



Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

9:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

R. Mersereau (Chair), G. Young (Vice Chair), G. Holman, B. Isitt, R. Martin, J. Ranns,
D. Screech, L. Seaton, M. Tait, N. Taylor, C. Plant (Board Chair, ex officio)

The Capital Regional District strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and all people are treated with dignity. We pledge to make our meetings a place where all feel welcome and respected.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [22-041](#) Minutes of the November 24, 2021 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of November 24, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Attachments: [Minutes - November 24, 2021](#)

4. Chair's Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations

In keeping with directives from the Province of BC, there is limited space for the public to attend CRD Board meetings in-person at this time. However, the public may continue to view meeting materials and Live Webcasts online. If you wish to attend a meeting in-person, please email legserv@crd.bc.ca.

CRD encourages delegations to participate electronically. Please complete the online application for "Addressing the Board" on our website and staff will respond with details.

Alternatively, you may email your comments on an agenda item to the CRD Board at crdboard@crd.bc.ca.

5.1. [22-088](#) Delegation - Rob Thomas; Representing South Island Disc Golf Society: Re: Agenda Item 6.2. : Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

6. Committee Business

6.1. [22-048](#) 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference

Recommendation: That the Regional Parks Committee receive the 2022 Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A.

Attachments: [Staff Report: 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference](#)
 [Appendix A: RPC Terms of Reference](#)
 [Appendix B: RPC Terms of Reference \(redlined\)](#)

6.2. [22-056](#) Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

Recommendation: The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the proposed vision, value and mission statements and proposed priorities be accepted for stakeholder, First Nations and public input.

Attachments: [Staff Report: Regional Parks – Strategic Plan Update](#)
 [Appendix A: Status Review](#)
 [Appendix B: Presentation](#)
 [Appendix C: Key Priority Statements](#)
 [Appendix D: Stakeholder Engagement](#)

6.3. [22-055](#) Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation - Project Update

Recommendation: The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the CRD Regional Parks Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation Update be received for information.

Attachments: [Staff Report: Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation - Project Update](#)

7. Notice(s) of Motion**8. New Business****9. Adjournment**

The next meeting is March 23, 2022.

To ensure quorum, please advise Tamara Pillipow (tpillipow@crd.bc.ca) if you or your alternate cannot attend.

Meeting Minutes

Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

10:00 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Directors: R. Mersereau (Chair), G. Young (Vice Chair), G. Holman (EP), B. Isitt, R. Martin (EP), J. Ranns (EP), D. Screech, L. Seaton, M. Tait (EP), N. Taylor,

Staff: L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; J. Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Director C. Plant (Board Chair, ex officio), Councillor J. Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Director Taylor provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Taylor, **SECONDED** by Director Isitt,
That the agenda for the November 24, 2021 Regional Parks Committee meeting
be approved as amended to permit one (1) delegation to speak.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [21-861](#) Minutes of the October 27, 2021 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Screech, **SECONDED** by Director Isitt,
That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of October 27, 2021
be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Mersereau recognized the efforts of parks staff dealing with the extreme weather events we've seen of late.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1. [21-865](#) Delegation - Rob Thomas; Representing South Island Disc Golf Society:

Re: Agenda Item 6.2.: Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

R. Thomas spoke to Item 6.2.

- 5.2. [21-866](#) Delegation - Yvonne Mendel; Representing South Island Mountain Bike Society: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.: Mountain Biking Opportunities in Regional Parks and Item 6.2.: Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

Y. Mendel spoke to Item 6.1. and Item 6.2.

- 5.3. [21-880](#) Delegation - Josh Nobleman; Representing Vancouver Island Slacklining Association: Re: Agenda Item 6.2.: Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

J. Nobleman spoke to Item 6.2.

6. Committee Business

- 6.1. [21-850](#) Mountain Biking Opportunities in Regional Parks

J. Leahy spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- trail management at regional parks
- the challenge of balancing conservation and recreation within the parks
- the consultation process with stakeholders when creating trails
- the status of the Sea-to-Sea regional parks management plan
- working with South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS) to close unsanctioned trails
- creating new mountain biking opportunities
- collaborating with stakeholders on parks signage
- applying the impact assessment to other activities within the parks
- creating an opportunity for SIMBS to meet with staff informally to discuss a broader range of items

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Taylor,

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Mountain Biking Opportunities in Regional Parks report be received for information.

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Taylor,

That the motion be amended to include the wording, "That the Regional Parks Committee direct staff to report to the Capital Regional District Board in a closed meeting on options for creating a third permitted Mountain Biking area in the region."

CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended.

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Taylor,

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Mountain Biking Opportunities in Regional Parks report be received for information.
2. That the Regional Parks Committee direct staff to report to the Capital Regional District Board in a closed meeting on options for creating a third permitted Mountain Biking area in the region.

CARRIED

6.2. [21-854](#) Regional Parks - Strategic Plan Update

L. Hutcheson spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- starting the process with a roundtable workshop of this committee, with additional workshops for various stakeholders
- the 2021 resident survey
- providing the committee with an update on the trails network as well as a sample size of the survey results
- completing a program evaluation

Director Ranns left the meeting at 11:00 am.

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:**

That the Board extend the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan's term for eight months and that staff bring back an updated Strategic Plan for Board approval in July 2022.

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Screech,
That the motion be amended to add the wording, "And that a workshop of the Regional Parks Committee members be convened in January 2022 to provide input on the plan."**

CARRIED

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
That the motion be amended to add the wording, "That staff report back at the January workshop with a list of proposed stakeholders for direct engagement."**

CARRIED

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
That the motion be amended to add the wording, "That the committee request that staff, including the First Nations Relations division, engage all First Nations in the region in an early, meaningful and ongoing manner in the development of the plan"**

CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended.

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:**

1. That the Board extend the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan's term for eight months and that staff bring back an updated Strategic Plan for Board approval in July 2022.
2. And that a workshop of the Regional Parks Committee members be convened

in January 2022 to provide input on the plan.

3. That staff report back at the January workshop with a list of proposed stakeholders for direct engagement.

4. That the committee request that staff, including the First Nations Relations division, engage all First Nations in the region in an early, meaningful and ongoing manner in the development of the plan.

CARRIED

6.3. [21-855](#)

CRD Regional Parks - Interpretive Program

J. Leahy spoke to Item 6.3.

Discussion ensued on evaluating the effectiveness of these programs.

Director Tait left the meeting at 11:55 am.

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Seaton,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:**

That the CRD Regional Parks Interpretive Program report be received for information.

CARRIED

6.4. [21-859](#)

Debrief - Severe Weather Event - Verbal Update

J. Leahy provided a verbal report on Item 6.4.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- staff reporting back to the committee on overall repair costs
- sharing findings on the Thetis Lake dam with View Royal staff
- evaluating a strategic retreat from compromised structures

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Seaton,
That the Severe Weather Event Verbal Update be received for information.**

CARRIED

Director Martin left the meeting at 12:06 pm.

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Director Seaton, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
That the November 24, 2021 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at 12:10 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER

**REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022**

SUBJECT **2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report is to provide the 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference for the Committee's review.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act* and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Procedures Bylaw, the CRD Board Chair has the authority to establish standing committees and appoint members to provide advice and recommendations to the Board.

On December 8, 2021, the Regional Board approved the 2022 Terms of Reference for standing committees. Terms of Reference (TOR) serve to clarify the mandate, responsibilities and procedures of standing committees and provide a point of reference and guidance for the Committees and members.

For 2022, the mandate for Regional Trails was added to the defined purpose of the Transportation Committee and removed from the Regional Parks Committee TOR. A redlined copy of the 2022 Regional Parks Committee TOR is attached as Appendix B.

The TOR are being provided for review by the Committee. Any proposed revisions to the TOR will require ratification by the Board.

CONCLUSION

Terms of Reference serve to clarify the mandate, responsibilities and procedures of committees and provide a point of reference and guidance for the committees and their members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive the 2022 Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A.

Submitted by:	Kristen Morley, JD, General Manager and Corporate Officer, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix B: 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference (Redlined)



REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks Committee is a standing committee established by the CRD Board and will oversee and make recommendations to the Board regarding regional parks.

The Committee's official name is to be:

Regional Parks Committee

1.0 PURPOSE

- a) The mandate of the Committee includes overseeing and making recommendations to the Board regarding the following functions:
 - i. Regional parks, including land acquisition, management, operations and programs
 - ii. Regional Parks Strategic Plan, Land Acquisition Strategy

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

- a) The Committee will make recommendations to the Board for consideration; and
- b) The Board Chair will appoint the Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members annually.

3.0 COMPOSITION

- a) Committee members will be appointed CRD Board Members;
- b) All Board members are permitted to participate in standing committee meetings, but not vote, in accordance with the CRD Board Procedures Bylaw; and
- c) First Nation members are permitted to participate in standing committee meetings at their pleasure, in accordance with the CRD Procedures Bylaw, where the Nation has an interest in matters being considered by the committee.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- a) The Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, except August and December, and have special meetings, as required;
- b) The agenda will be finalized in consultation between staff and the Committee Chair and any Committee member may make a request to the Chair to place a matter on the agenda through the Notice of Motion process;
- c) With the approval of the Committee Chair and the Board Chair, Committee matters of an urgent or time sensitive nature may be forwarded directly to the Board for consideration; and
- d) A quorum is a majority of the Committee membership and is required to conduct Committee business.

5.0 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- a) The General Manager of Parks & Environmental Services will act as liaison to the committee; and
- b) Minutes and agendas are prepared and distributed by the Corporate Services Department.

Approved by CRD Board December 8, 2021



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Approved by CRD Board _____



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

SUBJECT Regional Parks – Strategic Plan Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek input and accept the proposed direction of the new Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Board initiated an update of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan at its meeting on December 8, 2021 and passed the following motion:

1. *That the Board extend the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan's term for eight months and that staff bring back an updated Strategic Plan for Board approval in July 2022.*
2. *And that a workshop of the Regional Parks Committee members be convened in January 2022 to provide input on the plan.*
3. *That staff report back at the January workshop with a list of proposed stakeholders for direct engagement.*
4. *That the committee request that staff, including the First Nations Relations division, engage all First Nations in the region in an early, meaningful and ongoing manner in the development of the plan.*

The development of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 (Strategic Plan) was initiated in 2009 to replace the CRD Parks Master Plan that had been in effect since 2000. The development of the Strategic Plan was staff supported but primarily led by a volunteer Citizens Advisory Panel and included extensive engagement with stakeholders, the public, government, First Nations and other park agencies. The current Strategic Plan has been extended until July 2022 when an updated document will be brought forward.

The Strategic Plan continues to provide ongoing direction and remains useful as a “roadmap” for the Regional Parks Division, as many of the trends, challenges and priorities are still relevant today. A status review of strategic actions from the Strategic Plan is included as Appendix A. This review provides a benchmark from which to consider the direction of an updated Strategic Plan. There are 13 actions that have not started or are still being initiated and 13 actions that are developed.

The current planning context in the region has evolved since 2012 with the adoption of other CRD strategies and Board initiatives. Updating the Strategic Plan to reflect how these strategies relate to Regional Parks, as well as modernizing the format of the document, will improve its application to service delivery. This exercise will draw from corporate knowledge, First Nations and public engagement outcomes, and recent Board direction.

Components of the Strategic Plan update that would benefit from Committee and Board input are: the proposed vision, value and mission statements, key priorities, and potential targets. Staff have prepared a presentation outlining the Strategic Plan update context and framework (Appendix B).

Proposed key priority statements are included in more detail for the Board's consideration (Appendix C).

Engagement with First Nations, key stakeholders and the public will seek feedback on the proposed materials to be included in the Strategic Plan update. As requested, staff have prepared a list of stakeholder groups to be invited to participate in a series of focus groups (Appendix D).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the proposed vision, value and mission statements and proposed priorities be accepted for stakeholder, First Nations and public input.

Alternative 2

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the proposed vision, value and mission statements and proposed priorities, as amended, be accepted for stakeholder, First Nations and public input.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

Board priorities, approved plans, corporate priorities and established service mandates drive our work. Initiative 6a-1 in the 2019-2022 Corporate Plan directs staff to “Ensure appropriate funding for parks & trails infrastructure, improvements & maintenance by updating the Regional Parks Strategy with consideration to ecological, recreation & reconciliation principles, land acquisition capacity, & expanded partnerships with First Nations & parks user groups.”

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

An updated Strategic Plan will reflect outcomes that haven't already been considered in current CRD plans, reports and strategies, such as the Regional Growth Strategy, Climate Action Strategy, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the First Nations Task Force Report. These strategies have undergone extensive public engagement and have been endorsed by the CRD Board since the adoption of the 2012-21 Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

Intergovernmental Implications

The CRD's path toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples commits to supporting First Nations' self-determination, shared prosperity and working together to take care of the land and water. First Nations in the region are invited to engage in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan update in an early, meaningful and ongoing manner to determine the key priorities and initiatives to work on together over the next five to ten years. Staff from CRD Regional Parks and First Nations Relations, with the support of a consultant, have sent letters to the Nations outlining the purpose of the Strategic Plan update and inviting participation to better understand the reconciliation objectives related to the Strategic Plan update and the priority initiatives of focus going forward. The updated Strategic Plan will support the CRD's commitment to reconciliation as a key priority and highlight opportunities for ongoing and meaningful engagement with First Nations on initiatives such as park management, ecosystem restoration, and shared prosperity.

Social Implications

Proposed values and key priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan include accessibility, equity and outdoor recreation opportunities that improve our health and well-being.

Stakeholder engagement will invite feedback on the Board's input for the vision, values, mission, issues and key priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan. A stakeholder engagement plan has been developed that establishes key interest groups and level of engagement. Staff have developed objective criteria for selecting key stakeholder groups to participate and provide feedback. Information sessions and an online survey will also be available for public input. Engagement is anticipated to occur between February and April 2022.

Environmental & Climate Implications

Resiliency and conservation are proposed as key priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan. Regional parks and trails are vital in helping to achieve the region's climate action, natural resource protection and active transportation goals.

Service Delivery Implications

Staff time has been allocated to update the Strategic Plan and conduct engagement. In this way, the Strategic Plan can be updated at minimal cost and with the least amount of delay between expiration of the existing plan and adoption of an updated plan.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with this Strategic Plan update will be covered by the Regional Parks 2022 core budget.

CONCLUSION

The 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan expires in July 2022. The workshop of the Regional Parks Committee will provide input on the vision, values, mission, issues and priorities to be incorporated in the new Strategic Plan. Following the Board's approval, staff will seek stakeholder feedback and provide public engagement opportunities. First Nations in the region are invited to ongoing and meaningful engagement in the Strategic Plan. An updated plan will be presented to the CRD Board for consideration in July 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the proposed vision, value and mission statements and proposed priorities be accepted for stakeholder, First Nations and public input.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, RPF, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Status Review

Appendix B: Presentation

Appendix C: Key Priority Statements

Appendix D: Stakeholder Engagement

**2012-2021 REGIONAL PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN
STATUS OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

January 2022

X	I	D
Not started	Initiated	Developed

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Highlight			
1. Strengthen management of existing parks and trails	a. Upgrade, maintain, repair or replace major facilities.	X	I	D	Sustainable service delivery report cards; Asset management
	b. Cultivate partnerships, explore new approaches and adopt best management practices and technologies.	X	I	D	MBAC & Mtn Bike Guidelines; SIMBS & SBC agreements for trail stewardship; Dog management framework; CRISP involvement
	c. Explore opportunities for generating non-tax revenue.	X	I	D	Revenue strategy presented March 10, 2021
	d. Complete or update park and trail management plans for priority parks and trails.	X	I	D	Prioritization of park management plans presented; 19 parks have park management plans, 16 parks without, 9 parks needing review
	e. Complete ecological inventories and conservation plans for priority parks and address priority conservation issues.	X	I	D	Funding secured for Species at Risk inventories; 15 research permits issued/year supporting academic and community projects
	f. Collaborate on the development of a natural area connectivity plan.	X	I	D	Land evaluation project underway; Engagement completed
	g. Complete asset, maintenance and operation plans.	X	I	D	Initiated Management Plan implementation process; Prepare annual operating plans; Conduct criticality assessment of park assets

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Highlight			
	h. Develop an environmental education plan & provide leadership in review of interpretive facilities in the region.	X	I	D	Resources not currently in place
	i. Develop an outdoor recreation strategy.	X	I	D	Recreation specialist position created in 2020
2. Strategically plan for and open existing land banked parks and trails as resources are approved	a. Develop a park and trail opening strategy.	X	I	D	Approx. 1,600 ha park land acquired since 2010; 3 new parks (Sooke River, St. John Point, Mountain Rd) plus additions to existing parks
	b. Continue construction of the E&N Rail Trail.	X	I	D	Phase 3 complete; Phase 4 underway; Phase 5 subject to route & funding
	c. In partnership with other public agencies, local government and private landowners, initiate planning for the regional trails system on Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.	X	I	D	Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan adopted 2018; Mayne Island Regional Trail Phase 1 construction
3. Strengthen community involvement, education and partnerships	a. Engage the community by providing volunteer & educational experiences for people, including youth and families, to discover, learn about, protect and restore parks and trails.	X	I	D	Cultural Programmer position established 2020; Volunteer Steward program continuing; 280 programs delivered annually; 90% programs target all ages

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Highlight			
	b. Foster and initiate partnerships and expand volunteer opportunities.	X	I	D	CRISP and Partners in Parks agreements to remove invasive species; SIMBS & SBC agreements for Mtn Bike trails
	c. Integrate First Nations interests into planning for, and management and stewardship of, regional parks and trails.	X	I	D	Traditional Use Agreements; Sooke Potholes campground operating agreement; MOU with WSANEC
	d. Undertake a visitor use survey.	X	I	D	Visitor use surveys conducted on rotating bases; completed in 2018, 2019, 2021 in 17 regional parks & 3 regional trails
	e. Undertake a survey of residents.	X	I	D	Resident surveys conducted on rotating basis; 2017 completed, 2022 proposed
4. Prepare for future land acquisitions	a. In partnership with other CRD departments, First Nations and the federal and provincial governments, prepare a sensitive ecosystem inventory for land west of the Sooke River.	X	I	D	Land Evaluation project initiated; Public engagement completed 2019.
	b. Prepare a land acquisition strategy and examine acquisition options to achieve the future regional parks and trails system.	X	I	D	Extension of land acquisition fund to 2029 approved

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Highlight			
	c. Prepare a boundary rationalization plan for recent acquisitions prior to park dedication and declare land that does not have regional park or trail value as surplus and sell these lands. Proceeds from the sale of the surplus lands would be used for further park or trail acquisitions.	X	I	D	Surplus lands identified at time of acquisition; 26 ha land not suitable for park disposed
5. Promote the health benefits of regional parks and trails	a. Partner with other levels of government and health agencies to promote the health benefits of regional parks and trails to the community.	X	I	D	MOU established with MOTI to co-manage Galloping Goose Regional Trail; participate annually in events (e.g., Bike to Work week)
	b. Undertake a study on the natural capital value of regional park land.	X	I	D	Not started
	c. Focus programs on engaging youth and families in park activities.			D	90% events target families and youth
	d. Provide more accessible opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature.		I		Regional Trails Widening Study completed; Accessibility study not started
6. Engage in planning for regional sustainability	a. Bring forward, as part of the process to prepare the Regional Sustainability Strategy, the discussion of the concept that at least half of the region's land base should be managed for nature conservation.	X	I	D	Regional Growth Strategy adopted 2018

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Highlight			
	b. Partner with CRD Regional Planning to advance Regional Parks' interests into planning for regional sustainability.	X	I	D	Regional trails identified as key active transportation priority; Regional park interests to be identified in municipal OCP regional context statements

Regional Parks Strategic Plan Update 2022



Strategic Planning Workshop January 26, 2022
Regional Parks Committee

Regional Parks Strategic Planning Workshop

1 Current Context

2 Planning Context

3 Engagement

4 Setting Direction

5 Priority Statements

6 Facilitated Discussion

Status Review 2012-21

- Strengthen management of existing parks & trails
- Plan for and open land banked parks & trails
- Strengthen community involvement, education & partnerships
- Promote health benefits
- Engage in planning for regional sustainability



Regional Parks Classification

Wilderness Area

tal Regional District



Conservation Area



Natural Area

Cowichan Valley
Regional District

Capital Regional District



Recreation Area



Current Context

CRD

1966

CRD Regional
Parks service
established

1986

Official Regional
Parks Plan

1997

Regional
Green/Blue
Spaces Strategy

2000

Land Acquisition
Fund Established
CRD Parks Master
Plan 2000-2012

2009

Citizen Advisory
Panel

2012

Regional Parks
Strategic Plan
2012-2021

2017

Climate
Action Strategy

2018

Regional Growth
Strategy

2019

Land Acquisition
Fund Extended to
2029

Board declares
climate
emergency

2021

New climate
action strategy

New Land
Acquisition Fund
model

2022

Regional Parks
Strategic plan

Strategic Plan – how we consistently make core directional choices to move the organization towards our hoped-for future

Vision – the preferred future state

Mission – what service is provided & why

Values/Principles – what is important, core beliefs

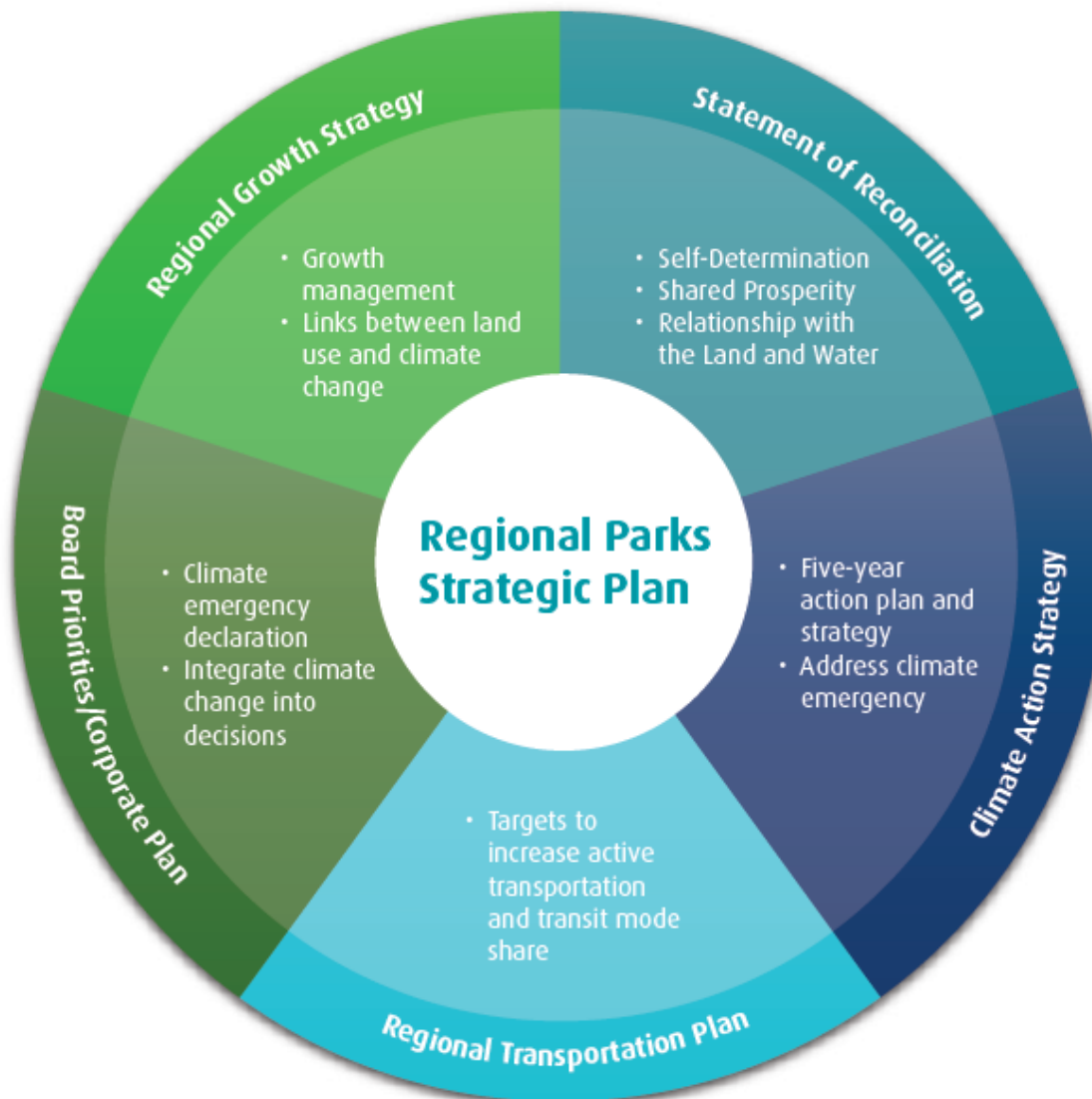
Context – setting, trends & issues

Priorities – goals, aspirations, desired outcomes

Initiatives – objectives or actions involved to achieve the results

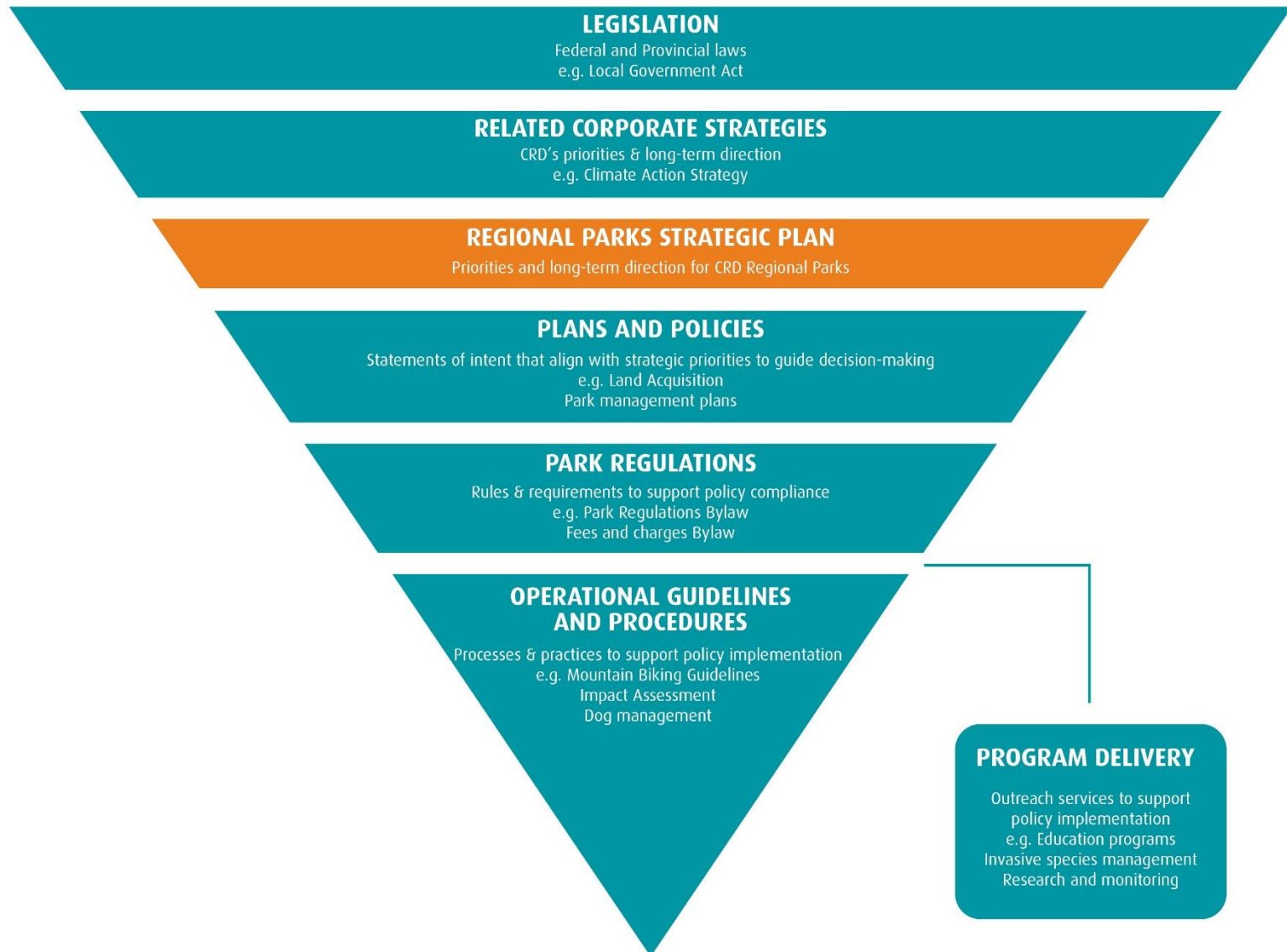
Targets – measure success for monitoring and reporting

Planning Context



Planning Context

CRD



PROGRAM DELIVERY

Outreach services to support policy implementation
e.g. Education programs
Invasive species management
Research and monitoring

Who	What level	When	How
Regional Parks Committee & Board	Decision-maker	January – July 2022	Workshop Meeting
First Nations	Collaborate	Ongoing	Invitation letter Meetings
Key Stakeholders	Involve	February – March	Focus groups
Public	Consult	March – April	Information sessions Survey polls Website Media

Vision 2032

A legacy of regional parks and trails for conservation and outdoor recreation.



Mission



Secure a diverse and connected system of regional parks and trails that protect and restore the integrity of our region's biodiversity and cultural landscapes.



Provide access to regional parks and trails that facilitates healthy, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all.



Foster stewardship of ecological and cultural resources by informing, engaging and collaborating with the public, volunteers, partners, and First Nations.



Work with First Nations in taking care of the land and water.



Ensure regional parks and trails are resilient by delivering a sustainable service that is adaptable and takes action on climate change.

Values and Principles



Equity – We work together to ensure regional parks and trails are inclusive and maintained as a common good



Accessibility – We provide access to nature for all ages and abilities



Conservation – We work together to protect, restore and celebrate the region's natural and cultural landscapes



Recreation – We offer outdoor recreation experiences that improve our health and well-being



Reconciliation – We are committed to work towards reconciliation with First Nations



Resiliency – We take action on climate change by being adaptive and using resources sustainably with a view to benefiting future generations

Key Trends and Issues

- Changes to the system
- Changes to Regional development
- Changes to recreational use
- Sustainable service delivery
- First Nations reconciliation
- Demographic changes
- Human disturbance
- Ecological integrity
- Listed species
- Climate change
- Monitoring and research
- Events
- Volunteerism
- Ecological integrity

Conservation & Recreation

- Conserve biodiversity
- Enable outdoor recreation
- Work with partners
- Foster stewardship
- Balance conservation & recreation



Access & Equity

- Enhance health & well-being
- Promote complete and connected communities
- Ensure economic fairness
- Accessibility & equity lens



Climate Action & Resiliency

- Align sustainable service delivery with climate action
- Advance regional active transportation
- Develop partnerships
- Acquire and manage natural areas



Reconciliation

- Incorporate First Nations reconciliation objectives
- Provide space for cultural use
- Strengthen engagement
- Support shared prosperity



- ☐ Does the Committee accept the proposed vision, value and mission statements?
- ☐ Does the Committee accept the proposed strategic priorities?
- ☐ What types of targets is the Committee interested in achieving? For which priorities?

**KEY PRIORITY STATEMENTS
REGIONAL PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN**

January 2022

Conservation & Recreation

- Take action to conserve biodiversity through acquiring land, restoration and monitoring of ecosystems across the region (UN; LAS; RGS, 2.1; RPSP, p.9)
- Enable users to recreate and have outdoor recreation experiences that are enjoyable, safe and compatible (RPSP, p.9 & 12)
- Work with partners in taking care of the land and water and providing sustainable outdoor recreation (Board, #6d & #6b-1 & #6b-2; RPSP, p.10; LAS)
- Foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and leading by example (RPSP, p.10)
- Strengthen the balance between conservation and recreation in service delivery (LAS; RPSP, p.9 & 10)

Access & Equity

- Enhance health and well-being by providing nature and outdoor recreation experiences for all ages and abilities (Board, #6e; RPSP, p.9)
- Promote complete and connected communities by ensuring recreation, parks and green space can be easily accessed by transit, walking or cycling (RGS, 3.1 & 4.1; RPSP, p.9)
- Ensure economic fairness by managing regional parks and trails as a common good (RGS 5.1; Revenue, p.4)
- Strengthen an accessibility and equity lens in service delivery

Climate Action & Resiliency

- Align sustainable service delivery and infrastructure improvements with climate action (RGS 7.1; CAS, 1.1 & 5.1; RPSP)
- Advance regional active transportation opportunities that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction (CAS, 3.7; RPSP; RGS, 4)
- Develop partnerships for the long-term consistent and connected management of green space and ecosystem services (RPSP; Board, #5a-5).
- Strategically acquire and manage natural areas to address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population (RGS 7.1, CAS, 5.1; RPSP)

Reconciliation

- Incorporate First Nation worldviews, knowledge and reconciliation objectives in the management of natural assets and cultural heritage (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; RNTF, p.44-45)
- Provide space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45)
- Strengthen engagement with First Nations in service delivery initiatives (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45; LAS)

- Seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45)

Reference Abbreviations:

Board	Capital Regional District 2019-2021 Board Priorities
CAS	Climate Action Strategy 2021
FNSR	First Nations Statement of Reconciliation
FNTF	First Nations Task Force Final Report, 2018
LAS	Land Acquisition Strategy 2020-2021
RGS	Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), Bylaw No. 4017, 2018
RPSP	Regional Parks Strategic Plan (RPSP) 2012-2021
Revenue	Draft Revenue Generation Strategy, 2021
UN	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REGIONAL PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

January 2022

Scope

The Regional Parks Committee and Capital Regional District (CRD) Board will provide input to support development of a new Strategic Plan. This input will provide direction for a vision, value and mission statements, trends and issues, and key priorities. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan will also be developed based on current CRD Board priorities and high-level CRD strategies.

Following Committee and Board input, staff will seek to involve stakeholders and provide public consultation opportunities.

The goal of stakeholder engagement is to receive feedback from stakeholders on the proposed vision, values, mission, issues, and key priorities to be considered in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Feedback received through the engagement process will be analyzed and considered in the updated Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the Board in July 2022.

Once approved, the updated Regional Parks Strategic Plan will set a long-term vision, define priorities and guide future decisions but will not prescribe outcomes of future financial planning and management planning processes.

This engagement process will not focus on specific regional parks and/or trails and/or topics. Other mechanisms are in place for such discussion, such as the park management plan process.

Engagement Methods

Key stakeholders will be invited to participate in one of four focus groups to provide feedback on the proposed vision, values, mission, issues and key priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan update.

A diversity of perspectives and experiences will be sought for participation in each focus group. Each focus group will include 18-20 participants representing different stakeholder interest groups. Overall, approximately 80 stakeholder groups from the region will be invited to participate.

Targeted emails/phone calls will be used to invite stakeholders to the focus groups. Through the invitation, staff will explain the purpose of the focus group and request confirmation of interest to participate. If no interest is expressed, other stakeholder groups representing a similar interest will be invited to participate to ensure representativeness in opinion across groups participating to the focus groups.

The focus groups will last approximately two hours and be offered in-person and/or virtually. In-person engagement will be developed only if in line with the CRD communicable disease plan and will include a safety plan to minimize risk of exposures.

The focus group sessions will be taped for later analysis and review by staff. The results of the focus group sessions will be used to inform further public engagement, to update the Strategic Plan, and will be provided to the Regional Parks Committee and Board for consideration.

Focus groups are an ideal participation methodology to involve stakeholders in providing feedback on a defined topic through facilitated discussion. Participants are encouraged to engage on topics as well as to respond to and reflect on narratives conveyed by other participants in the group.

Selection Criteria

Staff developed objective criteria to select key stakeholders for participation in the focus groups from a master stakeholder list compiled by Regional Parks. The master stakeholder list is updated by staff based on local knowledge, previous contacts, past participation in engagement activities, referrals, and general interest inquiries. The master stakeholder list currently identifies approximately 240 stakeholder groups in the CRD, British Columbia and Canada potentially interested in CRD Regional Parks management and projects. The criteria have been successfully used by Regional Parks to engage a diversity of stakeholder groups in previous engagement processes, including recently the Mountain Biking Advisory Committee and the Land Evaluation project.

The following selection criteria were applied to evaluate the suitability of stakeholder groups for direct engagement in the Strategic Plan update:

- Being located in the CRD (yes=1 or no= 0);
- Representing a broad outdoor recreation, conservation/nature and/or cultural/social interest (yes=2 or no= 0);
- Having knowledge and experience with CRD Regional Parks (yes=2 or no= 0);
- Having an interest and experience in working in multi-stakeholder groups (yes=1 or no= 0);
- Self-identifying as a First Nation (yes=1 or no= 0);

Based on the above criteria, a total of 80 stakeholder groups having a score between 5 and 7 were identified for direct engagement in the Strategic Plan update. Three broad categories of stakeholder groups to be invited to participate in the focus groups have been identified, as follows: cultural/social interests, conservation interests and outdoor recreation interests (table 3). A balance of stakeholders from each category will be invited to each focus group to promote a diversity of perspectives in the discussion.

A snowball technique will be also used to expand the list of possible interest groups. Snowball sampling is a recruitment technique in which invited stakeholders are asked to assist in identifying other potential subjects that may have been missed from initial screening. The same criteria used to select the initial stakeholders will be applied to potential subjects for consistency in selection.

Cultural/Social Interests	Stakeholder Group
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce • Tourism Victoria • Urban Development Institute • Tourism Association Vancouver Island
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Victoria Placemaking Network • Creating Community Wellness Society • South Island Prosperity Project • Parks and Recreation Foundation Victoria • Metchosin Foundation • Victoria Foundation • Community Social Planning Council
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal BC Museum • YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island • Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea
Accessibility & Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Disability Resource Centre • Community Living Victoria • SPARC BC • Power To Be
Youth & Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-secondary Student Societies • Family Services of Greater Victoria

Conservation	Stakeholder Group
Nature Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Natural History Society • Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) • Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary • Raincoast Conservation Foundation • Pacific Wild Alliance • Saltspring Island Conservancy • Galiano Conservancy Association
Land Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society • Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) • The Land Conservancy (TLC) • Ancient Forest Alliance • Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society • SeaChange Conservation Society • Wilderness Committee • Peninsula Streams Society • Rocky Point Bird Observatory • World Fisheries Trust • Watershed Watch Salmon Society • Coexistence with Carnivore Alliance
Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Invasive Species Committee

Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Victoria • Camosun College • Royal Roads University • Vancouver Island University • University of British Columbia
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Outdoor Recreation	Stakeholder Group
Rock Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Island Climbing Association (SICA) • Climbers' Access Society of British Columbia
Hiking & Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society • Alpine Club of Canada • Vancouver Island Trail Association • Kludahk Outdoors Club • Juan de Fuca Community Trails Association • RunVictoria • Outdoor Club of Victoria • Victoria Club Tread
Geocaching & Orienteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Orienteering Club
Horse Riding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backcountry Horsemen of BC - South Vancouver Island • Capital Regional Equestrians • Elk Beaver Lake Equestrian Society
Dog Walkers and Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Region Association of Dog Walkers • Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association
Mountain Biking & Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sooke Bike Club • South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS) • Dirtys Girlz Bike Club • Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition • Wheelhouse Cycling Society
Water Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfrider Foundation Vancouver Island • Victoria City Rowing Club • Rowing BC • Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC • Amalgamated Conservation Society • Diving Industry of Victoria Association • South Island Sea Kayaking Association • Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC)
Youth & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Youth Paddling Club • Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society • KidSport • YMCA/YWCA Vancouver Island • Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

**REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022**

SUBJECT Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation – Project Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update on the Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation Project to the committee.

BACKGROUND

Water quality issues at Elk and Beaver Lake were identified in the 1980s and studies indicate that high phosphorous loading has had a significant impact on the environmental and recreational values of the lake system.

In May 2019, a preliminary design to address the issue for both lakes was estimated to be \$1.4 million. In March 2021, the CRD was awarded a provincial grant of \$750,000 from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, with a completion date of March 31, 2022.

Following a Request for Proposals process, a detailed design contract was signed in July 2021 with Arcadis Canada Inc., which has a technical expert on the design team with vast experience in this specialized field. A design memo was received in November 2021 that recommended a more cost effective technology solution; however, more comprehensive sampling was also necessary to complete the design. This additional sampling work is underway and expected to be completed by the end of February.

Arcadis identified that the current plan to install treatment systems simultaneously in both Elk and Beaver lakes is not the recommended approach. The oxygen deficiency of Beaver Lake has been found to be just 5% of that for Elk Lake. As Elk Lake and Beaver Lake are connected water bodies, it is anticipated that an oxygenation system installed in Elk Lake may have a positive impact on Beaver Lake. As a result, the size of the Beaver Lake remediation system could be reduced if it were to be designed following installation and operation of the Elk Lake system.

The project is approximately three months behind the original schedule due to the availability of the consultants and the additional sampling that has been required. Based on current progress, the timelines to acquire the required permits and to procure the supply and installation of the equipment cannot be completed by the grant deadline of March 2022.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The design consultant has indicated that the existing budget is not sufficient to cover the cost of a system for Elk Lake and a system for Beaver Lake. The project will proceed with a focus on Elk Lake within the existing project budget, and when the Elk Lake system is fully evaluated, staff will work with consultants to determine the most appropriate solution for Beaver Lake. Additional funding for this second phase will be identified at that time.

CONCLUSION

The Elk/Beaver Lake remediation project is approximately three months behind the original schedule. A 12-month extension of the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development project agreement associated with a \$750,000 grant has been secured. The project will proceed with implementation of remediation equipment in Elk Lake. Successful implementation of the Elk Lake system will provide the information required to properly size the system for Beaver Lake, to be delivered as a second future phase.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the CRD Regional Parks Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation Update be received for information.

Submitted by:	Stephen May, P.Eng., Senior Manager, Facilities Management & Engineering Services
Concurrence:	Jeff Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer