the park boundary, these waterways are integral to the wildlife and ecosystems in Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. Marshes and adjacent waterways are used by many birds for nesting. These shallow waterways also provide foraging habitat for water birds. Bald eagles, northern harriers, and osprey hunt over these open waters.

Riparian areas at wetland edges and along streams provide shelter, shade, and forage, as well as important travel corridors for wildlife. Widgeon Slough and Widgeon Creek provide rearing habitat for coho, chum, sockeye, cutthroat trout, and steelhead. The slough and creek provide spawning grounds for the Widgeon (River-Type) Sockeye Salmon population, a genetically distinct population of sockeye salmon. These salmon are adapted to the tidal conditions at Widgeon Marsh, moving into the slough at high tide to spawn, and back into Pitt Lake at low tide. This population of sockeye salmon was designated as threatened in November 2017 by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). The Lower Fraser River population of white sturgeon has been reported in both Pitt Lake and Pitt River, and was designated as threatened by COSEWIC in November 2012. In addition, Stewart Creek is used by spawning coho, chum, and cutthroat trout.
3.4 Biodiversity

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park contains a range of wetland, field, and forest ecosystems, providing homes for a wide range of migratory and year-round resident wildlife.

Wildlife

The park provides wintering and breeding habitat for a diversity of species. More than 100 bird species have been documented using the area in the last ten years (eBird data), and daily counts have reached over 1,000 waterbirds during high-use winter months (Hemmera Envirochem Inc., 2018).

The park is bordered by forest to the west, and wetland to the north, making it attractive to wildlife for habitat and for movement across the landscape and waterways. The park size and adjacent natural areas (figure 3) allow the park to provide travel corridors and habitat for larger species, such as black bear, cougar, and deer. The waterways are home to at least seven species of fish and nine species of amphibians, including steelhead, rainbow trout, northwestern salamanders, red-legged frogs, and rough-skinned newts. The park is also home to smaller mammals including bobcats, beavers, river otters, shrews, and weasels. A number of bat species roost in the park, including little brown myotis, yuma myotis, big brown, and hoary bats.

Species and Ecosystems at Risk

As discussed earlier in this document, several ecosystems at risk are represented within Widgeon Marsh Regional Park. The park’s unique combination of habitats is also suited to a variety of individual species at risk. At least 15 species recognized as being of conservation concern are known to exist in the park including plant, amphibian, bird, and fish species. Among these are the coastal tailed frog, barn swallow, American bittern, western screech owl, and coastal cutthroat trout.
### 3.5 Habitat Sensitivity Analysis

Most of the park, excluding some previously developed areas and young forests, is classified as sensitive ecosystem in the regional sensitive ecosystem inventory. Sensitive ecosystems provide habitat for many species, including plants and animals at risk.

Metro Vancouver has undertaken habitat sensitivity analysis to quantify the conservation values of park ecosystems. Sensitivity analysis (Figure 8) outlines at-risk, fragile, or ecologically important ecosystems, and incorporates species context of surrounding areas and habitat condition. This analysis indicates Widgeon Marsh Regional Park to have the highest overall conservation value rating within the regional parks system. High conservation values within this park are due to its regionally remote location, rare wetland features, relatively undisturbed natural state of ecosystems, and adjacency to large wilderness and protected areas.

Areas with lower conservation value within the park include young forest recovering from past logging and previously disturbed areas used for human dwellings and activities. Habitat restoration and enhancement can increase conservation value of some of these disturbed ecosystems, while others provide the opportunity for park access and connecting to nature.

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**Figure 8: Habitat Sensitivity Analysis, Widgeon Marsh Regional Park**

The Regional Parks conservation value ecosystem classification uses Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping and is based on provincial standards for ecosystem classification.
3.6 Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term changes in weather patterns, including temperature and precipitation. These changes are predicted to result in sea level rise and increased flooding, warmer summers and droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events.

1. Sea level rise and increased flooding
Increasing global temperatures are expected to result in sea level rise, and climate change is likely to increase the intensity, frequency, and duration of storm events. Current research predicts a one metre sea level rise by the year 2100. Over the long term, this could lead to a redistribution of wetland ecosystems and some of the lowest lands being underwater.

2. Warmer summers and droughts
Climate change is expected to bring warmer, drier summers and more frequent heat waves. These changes are expected to increase forest fire risk and to decrease stream flows, causing stress and impacts to park ecosystems and species. Migration of species and changes to plant species diversity and distribution are predicted to occur over time.
3. **Extreme weather events**

Climate change is expected to result in increased extreme weather events, including heavy rain storms, and high wind storms. Heavy rain storms could lead to flooding and landslides, and a higher potential for soil erosion in forests, as well as expansion of wetlands into previously dry areas.

4. **Impacts to park visitors**

Summer droughts and high temperatures mean increased risks of dehydration and heat stroke for unprepared visitors. Climate change could also increase the potential for human-wildlife conflict. Safety hazards from extreme weather events could result in trail and road erosion, hazardous trees, increased operating costs, and temporary park closures for maintenance of affected areas.
3.7 Previously Developed Areas and Features

Widgeon Marsh is a culturally significant and resource rich area that has been used by First Nations for thousands of years. In the 1900s, the area was homesteaded by a number of families. By the 1920s, some of the lands were used for a hunting retreat. The lands were further developed as a private estate from the 1950s to 1992, to support logging and resource extraction in the area. Previous users developed buildings, cabins, roads, trails, fields, and log and gravel sorting areas. Along with a main road, numerous logging access roads were created to extract timber. These previously developed areas have lower ecological value and provide opportunities for restoration and for development of recreational amenities.

FIGURE 9: PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED FEATURES AND FACILITIES, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
4.0 Park Sub-Areas

Seven park sub-areas have been identified within the park based on biophysical resources, visual character, and opportunities for park visitor experiences.

FIGURE 10: PARK SUB-AREAS AND EXISTING TRAILS, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
1 Gateway
The entrance to Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is located in the Gateway sub-area. Parts of this sub-area were previously used as gravel and log sort areas, and for housing. This sub-area provides a suitable land base to develop park day use facilities. As the park entrance, this sub-area provides opportunity to orient visitors to the ecological importance of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.

2 Lower Landing
This sub-area is terraced, providing opportunities for different views of the wetland areas within the park. Parts of this sub-area were previously developed for log storage and boat launching, including a dredged channel. This sub-area provides a suitable land base to develop the main park day use facilities, including picnicking areas, viewpoints, and non-motorized boat launching.

3 Cove
The Cove contains a former access road and log sort site within second growth forest. Access to the water’s edge could provide a non-motorized boat landing and viewpoint.

4 Uplands
The Uplands are young forest with a rich, largely undisturbed forest floor on steep hillsides and talus slopes. The park service road follows the edge of the Uplands and functions as the main trail spine for the park, connecting viewpoints, trail loops, and park activity areas.

5 Lowlands
The Lowlands contain wetlands with high conservation values. There are opportunities for habitat enhancement, including invasive species removal. Access to the Lowlands is through hiking trails, boardwalks and viewpoints.

6 Meadow
The Meadow was previously developed as a residential area with a large field, residences, outbuildings, and roads. The Meadow is a destination within the park, approximately three kilometres from Gateway and three kilometres from the Widgeon Creek Campground in Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. The Meadow offers opportunities for picnicking, group camping, gathering areas, and viewpoints.

7 Marsh
Similar to the Lowlands, the Marsh is of high conservation value, containing the majority of wetlands within the regional park. The Marsh sub-area is to be protected as a habitat area. Where access is envisioned, it will be limited to edges of wetland areas and previously developed areas, with opportunities to view and interpret the marsh. The Widgeon Creek Site was previously developed as a private cabin site and provides opportunities for non-motorized boat landing and picnicking.
## TABLE 1: PARK FEATURES & NATURAL RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK SUB-AREA</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL FEATURES</th>
<th>EXISTING FACILITIES</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| GATEWAY       | • Mix of lower and higher value ecosystems  
                • Mostly accessible landscape  
                • Previously disturbed areas | • Waterfront grassy areas  
                • One house  
                • Spit, with treed point  
                • Dredged channels | • Seasonal flooding of lower elevation areas  
                • Interface with adjacent private lands  
                • Invasive species | • Viewpoints and view corridors  
                • Accessible grades for staging and recreational amenities  
                • Seating, gathering, picnic area, parking  
                • Interpretive signage and elements  
                • Interpretive signage and features in partnership with First Nations |
| LOWER LANDING | • Mix of lower and higher value ecosystems  
                • Mostly accessible landscape  
                • Previously disturbed areas | • Waterfront grassy areas  
                • Dredged channels  
                • Constructed pond | • Seasonal flooding of lower elevation areas  
                • Channel infilling | • Viewpoints and view corridors  
                • Accessible grades for staging and recreational amenities  
                • Pond/wetland habitat enhancement  
                • Seating, gathering, picnic area, parking  
                • Interpretive signage and elements  
                • Non-motorized boat launch/landing  
                • Interpretive signage and features in partnership with First Nations |
| COVE          | • Second growth forest  
                • Bird and small mammal habitat | • Informal trail  
                • Water access | | • Viewpoints and view corridors  
                • Widen trail, improve sightlines  
                • Strategic fencing/features to keep users on trail  
                • Interpretive signage and features in partnership with First Nations |
| UPLANDS       | • Young and mature forest with rich forest floor  
                • Service road with gravel base and natural character  
                • Former logging roads | • Maintenance of electrical lines  
                • Watercourse stability  
                • Service road trail drainage and maintenance | | • Trail experience; possible trail connection to Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park  
                • Viewpoints and view corridors  
                • Forest hiking trails on former logging roads |
| LOWLANDS      | • Riparian forest and tidal freshwater wetland  
                • Fish and wildlife habitat | • Mostly natural, undiked wetland  
                • Riparian invasive species (Reed Canarygrass and Purple Loosestrife)  
                • Seasonal flooding | | • Habitat restoration work in partnership with First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
                • Viewpoints and view corridors |
## 4.0 PARK SUB-AREAS

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<tr>
<th>PARK SUB-AREA</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL FEATURES</th>
<th>EXISTING FACILITIES</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MEADOW**    | • Salmon spawning habitat in Stewart Creek (coho, chum, cutthroat trout)  
• Salmon rearing habitat in Nathan Creek (coho, cutthroat trout)  
• Bear habitat in summer/spring  
• Maternal bat condo  
• High value forest, bog, old field, and wetland habitat  
• Important for refuge for wintering birds in Widgeon Slough  
• Salmon spawning habitat in Stewart Creek (coho, chum, cutthroat trout)  
• High value wetland ecosystems  
• One ecosystem at risk and two ecosystems of special concern | • Grassy field  
• Informal trails + service road  
• Rocky outcrop  
• Constructed ponds  
• Land spit  
• Small beach area  
• Rustic rock gathering area  
• Access trail to upper waterfall viewpoint  
• Former outbuildings and houses | • Seasonal flooding  
• Maintenance of electrical lines  
• Safety of waterfall viewpoint  
• Trail design to limit off-trail park use  
• Low water levels and tides can make paddling in this area challenging | • Viewpoints and view corridors  
• Opportunity to partner with First Nations on management of Wapato and other culturally important wetland plants  
• Opportunity to enhance pond habitat value  
• Non-motorized boat landing  
• Small gathering spaces  
• Group camp  
• Interpretive signage and features in partnership with First Nations  
• Interpretive programming and small events |
| **MARSH**     | • Mostly natural, undiked wetland  
• Small previously developed area with non-motorized boat landing site  
• Aquatic invasive species management (Reed canarygrass, purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, bog loosestrife, and southern wild rice) | • Adjacent to Widgeon Valley National Wildlife Area, Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, and Pitt Addington Wildlife Management Area. Opportunities to partner on monitoring and management of marshes.  
• Formalize non-motorized boat landing and rest stop at Widgeon Creek Site |
5.0 Park Vision and Goals

**5.1 Park Vision**

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park protects extensive wetlands and temperate rainforests, and provides habitat for a diverse range of wildlife. Spectacular views and nature-based outdoor learning opportunities will inspire visitors to develop a deeper appreciation of wetland ecosystems. It will be a place for visitors to relax and recharge in nature where wetlands, forests, and mountains meet.
5.2 Goals

The goals are informed by the vision and provide an overarching framework to guide this management plan. They were developed and refined through research and analysis, as well as engagement with First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

**Protect and Enhance the Park’s Ecological Values:** develop an approach for ongoing monitoring, protection, enhancement, and adaptive management of the park’s ecosystems and habitats.

**Collaborate with First Nations:** engage First Nations to protect important natural and cultural areas and resources.

**Balance Public Use with Ecological Values:** provide facilities, including trails and day-use areas to offer a variety of opportunities for visitors to connect with nature, while protecting the regional park’s important natural areas.

**Connect Visitors to the Park’s Natural Values and Cultural Heritage:** enhance the park visitor experience by providing opportunities to learn about the park’s natural values and cultural heritage through public programming and interpretive signage and elements.
6.0 Areas of Focus

Through the management planning and engagement processes, a number of areas of focus were identified. Strategies, tied to park goals, were developed for each area of focus to provide guidance for park development and ongoing operations and resource management.

6.1 Habitat Protection and Enhancement

The habitat protection and enhancement area of focus provides strategies to enhance ecosystem health, resilience, and habitat values. Ongoing research and monitoring are central to understand existing processes and impacts, and the effectiveness of stewardship activities. This area of focus will inspire learning through citizen science and volunteer stewardship programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOALS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</table>
| PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S ECOLOGICAL VALUES | • Collaborate with First Nations, the City of Coquitlam, provincial and federal governments, academic institutions, and community partners on forest and wetland planning, including studies, stewardship, and natural areas restoration.  
  • Enhance natural habitat for cavity nesting birds.  
  • Protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat and riparian areas.  
  • Map and manage invasive species.  
  • Work with volunteers on stewardship and citizen science projects.  
  • Allow natural processes to take place where possible.  
  • Develop a trail system that minimizes habitat fragmentation. Remediate ecologically compromised areas not identified for trails and facilities.  |
| COLLABORATE WITH FIRST NATIONS             | • Engage First Nations to contribute expertise and traditional knowledge as they see fit to natural areas stewardship.  
  • Collaborate with First Nations, agencies, and partners on protecting and enhancing habitat connectivity to adjacent areas.  |
6.2 Wildlife Disturbance Mitigation

These strategies aim to reduce potential disturbance to wildlife by park users. Although some species thrive in areas with human use and disturbance, other species can become stressed from repeated disturbance, resulting in impacts to health and reproduction. Widgeon Slough and Widgeon Creek, along with many smaller streams, provide rearing habitat for coho, chum, sockeye, cutthroat trout, and steelhead, as well as spawning habitat for sockeye salmon and a refuge for migratory and resident waterbirds. For example, during the winter waterbird study, waterbirds in Widgeon Slough showed disturbance reactions to human presence generally at distances up to 70m. Disturbance reactions, such as flying away or diving, can cause waterbirds to use up valuable resources, which can be more problematic for species at times of low food availability (Hemmera Envirochem Inc., 2018).

Disturbance by dogs

During engagement, a number of stakeholder groups and public participants noted habitat protection as a top concern for planning, including specific concerns about the impacts of dogs on habitat and natural values. The presence of dogs can reduce the range and habitat of wildlife. This disturbance can cause wildlife to become stressed, use vital energy reserves and make them more vulnerable to diseases and parasites. Wildlife can also become sick from disease transmitted by dogs or dog waste (Hennings, 2016). Reducing disturbance to wildlife by dogs would provide more nature study and bird watching opportunities for park visitors.

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<tr>
<th>GOALS</th>
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| PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S ECOCLOGICAL VALUES | • Monitor the impact of public use on natural resources and develop strategies to inform park management decisions.  
• Prohibit dogs, horses, and other domestic animals at the park, except service animals.  
• Manage wildlife habitat areas within the park to protect ecological values by restricting access to permit only activities such as research, habitat enhancement, and stewardship. Protect the area by using education, enforcement, and engineering measures.  
• Explore opportunities to work with other levels of government to manage motorized boats and aeronautical uses adjacent to Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.  
• Develop filming conditions of use to reduce impacts to natural resources, sensitive species, and visitor experiences. |
| BALANCE PUBLIC USE WITH ECOLOGICAL VALUES | • Educate the public about safety and user code of conduct around wildlife and develop a plan to manage human-wildlife conflict. |
6.3 Traditional First Nations Uses

Widgeon Marsh is within the consultative areas of nine First Nations and Tribal Councils. This area has been a cultural resource area for First Nations for thousands of years and has traditionally provided a supply of wildlife, aquatic, and plant resources (Katzie Development Corporation Archaeology 2015). This area of focus incorporates opportunities to work with First Nations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S ECOLOGICAL VALUES</td>
<td>• Work with First Nations to protect and enhance Sagittaria latifolia (wapato) within the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLLABORATE WITH FIRST NATIONS</td>
<td>• Investigate opportunities to work with First Nations on naming trails, activity areas, and features within the park. Naming will align with the corporate policy.</td>
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<td>• Provide access to First Nation members for the purposes of engaging in cultural activities and practices that do not harm the environment and may include limited gathering of plant material for non-commercial purposes, but does not include hunting.</td>
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<td>• Explore economic opportunities for First Nations at the park, that fit within the Regional Parks Plan and the park management plan to protect park resources and/or to enhance visitor experience.</td>
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<td>• Explore opportunities for Cultural Planning and Co-operation Agreements with First Nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONNECT VISITORS TO THE PARK’S NATURAL VALUES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</td>
<td>• Explore opportunities to collaborate with First Nations to protect and present their culture and history within the park.</td>
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### 6.4 Visitor Facilities

This area of focus provides strategies to support visitors connecting to nature through park facilities, such as trails and day-use areas, as well as connections to and within the park.

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| **BALANCE PUBLIC USE WITH ECOLOGICAL VALUES** | • Provide a range of trail lengths and types to suit different fitness levels.  
• Provide an accessible day-use area near the park entrance.  
• Develop a paddling infrastructure plan, including a series of launching, landing, and tie-up spots along Widgeon Slough and Widgeon Creek. Manage non-motorized boat launching and landing spots adaptively to protect waterbirds and consider seasonal closures if necessary. Consider opportunities for seasonal portable toilets at landing spots.  
• Work with the City of Coquitlam to improve road connections from Widgeon Marsh Regional Park to Minnekhada Regional Park and trail connections to the municipal trail network.  
• Use design and communications to delineate park boundaries and to minimize disturbance to adjacent private property owners.  
• Explore opportunities to support sustainable transportation to the park, such as carpooling and transit.  
• Explore opportunities for a periodic in-park shuttle bus service. |
| **CONNECT VISITORS TO THE PARK’S NATURAL VALUES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE** | • Provide viewpoints that protect natural resources while bringing visitors to the edge of sensitive ecosystems to learn about park habitat.  
• Manage vegetation at viewpoints and the viewing tower identified on park concept plans to ensure those views are protected over time. |
6.5 Public Programming and Nature Interpretation

This area of focus outlines steps to connect people to nature and to the park’s natural and cultural history, and to promote wellness, through group programs, public programs, events, and interpretive features and signage.

Public programming/nature interpretation thematic opportunities include:

- **Wetland Ecosystems**: opportunity to highlight wetland ecosystems and nutrient flows, ecosystem services, and wetland flora and fauna, including migratory and resident water birds, and salmon.
- **First Nations Culture and Heritage**: opportunity to work with First Nations to protect and present their culture and history in the park.
- **Geology**: opportunity to share the geological timeline and history, including mountain formation and composition, glaciation, and ongoing geological and erosion processes.
- **Hydrology**: opportunity to highlight park hydrology including watersheds and river systems, daily tides, annual flooding, climate change, sediment deposits, and aquatic habitat.
- **Safety**: opportunity for trail and waterway safety education, including user preparedness, safety in cougar and bear habitat, and user code of conduct.

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| **PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S ECOLOGICAL VALUES** | - Develop an education program for the public on water and paddling safety to help park visitors protect park ecosystems and minimize impacts to wetlands species and ecosystems while recreating.  
- Work with BC Parks, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Katzie First Nation to develop a communications program and user code of conduct for non-motorized boating within the park and adjacent protected areas. |
| **COLLABORATE WITH FIRST NATIONS** | - Work with First Nations on interpretive programming when appropriate and as opportunities arise. |
| **BALANCE PUBLIC USE WITH ECOLOGICAL VALUES** | - Provide design elements that facilitate programming such as trail pull-offs, bus access, group learning spaces, access to water, and interpretive loops. |
| **CONNECT VISITORS TO THE PARK’S NATURAL VALUES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE** | - Develop an interpretive programming plan with an approach specific to Widgeon Marsh Regional Park.  
- Explore opportunities to provide unique public programming, including water-based or night sky programs.  
- Design an interpretive sign and elements plan for the park in collaboration with First Nations, partner agencies, and community groups, when appropriate and as opportunities arise.  
- Explore opportunities for a mobile or seasonal nature centre.  
- Explore opportunities to use shuttle buses to transport users within the park as part of the programming and visitor services approach at this park. |
6.6 Seasonal Flooding

A large portion of Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is within the 1 in 200-year floodplain. Daily tidal patterns influence flood levels throughout the year. Some areas flood annually during the spring Fraser River freshet, caused by spring snow melt at higher elevations. This area of focus addresses seasonal flooding in the regional park.

**FIGURE 11: LOW ELEVATION AREAS WITHIN WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK**

![Map of low elevation areas within Widgeon Marsh Regional Park](image)

**GOALS**

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<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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| BALANCE PUBLIC USE WITH ECOLOGICAL VALUES | • Upgrade the Main Trail and Park Entry Road through the park, along with associated drainage, to minimize long-term flood risk.  
• Design trails and viewpoints within the floodplain to be low maintenance and resilient to current and long-term flooding projected to occur within the infrastructure’s life span. |
6.7 Climate Change

This area of focus provides an approach and strategies to support ecosystems and visitors while adapting to climate change.

The overall approach to climate change adaptation at Widgeon Marsh Regional Park is to allow and encourage wetland ecosystems to migrate with sea level rise. Inundation will be accommodated wherever feasible. The main trail and park entry road will be raised over time as necessary to maintain park access.

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| PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE PARK’S ECOLOGICAL VALUES | • Restore riparian areas to provide increased streamside shade.  
• Restore windfall areas and previously developed areas with species tolerant of predicted future climatic conditions, to increase forest resilience.  
• Conduct ongoing monitoring to measure regional ecological trends and impacts of climate change in collaboration with First Nations, the City of Coquitlam, provincial and federal governments, academic institutions, and community partners. |
| BALANCE PUBLIC USE WITH ECOLOGICAL VALUES | • Provide shelter structures at key activity areas to provide protection from wetter winters and hotter summers. |
WIDGEON SLOUGH, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
The regional park program and concept plan provide a long-range vision for the park, including a trails plan and conceptual designs for activity areas.

7.1 Concept Plan

This plan (figure 12) concentrates activity and parking at the park entrance, maintaining the sense of remoteness through the remainder of the park. Access to the park is through a network of activity areas and trails, comprising about 6% of the total park area, protecting the park’s sensitive ecosystems, and providing habitat areas for wildlife (figure 12).

Feedback gathered through public engagement showed strong support for trail and viewing opportunities. Providing protected wildlife habitat areas will enable views of undisturbed, natural areas, and will provide opportunities to inspire visitors to develop a deeper appreciation of wetland ecosystems and wildlife.

In the concept plan, the sub-areas identified to provide a variety of visitor experiences are presented as activity areas. These areas are located on previously developed lands where there are opportunities for visitor facilities.

The service road will be repurposed into a multi-use trail, creating a main trail spine for connecting activity areas and viewpoints within the park. Locating parking at the Gateway and Lower Landing sub-areas will have fewer impacts to park wildlife, and will limit vehicle noise and dust, allowing for more opportunities for visitors to connect with nature. Opportunities will be explored to use shuttle buses to make the meadow accessible for groups, events, and all visitors.
7.0 CONCEPT AND PROGRAM

- Design Team: Please move this content over to the page on the left and delete this page. Having the concept plan on this page as a replacement will make the layout more similar to the Grouse Mountain Management plan.

FIGURE 12 CONCEPT PLAN FOR WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
7.2 Activity Area Concept Plans

The activity area plans outline conceptual circulation, facilities, and layout. These plans will be refined through feasibility studies and detailed design work.

Gateway
7.0 CONCEPT AND PROGRAM

FIGURE 13: GATEWAY ACTIVITY AREA CONCEPT PLAN, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK

Gateway Activity Area

Gateway area provides orientation to the park and surrounding landscape in the southern portion of the park area, with providing interpretive features, and viewpoints.

Key:
- 1. Hiking Only Trail
- 2. Boardwalk
- 3. Parking area
- 4. Gate
- 5. Service yard
- 6. Restroom
- 7. Scenic viewpoint
- 8. Buffer

Legend:
- 0-25 metres
- 25-50 metres
- 50-100 metres

Detailed map showing the location of the Gateway Activity Area with various amenities and viewpoints.
Lower Landing

LOWER LANDING ACTIVITY AREA RENDERING, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
Lower Landing Activity Area

Lower Landing provides an orientation to wetland ecosystems and the larger regional park. Picnicking, viewpoints and an interpretive trail loop are available at this activity area.

FIGURE 14 LOWER LANDING ACTIVITY AREA CONCEPT PLAN, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
Meadow

MEADOW ACTIVITY AREA RENDERING, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
The meadow activity area provides a destination activity area within the park, including wildlife and waterfowl viewpoints and a group camp.

FIGURE 15 MEADOW ACTIVITY AREA CONCEPT PLAN, WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK
### 7.3 Site Objectives and Elements

The table below outlines site objectives and planned facilities and elements by park sub-area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK SUB-AREA</th>
<th>SITE OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>FACILITIES &amp; ELEMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| GATEWAY       | • Provide a gateway and orientation to the regional park  
                • Provide staging and parking  
                • Create an accessible nature focused activity area | • Entry sign  
                • Amenities (washroom, drinking water fountain, kiosk, waste receptacles, picnic tables, seating)  
                • +/-25 parking spaces with bus turnaround (with space allocated for +/-20 future parking spaces)  
                • Viewpoint and seating area at end of spit  
                • Wetland loop trail  
                • Service yard to support park maintenance and repairs  
                • Interpretive signage and features  
                • Buffer between park and adjacent private property |
| LOWER LANDING | • Provide a picnic and day-use area  
                • Provide an orientation to the larger park | • Amenities (pit toilet, drinking water fountain, kiosk, waste receptacles, picnic tables, seating, picnic shelter)  
                • Pond restoration and demonstration wetland  
                • +/- 60 parking spots with bus turnaround (with space allocated for +/- 30 future parking spaces)  
                • Wetland loop trail  
                • Non-motorized boat launch, boat shed, and boat drop-off  
                • Interpretive signage and features, including an interpretive trail loop  
                • Group programming area  
                • Viewpoints with seating  
                • Buffer between park and adjacent private property |
| COVE          | • Provide a viewpoint and rest area for visitors travelling between the Lower Landing and the Meadow sub-areas | • Non-motorized boat landing  
                • Hiking trail  
                • Viewpoint |
| UPLANDS       | • Set aside conservation focused areas with hiking access | • Upper trail loops and viewpoints |
| LOWLANDS      | • Set aside conservation and restoration focused areas with limited hiking access | • Sockeye salmon spawning habitat restoration and protection  
                • Limited hiking-only trails and viewpoints |
### 7.0 CONCEPT AND PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK SUB-AREA</th>
<th>SITE OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>FACILITIES &amp; ELEMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MEADOW**    | • Carry out habitat restoration and enhancement  
• Provide a picnic area  
• Provide end of multi-use trail, start of hiking only experience | • Amenities (pit toilet, kiosk, waste receptacles, picnic tables, bike rack, visitor shelter)  
• Operations and stewardship storage  
• Hiking trails  
• Seasonal bird blind  
• Bus turnaround and service vehicle parking  
• Pond restoration and demonstration wetland  
• Riparian corridor restoration on Stewart Creek  
• Wapato conservation and enhancement opportunity  
• Viewing tower  
• Non-motorized boat landing, tie-up, and paddling signage  
• Waterfall viewing platform  
• Group programming area  
• Hiking trails connecting to the waterfalls  
• Hike-in group camp (parking for two support vehicles, bear proof food storage bins, waste receptacles, pit toilet, cooking shelter, no potable water) |
| **MARSH**     | • Provide public access to marsh edge, with boardwalk, and viewpoints  
• Provide a rest point for paddlers | • Structures and signage to limit public access to sensitive areas  
• Widgeon Creek Site: non-motorized boat landing site with grassy area, viewpoint and picnicking |
| **MAIN TRAIL**| • Provide a multi-use trail to connect the Lower Landing sub-area to the Meadow sub-area  
• Provide a safe hiking and cycling experience  
• Provide access for service vehicles the entire length of the trail | Trail  
• Multi-use paved surface for foot and cycle use, as well as service vehicles and buses from the Lower Landing to the Meadow  
• Hiking trail from the Meadow sub-area to the northern park boundary  
• Enhanced trail experience, including softer trail edges, interpretive features and plantings  
• Electrical servicing infrastructure, as required, based on needs assessment  
• Access to Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park  
Viewpoints  
• Seating  
• Interpretive signage or features  
• Possible viewing platforms, where appropriate  
• Vegetation maintenance guidelines to maintain identified views |
8.0 Operational Statement

Widgeon Marsh Regional Park’s focus is protecting sensitive ecosystems, and providing opportunities for people to appreciate wetlands and recharge in nature. With this in mind, the regional park will have dedicated operations staff, supported by the larger Regional Parks staff team. The service yard within the regional park will support daily park operations tasks, vegetation management, and maintenance and repairs.
As part of park development, the following will be required before the park is opened:

- Develop and implement a plan for park maintenance and ongoing operations.
- Develop a design, education, partnership, communications, and enforcement approach to encourage compliance with permitted uses of park trails and areas to protect park wildlife and ecosystems, as well as neighbouring protected areas.
- Develop an emergency plan for the park with BC Parks, Coquitlam Fire and Rescue, Coquitlam RCMP, and Coquitlam Search and Rescue, including protocols for access and staging. The emergency plan will include fire response and infrastructure.

Monitoring and maintenance of natural and built assets will be guided by the regional park’s asset management policy to provide quality regional park services and to protect natural areas. Ongoing park operations will include coordination and collaboration with First Nations, BC Parks, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the City of Coquitlam, the Nature Trust of BC, and other partners on park communications, operations, and management plan implementation. Regular meetings with partner agencies will be established as required to coordinate and support shared objectives.
9.0 References


