

# **Capital Regional District**

625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

# Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, March 23, 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.** <u>22-197</u> Minutes of the February 23, 2022 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of February 23, 2022 be

adopted as circulated.

Attachments: Minutes - February 23, 2022

### 4. Chair's Remarks

### 5. Presentations/Delegations

The public are welcome to attend CRD Board meetings in-person.

Delegations will have the option 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.

**5.2.** Delegation - Sarah Gose; Resident of Highlands: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.:

Mount Work Draft Management Plan

**5.3.** 22-204 Delegation - Alon Soraya; Representing South Island Mountain Bike

Society: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.: Mount Work Draft Management Plan

### 6. Committee Business

**6.1.** <u>22-183</u> Mount Work Regional Park - Draft Management Plan

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

That the Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan be made available for

public review and comment.

<u>Attachments:</u> Staff Report: Mount Work Regional Park - Draft Management Plan

Appendix A: Mount Work Regional Park - Draft Management Plan

Appendix B: Engagement Process Flowchart

Appendix C: Presentation

### 7. Notice(s) of Motion

### 8. New Business

### 9. Adjournment

The next meeting is April 27, 2022.

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



# **Capital Regional District**

625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

### **Meeting Minutes**

### **Regional Parks Committee**

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

9:30 AM

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

### **PRESENT**

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

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; S. Carby, Senior Manager, Protective Services; M. MacIntyre, Acting Senior Manager, Regional Parks; S. May, Senior Manager, Facilities Management and Engineering Services; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Director B. Isitt

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Mersereau provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Young, SECONDED by Director Tait, That the agenda for the February 23, 2022 Regional Parks Committee meeting be approved. CARRIED

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

### **3.1.** 22-141 Minutes of the January 26, 2022 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Tait, SECONDED by Director Seaton, That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of January 26, 2022 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Mersereau thanked the committee for the very thoughtful and thorough discussion at the last meeting.

The Chair encouraged Committee members to direct members of their community to getinvolved.crd.bc.ca to provide feedback on the Regional Parks Strategic Plan Update.

### 5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

### 6. Committee Business

### **6.1.** 22-149 2022 Regional Parks Committee Terms of Reference - Revised

Discussion ensued on the fundamental changes to the Terms of Reference.

MOVED by Director Seaton, SECONDED by Director Martin,

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Regional Parks Committee 2022 Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A, be approved as amended. CARRIED

### 6.2. 22-055 Elk/Beaver Lake Remediation - Project Update

S. May spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- funding levels from the Province and the implications to the budget
- the scientific findings of oxygen levels in both lakes
- the annual operating costs
- next steps once the oxygenation system is installed in Elk Lake
- the delays to project implementation deadline

MOVED by Director Seaton, SECONDED by Director Martin,

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.

**CARRIED** 

### **6.3.** 22-139

### Conservation Strategy Framework Review

M. MacIntyre spoke to Item 6.3.

Discussion ensued on the timeline to develop a new Conservation Strategy.

MOVED by Director Young, SECONDED by Director Ranns,

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

That the 2010 Framework for the Conservation Strategy for Capital Regional District - Regional Parks: Providing strategic direction for parkland management not be adopted on an interim basis, and a new conservation plan be developed by staff for Board decision following the strategic plan update.

CARRIED

### **6.4. 22-129**

2021 Regional Parks Compliance and Enforcement Program

M. MacIntyre spoke to Item 6.4.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- the reason for the low number of dog offences
- the types of campers who were issued camping infractions
- the situations that warrant issuing a parking ticket
- whether the volunteer compliance strategy is prompting long-term behavioral changes

MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Martin,

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

That the 2021 Regional Parks Compliance and Enforcement Program staff report be received for information.

CARRIED

### 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 Screech, SECONDED by Director Martin,
That the February 23, 2022 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at
10:16 am.
CARRIED

Regional Parks Committee	Meeting Minutes	February 23, 2022	
CHAIR	<del></del>		
RECORDER			



# REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

### **SUBJECT** Mount Work Regional Park – Draft Management Plan

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park is ready for public review.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board initiated the management planning process for Mount Work Regional Park in June 2020.

An initial round of engagement was held between June and November 2020. It included gathering input from First Nations, key government agencies, stakeholder groups, user/interest groups and the public. An Engagement Report was provided to the Regional Parks Committee in February 2021 and an addendum report outlining the outstanding input not captured in the February report was posted directly to the project webpage when completed in May 2021. A number of meetings and site visits were undertaken with representatives of the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council between August 2020 and September 2021. The initial engagement and input has informed the development of the draft management plan.

The draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park is ready for public review (Appendix A). The draft plan and a related online survey will be available through the CRD website. Various tools will be used to direct the public to the draft plan and online survey form. The draft plan will be provided to First Nations, key government agencies and key stakeholders with a request for review and comment and an offer to meet, if desired, to discuss the draft management plan. Input from the second round of engagement will be considered before finalizing the management plan for approval.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### Alternative 1

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

That the Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan be made available for public review and comment.

#### Alternative 2

That the draft park management plan be referred back to staff with direction for revision.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

### Environmental & Climate Implications

The draft management plan outlines known information about the environmental conditions of the park and sets out goals, policy direction and management actions to protect and rehabilitate key areas within the park. Where applicable, climate change implications have been noted in the plan.

### Intergovernmental Implications

The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council directed the CRD to work through its Land Use Committee as the management plan was being developed. CRD staff met with the Land Use Committee on four occasions and conducted three site visits to different areas of the park. Information provided by the Land Use Committee has been considered and used, as appropriate, in the management plan.

Prior to writing the draft management plan, engagement was undertaken with staff responsible for the federal Ecological Gifts Program (Environmental and Climate Change Canada), the Heals Rifle Range at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt/Naden (Department of National Defence), Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (BC Parks), the provincial fish stocking program (Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development), as well as with staff and the Committee of the Whole at the District of Highlands, staff at Saanich, staff at Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, and staff in CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division (Hartland Landfill).

### Social Implications

Prior to and during the writing of the draft management plan, engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders such as The Land Conservancy of BC, which holds conservation covenants on two parcels within the park, South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS), which has a licence with the CRD for trail maintenance in the designated mountain biking area within Mount Work, and with some of the former private landowners whose lands are now part of the park. Park neighbours and many user groups/interest groups were also notified of the planning and engagement processes and have provided input.

The draft management plan sets out strategic direction, as well as specific development and management actions. Release of the draft plan for public review continues the planning process, as outlined to, and anticipated by, the public. An updated engagement process flowchart is attached as Appendix B.

### Financial Implications

Given that most of the proposed management actions in the management plan are conceptual in nature, have not been scoped out as projects yet, and/or the actions are not anticipated in the immediate future, it is difficult to provide specific anticipated costs. Detailed implementation costs will be determined through future capital plans, service plans and project plans. Management actions may be implemented through core budget, capital budget and/or special funding, such as grants. Implementation of specific park management actions is subject to availability of staff and financial resources and must be considered in relation to other priorities in the Regional Parks system. The table below provides cost estimates, in 2022 dollars, for proposed infrastructure that can be estimated at this time, totalling approximately \$913,000.

Location & Infrastructure	Estimated Cost	Implementation Timing
Killarney Lake	\$305,500	short term
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
2 tables (\$3,900)		
Equestrian mounting block (\$3,900)		
Horse bridge (\$227,500)		
Designated Mountain Biking Area	\$130,000	short term
Covered staging/TTA viewing area (\$130,000)		
Willis Road Primary Access	\$343,200	short term
Design (\$260,000)		
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		
Durrance Lake	\$114,400	
2 tables (\$3,900)		medium term
Double Toilet (\$97,500)		medium term
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		short term
Whole Park	\$19,500	short term
Trail signage (\$19,500)		short term
	TOTAL \$912,600	

### Service Delivery Implications

Approximately 35 management actions are recommended over the next 15 years. These actions are set out as ongoing, short, medium or longer-term priorities. It is noted in the draft management plan that these priorities must be considered in light of priorities within the whole of the regional parks system and will be implemented subject to available resources (staff and financial).

### Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The draft management plan furthers the CRD Corporate Plan priorities relating to Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship, First Nations Reconciliation, and it is in line with direction in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2021-2021.

### **CONCLUSION**

CRD Regional Parks staff are seeking approval to release the draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park for public review and comment. The draft management plan and an online survey will be accessible through the CRD website to allow the public an easy way to review and provide their input. Various tools will be used to advertise the review opportunity. CRD staff will provide the draft plan to First Nations, government agencies and key stakeholders and will offer an opportunity to meet with them to discuss the draft management plan.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan be made available for public review and comment.

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: Mount Work Regional Park – Draft Management Plan (March 2022)

Appendix B: Engagement Process Flowchart

Appendix C: Presentation

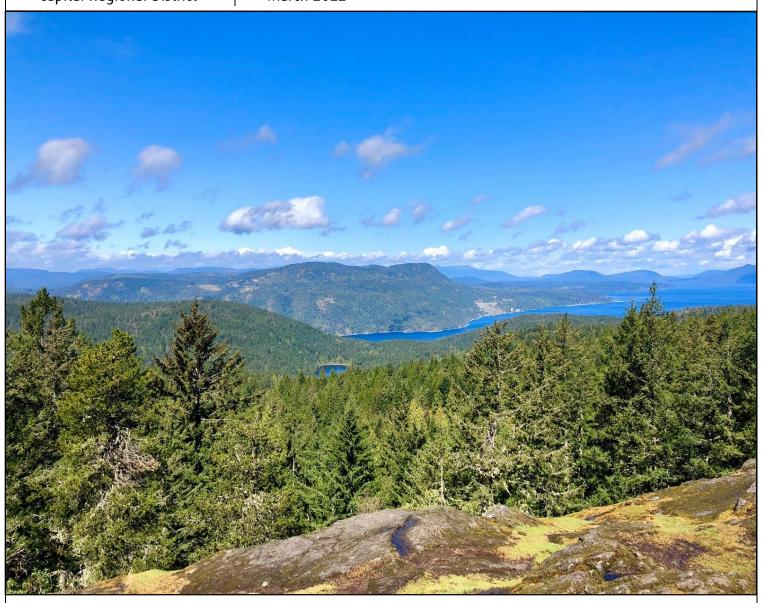


# Mount Work Regional Park

Draft Management Plan

Capital Regional District

March 2022



# Territorial Acknowledgement

The Capital Regional District would like to acknowledge that Mount Work Regional Park, known as WMÍYE<sup>‡</sup>E<sup>N</sup> (Wh-o-myathen) in the SENĆO<sup>‡</sup>EN (Sen-choth-en) language, is within the traditional territories of the MÁLEXE<sup>†</sup> (Malahat), BOKÉCÉN (Pauquachin), WJO<sup>†</sup>E<sup>†</sup>P (Tsartlip), STÁUTW (Tsawout), and WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nations. Medicine and food gathering areas, traditional trails and other important cultural areas exist throughout WMÍYE<sup>‡</sup>EN, are still used by WSÁNEĆ peoples today, and are key to ensuring that valuable cultural practices are passed down to their next generations.

# Planning Process Acknowledgement

The Capital Regional District (CRD) would like to thank all who have provided comments and suggestions to date toward the development of this management plan for Mount Work Regional Park. The level of public interest in this regional park, from all user groups and others, is appreciated. In particular, the CRD appreciates the active participation of the WSÁNEĆ Land Use Committee members, Simon Smith Jr., WJOŁEŁP cultural worker, and representatives of the PEPÁKEN HÁUTW society who met with CRD staff and shared information about their culture, history and the past and present importance of this place to the WSÁNEĆ Nations. The CRD also appreciates the assistance provided by Sharon Macauley and Russ Kinghorn, who wrote and provided a book about their family properties that are now part of the park, as told to them by their father, Jim Kinghorn. The significant input and assistance from Alon Soyara, President, and other directors of the South Island Mountain Biking Society, is also greatly appreciated. Many others also provided input and information—your assistance is appreciated.

Cover photo: View over Saanich Inlet and Pease Lake from Summit Trail

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# 1 Highlights

Mount Work Regional Park is classified as a regional natural area, established to protect the natural environment, maintain a key greenspace that is important to the natural character of the region and provide opportunities for a range of appropriate outdoor experiences and activities.

The management planning process began in June 2020 and, to date, has included: gathering of background information; engagement with local First Nations, key government agencies and local governments, stakeholders and interest groups, and the public; and the analysis of the information and input received. This information and input informed the development of this draft management plan.

The park is located within the rarest of the 14 ecological zones in British Columbia—the Coastal Douglas-fir zone—which covers only 0.3% of the province. Nearly 85% of the park lands are provincially identified and mapped as sensitive ecosystems. Six distinct ecosystems, six distinct plant communities, and four animal species in the park are provincially listed as being at-risk or sensitive and require special protection.

The park has significant recreational values based on its natural features and, currently, 200,000-300,000 people visit the park each year. Its lakes, upland forests and steep terrain provide opportunities for a mix of relaxation and challenge. It is noted as a primary mountain biking destination and a primary lake-based recreation area in the region and is a well-used hiking destination. It is connected to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in two locations and is across Munn Road from the northern access of Thetis Lake Regional Park.

Key concerns that emerged through the initial stage of planning related to trails, parking, signage, permitted uses/competing interests, ecological monitoring, visitor experience and information, and infrastructure sustainability.

This plan provides strategic guidance, including a park vision, goals and objectives and management policies. It proposes an enhanced and improved trail plan, upgrading of trails, remediation of unsanctioned trails, installation/upgrading of park and trail signage, additional parking capacity, new visitor facilities at Killarney Lake and enhanced visitor facilities at the technical training area in the designated mountain biking area. The plan expands the designated mountain biking area by 25 hectares and establishes a designated rock climbing (bouldering) special use area. Further, it identifies the need for ongoing liaison and projects with First Nations, government agencies and key stakeholders, the need for ongoing ecological research, planning, education and monitoring, and advocacy actions at the municipal and provincial levels.

# 2 Context

### 2.1 First Nations Context

Southern Vancouver Island is part of the traditional territory of many First Nations. The Mount Work area, known as WMÍYEŦEŊ (Wh-o-myathen) in the SENĆOŦEN language, is in the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ (wuh-SAY-nitch) peoples—today the WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), STÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) First Nations.

XÁ¸EL¸S, (Creator) gave obligations to WṢÁNEĆ people to respect and care for the land, water and all living things. They have had a relationship with and have stewarded these areas for generations. The lands have been used for hunting, medicine, food and raw material gathering, ritual and ceremonial practices, and travelling. Traditional trails, foods and medicines, and sacred places exist throughout WMĺYEŦEN. The uplands were rich in deer and elk, and ruffed and blue grouse were preferred game birds. Bear may have been hunted in the valleys. First Nations trails throughout the area linked different parts of their territory and provided access to key locations. WSÁNEĆ community members remember using this region and its traditional trails, bathing sites, medicines, and sacred places. These aspects exist throughout WMĺYEŦEN and continue to be used by WSÁNEĆ peoples today.

WSÁNEĆ oral history tells us that James Douglas and the WSÁNEĆ Nation entered into a Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1852 to remedy multiple issues occurring at that time between the First Nations and settlers. The agreement held that settlers and WSÁNEĆ peoples would continue to live on these lands with respect for one another. This did not occur. Due to colonization, First Nations now have a very limited land base on which they can easily continue their historical practices. Undeveloped lands within their traditional territories, such as the regional park, provide opportunities for First Nations to continue traditional practices, maintain a connection to the land, and sustain their needs.

Through reconciliation efforts, the CRD wants to embrace the principle of peace and friendship and promote respect of one another in our use and stewardship of the land and waters. There is significance in the past, the present and the future use of this area. Working cooperatively is key to ensuring that valuable cultural practices are passed down to next generations, that Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into ongoing park management, and that First Nation peoples feel welcome on their traditional lands.

It is a priority of WSÁNEC communities that ancestral remains be honoured, respected and kept undisturbed, that the obligations to the land, water and all living things are respected through ongoing, careful management of the resources in the park, including preserving and restoring ecological systems that underpin the health of the entire community, and that the CRD recognize and use SENCOŦEN place names.

# 2.2 Regional Parks Context

Mount Work Regional Park is part of the CRD system of regional parks and regional trails. The primary purpose of the regional parks system: is to protect the region's biodiversity and ecosystems; provide a range of compatible, non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities; and foster appreciation of and respect for the region's natural and cultural heritage values. The CRD helps steward regionally-significant cultural heritage in regional parks, particularly features related to First Nations use of these areas. The park system also provides opportunities for a variety of research. At present, the CRD manages approximately 13,300 hectares of land in 34 regional parks/park reserves and regional trails.

Mount Work Regional Park (hereinafter referred to as Mount Work) is the fifth-largest regional park. It was established in 1970 and is currently 744.17 hectares in size. Mount Work spans parts of the District of Highlands, the District of Saanich, and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and is surrounded by federal land (Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt rifle range), Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park, the CRD's Hartland Landfill, and private lands. Other regional parks in close proximity to Mount Work include Thetis Lake, Francis/King, Lone Tree, Bear Hill, and Elk/Beaver Lake regional parks. Its location within the region and in the local area are shown on Map 1 and Map 2.

# 2.3 Purpose of a Management Plan

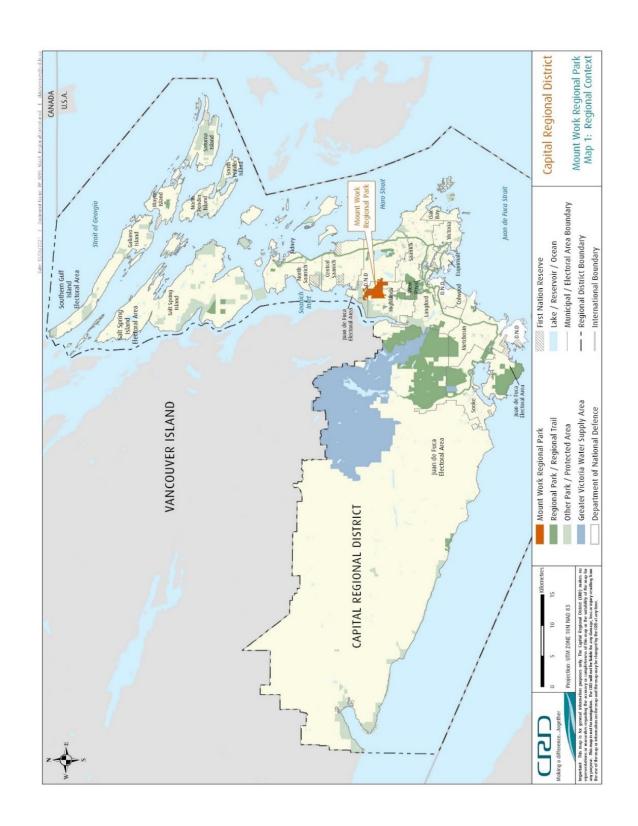
Park management plans guide the ongoing management and development of regional parks over a 15-year period. The purpose of this management plan is to state the management direction, identify conservation and development priorities, and provide a general prioritization for implementation (ongoing, short, medium and longer-term actions).

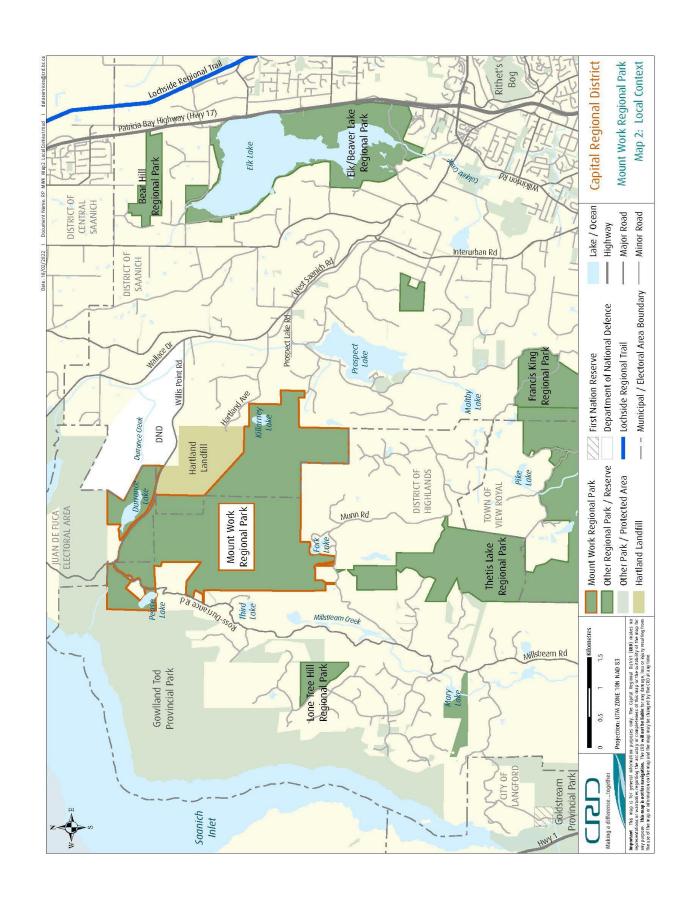
Strategically, an overarching park vision, management goals, management policies and park zoning are provided to guide decision-making relating to the park. Based on the ecological and cultural values being protected within the park, the plan identifies compatible recreational opportunities, and how and where different activities will be permitted within the park. Management plans also identify management actions and infrastructure needs over the 15-year life of the plan.

### 2.4 Park Classification

The regional park classification system provides a method of distinguishing the different roles that individual parks play in achieving the overall purpose of regional parks. Each regional park is classified based on its primary management focus at the time of acquisition. Four regional park classifications exist: wilderness area; conservation area; natural area; and recreation area.

Mount Work is classified as a regional natural area. Regional natural areas protect key greenspaces that are important to the natural character of the region. They protect the natural environment and provide opportunities





for a range of appropriate outdoor experiences and activities. Where regional natural areas contain sensitive and threatened ecosystems, conservation will be the priority in those areas.

# 2.5 Park Planning Process

The CRD follows a standard park management planning process. Generally, the process to create a park management plan includes five steps:

- Gather background information, including applicable corporate and municipal policy direction.
- Engage First Nations, key government agencies, park visitors and key interest groups before the plan is developed.
- Develop the draft management plan.
- Public review of the draft plan.
- Finalize the management plan for CRD Board approval.

The CRD Board approved initiation of the management planning process in May/June 2020. An initial engagement phase was conducted between June and November 2020. More than 1,100 responses were received through the initial public engagement survey, providing approximately 10,000 comments. Information and comments were received from First Nations, federal and provincial agencies, regional, municipal and electoral area staff or councils, key stakeholders and interest groups. This information was considered when writing this draft plan. In developing this management plan, the CRD has also considered existing corporate direction provided through the CRD Corporate Plan, the CRD Climate Action Strategy, Regional Parks Strategic Plan, Regional Parks Dog Management Policy Framework, Regional Parks Mountain Biking Guidelines, as well as municipal plans for the District of Highlands, District of Saanich and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Further details on the management planning process for Mount Work are provided in Appendix 1.

# 2.6 Background

### **Settler Land Use**

During the Gold Rush of 1858, properties of 100-200 acres were granted to settlers in the rural areas. Much of what is now the Highlands, Saanich and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area remained wilderness but some homesteads were developed by the earliest settlers, such as Caleb Pike in the Highlands and John Durrance in Saanich. The English name of Mount Work, relates to a Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company and a member of the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island, John Work. His original surname, Wark, was anglicized by the Company and was used in the 1913 naming of Mount Work.

Ross-Durrance Road, which connected the Ross and Durrance family lands, and Corry Road, which connected the Mitchell house, the Corry farm and the Gordon farm, still exist today. They continue to be used by local residents, hikers, horseback riders and cyclists.

Dams were constructed in many places throughout the area for agricultural, milling, recreation or land improvement purposes. Within the park, dams are known to exist at Durrance Lake and Killarney Lake. A 4-metre earth dam was constructed at Durrance Lake in 1913 by the BC Electric Company. It was rebuilt in 1954-55. The Killarney Lake dam is at least 50 years old, and perhaps older.

Although First Nations used trees, particularly red cedar and Douglas-fir, the forests were more widely cleared by pioneers for house construction, fuel, and agricultural purposes. Large stumps with notches for spring boards and old logging roads are still visible in some areas. In addition, over the past 50 years, some logging has been undertaken through managed forests or specific tree farm practices by previous landowners.

### **Park Acquisition History**

The regional park has grown in size over the past 50 years. The initial eight properties (232.05 ha) were acquired in the 1970s. An additional three properties (286.71 ha) were added to the park in the 1990s, bringing the park size to 518.76 hectares. Between 2000 and 2021, an additional ten properties (225.41 ha) expanded the park to its current size of 744.17 ha. More detail on land acquisitions and land use is included in Appendix 2.

### Land Use Encumbrances

There are 14 encumbrances held by others on Mount Work lands and two land title interests held by the CRD on lands adjacent to the park. Two Ecological Gifts and two conservation covenants have important implications for park management. They are noted below and illustrated on Map 3. Background on the other encumbrances is included in Appendix 2.

# Environment and Climate Change Canada - Ecological Gifts

The federal Ecological Gifts Program provides income tax incentives for Canadians with ecologically sensitive lands to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations through donations. To be eligible for an ecological gift donation, the lands must be certified as ecologically sensitive based on national criteria. Once donated, changes in use or dispositions of the ecological gift lands are only to be made with prior written authorization from Environment and Climate Change Canada. Two parcels of land in Mount Work, Sections 63 and 68, Highlands District, were acquired through the Ecological Gifts Program and both have been certified as ecologically significant under that program. This management plan includes policies and actions related to the authorization requirements under the Ecological Gifts Program.

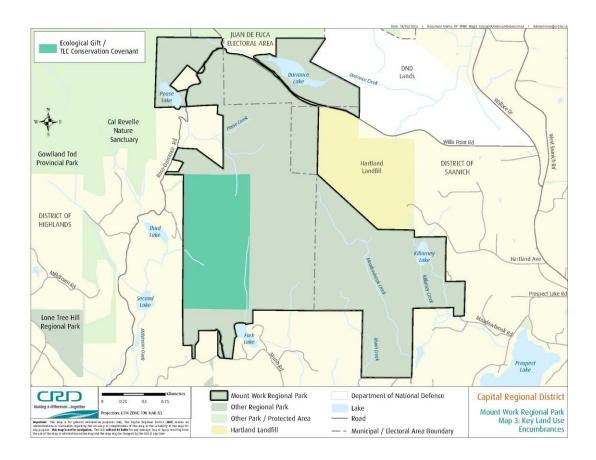
### **Conservation Covenants**

The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) worked with the CRD, the federal government and the landowners, to acquire Sections 63 and 68, Highlands District, through the Ecological Gifts Program. In exchange, TLC was granted conservation covenants over the two parcels. Covenants are legal agreements registered on the property title under the Land Title Act. These two Mount Work properties include regionally and provincially significant vegetation

communities and habitats, including Douglas-fir forest, Arbutus and Garry Oak woodlands, Western Red Cedar (in wetter areas), terrestrial rock outcrops and riparian areas. The intent of the covenants is for the CRD to use, administer and manage the lands in a manner that will protect, preserve, conserve, restore and enhance the ecosystems and biodiversity of the lands. Recreation and educational opportunities can be considered if the overarching intent is met.

In summary, the covenants allow the CRD to use the lands for regional park purposes, provided it will:

- a) Not remove, destroy or cut indigenous vegetation, except as necessary for the use of the land as a regional park.
- b) Not use pesticides, herbicides, or other deleterious substances on the lands.
- c) Design and construct any park improvements so as to cause a minimum of disturbance to the natural drainage patterns of the land.
- d) Not build, construct, erect or alter any structures or improvements on the land, except in accordance with a park management plan prepared in accordance with the covenant, unless prior written approval of the TLC has been obtained.
- e) Not permit motorized vehicles on the lands, except on public access roads and parking areas approved in a park management plan, and except for emergency and park-related service vehicle use.
- f) Not subdivide the Kinghorn property (Lot 63).



# 3 Park Values and Current Conditions

# 3.1 Ecological Values

The park lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, the rarest of the 14 ecological zones in British Columbia, covering approximately 0.3% of the total provincial land base. In all of British Columbia, the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone is only found along the east coast of Vancouver Island, in the Gulf Islands and in a very small area on the southern mainland, as shown in dark green on the inset map below. The Coastal Douglas-fir zone contains the highest diversity of plant species in British Columbia. In addition, this zone is home to the endangered Garry oak and associated ecosystems.

In addition to the Douglas-fir forests that dominate the park landscape, the ridges and other open areas support arbutus, Garry oak and rocky outcrop (terrestrial herbaceous) plant communities. Within the park, there are large patches of arbutus woodlands in the central core of the park and small remnants on the north side of Durrance Lake and along the various ridges. The park's lowland areas support more deciduous forest cover, including big leaf maple, poplar, and Western red cedar.

Nearly 85% of Mount Work has been mapped as sensitive ecosystems through the joint federal/provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory, published in 1997 and updated in 2004. The six

Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) Boundary

The CDFCP boundary includes the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime (CDFmm) and Coastal Western Hemlock very dry maritime (CWHxm1) biogeoclimatic variants. Portions of other CWH variants are also included, as shown in the legend below.

Powell River

Powell River

WASHINGTON

Legend

CDFCP Boundary

CDFCP Boundary

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm1

CWHxm2

CWHxm2

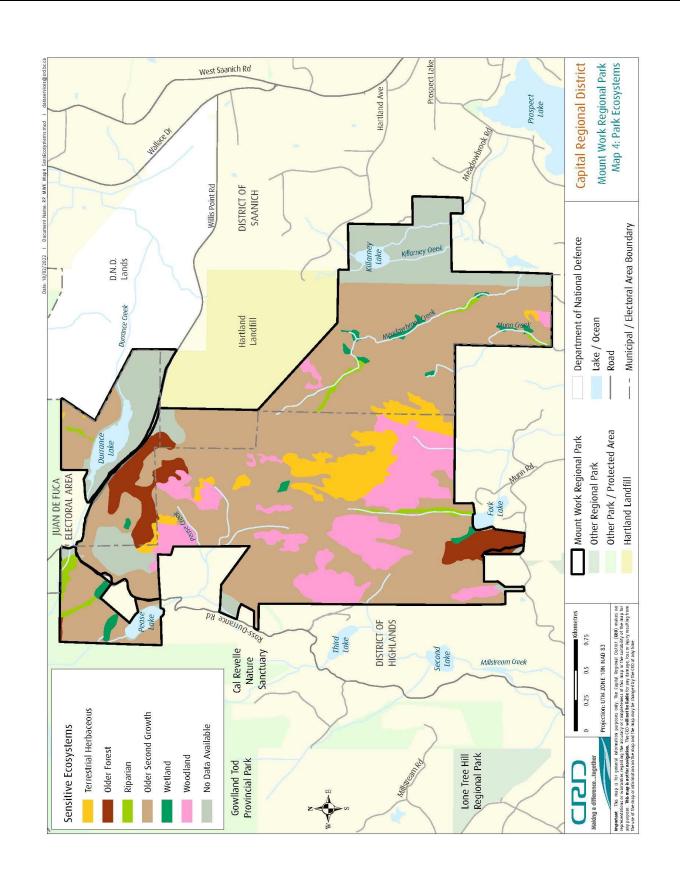
CWHxm2

CWHrm2

Source: Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation

sensitive ecosystems in the park are older forest, older second growth, riparian, terrestrial herbaceous (e.g., rocky outcrops and meadows), wetland and woodland. The park ecosystems are illustrated on Map 4 and described in Appendix 3. These ecosystems typically have high biodiversity and are home to many rare and endangered animals, plants and plant communities. They are an important part of the landscape, supporting ecosystem services such as climate regulation, cleaning freshwater, and recycling nutrients.

Within Mount Work, at least six provincially-listed sensitive plant communities have been identified and mapped. It is likely that others occur, given the extent of sensitive ecosystems in the park; however, they have yet to be mapped. Known ecological communities at risk (red-listed) include Douglas-fir/arbutus, Douglas-fir/dull Oregongrape, lodgepole pine/peat-mosses (Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime), Red alder/slough sedge (black cottonwood), western red cedar/vanilla leaf, and Grand-fir/dull Oregon-grape. These are also described in Appendix 3.



Four identified federally-listed species at risk—Sharp-tailed Snake (endangered), Western Painted Turtle (endangered), Blue-grey Taildropper (slug; threatened) and Howell's Violet—have federally-designated critical habitat in Mount Work Regional Park. Five other federally-listed species at risk that have been observed or heard in and around Mount Work, or that could use habitat that exists within Mount Work, include the Western Screech-Owl, Northern Red-legged Frog, Threaded Vertigo (snail), Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle and Townsend Bigeared Bat. These species at risk are described in Appendix 3.

The sensitive ecosystems, sensitive plant communities, species at risk occurrences and critical habitat for species at risk inform the management needs in the park.

Mount Work and other parks in the area contribute to the ecological connectivity on the Saanich Peninsula, especially for plants and animals along the east side of Finlayson Arm/Saanich Inlet. Although large carnivores, such as bear and cougar, are not often seen in the park, they have been noted as travelling through the area.

The park also protects portions of three watersheds (Pease Creek, Tod Creek and Craigflower Creek), includes three lakes and abuts a fourth (Pease, Durrance, Killarney, and Fork, respectively), has many creeks within it (Killarney Creek, Meadowbrook Creek, Munn Creek, Pease Creek, Durrance Creek) and several wetland areas, particularly around Pease and Fork lakes.

To date, limited systematic assessments of the status of ecological values have been undertaken. The park's natural features are under some stress due to increasing use and unsanctioned trail development. Localized impacts are more evident in high-use areas.

### 3.2 Cultural Values

As noted previously, Mount Work Regional Park is within the traditional territories of five First Nations. The park is in an area traditionally and currently used by First Nations for various cultural practices. In order to protect specific First Nations cultural values and features, cultural heritage information is kept confidential.

Developing and strengthening relationships with First Nations is needed to continue the journey towards reconciliation. Working cooperatively with First Nations on projects relating to cultural values is one step on that journey and allows traditional knowledge to be incorporated into park management.

Nothing regionally significant in scale or scope related to settler history exists in the park. Some evidence of more recent forestry activities and the dams on the lakes can be seen in parts of the park. Although one former landowner's cabin still exists, it was built in 1979 and is not considered to have regionally-significant historical values. Some park visitors who use the central area of the park do visit the cabin. The former landowner's family maintains a guest book for visitors.

### 3.3 Recreation Values

Broadly, the park has recreational values associated with its diverse environment and natural features—its lakes, upland forests, steep terrain—and its connection with, or proximity to, other parks. Through the recreation opportunities provided, Mount Work contributes to the maintenance of people's physical and mental health.

Although each park visitor has their own criteria that will determine the experience they desire, and these may change from day to day, in general, visitor experience is tied to the desired setting for their activity, the desired level of challenge and/or risk, the desired level of solitude or sociability being sought, and the person's intent (e.g., playfulness, exercise, relaxation, learning). Each type of user group (hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, anglers, swimmers, etc.) may be looking for different combinations of experience criteria and each user within a specific group may be looking for different combinations (e.g., different hikers may be looking for different hiking experiences). The CRD provides opportunities for different experiences in different areas with a goal to provide a range of appropriate opportunities that will meet the desired experiences of many.

Lakes within the park provide a natural setting for lakeside relaxation, picnicking, swimming, fishing and other water activities (paddle board, floaties, canoe/kayak). The forests provide opportunities for hiking, biking, and horseback riding activities, while some of the rock bluffs and glacial features have recreational value for a type of rock climbing called bouldering. Most of the terrain within the park is relatively steep, which influences the variety and levels of trail activities. Most trails are challenging, with considerable elevation gain, while a few trails exist on gentler slopes.

Connectivity of Mount Work to other parks provides added recreational value. This regional park is directly connected to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in two locations and a seamless trail system exists. Also, Mount Work's southern access at the Munn Road parking lot is only a short distance from a northern trail access to Thetis Lake Regional Park off Munn Road. These connections to other parks allow for longer recreational trail opportunities and expanded visitor experiences in different settings.

In recent years, outdoor recreation opportunities are being sought by more and more people. The quality of the natural features of the park, quality of the recreational infrastructure provided, and individual level of tolerance for crowding can all affect recreation experience. Some designated trails are in need of realignment or design improvements to manage erosion, address increasing use or improve visitor experience.

### 3.4 Visitation and Facilities

Visitation at Mount Work has steadily increased over the years. Most recently, annual visitor numbers have been:

- 2018 207,234
- 2019 196,607
- 2020 282,384

In 2018, a Visitor Use Survey was conducted with 171 people using Mount Work. Sixty-six percent of respondents lived in Saanich (27%), Victoria (27%) or Central Saanich (12%). Sixty-one percent of respondents were between 25 and 54 years of age and nearly one-half (47%) visited in groups of two. The main reasons noted by respondents for visits to the park were: Mount Work summit (32%), Durrance Lake (32%) and Hartland mountain biking trails (19%). Most were regular users of the park. Overall, 84% of respondents were satisfied with their experience at Mount Work. Of the respondents who mountain biked in the park, 69% were satisfied with the opportunities provided. Upgrading of trails, signage and more trails for beginners were suggested as needed in the designated mountain biking area.

Over the past three years (2018-2020), between five and eight event permits, two to three commercial permits for mountain bike training businesses and 15 commercial dog-walking permits have been provided annually.

The CRD has a license agreement with the South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS) allowing SIMBS to undertake trail maintenance within the designated mountain biking special use area on behalf of the CRD, subject to an annual plan approved by the CRD. CRD staff work closely with SIMBS on day-to-day trail maintenance and improvement projects in this area. The most recent license, for three years, was signed in May 2020.

At present, there are four primary accesses to the park—at the Ross-Durrance Road, Durrance Lake, Hartland Road and Munn Road parking lots. Parking at these locations accommodate approximately 150 vehicles (Ross-Durrance - 35 vehicles, Durrance Lake - 20 vehicles, Hartland - 85 vehicles, and Munn Road - 11 vehicles). Toilets and visitor information are provided at these primary accesses. Other official (secondary) access points to the park exist off Meadowbrook Road (to Killarney Lake and the designated mountain biking area) and off Robb Place and Woodridge Place (to the designated mountain biking area). No parking lots exist at these locations.

Currently, lake access is provided at Durrance Lake, Killarney Lake and Pease Lake. The Durrance Lake area includes a wheelchair accessible fishing pier, a small boat launch ramp, picnic tables, hiking trails and a toilet facility. One section of trail, on the north side of Durrance Lake, is wheelchair accessible/user-friendly. Non-motorized craft, such as kayaks and canoes, are permitted on Durrance Lake. Motorized boats, with electric motors only, are also permitted. When the boat launch ramp was installed, it provided a space for off-loading roof-top boats, such as canoes, kayaks and small aluminum craft. Today, it is used to off-load boats, including some small trailered boats, and serves as an access point for dogs and the fish stocking truck that undertakes stocking twice per year. At Killarney Lake, there is an orientation sign at the Meadowbrook access, a beach access and trails, but no other visitor facilities. At Pease Lake, there is a short access path, but no other facilities. Motorized boats are not permitted on Killarney or Pease Lakes.

The main access for the designated mountain biking area is located on Hartland Landfill lands and is accessed from Hartland Road. Two parking lots, a bike wash station, toilets, information kiosks, 47 km of trails that have been classified according to the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) standards, a technical training

area, and recycling depot exist in this sub-area of the park. Aside from the trails and training area, visitor facilities are focused at the parking area.

Mount Work currently has eight official trails (approximately 13.5 km) outside of the designated mountain biking area, including a short user-friendly loop trail from the Munn Road parking lot at the south end of the park. At present, there are many kilometers of unsanctioned trails that have been created by park visitors over the years. These are not designated trails, were not assessed for potential impacts or safety when they were created and should not be used by the public. West of Ross-Durrance Road, two trails lead to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. The provincial park has signs and a pump-out toilet located within this west sub-area of Mount Work.

Existing facilities are generally illustrated on Map 5.

# 4. Strategic Direction

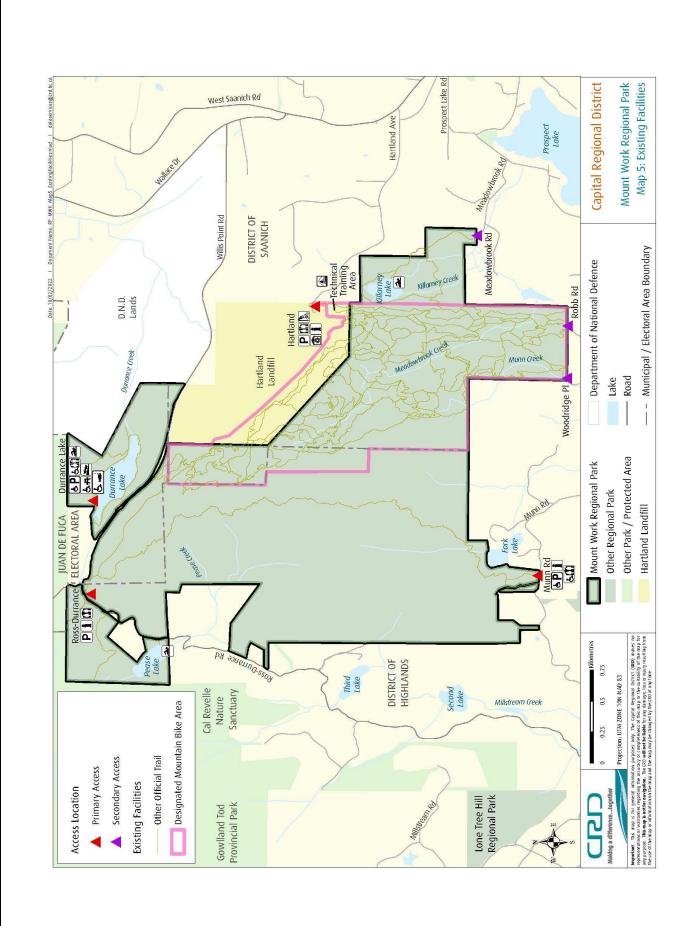
### 4.1 Park Vision

The purpose of the vision is to express the desired end state in 15 years. It must be compatible with the park's natural area classification. The draft vision for Mount Work is:

The delicate balance between conservation and recreation is well maintained, with a mix of areas providing engaging recreational activities and undeveloped areas maintained for nature. Park visitors appreciate both the physical and mental health benefits of recreating in nature and the need to steward the park lands for nature.

There is significance in the past, the present and the future use of this area. The principles of friendship and respect are shown to First Nations by working cooperatively to ensure that First Nation peoples feel welcome on their traditional lands, Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into ongoing park management and park values are available to the next generations.

Research, educational programs, and partnering opportunities are fostering a greater understanding of the natural, cultural and recreational environment of the park, a desire to help protect those different values and ongoing respect between park visitors.



# 4.2 Management Direction Statements

Along with the park classification and vision, the following management direction statements (sometimes known as management principles or policy statements) provide overarching policy guidance for park management and decision-making.

- 1. Where sensitive and threatened ecosystems exist, conservation will be the management priority.
- 2. The CRD will work cooperatively with local First Nations to ensure park development and use do not negatively impact First Nations cultural heritage features. Where cultural features are known to exist, the CRD will work cooperatively with local First Nations to monitor and protect these features.
- 3. Where new, expanded or upgraded visitor facilities are needed, an impact assessment will be undertaken. If approved, they will be sustainably planned and designed.
- 4. The CRD will consider using partnering/stewardship agreements with appropriate external organizations and First Nations to support park management, as appropriate. Agreements with different groups may cover different aspects, such as research, monitoring, restoration, trail or activity area maintenance, or education.

# 4.3 Management Goals & Objectives

Flowing from the vision, goals set the desired outcomes one wants to achieve and the objectives are the specific steps needed to achieve a goal. Goals and objectives are specifically meant to cover the 15-year horizon of this management plan. Specific policies and actions are noted in other sections contained within this management plan (e.g., issues, development concepts).

### **Environmental Goal**

The CRD's goal is to protect park ecological values from negative impacts.

### **Environmental Objectives**

- 1. Conduct and support research on park ecosystems to gain more specific knowledge and understanding of ecological values and sensitivities.
- 2. Educate the public about the park's ecological values and sensitivities to build support for conservation.
- 3. Minimize potential for negative impacts by locating recreational opportunities away from key sensitive areas and using sustainable design and best management practices.
- 4. Develop approaches for strategic environmental monitoring, restoration and protection of ecological values.
- 5. Cooperate with others to help conserve the park's ecosystems and ecological values and to connect with other parks.

### Cultural Heritage Goal

Our goal is to support First Nations cultural practices within Mount Work and to minimize disturbance to known First Nations cultural features and practices in the park.

### **Cultural Heritage Objectives**

- 1. Locate recreational opportunities away from known cultural features.
- 2. Develop strong working relationships with First Nations as they relate to Mount Work through agreements, communication and projects.
- 3. Cooperate with First Nations to present appropriate First Nations information to the public to foster respect for First Nations and their connections to the park.
- 4. Cooperate with First Nations to identify and minimize disturbance to cultural practices undertaken and cultural heritage features in the park.

### **Visitor Use Goals**

Our goal is to provide a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities related to trail and lake use that connect people to nature and accommodate visitors with different interests, ages and abilities.

### **Visitor Use Objectives**

- 1. Design and maintain visitor facilities to be sustainable and accessible to support positive experiences.
- 2. Cooperate with others to link Mount Work visitor opportunities to other parks and recreational areas.
- 3. Connect park visitors to the natural and cultural values in the park through appropriate on-site information.
- 4. Educate the public about respectful use practices to reduce user conflicts and enhance natural area protection.

### Other Goals

- 1. Create management efficiencies by working with key government agencies with shared interests or boundaries.
- 2. Continue to expand Mount Work, through land donations and acquisitions to foster recreation and/or conservation opportunities.

# 4.4 Park Zoning

The purpose of park zoning is to establish land management direction for distinct areas of the park.

Zoning broadly addresses the level of protection needed in different areas of the park based on natural and cultural values, sensitivities, and potential for negative impacts. It also addresses where different uses and types of development will be permitted or restricted based on the specific ecological features or recreational values, the intent of the zones, and the type of visitor experience to be provided in different areas of the park. Along with the management direction statements, vision and goals, these zones strategically guide management decisions.

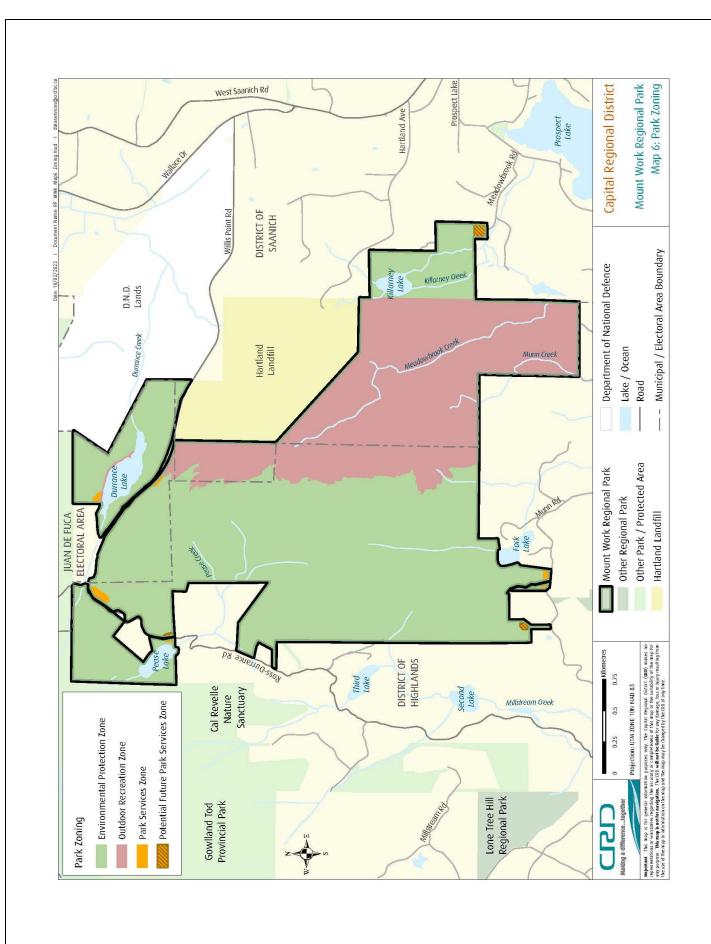
In Mount Work, three zones apply – Environmental Protection, Outdoor Recreation, and Parks Services – as illustrated on Map 6. These zones and their intent are described below, as it applies in Mount Work. Ongoing monitoring is needed within the different park zones, particularly in areas vulnerable to impacts and where species and communities at risk occur. This is important to maintaining the ecological values for years to come.

Environmental Protection Zone is applied to areas of highest ecological value based on federal and provincial data. It provides the highest level of protection. In particular, this zone is applied to areas with federally or provincially identified rare, threatened, endangered or at-risk species and plant communities, and sensitive ecosystems, and may be applied to protect other natural values, such as creeks or forested land. Where these exist, conservation will be the priority. To protect the ecological values, visitor use may be restricted. Generally, low impact nature trails may be considered, while facility development and use will be more limited in this zone. Visitor activities and experience are centered on nature study, interpretation and appreciation of natural features.

In Mount Work, 65.4% of the park is zoned Environmental Protection Zone. Given this zone covers the most ecologically significant and sensitive areas of the park, it is key to ensure that park visitors are staying on designated trails and no unsanctioned trails are being created or used by the public. It is also where a focus on restoration of existing unsanctioned trails should be initiated. If off-trail use or unsanctioned trail building is occurring within the Environmental Protection Zone and compliance measures are not adequately addressing the issue, the particular area may be closed to use.

**Outdoor Recreation Zone** is applied when an area can accommodate concentrated recreation use while not significantly compromising the natural character within the zone. Generally, this zone accommodates a higher level of active recreation, such as high density beach/lake activities and facilities, multi-use trails, group picnic areas and nature houses.

In Mount Work, the Outdoor Recreation Zone covers 34% of the park. The largest area of Outdoor Recreation Zone is within the designated mountain biking area. The current density of trails in the designated mountain biking area is considered to be at or close to a maximum capacity. Minimal additional trail development in this area is expected over the next 15 years to maintain the character of the environment and the quality of experience. Existing trails may be modified and improved for sustainability or visitor experience. An area of outdoor recreation zone also exists along the north side of Durrance Lake where concentrated recreation use is and will continue to be focused.



Park Services Zone is used where support facilities and services will be focused. Generally, this zone covers areas where natural features are limited in value or where landscape modification for park service needs will occur. Parking, visitor orientation, toilets, storage and operations buildings are permitted within this zone. This zone typically covers the primary entrances or other key facility or operational areas.

In Mount Work, Park Services Zones cover primary use areas, where parking and toilets are consolidated, and other locations where new parking or other services may be considered in the future. This zone covers 0.6% of the park.

# 4.5 Special Use Areas

One management tool available for use in regional parks is the Special Use Area designation. These areas are typically focused on and support a specific recreational activity. Special Use Areas cover a designated area and may include specially developed facilities and services and may have additional rules or guidelines in place to manage the activity.

The designated mountain biking area in Mount Work is a Special Use Area. Within this area, trails may be optimized for mountain biking, even if other uses are also permitted; certain trails will be designated mountain biking only; and special facilities, such as the mountain biking technical training area and bike wash station, may be provided. The CRD's Dog Management Policy Framework requires that within designated mountain biking special use areas dogs must be on-leash. This is for increased safety of all users and dogs in the area. The CRD has an agreement with the South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS) for trail maintenance within the designated mountain biking area.

A designated rock climbing (bouldering) area is being established as a second Special Use Area in Mount Work. This designated special use area outlines the extent of where bouldering is permitted within the park. Other rules, guidelines and/or facilities and services may be established for this area over time.

# 5. Management Issues

A number of management issues were identified through the initial engagement and planning process. There were seven common themes that emerged: trails, parking, signage, permitted use/competing interests, environmental monitoring, visitor information/visitor experience and infrastructure sustainability. These issues are discussed briefly below, illustrating the different perspectives heard and the CRD's direction relating to Mount Work Regional Park.

### 5.1 Trails

### Context

Approximately 44.5 km of unofficial trails have been created within the park; some of these trails were put in place by former landowners who have since sold or donated their land to the CRD while others have been created by park visitors. These unofficial trails were created without assessments for ecological or cultural sensitivities or safety. Unofficial trails have various levels of use. Another trail issue relates to the trails that are located outside of the regional park on the adjacent Hartland Landfill lands. These are expected to be closed in the future. This long-term intended closure of trails on landfill lands was first identified in the late 1990s when the designated mountain biking area was established and it was generally expected to occur when the area was needed for landfill operations. A closure is expected within the next 10 years (by 2031).

### What we heard

An important management issue noted through the initial engagement for this management plan was the unauthorized development of trails. Perspectives heard through the initial engagement process ranged substantially. Generally, there was a high degree of agreement that the trail system needs to be planned, improved, signed and well maintained and that there should be more designated park trails. There was support for different levels of trails (beginner/accessible/easy, intermediate/moderate challenge, advanced/challenging). Some people want more multiple-use trails while others want to maintain their desired experience through single-use trails in some areas. Some people noted the importance of limiting trails in ecologically sensitive areas. A number of people also indicated that substantial maintenance or operational improvements were needed on trails throughout the park.

### Considerations

When developing new or maintaining existing trails, the CRD needs to consider many factors, including the classification, the zoning, park values, recreation trends, desired visitor experiences, connectivity to other trails and green spaces, and long-term sustainability (e.g., ongoing costs to maintain the trail system over time).

### Management Direction:

- The CRD leads trail planning, development, and maintenance.
- To manage conservation and recreation, trails may be limited, realigned or not permitted in certain areas in order to protect ecological or cultural values.
- Where trails border ecologically sensitive areas, actions are taken to minimize impacts to those areas. Education about key values will be provided to help increase understanding of and respect for these values.
- Some single-use, dual-use and multiple-use trails will be designated based on compatibility with conservation and to accommodate different desired experiences among trail users.
- Different levels of challenge will be offered on trails based on the park's terrain.
- Trails will be sustainably designed and managed.

- Monitoring and enforcement will be used to reduce the building of unauthorized trails and to address other regulatory issues.
- The park trail plan, illustrated on Maps 8 and 9, outlines the official park trails for the next 15 years.
- A trail restoration plan will be developed to close unofficial trails.
- The CRD may work with others to restore key areas and/or to help educate people about park rules, park values and appropriate use and behaviors.
- Some additional trail planning, specific to the closing of trails currently on Hartland Landfill lands, is identified as a management action and minor additions to the trail system within the designated mountain biking area may occur through annual planning undertaken by the CRD and SIMBS.
- The CRD is currently working with First Nations and with SIMBS and some trail names may be changed over time.

# 5.2 Parking

### Context

Informal roadside parking occurs along Willis Point Road, Ross-Durrance Road, Munn Road, Wildview Crescent, Robb Place and Woodridge Place. There are no parking areas for Gowlland Tod Provincial Park in the immediate area and hence, in addition to regional park visitors, some provincial park visitors are parking in Mount Work Regional Park parking areas.

### What we heard

Through the initial engagement, comments received about parking spanned a spectrum from more parking is needed to advocating for more bus service and bike lanes on key roads instead of creating more parking.

### Considerations

It may be impossible and unsustainable to create enough parking to accommodate the ever-increasing use at the park. At this time, it is important to address parking to the degree possible for the anticipated need over the next 15 years.

### Management Direction:

- Over the span of this management plan, the CRD will expand parking at the existing primary park accesses, where feasible and ecologically suitable.
- The CRD may consider land acquisition to address parking needs and may consider advocating that other key agencies or municipalities provide parking opportunities, work cooperatively on joint parking services or provide wider shoulders for roadside parking.
- The CRD will advocate for bike lanes on key access roads or increased bus service by BC Transit to promote alternate modes of travel and to help offset the need for parking.
- At this time, the CRD does not believe the need is high enough to warrant a remote parking area with shuttle service, but this may be considered in the future.

# 5.3 Signage

#### Context

Signage within regional parks may include:

- Park information kiosk signs that welcome people to the park and provide some base information about the park, permitted activities and park rules.
- Regulatory signs to identify what is permitted/prohibited.
- Trail wayfinding signs so people can find their way within the park.
- Interpretive signs that allow the user to learn about key park values, increase their appreciation of the park and expand their park experience in a positive way.
- Conservation signs to educate people about key ecological values, build respect for those values and modify behaviours.

Many of the information kiosk signs in the park are outdated and most of the trails have old signage or no signage. No interpretive or conservation signs have been used to date in the park.

#### What we heard

Through the initial engagement process, people indicated a desire for better marked trails, updated trail signage in the mountain biking area, better signage at parking lots, and a desire for signs explaining the park values and educating park visitors about how to help protect these values.

#### Considerations

Prioritization of sign projects is based on staff and financial resources available, as well as priority need.

## Management Direction:

- The CRD will identify signage needs within the park, will undertake necessary sign projects and work with First Nations and/or stakeholders, as appropriate.
- Wayfinding signs will be provided on official park trails.
- Information kiosk signs will be provided at primary accesses and, on occasion, at other key locations for public awareness and education.
- Orientation maps ("you are here" signage) may also be used at various locations to help visitors orient themselves within the park.
- Regulatory, interpretive and conservation signage needs will be determined by regional park staff and developed, as needed.

# 5.4 Permitted Use & Competing Interests

#### Context

In Mount Work, opportunities are provided for fishing, swimming, water sports, cycling, hiking, horseback riding and rock climbing. At times, and in some places, there are different user interests or different desired experiences that cause competing interests and conflicts.

With so many informal trails in existence, conflicts often occur between different user groups. Some may think the trails are only for their use while others believe that all uses are permitted (e.g., hikers think they are hiking-only trails, mountain bikers believe they are mountain biking trails or people think they are all multiple-use trails). In the absence of an official trail plan, at this time all users using informal trails are not in compliance with the Regional Parks bylaw, which requires users to stay on designated park trails only.

#### What we heard

Through the initial engagement process, some mountain bikers indicated that they feel there are insufficient trails for the growing number of mountain bikers. Some hikers feel that mountain biking should be restricted to the designated mountain biking area and not be permitted throughout the park. There may also be competing interests between recreationists and other members of the public who want to ensure the CRD is adequately protecting species at risk, sensitive ecosystems, and critical habitat in the park. Comments also related to the need to ensure First Nations feel welcome in the park, which is part of their traditional territory, and that park visitors need to understand and respect First Nations' right to undertake cultural activities within the park, including harvesting.

## Considerations

The CRD needs to consider the carrying capacity of the park to accommodate the number of visitors and different types of uses. One park cannot necessarily accommodate all uses or unlimited levels of use and maintain the significant environmental features and a positive visitor experience. Increasing use may need to be distributed between parks and/or other parks may need to be acquired to accommodate desired activities or increased level of interest in specific activities.

#### Management Direction:

- Permitted uses are identified in the park management plan.
- Different uses are permitted in different areas of the park and on different trails in the park to reduce competing interests, reduce overuse or crowding and provide ecological protection.
- For information purposes, the management plan includes a chart illustrating permitted use, dog management requirements and zoning information on each park trail (Appendix 4).
- Permitted uses are also identified for the public through park maps and through park regulatory signs. Education will be used to help promote respect among users and appropriate behaviours.

# 5.5 Ecological Monitoring

#### Context

Given that the park is protecting species and communities at risk and some of BC's rarest ecosystems, it is important to consider protection measures for the long-term sustainability of its natural values.

#### What we heard

Through the initial engagement, comments relating to ecological values and protection needs included the need to protect ecosystems, species at risk, water quality and ensure impacts from human use are minimized. Others indicated a need to balance land stewardship and recreational use, and not overdevelop/overuse the park. Some people wanted key areas to be restored or invasive species to be removed.

## Management direction:

- The CRD will encourage and support research, monitoring and scientific studies to ensure appropriate and relevant ecological and species information is available for use in decision-making and minimizing impacts.
- The CRD will develop an ecological monitoring program to evaluate impacts of recreational use on the park's natural values.

# 5.6 Visitor Information/Visitor Experience

#### Context

It is important to provide information to the public to inform, educate and improve visitor experience. Visitor experience differs among different users. Even within one type of activity, different users may have different desires and personal expectations for their experience. The CRD wants all users of the park to have safe and enjoyable experiences and feel a connection to nature. The permitted activities in Mount Work include lakeside relaxation, picnicking, fishing, swimming, floating, paddling, mountain biking, cycling, hiking, running, horseback riding, rock climbing (bouldering) and geocaching.

#### What we heard

During the initial phase of planning, comments were received about the need for more information, including signage, to assist the users in experiencing the park. There was a desire expressed about learning about the park's values and ensuring all users respect those values while enjoying the park. People expressed the different types of experiences they desire in the park, which ranged from active, personally-challenging individual experiences, to quiet reflective individual experiences of nature in solitude, to social participation with others.

#### Considerations

To help the public to plan a park visit and enjoy their park experiences, information needs include:

- Understanding the purpose and vision for this park
- Knowing what activities are permitted and where
- Understanding what values and areas are being protected and how people can assist in their protection

- Knowing what rules and etiquette apply
- Knowing how to be safe while enjoying the park
- Understanding that the park is part of First Nations traditional territories and that First Nations continue to undertake cultural activities within the park, and
- Other key information to help develop appreciation, understanding and respect for the park and for other park visitors.

## Management direction:

- The CRD will provide information to the public in various ways, which may include: the park webpage, social media, information kiosks, in-park signage, the management plan, and through in-person opportunities (staff or programming).
- The CRD will work with First Nations to develop appropriate cultural information and stories to help increase public awareness of, and respect for, First Nations connections to the park lands and will educate the public about park values and how to help protect them.

# 5.7 Infrastructure Sustainability

#### Context

In Mount Work, there are many existing structures, including dams at Durrance Lake and Killarney Lake, four parking lots, four toilet buildings, trails, bridges and boardwalks, information kiosks, signs, picnic tables, garbage cans, a mountain biking technical training area, a boat launch, fishing pier, picnic tables and a former landowner's cabin. This plan also proposes additional or replacement bridges, additional parking and toilets, a covered seating/staging area, improved/additional technical training area structures, and some fencing/barriers be added. In terms of the long-term management implications and financial sustainability, the CRD must take a cautious approach to infrastructure, given its asset management capacity.

The 2019 Regional Parks Infrastructure Report Card identified that 5% of the assets at Mount Work are overdue for renewal and 12% will require renewal by 2024. Infrastructure renewal is an ongoing management action that is considered annually.

The two existing dams in Mount Work, Durrance Lake dam and Killarney Lake dam, are earth-fill embankments of 60 metre and 11 metre lengths, respectively. The CRD must meet provincial dam safety requirements, including monitoring and maintenance of dam infrastructure. As part of the ongoing dam safety and management program, issues have been identified and the CRD will be considering options relating to dam management. These options may include dam decommissioning (removal of the dam), dam stabilization (strengthening an existing structure) or dam replacement (removal of existing dam/building of new dam). Also, the former landowner's cabin (Kinghorn) is not required for park purposes but it is often visited by trail users in that area and a guest book has been maintained there by the former landowner's family.

#### What we heard

Asset sustainability and management are of significant importance, given the number of regional parks and park-related infrastructure that the CRD manages. This issue was raised largely by staff as a need to be addressed, though members of the public did raise concerns about the state of some of the park infrastructure, particularly trail conditions.

## Considerations

In developing the management plan, it is important to consider what infrastructure is critical to the operation of the park and for providing safe opportunities for the public, what is desired, what existing infrastructure is not needed, and what is feasible to maintain over the long term.

## Management Direction:

- The CRD will assess and plan for lifecycle infrastructure renewal in the park annually.
- Where appropriate, the potential for removal of infrastructure that is not essential will be considered.
- The CRD will continue to assess and determine the best option for the long-term management of the Durrance Lake and Killarney Lake dams in the short term.
- The CRD will address other infrastructure needs in association with all regional park system needs through its ongoing asset management and capital planning programs.
- If, in the future, the former landowner's family or other appropriate organization wishes to remove the Kinghorn cabin (at their expense) for use or protection elsewhere, consideration should be given to allowing its removal from the park.

# 6. Park Development Concepts

The park development concept is the overall plan for how the park will be developed. This includes what major infrastructure is anticipated and generally where it should be located, significant management actions that are proposed, and/or what significant changes are expected within the park. For Mount Work, the park development concepts include:

- The park trail plan, which defines the designated trail system in the park for the next 15 years (Maps 8 and 9)
- Actions with First Nations
- Ongoing management actions and actions proposed for the whole park, and
- Sub-area management actions and infrastructure.

The proposed implementation timing for each action is provided in Section 7 of the management plan.

In line with its classification as a regional natural area, Mount Work will be maintained largely in a natural state. Park opportunities will be for day use only. Given the environmental values this park is protecting, it is not suited to intensive development outside of the designated mountain biking area.

# 6.1 Park Trail Plan

The park trail plan defines the designated trail system in the park for the next 15 years, with the exception of a few potential new trails within the designated mountain biking area that will be considered through the annual plan approval between the CRD and SIMBS. This park trail plan identifies 83.4 km of trails that will make up the official trail network within the park.

Given the different types of park visitors, what the CRD heard about desired experiences and the ecological sensitivities in the park, the park trail plan provides a range of trail opportunities and establishes some trail-free areas within the park. Also, recognizing the different experiences desired by different users and the varied terrain in the park, the trail plan includes some multiple-use trails, some dual-use trails and some single-use trails. These trail types are explained below.

**Multi-use** – are trails where mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding are permitted. Within the designated mountain biking area, these trails may be optimized for mountain biking but may be wider than single track to accommodate safe multiple use. Outside of the designated mountain biking area, these trails may or may not be optimized for any particular use but they will be rated using the IMBA ratings to ensure users understand the level of challenge of the trail. Approximately 13 km of multi-use trail are proposed.

**Dual-Use Biking/Hiking** – are trails where mountain biking and hiking are permitted. These trails will also be rated using the IMBA standards for awareness purposes. Over time, these trails may be optimized for either hiking or cycling. In general, these trails are provided to create a link between primary accesses and the designated mountain biking area and to allow for longer rides and hikes. Nearly 50 km of biking/hiking trail is proposed.

**Dual-Use Hiking/Horseback Riding** – are trails where hiking and horseback riding are permitted. Where structures (e.g., bridges) exist on these trails, they will be optimized to allow horse passage or an alternate horse-friendly walk-around trail will be provided. Over time, these trails may be optimized for horse use, subject to available resources, including consideration of aids for mounting at key destinations (e.g., large rock, stump or stepped platform). A 1 km section of trail around Killarney Lake Trail is proposed for hiking/horseback riding.

**Single-Use Mountain Biking** – all double-black-diamond trails and some flowy trails or one-direction trails with a high potential for user conflict are designated as single-use mountain biking trails. Sixteen single-use mountain biking only trails are proposed (approximately 5 km).

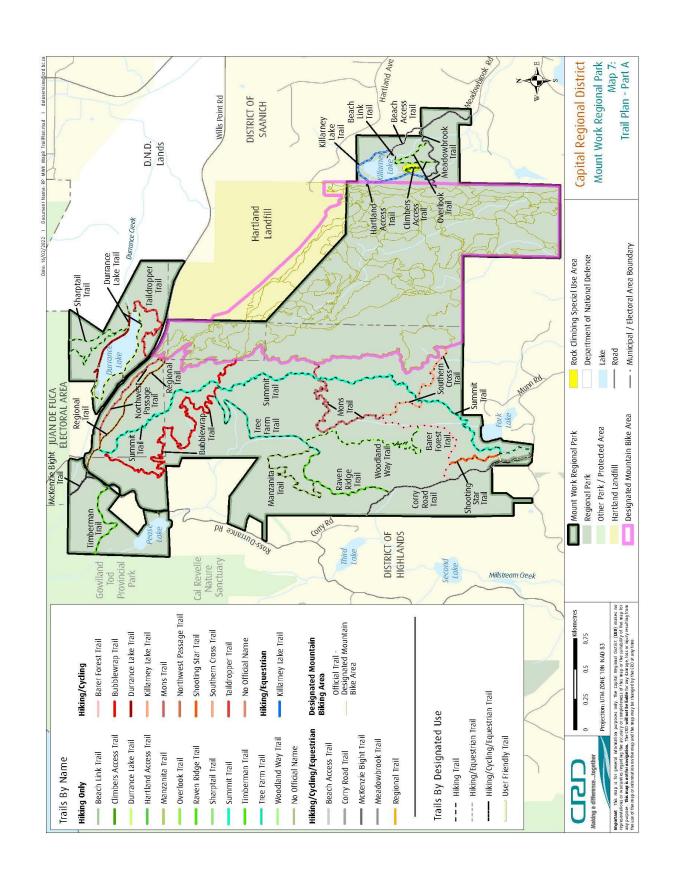
**Single-Use Hiking** – thirteen trails in the park are designated as single-use hiking trails to provide a specific experience and or to recognize conservation values (approximately 16 km).

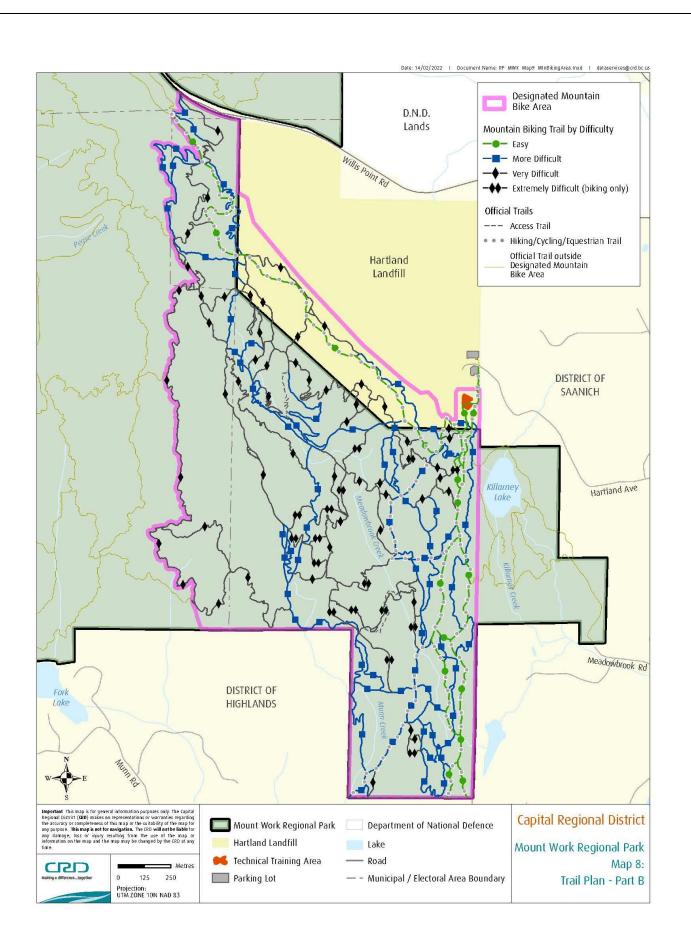
Improvements to the designated trails will be made in various areas throughout the park over time. Some areas require minor rerouting, while others require upgrading along existing routes (e.g., bridges, gravel). In some

instances, trails will be decommissioned to reduce trail density and/or to address unauthorized trails. The park trail plan is shown on Maps 6 and 7.



Trail in the designated mountain biking area at Mount Work





## 6.2 Actions with First Nations

The CRD will work cooperatively with interested First Nations on projects of mutual interest or mutual benefit. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to, the following. Implementation timing for most of the potential projects is set out in Section 7.1:

- > Identification and use of First Nations names for key park trails.
- > Cultural information sharing for public awareness.
- > Continue field assessment along park trails for cultural heritage areas or features requiring protection.
- A monitoring contract for known cultural heritage features (timing TBD).
- Restoration of impacted areas using species of interest/use to First Nations.
- A memorandum of understanding/cooperation agreement on working together with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and its committees on specific projects (timing TBD).
- Possible seasonal area closures for First Nations cultural use (timing TBD).

# 6.3 Ongoing and Whole Park Actions

Some management actions may continue over the timeline of this management plan or may relate to the whole park rather than individual sub-areas within the park. These are identified by category below rather than by area of the park. Implementation timing is set out in Section 7.1.

# **Ongoing Liaison**

The CRD will:

- Continue the agreement with SIMBS, or other qualified organization, for the maintenance of trails within the designated mountain biking area and update the agreement, as needed, to illustrate changed boundaries.
- Seek written authorization from Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding proposed changes in use of the Ecological Gifts properties (Section 63 and Section 68, Highlands District).
- Establish an agreement with the CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division regarding regional park-related facilities on Hartland Landfill lands (e.g., trails, parking, toilets, bike wash station, signage) and potential joint projects (e.g., parking lot development).
- Advocate with BC Transit and municipalities for increased active transportation opportunities for public access to Mount Work (e.g., bus, bike lanes, local trail connections).

# Conservation, Visitor Services, Operations and Development

The CRD will:

- Develop and implement a trail decommissioning plan for closure/mitigation of unsanctioned trails and, where feasible, restore these areas.
- Use conservation and impact mitigation tools, such as barriers, conservation signs, trail rerouting, trail route definition, sustainable design improvement, as needed, along official trails or elsewhere in the park to improve environmental and infrastructure sustainability.
- Identify and undertake research, inventory and mapping for natural values and biodiversity.

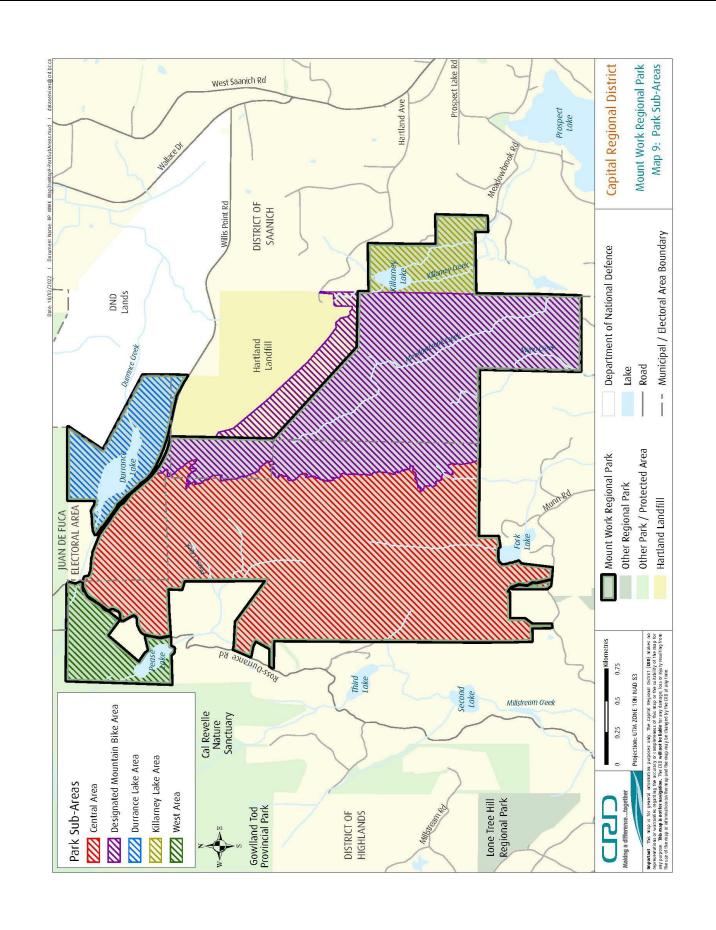
- Develop a park restoration plan to prioritize key ecological areas for restoration projects, with particular focus in the environmental protection zone. The CRD may work with others, such as PEPÁKEN HÁUTW Society, The Land Conservancy or other qualified groups, to develop and implement restoration projects.
- Establish an environmental monitoring program to assess impacts of trails and visitor use on key values.
- Sign designated park trails.
- Update public mapping products to show changed information (e.g., park trails, modified boundary of the designated mountain biking area, designated rock climbing (bouldering) area, new facilities).
- Update park information kiosks, including information about key park values, and ensure an information kiosk exists at each primary park access.
- Continue to improve/realign/define trails to be more ecologically suitable, more sustainable and/or to improve visitor experience.
- Expand parking opportunities.

# 6.4 Development Concepts by Park Sub-Areas

Given the size of the park, the development concepts have been broken down by park sub-areas, as follows:

- Durrance Lake Area
- Designated Mountain Biking Area
- Killarney Lake Area
- Central Area
- West Area

Map 9 illustrates the extent of these park sub-areas.



# 6.5 Development Concept for the Durrance Lake Area

The development concept for the Durrance Lake area of the regional park focuses on providing enjoyable lake-related experiences for people of varying ages and abilities. A few trails will be provided as a secondary or added experience, providing opportunities to experience the natural features beyond the lake itself and to connect the Durrance Lake area to other parts of the park and to the adjacent provincial park. Informal trails, particularly those leading to the actively-used Department of National Defence rifle range, and those areas with conservation values needing protection, will be closed and, where feasible, restored.

Parking, a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier, wheelchair accessible toilets, picnic opportunities, a small-boat launch area, and three trails (Durrance Lake Trail and Spur, Sharptail Trail and Taildropper Trail) will be maintained. The north side of Durrance Lake and a short spur trail along Durrance Creek spillway will be maintained as user friendly for a broad range of abilities (relatively flat, wide and good surfacing).

Proposed actions for the Durrance Lake sub-area are noted below and outlined for implementation timing in Section 7.1.

- Install a park information kiosk in the west end access area.
- Formalize Taildropper Trail as a designated park trail linking Willis Point Road to Durrance Lake Trail.
- Work with BC Parks to formalize and sign the portion of Sharptail Trail that is in Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. Although currently a hiking only trail, this will be broadened to allow cycling, following an assessment to minimize impacts to ecological values, if BC Parks allows cycling in the Partridge Hills area of the provincial park. No amendment to this management plan will be required for this change.
- Decommission/barricade trails leading to the Heals Rifle Range/Department of National Defence property from the park, including shortening/defining the Spur Trail along Durrance Creek to direct visitors away from the park-rifle range boundary.
- Continue planning to address dam management requirements. Consider opportunities for natural area restoration and visitor-related improvements in options.
- Provide additional picnic, seating and toilet infrastructure at Durrance Lake as use levels warrant. This should include consideration of facilities at the northeast end of the lake.
- Advocate for BC Parks to provide parking for the Partridge Hills section of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park to relieve pressure on regional park parking lots used by provincial park visitors.
- Expand the Durrance Lake parking lot.

# 6.6 Development Concept for the Designated Mountain Biking Area

The designated mountain biking area is recognized as a special use area where mountain biking opportunities are concentrated within Mount Work Regional Park. The development concept for this area of the park focuses on maintaining and upgrading the existing IMBA-rated trails. The designated mountain biking area has been expanded from 260 hectares to 285.7 hectares in size. This expansion incorporates 5.2 kilometers of additional trails and makes the boundary more clearly identifiable in the field (e.g., the west side boundary is now largely along the edge of existing trails rather than municipal boundaries that are not visible on the ground). The mountain biking area is considered to be near its maximum capacity to maintain safe and positive experiences and be sustainable over the long term, but a minor number of new trails may be considered for development within this area.

Within the designated mountain biking area, the terrain is more suited to all mountain riding, providing technical rides with many natural obstacles and downhill sections that incorporate a number of technical trail features. This area will continue to offer a mix of beginner, intermediate and expert opportunities. Given the steepness of the park terrain, the majority of the trails will be black/double-black-diamond rated. Double-black trails will be single-use mountain biking-only trails. Some one-way trails or fast-flowing trails with high potential for user conflict will also be single-use mountain biking-only trails. Other trails in the designated mountain biking area will generally be dual-use mountain biking/hiking, with a few designated as multiple use (cycling, hiking, equestrian) (see Map 7).

Where possible, trail modifications will improve options for green and blue loop routes and will provide more graduated trail opportunities to move between trail ratings, as skill and confidence improve. The technical training area will be improved/expanded to build skills for riding the trails in the designated mountain biking area. The technical training area will be primarily focused on new and young riders. Covered seating will be provided for watching people at the technical training area and as a staging area for group events/training.

As was noted at the establishment of the designated mountain biking area, and reiterated through the development of the recent Solid Waste Management Plan, it is expected that by 2031, Hartland Landfill lands will be required for waste management purposes and will no longer be available for regional park trails. This will close between 6 km and 8 km of existing trails.

Proposed actions for the Designated Mountain Biking Area are noted below and outlined for implementation timing in Section 7.1.

- Continue to improve existing trails in the designated mountain biking area for sustainability, visitor experience and improved opportunities for graduated skill development, in conjunction with SIMBS. This will include adding remaining infrastructure (e.g., elevated rails or bridge structures) or rerouting trails at creek crossings to reduce impact.
- Continue to improve trail signage in the designated mountain biking area.

- Update park maps and information kiosks to illustrate the expanded boundary and trail plan within the designated mountain biking area, as shown on Map 8.
- Improve and/or expand the technical training area. This will include two main components: broadening the skills that can be developed for riding the trails in Mount Work, particularly for new and young riders; and developing a covered seating area for watching people on the technical training area and space to stage group events.
- Work with CRD Environmental Resource Management staff to complete an agreement for the regional park facilities on Hartland Landfill lands and update, as necessary, during the timeframe of this management plan.
- Plan for the eventual closure of the mountain biking trails currently located on Hartland Landfill lands. This will include a determination if any of these trails can be reasonably rerouted onto regional park land, in conjunction with SIMBS.
- Consider development of a few additional new trails in the designated mountain biking area and consider the possibility of trail modifications to accommodate an adaptive mountain biking route, in conjunction with SIMBS.
- Expand the parking, if/when warranted.

# 6.7 Development Concept for the Killarney Lake Area

The development concept for the Killarney Lake area of the park is focused on maintaining the natural character and values and providing limited trail, picnic and rock climbing (bouldering) opportunities. A rock climbing (bouldering) special use area was established to focus and manage this use and protect the rock bluffs and boulders.

Two multiple-use trails (cycling, hiking and horseback) will be maintained to provide access between Meadowbrook Road, the designated mountain biking area (to the west) and to the Killarney Lake beach area/picnic site (to the north). They are Meadowbrook Trail and Beach Access Trail. The Killarney Lake Trail will provide an opportunity for hiking and horseback riding and will link with the multiple-use trail on the south side of the lake. Four small hiking-only access trails provide links to other parts of this sub-area. Signage will clearly illustrate which uses are permitted on which trails.

Proposed actions in the Killarney Lake sub-area are noted below and outlined for implementation timing in Section 7.1.

- Develop visitor use facilities at Killarney Lake beach to accommodate hikers, cyclists and equestrians. This will include a toilet, picnic tables, and an equestrian mounting aid and, if needed in the future, a dog access location away from the beach.
- Improve trails in this sub-area, including a reroute of the west side low lying section of Killarney Lake Trail, improvement of the north end bridge for equestrian use, ensure horse accessibility on the trail; improve/reroute Hartland Access Trail (north-west hiking-only access trail) to be less steep; formalize additional trails as per the park trail plan (including a needed bridge structure on Beach Link trail) and close other informal trails.

- Address needs relating to the designated rock climbing (bouldering) special use area, including an assessment of the special use area for cultural heritage features that may require special protection measures in relation to rock climbing, consideration of special requirements for use, and possibly seeking a qualified group to maintain the special use area.
- Consider possible land acquisition for and/or development of a parking area in the vicinity of the park access at Meadowbrook Road.

# 6.8 Development Concept for the Central Area

Recognizing the importance of this part of the park for sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity, the development concept for this area focuses on protecting ecological values, mitigating visitor use impacts, reserving some larger areas without human use for nature, and providing a dispersed network of trails. Increasing knowledge and understanding of the natural values and biodiversity will be an important step, along with improving trail routes to minimize disturbance, monitoring impacts, and restoring key areas.

The dispersed trail network will include six dual-use hiking and cycling trails, five hiking-only trails, and two multi-use trails (hiking, cycling and equestrian). The main purpose of the dual-use trails is to provide access between primary park accesses and the designated mountain biking area and to provide longer-distance cycling and hiking opportunities. The CRD will advocate for the District of Highlands to liaise with the CRD and adjacent neighbours and formalize the multiple-use Corry Road Trail west of the park boundary to link with Ross-Durrance Road. Parking opportunities will be expanded.

The former Kinghorn cabin, built in 1979, is not required for park purposes nor is it considered to be of regional significance. While it is safe and no issues are occurring, it will remain. When the structure requires an investment of funds to maintain it or if other issues arise, it will be removed. At any time, if the former landowner family or other cultural interest group is interested in the building (e.g., heritage society), the CRD will consider the feasibility of allowing its removal from the park for use elsewhere, subject to no cost to the CRD.

Proposed actions in the Central sub-area are noted below and outlined for implementation timing in Section 7.1.

- Develop a new primary access on the south side of Willis Point Road. This new access will include significant parking capacity, a toilet, and information kiosk.
- Improve key trail locations as identified by Regional Parks' staff, to make them more sustainable, more environmentally appropriate, or to improve the visitor experience.
- Decommission and, where feasible, restore other informal trails. Consider working with qualified First Nations groups (e.g., PEPÁĸen HÁUTW Society), conservation organizations and/or community groups on restoration projects in priority areas where decommissioning is undertaken.
- Update information kiosks at the Ross-Durrance Road and Munn Road parking lots.
- Advocate for the District of Highlands to work with CRD staff and adjacent neighbours to have Corry Road Trail extended from the regional park boundary to Ross-Durrance Road, as shown in District of Highlands Trail Plan.

- Expand the Ross-Durrance Road and Munn Road parking lots. The latter may be either at the existing parking lot or by created an additional parking lot.
- Advocate for BC Parks to establish parking in the area for provincial park visitors using McKenzie Bight and Timberman Trails to access the provincial park or to contribute to the expansion and ongoing costs of parking areas in the regional park that are used by the public to access Gowlland Tod Provincial Park.

# 6.9 Development Concept for West of Ross-Durrance Road

A portion of the park west of Ross-Durrance Road provides access to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park along McKenzie Bight Trail and Timberman Trail. The development concept for this section is to work with BC Parks regarding operational responsibilities for the trails and other provincial park infrastructure (e.g., signs, gates, and toilet) located within the regional park. This may be achieved through provincial acquisition, as envisioned in the 1990s, or through an agreement between the two park agencies. The CRD will also advocate for BC Parks, or BC Parks and the CRD working jointly, to extend Timberman Trail to link with McKenzie Bight Trail, creating a loop trail opportunity that is fully off-road.

The second area, West area, is south of Timberman Trail and includes Pease Lake and associated wetland, creek and forest. A short access path to Pease Lake is the only facility servicing this section currently. The development concept for this section is largely to maintain the natural character and provide minimal development unless/until such time as the CRD acquires additional land on Pease Lake. For the foreseeable future, a minimal amount of parking may be provided in a phased approach for lake access but no other facilities are proposed. If additional land is acquired, an amendment to this management plan will be undertaken to adopt a Pease Lake area plan, which will identify protection needs, compatible use, and proposed development.

Proposed actions for the sub-area west of Ross-Durrance Road are noted below and outlined for implementation timing in Section 7.1.

- Work with BC Parks to establish an agreement to cover a multitude of items, including provincial infrastructure on regional park lands, ongoing maintenance of visitor facilities (e.g., signs, trails, and toilet), parking needs, off-street extension of Timberman Trail to link with McKenzie Bight Trail, wayfinding signage in the provincial park for loop trail routes that are in both the regional and provincial parks, consideration of possible acquisition of a portion of the West area (containing Timberman Trail and McKenzie Bight Trail) for the provincial park, as per Gowlland Tod Provincial Park Management Plan.
- Phase in development of a minimal amount of parking for Pease Lake access.

# 7 Plan Implementation

The Mount Work Management Plan comes into effect upon its approval by the CRD Board and continues to apply until a new or updated plan is approved by the Board.

# 7.1 Proposed Implementation Strategy

Table 1, below, combines all of the proposed management actions identified elsewhere in this management plan and establishes a suggested implementation timeframe. Ongoing actions need to be undertaken throughout the 15-year timeframe of this plan. They may be initiated at any time. Ongoing actions are to be fit in along with other timed actions. Generally, short-term actions are meant to be addressed within the first five years, subject to resource availability, followed by medium-term actions in years 6-10, and then longer-term actions in years 11-15. Implementation of the proposed management actions is subject to availability of staff and financial resources and must be considered in relation to other priorities in the Regional Parks system.

## **Table 1: Management Actions**

#### AS NEEDED OR ONGOING ACTIONS

- 1. Expand knowledge of the park's natural values and biodiversity by seeking out, supporting or undertaking scientific research, inventories, mapping and monitoring.
- 2. Provide education about key values to help increase public understanding, respect for, and protection of these values. This may occur on the park webpage, information kiosks, in-park signs or through programming.
- 3. Work with First Nations as projects of mutual interest are raised.
- 4. Advocate for increased active transportation opportunities to access Mount Work (increased bus service, bike lanes).

# **SHORT-TERM ACTIONS**

- 1. Seek written authorization from Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding proposed changes in use of the Ecological Gifts properties (Sec 63 and Sec 68, Highlands District).
- 2. Continue the agreement with SIMBS, or other qualified organization, for the maintenance of trails within the designated mountain biking area and update the agreement, as needed, to illustrate changed boundaries.
- Sign designated park trails.

#### Notes:

- Includes upgrading existing signs within the designated mountain biking area.
- Signing of trails within the designated mountain biking area and elsewhere in the park may be done as separate projects.
- Directional sign maps ("you are here" maps) should be considered at key trail intersections, such as Corry Road Trail/Raven Ridge Trail, where there is no information kiosk in close proximity and possibly at areas where potential conflicts may occur or increased awareness is needed.
- 4. Update public mapping products.

#### Notes:

• Clarify trail plan, update boundary of designated mountain biking area, show designated rock climbing area boundary, update existing facility locations, etc.

- 5. Update park information kiosks, including information about key park values and climate resilience, and ensure an information kiosk exists at each primary access area.
- 6. Establish a trail decommissioning plan for closure/mitigation of unsanctioned trails and begin to implement. Where feasible, restore key areas using appropriate native plants.
- 7. Implement the trail plan throughout the park and continue to improve/realign/define trails to be more ecologically suitable, more sustainable, and/or to improve visitor experience.

  Notes:
  - Initial key areas are shown in development concepts. Other areas will be identified by Regional Parks staff.
  - This includes any work required on new designated park trails.
  - Within the designated mountain biking area, use IMBA standards for trails and consider if modifications can be made to some existing trails to accommodate an adaptive mountain biking route(s) for riders who require a certain type of bike/trail to be ridden.
  - Continue to improve creek crossings in designated mountain biking areas to protect creeks and assess/reroute/close trail sections in sensitive areas.
  - Eliminate trail braiding/better define trail routes in arbutus meadows.
  - Anticipate this will continue into medium term.
- 8. Continue to work with interested First Nations on appropriate First Nations trail names for some park trails.
- 9. Work with interested First Nations to help increase public awareness of, and respect for, First Nations connections to the park lands.

Notes:

- Information provided by First Nations may be used on information kiosks, park website, or at key destinations in the park.
- 10. Continue to have First Nations cultural worker do field assessment along park trails for cultural features/areas requiring protection.
- 11. Establish a new primary access off Willis Point Road.

Notes:

- Work with the CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division to develop gravel parking.
- Will include information kiosk, toilet, and trail linkages.
- 12. Develop conservation sign plan to identify key locations where natural values and appropriate use information is needed to modify or ensure appropriate behaviours.

Notes:

- Where needed, barriers may be used to supplement signage to keep people out of sensitive areas (e.g., woodland meadows).
- Key sensitive areas along trails will be priority areas for conservation signs.

- 13. Establish an agreement with BC Parks relating to areas where Mount Work and Gowlland Tod Provincial Park connect (west of Ross-Durrance Road and Partridge Hills)

  Notes:
  - This should cover provincial infrastructure on regional park lands, agreement regarding maintenance of Timberman Trail and McKenzie Bight Trail, wayfinding signage relating to the trails that loop through the regional and provincial parks, extension of Timberman Trail (off-street) to join with McKenzie Bight Trail, possible provincial park parking, and consideration of some land becoming part of the provincial park (as noted in Gowlland Tod management plan).
  - Advocate for additional provincial park parking to relieve pressure on regional park parking lots or assistance with parking lot expansions and ongoing maintenance for joint use.
  - Collaboration regarding mountain biking use in Durrance Lake and Partridge Hills areas.
- 14. Establish agreement between Regional Parks and Environmental Resource Management divisions regarding regional park facilities on Hartland Landfill lands.
- 15. Improve the technical training area in the designated mountain biking area.

#### Notes:

- Work with SIMBS during planning for technical training area upgrades.
- Add a covered staging/viewing/rest area with seating.
- Improve range of skills developed, for use in Mount Work.
- Accommodate a wider range of rider ages (particularly young riders developing skills).
- 16. Assess and plan for dam management needs at Durrance Lake and Killarney Lake.
- 17. Develop/install/improve visitor facilities at Killarney Lake.

#### Notes:

- If not completed yet through trail improvements projects, this may include realignment of Killarney Lake Trail on west side of lake to higher ground and realignment of the Hartland Access Trail (hiking-only access trail) for less steep/easier access.
- Better define west end of Meadowbrook Trail to clarify route and close other shortcut routes.
- Upgrade/replace bridge at north end of lake for equestrian use and modify chicanes to allow horse passage.
- Install small number of picnic tables, a toilet, and equestrian mounting aid by Beach Access Trail.
- Formalize Beach Link Trail, including appropriate creek crossing infrastructure.
- Designate a dog access area at Killarney Lake away from beach/picnic area, if/when needed.
- 18. Identify and prioritize areas for restoration/potential restoration projects.

#### Notes:

- An immediate priorities restoration plan may be done as part of the trail decommissioning plan.
- Consider using species of interest/use to First Nations, where appropriate.
- Consider establishing an agreement with a First Nations organization (e.g., PEPÁĸEŅ HÁUTW) and/or a qualified environmental or community group to assist with this work.
- 19. Advocate for the District of Highlands to develop the Corry Road Trail between regional park boundary and Ross-Durrance Road, working with CRD staff and adjacent neighbours.
- 20. Develop a small number of off-road parking spaces west of Ross-Durrance Road for Pease Lake access.

- 21. Address needs relating to the designated rock climbing (bouldering) special use area. Notes:
  - Conduct a cultural heritage assessment of the designated rock climbing (bouldering) area to determine if any features exist that may require special protection measures.
  - Conduct an environmental assessment of the designated rock climbing (bouldering) area to determine if any ecological values exist that may require special protection measures.
  - Develop special management actions/direction for rock climbing (bouldering).
  - Consider establishing an agreement with an external group for maintenance of the designated rock climbing special use area.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS**

- 1. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding/cooperation agreement on working together with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and its committees on specific projects.
- 2. Consider possible seasonal area closures for First Nations cultural use.
- 3. Plan for future closures/facility removal from Hartland Landfill lands. Notes:
  - Consider if trail rerouting onto park lands is feasible.
  - Consider alternatives for parking, toilets, and other facilities on Hartland lands.
- 4. Establish an environmental monitoring program to assess impacts of trails and visitor use on key values.
- 5. Establish a monitoring contract for known cultural heritage features.
- 6. Expand Ross-Durrance Road, Durrance Lake and Munn Road parking areas.
- 7. Plan for possible acquisition for parking in Killarney Lake area.
- 8. Expand visitor facilities at the east end of Durrance Lake (may shift to longer term)
  Notes:
  - If not yet done through trail improvement projects, use barrier, such as cedar split rail fencing, to formalize the end of the Durrance Creek Spur Trail further away from the property boundary with the rifle range.
  - Add a toilet and small number of additional tables or seating, if/when use warrants.

#### **LONGER-TERM ACTIONS**

- 1. Expand Hartland Road parking, if/as needed (contingent on agreement with the CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division).
- 2. Develop parking area for Killarney Lake area.

Notes:

- This may require land acquisition; may be developed in partnership with municipality and/or may be on park land.
- 3. Develop a small number of additional off-road parking spaces on the east side of Ross-Durrance Road in the vicinity of Pease Lake, if/as needed.

# 7.2 Implementation Implications

Given that most of the actions noted in the management plan are conceptual in nature and project details are not established until the project stage, an overall cost to implement this management plan over the next 15 years is not available. Some capital infrastructure that is proposed, including new toilets, information kiosks, picnic tables, wayfinding signs, covered staging/viewing area, horse bridge, will likely cost in the range of \$900,000 (2022 estimate). This is an estimate only and project-specific costs will be calculated and approved through future budget and service planning processes, in advance of implementation. This cost estimate does not include increases that can be expected year to year (i.e., the 2022 estimate for infrastructure will not be accurate if a project is implemented several years into the future). Other actions, such as ecological and archaeological research, ongoing trail improvements or trail closures and restoration costs, and parking lot expansion/construction, will need to be calculated at the time of project planning. Appendix 5 illustrates the costs that are estimated above.

# 7.3 Monitoring

Monitoring of implementation will be undertaken through annual work planning and budget processes, as well as through the five-year service and capital planning processes.

If unexpected circumstances, significant issues or critical new information arise that warrant substantive changes to the management direction, a plan amendment may be considered. Public consultation will be held for substantive amendments and all amendments must be approved by the CRD Board.

Prior to initiating a full management plan update, an internal evaluation of the current plan will be undertaken to consider if the strategic direction has adequately addressed major issues and management consideration to date, if the strategic direction remains relevant, to what extent the management actions were implemented and if any outstanding actions are still relevant. The plan update will consider what changes or additions might be needed to provide appropriate direction for the future.

# Appendix 1: Management Planning Process Summary

# **Management Planning Process**

The Mount Work management planning process was initiated by the CRD Board in May 2020 and the proposed project scope and engagement process was reviewed by the Board in June 2020. A project webpage was set up on the CRD website in June 2020 to provide ongoing public information and updates regarding the management planning process. Gathering of background information and the initial engagement process occurred between June 2020 and November 2020.

Information from existing studies and plans, CRD and municipal policies, and statistics was gathered to provide background on park values, applicable management direction, status of park facilities and current use, among other things. Members of the public and stakeholders also provided additional background on specific areas and key issues. The internal project team, consisting of the park/trail planner (lead), conservation specialist, recreation specialist, park operations supervisor, senior park ranger, geographical information systems specialist, and other CRD staff, as needed, reviewed relevant background information and input from the public and conducted approximately 20 site visits, some with key stakeholders, while developing the draft plan.

# Initial engagement

Initial engagement consisted of notifications sent to First Nations, government agencies with interests in the park, key stakeholders with tenure or agreements with the CRD, park neighbours, and key interest groups (mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, fishing, conservation); and follow-up meetings, phone conversations or email communications were held with a wide range of those noted above. An online comment form was available on the project webpage between September 15 and October 11, 2020.

In total, approximately 1,200 comment submissions were received through the initial engagement process, which provided well over 9,000 comments. Review of the comments received was undertaken between November 2020 and March 2021.

Further information about the initial engagement process and input received is provided in Appendix 2 and through the Engagement Report and Addendum Report available on the CRD website. An additional round of engagement will be undertaken to seek comments on the draft management plan.

To date, the following aspects were included in part of the overall engagement process.

#### First Nations

• Letters were sent to the Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Pauquachin and Malahat First Nations introducing the project and seeking their interest in participating in the project. CRD staff followed up with each Nation and were directed by the Tsartlip, Tsawout and Tseycum Nations to work through the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council

(WLC). The WLC directed CRD staff to meet with its Land Use Committee. Several meetings and site visits were held with WLC's Land Use Committee members. Key sections of the draft plan, relating to First Nations, were provided for review while the plan was being developed.

## Other Government Agencies

- Given that a portion of the park land has been certified as environmentally sensitive "ecogift" under the federal Ecological Gifts Program, a letter was sent to Environment and Climate Change Canada inviting participation in the planning process. Email conversations were held with the regional representative of the Ecological Gifts Program to discuss the requirements, and key sections of the draft management plan were provided for review while the plan was being drafted.
- Specific management-related questions were posed to and discussed with the Department of National Defence (CFB Esquimalt/Naden), BC Parks, BC Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development regarding their adjacent lands and/or their interests relating to the regional park. All provided input in advance of the regional park management plan being drafted.
- Specific management-related questions were posed to, and meetings were held with, the CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division staff and Highlands, Saanich and Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Councils/Director and their staff. Input was received from each. Further, a presentation was made to and comments were received from the District of the Highlands Committee of the Whole.

## Key Stakeholders/User Groups/Interest Groups

- Contacts were made with three key stakeholders one who holds a conservation covenant on two parcels in the park, one who has a license to maintain trails within the designated mountain biking area, and one former landowner family where an agreement had been made to include them in the management planning process, as it relates to their former lands. Meetings and site visits were conducted with each.
- Letters were sent to neighbours within 200 m of the park notifying them of the project, providing the project webpage URL and noting when the public engagement form would be available on the webpage.
- Seventeen groups were notified of the project, the webpage and that a comment form would be available online. These groups covered conservation, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, fishing, and rock climbing interests. University of Victoria and Camosun College student unions were also contacted to assist in getting information out to youth.

## Public

• Information about the park and the planning process was posted on the CRD website throughout the planning process. To widely advertise the planning process and how people could be involved, in-park signage (general and specific to the initial online comment form), newspaper and digital advertising, and social media posts were used.

Together, 1,114 comment forms were received and 75 additional submissions were made by phone, email or mail during the initial round of engagement. As time permitted, further conversations were held with other individuals after the official comment period ended but before the draft management plan was completed.

# Key Regional Parks Policy Guidelines Implemented through the Planning Process

# Dog Management Policy Framework

The CRD provides opportunities to recreate with dogs in regional parks. Dog management seeks to balance this interest with the need to protect environmental and cultural values and the desire to provide enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences for all visitors. Potential dog-related conflicts to be considered in park management include dog-people conflicts, dog-dog conflicts, dog-wildlife conflicts and wildlife displacement, and dog-sensitive values conflicts. *CRD Bylaw No. 4225* requires that dogs must be under effective control while in regional parks. This applies at all times and in all situations.

In 2019, the CRD Board approved a Dog Management Policy Framework for use in regional parks. It is a decision-making support tool to assist in setting consistent direction across the regional parks system. It provides the starting point to avoid potential conflicts related to dogs in parks. The Dog Management Policy Framework also helps clarify dog management as it relates to the varied interests that have been expressed.

Three baseline dog management categories are to be applied in regional parks, as follows:

- Designated mountain biking areas (special use area) = dogs on-leash only
- Designated rock climbing (bouldering) areas (special use area) = dogs on-leash only
- Environmental Protection Zone = dogs on-leash only
- Park Services Zone = dogs on-leash only
- Natural Environment Zone = dog leash optional
- Outdoor Recreation Zone areas that are not within a special use area = dog leash optional

Where a designated park trail travels through more than one park management zone, a determination of the appropriate dog management category has been made using considerations identified in the Dog Management Policy Framework. Table 3 in Appendix 4 identifies the dog management category related to each park trail in Mount Work. Trail signage will identify, in the field, the required dog management using a symbol (on-leash or off-leash), similar to the symbols that identify the permitted uses.

## Mountain Biking Guidelines

As the popularity of mountain biking increases, there is increasing demand for more and varied mountain biking opportunities. The CRD plays a role in providing mountain biking opportunities but is not able to provide all mountain biking experiences in all locations for all users. The CRD established a mountain biking advisory group and received advice and a report from this group that informed the development of the CRD's approved Mountain Biking Guidelines for Regional Parks (2020). The guidelines provide a decision-making tool for planning, developing and managing mountain biking in regional parks. They indicate that the CRD will focus on the development of cross country and all mountain trails and will further research best practices for creating opportunities for adaptive mountain biking.

The Mountain Biking Guidelines were used to asses which disciplines would be suitable for the landscape in Mount Work, the appropriate trail difficulty, the appropriate density of trails, and which technical trail features would be suitable inside and outside of the mountain biking area.

The majority of the terrain in the designated mountain biking area is steep, resulting in more advanced riding opportunities (black/double-black). Some cross country opportunities also exist inside the designated mountain biking area and some are proposed on some multiple-use or dual-use (hiking/cycling) trails outside of the mountain biking area where the landscape and terrain are less steep and have fewer technical features. The cross country routes may have long climbs and some flowy descents mixed with a few technical trail features. The majority of these trails provide a longer distance of travel. A dense network of trails exists, and is considered appropriate, within the designated mountain biking area. Elsewhere in the park, much of which is Environmental Protection Zone, mountain biking has been considered, using the guidelines along with input received from all users and interest groups.

The Designated Mountain Biking Area provides trail opportunities for beginner (green), intermediate (blue), and expert (black and double black) mountain bikers. There are 8.3 km of green trails, 19.5 km of blue trails, 12.1 km of black trails and 4.9 km of double black trails. Over time, trails within the designated mountain biking area should be optimized for mountain biking in order to enhance the experience. An opportunity may exist to consider modifying an existing trail(s) to establish a route for adaptive mountain biking trail in the future.

Outside of the designated mountain biking area, some trails have been designated for hiking and cycling or for cycling, hiking and horseback riding. The trails have been classified using IMBA standards to alert potential users of the difficulty level.

# Appendix 2: Land Acquisition & Use

# Land Acquisition and Land Use History

The initial proposal to establish a regional park, Durrance Lake Park, came in 1969 and the first parcel acquired was 12.56 hectares in 1970. The park has grown from that initial 2.56 hectares to 744.17 hectares over 50 years. Table 2 summarizes the acquisition history and further information about key parcels is provided below.

**Table 2: Land Acquisition History** 

Acquisition	Size of	Property	Comments
Year	Property		
1970	12.56 ha	Lot 51	Crown Transfer
1972	31.76 ha	Lot 64	Crown Transfer
1972	32.75 ha	Lot 64	Crown Transfer
1973	38.71 ha	Lot 56	Purchased from Kinghorn family
1974	13.37 ha	VIP 13840	Crown Grant
1974	52.02 ha	Section 25	-
1975	62.63 ha	Section 67	Crown transfer
1979	0.81 ha	Section 55	Crown Grant
1991	41.92 ha	Section 52	Transferred from City of Victoria
1991	35.68 ha	Section 51	Transferred from City of Victoria
1997	209.11 ha	VIP 64898	Surplus land transferred from CRD Hartland Landfill
2003	4.84 ha	Section 129	Transferred from CRD Environmental Services
2003	15.37 ha	Section 130	Transferred from CRD Environmental Services
2003	4.64 ha	Section 131	Transferred from CRD Environmental Services
2003	15.18 ha	Section 131	Transferred from District of Saanich
2008	64.75	Section 68	Purchased from the Barer family by The Land Conservancy;
			transferred from The Land Conservancy to the CRD; Ecological Gift
			Program requirements & Conservation Covenant apply
2009	65.96 ha	Section 63	Purchased from the Kinghorn family; Ecological Gifts Program
			requirements and Conservation Covenant apply
2010	0.80 ha	VIP 87787	Donated by Carrilho family
2018	27.97 ha	VIP 26902	Purchased from Kinghorn family
2020	12.10 ha	VIP 97797	Purchased from Carrilho family
2021	13.8 ha	VIP 11366 &	Purchased from Schnarr family
		Section 77	
TOTAL	744.17 ha		AS OF MAY 11, 2021

Areas of particular note include, the 209 ha of surplus landfill lands acquired in 1997 from the CRD Environmental Resource Management Division to establish a designated mountain biking area within Mount Work Regional Park

and an additional 40 ha in 2003 (Section 129, Section 130 and two parts of Section 131) to expand the park and buffer the Hartland Landfill. Part of the latter acquisition includes Killarney Lake and second growth Douglas-fir forest, purchased by the Capital Regional District Environmental Services Department and transferred to Regional Parks as a green buffer to the landfill area. An additional 15.18 hectare area, immediately south of Killarney Lake, was acquired from the District of Saanich. It includes some old growth Douglas-fir and a watercourse that drains from Killarney Lake to Tod Creek.

Section 63, Highlands District (Kinghorn property) and Section 68, Highlands District (Barer property) were certified as ecologically significant under the federal Ecological Gifts Program of Environment and Climate Change Canada and were acquired with assistance from that program and The Land Conservancy (TLC). These parcels, in the central area of the park, total 130.71 ha. The southern parcel was acquired from the Barer family by TLC and transferred to the CRD for regional park purposes. The Ecological Gift Program file number for Section 68 is BC082 "Barer". The northern parcel was acquired by the CRD, also working with these organizations. Its Ecological Gift Program file number is BC108 "Corry Road" (also known as Kinghorn). These lands protect three types of forest – older second growth, old growth, and open woodland, as well as a wetland/bog. In addition, spotted and western coralroot, honeysuckle, fawn lily, shooting star, and manzanita, and red-legged frogs (blue listed) have been observed on the properties. Under the Ecological Gifts Program, the CRD must seek an authorization from Environment and Climate Change Canada before changing the use of the land, compared to the land's conditions at the time of acquisition. To further protect these two parcels, The Land Conservancy of BC holds conservation covenants on them, registered on title under Section 219 of the Land Title Act. The covenants set out conservation intentions and certain restrictions. The covenants and ecological gift program requirements must be upheld in management of the park. The intent at the time of acquisition was to provide a trail link through these lands to connect with the Summit Trail and create a circuit (loop) trail.

Prior to the land becoming part of the regional park, Ralph Barer and his family held the property for over ten years. The Barer family's intent for Section 68 was to use it as a managed forest, following sound forest management practices. Among other aspects, their goals included to manage it on a sustainable basis, maintaining or enhancing the biodiversity and water quality, creating representative stands and old growth over time, and provide opportunity for community awareness. Information from a management and working plan for Section 68, prepared by the family, notes that the property experienced both natural and deliberate fires and was previously logged in the 1900s. Over time, a network of access trails within the area was constructed and public foot access was permitted for recreational enjoyment. After the death of the family patriarch, in 2008 the Barer family sold the land to The Land Conservancy of BC, in part through the federal Ecological Gifts Program. The Land Conservancy placed a conservation covenant on the property and transferred it to the CRD to become part of Mount Work Regional Park.

Jim and Mary Kinghorn purchased two adjoining ¼ section lots in the spring of 1959 (Sections 56 and 63). These properties were purchased from Louis Gordon, who had a farm on Pease Lake. Access to the property was largely via a logging road on Section 57 (Carrilho property). As was common in those times, Mr. Kinghorn used logs from

the property to make and sell split-rail fence posts to cover the taxes. Later, Kinghorn started a Christmas tree farm on the property and for six or seven years sold 400-500 trees per year in Victoria. Later he sold Christmas trees to the Boy Scouts until 1971. In 1973, Kinghorn sold a portion of Section 56 (38.71 ha) to the CRD. In 2009 and 2018, second and third purchases were made from the Kinghorn family, which included Section 63 (65.96 ha) and the remainder of Section 56 (27.97 ha). These properties, referred to as The Tree Farm by the family, were well used and well loved. In 1979, Jim Kinghorn built a cabin at the south end of the property, within easy access of Corry Road. At the time, it had a view over the valley; however, today the trees have grown up and the view is gone. It was later determined that the cabin had been built just over the property line on the Barer property. At least 10 logging roads and trails were cut into the property to provide access for tree farming practices and for family use. Some of these routes have been incorporated into the official trail system in the regional park. In the spring, fawn lilies, ladyslippers, trilliums, shooting stars and yellow violets can be seen in different areas of the properties.

In 2010, the Carrilho family donated 0.80 ha, part of Section 57 to the CRD and, in 2020, the family sold an additional 12.10 ha to the CRD for a further regional park expansion. The property has been in the Carrilho family since 1959 and the parcels that are now within the regional park have remained undeveloped and have not been logged since at least 1959, though selective logging had occurred as far back as 1890. These forested portions remained undeveloped as other parts of the family property were cleared for farming. They contain first and second growth trees and those sections in the regional park are upwards of 80% Douglas-fir/Arbutus stands. There are also high riparian values along Pease Creek and a few additional seasonal creeks also exist. The provincially-listed Douglas-fir/Oregon grape ecological community is found throughout the forest on the former Carrilho property. Some informal trails and former logging roads existed previously, one in particular, a logging road to the southeast, that was visible on air photos in 1949, provided access to the Kinghorn property for a number of years. With little to no use over the past 30 years, it is no longer visible.

Corry Road, now Corry Road Trail, gets its name from the road foreman, Frederick Charles Corry, who was in charge of building both Ross-Durrance Road and Corry Road. The former road was built between the Corry ranch near Third Lake and Wallace Drive. The latter, Corry Road, was between his ranch and the Gregory property near Fork and Fizzle Lakes. A history of the Corry family (1886-2000) indicates that Frederick Charles Corry was born in Kent, England in 1856, met and married Bessie Alice (nee Pickles) in Nova Scotia when he was with the Royal Engineers, and they had nine children. It was in retirement in 1909 that Frederick Corry bought acreage in the Highlands. Mr. Corry's grandson, Michael Corry, indicated that the Surveyor General of BC, Norm Stewart, had confirmed to him that the road was built by Frederick Corry. Michael Corry also noted that Jim Kinghorn had searched out the origin of the road with the province, as it provided access to his properties, and had established that it was a legally registered road.

## **Land Encumbrances**

In addition to the encumbrances noted in Section 2.5.3, these additional encumbrances and land interest also exist.

## Hydro Statutory Right of Way

Statutory Right of Way A01883 was established between the City of Victoria and the BC Hydro and Power Authority in 1971 for a power corridor and related infrastructure in the Durrance Lake area. A second Statutory Right of Way, 419631, established as part of the Pike Lake to Sidney transmission line runs along the east side of the designated mountain biking area. These encumbrances permit BC Hydro to manage trees within the right of way areas.

## **Easement for Private Driveway**

An easement of approximately 880 m<sup>2</sup> allows for a portion of the driveway for a neighbouring Ross-Durrance Road property to be located on park land.

# Province of BC Agreement

In 1979, the province granted permission (BUS358-79) to construct, use and maintain an access to a provincial highway. This agreement allows for accesses on the north side of Durrance Road (now Durrance Close) for the Durrance Lake parking lot. The access and parking lot at Durrance Lake currently exist, so there is little implication on the park at this time.

# **Municipal Covenants and Easements**

## City of Victoria

Covenant ED4040, between the CRD and the City of Victoria, over Durrance Lake area and a portion of the park south of Willis Point Road was established when the City transferred those lands to the CRD (Sections 51 and 52). The covenant requires that the lands not be used except for park purposes. There are no specific restrictions beyond use for park purposes, so there is little implication for park management.

## District of Saanich

The District of Saanich holds two conservation covenants (EV153797 and EV153795) over three parcels that are part of the Killarney Lake area of the park. The covenants allow the CRD to use the lands for no use other than park, environmental monitoring and/or watershed management. The covenants require that the CRD ensure that park visitors do not contravene the covenant (i.e., for anything other than those uses noted above).

The District of Saanich also holds an easement (192340G), which was established between a former landowner (James White) and Saanich on Section 131. It provided Saanich access over any existing roadway on the south easterly section of the Killarney Lake area. An access trail now follows the former road. Although this easement remains, it has limited implications for the park.

## **District of Highlands**

In 2010, covenants were registered on title to a private property fronting on Ross-Durrance Road (FB338630, FB338632). These covenants are held by the District of Highlands and require that if a building site is located on the property and being more than 1,000 feet (305 m) from a major water source (large cistern, dry hydrant), a small cistern is required within 50-100 feet (15-30 m) of the building site. In 2020, the CRD purchased a lot that was subdivided from the original covenanted land. Given that covenants are registered on title and transfer with the land, these covenants apply to what is now in the park (former Carrilho property). No building site has been or is expected to be developed on the property acquired by the CRD, so there is no implication for park management.

## **CRD-Held Interests**

A first right of refusal is registered in favour of the CRD on Lot 1, Section 25, Highlands District. This gives the CRD the first right to acquire the land in the event of sale of the property. This property is surrounded on three sides by park land and fronts on Ross-Durrance Road.

The CRD holds a conservation covenant on a large private property on Millstream Lake Road adjacent to Mount Work. The intent of the covenant is the long-term preservation, protection, and restoration of the ecosystems and biodiversity of the lands.



Mount Work Regional Park – Draft Management Plan (March 2022)

# Appendix 3: Ecological Background

Mount Work Regional Park is within the Gowlland Range, a low, small mountain range just east of the Saanich Inlet and south of Brentwood Bay. The Gowlland Range is part of the larger Vancouver Island Ranges, which in turn form part of the Insular Mountains on Vancouver Island. The topography in most of the park is relatively steep, with Mount Work's summit, at 450 m, being the highest point in the Gowlland Range. The ridges of land that run through the park are aligned in a north-south direction. Lower elevations exist around the perimeter of the park, near the lakes.

The six sensitive ecosystems, mapped by provincial/federal Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (2004) that exist in the park are Woodland, Terrestrial Herbaceous, Mature Forest, Riparian, Wetland, and Older Second Growth. These are described below.

**Woodland ecosystems** are dry, open deciduous or mixed forests dominated by Garry oak, arbutus, and/or Douglas-fir. They are generally restricted to south-facing slopes, ridges and knolls where soils are shallow and extremely dry in the summer. The dry conditions prevent the development of dense forests. Woodland ecosystems provide habitat for a wide variety of plants, insects, reptiles and birds. They are threatened and are officially designated as nationally, provincially and regionally rare.

**Terrestrial herbaceous ecosystems** are natural grasslands, open meadows and sparsely vegetated hill tops and rock outcrops. They are made up predominantly by ground covers such as lichens and mosses, low growing grasses and other non-woody stemmed plants. They are highly important habitats for rare butterflies, wildflowers and lichens and are highly fragile. These ecosystems are often interspersed with woodlands

Older (Mature) forest ecosystems are conifer-dominated forest stands, usually between 100-250 years old. They may have up to 25% canopy cover in deciduous tree species. They support high diversity, provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals, and serve as links between habitats. They also play an important role in the capture and storage of carbon dioxide and the fight against climate change. Left undisturbed, they have potential to become old growth forests.

**Riparian ecosystems**, found along the edges of creeks and streams, lakes, ponds, and marshes, support distinct plant communities that cannot exist in upland areas. These ecosystems support exceptionally high numbers of species because they tend to include three important habitat components needed by wildlife—water, shelter and food.

**Wetland ecosystems** may be bogs, fens, marshes, swamps or wet meadows. Wetlands are characterized by plant communities that are adapted to or require wet conditions and fluctuating water tables. They aid in groundwater recharge and flood control and provide key breeding and feeding areas for birds, insects and amphibians.

**Older second growth ecosystems** are coniferous or mixed stands typically between 60-100 years old that have been previously modified. They provide essential habitat, serve as important buffers and will become more structurally diverse as they age.

The six provincially-listed sensitive ecological plant communities in Mount Work are described below.

## Douglas-fir – dull Oregon-grape

This is the most abundant ecological community at Mount Work Regional Park and historically would have dominated the forests of Southeastern Vancouver Island. Generally, the Douglas-fir dominated canopy has well developed vertical structure and grand fir and Western redcedar with patches of bigleaf maple and red alder may exist. The shrub layer is moderate to dense and dominated by dull Oregon-grape, salal and oceanspray, while the herb layer is generally sparse. It is a late successional to climax forest with a fire-dominated disturbance regime. Within Mount Work and the surrounding areas, canopy is currently predominantly young and its ecological integrity is considered to be fair. Within the park, ecological integrity is likely better than outside of the park, due to lower fragmentation and conversion.

# Douglas-fir – arbutus

This mixed woodland occurs primarily on hillsides and rocky knolls with dry southern exposures. Within the park, only one polygon has been mapped; however, it is likely that more area exists. The canopy is dominated by Douglas-fir and arbutus and may include some lodgepole pine. Garry Oak may be found occasionally within this community. Both the shrub and herb layers are extremely variable in cover and development, relating to the soil depth. Common shrubs are ocean spray and dull Oregon-grape, while the herb layer is often dominated by grasses with some wildflowers.

#### Western red cedar – vanilla leaf

This ecological community typically occurs on flats and in depressions, as it relies on a strongly fluctuating water table that is moist in the winter and slightly dry in the summer. Western red cedar dominates with big leaf maple and grand fir occurring in low numbers. The shrub layer is moderately developed with western flowering dogwood and cascara as the dominant tall shrubs and dull Oregon-grape, salal and baldhip rose making up the low shrub component. The herb layer is well-developed, dominated by sword fern, three-leaved foamflower and vanilla leaf. Mosses are abundant. There are few known occurrences of the ecological community and it is considered to be moderately vulnerable.

#### Red alder – slough sedge

This ecological community occurs in low lying areas and is characterized by strongly fluctuating water tables with winter flooding. It is extremely rare and has experienced a large decline, primarily due to land conversion. The closed deciduous canopy is often completely dominated by red alder, although black cottonwood may be present. Very small amounts of western red cedar can occur but, in general, conifers are suppressed by the flooding. The shrub layer is typically dominated by common snowberry and red-osier dogwood with smaller amounts of pacific

crab-apple and black twinberry. The herb layer is dominated by slough sedge with a component of sword fern and false lily-of-the-valley. There is no significant moss layer in this ecological community.

# Lodgepole pine – peat mosses

Within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone, this late successional community occurs where the water table is at or just below the surface and vegetation is saturated for most of the year. It is classified as a treed bog; however, the tree layer is often sparse and is dominated by lodgepole pine, with occasional western hemlock and western red cedar. The shrub layer can be extensive in cover, dominated by Labrador tea, salal and sometimes with bog laurel. The herb layer is typically sparse and the moss layer can be quite variable, actually dominated by feather-mosses with some peat mosses.

## Grand Fir - dull Oregon-grape

This forested ecological community within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone occurs on nutrient rich, dry to mesic sites, on all aspects of mid-slopes. Mature stages of this community are largely closed coniferous forest of Douglas-fir, grand fir and western red cedar. There is a very dense shrub, dominated by salal, dull Oregon-grape, baldhip rose and often oceanspray, red huckleberry and Saskatoon berry. The herb layer is sparse, with low lying cover often consisting of bearded fescue, sword fern, western trillium, and vanilla leaf. The moss layer is dense, dominated largely by Oregon beaked moss and palm tree moss, and may include step moss. Fire or wind throw result in all-age stand structures. This community has experienced significant decline over the last 50-150 years, as a result of over harvesting and urban, commercial and agricultural development.

Three species at risk have critical habitat within the park that has been identified through federal species at risk recovery plans—Sharp-tailed snake, Western Painted Turtle, and Blue-grey Taildropper. In addition, a provincial specialist has further identified key habitat for Sharp-tailed snake within Mount Work. These species are described below:

# **Sharp-tailed Snake** (Red-listed provincially and Endangered under SARA)

These are small, non-venomous, smooth scaled snakes whose bodies are about the thickness of a pencil. They are brown in colour, have a blunt-nosed head and a small sharp spur at their end. Their habitat includes open canopy woodlands (e.g., arbutus and Garry oak) and sparsely forested/treeless rocky openings. The species at risk recovery plan identifies critical habitat within Mount Work Regional Park.

# Western Painted Turtle (Red-listed provincially (Pacific Coast population) and Endangered under SARA)

These turtles require shallow waters in ponds, lakes, or marshes for habitat. They bask on floating logs, branches and other objects. They nest on land adjacent to their aquatic food source, usually within 200 m and typically on south-facing slopes in well-drained sites with minimal plant cover. Western painted turtles have been observed in Durrance Lake in the past, along with non-native turtles. The federal recovery strategy identifies critical habitat along some streams that are within 3 km of known populations to the south and west of the park. Given the forested nature of the park creeks, their use for nesting, feeding and breeding may be limited.

## **Blue-grey Taildropper** (Blue-listed provincially and Threatened under SARA)

The Taildropper is a small slender slug that is often a brilliant bluish colour. Southern Vancouver Island is at the northern extent of its distribution. It requires mature forest or maturing second growth forest with leaf litter as habitat because it feeds on fungi. They require high air moisture and are susceptible to dehydration. Slugs play an important role as decomposers and soil builders, as well as prey for various predators. This species at risk has been documented in the park and the recovery plan for Blue-grey Taildroppers identifies critical habitat within Mount Work Regional Park.

Six other federally-listed species at risk, Western Screech Owl, Northern Red-legged Frog, Threated Vertigo, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle, and Howell's Violet have been documented, observed or heard in the park, or the park ecosystems provide potential habitat for them.

## Western Screech Owl (Blue-listed provincially (kennicotti subspecies) and Threatened under SARA)

These owls require habitat in coniferous and mixed forest and often associated with riparian woodlands with big leaf maples. Park neighbours have noted Western screech owls in the vicinity of the park, but no official data verifies this occurrence.

# Northern Red-legged Frog (Blue-listed provincially and Special Concern under SARA)

Red-legged frogs are named for the red translucent colour on the undersides of their legs. They are a brown to reddish-brown bodied frog with a dark eye mask. Both terrestrial and aquatic habitat is required and the frog is often found in wetland areas surrounded by forests. Staff of The Land Conservancy of BC noted having seeing one along the Barer Forest Trail, but no official data verifies this occurrence.

#### **Threaded Vertigo** (Blue-listed provincially and Special Concern under SARA)

The Treaded Vertigo is a snail that lives in low elevations with moist mixed-wood forests and requires big-leaf maple bark as habitat.

#### **Townsend's Big-eared Bat** (Blue-listed provincially and not listed under SARA)

This is primarily a cave and mine-dwelling species. They may also use large trees to hibernate in over winter when insects are not abundant. The Gulf Islands has the largest wintering colony known in BC and they generally range within a 20-30 kilometers radius, which would include the park. No official data verifies occurrences in Mount Work.

## **Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle** (Red-listed provincially, Threatened under SARA)

This Tiger Beetle inhabits low elevation coastal terrain, typically within 3 km of the saltwater shoreline. Adults are ground crawlers, love heat and wander in forest meadows that consist of open sunny sites. This beetle is restricted to a small area in the Georgia Basin.

## **Howell's Violet** (Red-listed provincially)

This perennial herb grows from a rhizome and is typically 2-10 cm tall. Its habitat includes moist woodlands and

forests in low lying areas grassland/shrub meadows. It is rare on southern Vancouver Island.



A winter view in Mount Work

## Appendix 4: Trail Plan Information

Table 3: Trail Plan Chart

Trail Name	Park Zoning	Permitted Use	Dog Management Requirement
Central Area			
Barer Forest Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike	On-leash
Bubble Wrap Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike	On-leash
Corry Road Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike/Horse	Leash optional*
Manzanita Trail*	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
Mons Trail*	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike	On-leash
Raven Ridge Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
Shooting Star Trail (formerly Wedding Trail)	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike	On-leash
Southern Cross Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike/Bike	On-leash
Summit Trail* **	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
Tree Farm Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
Woodland Way Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
Potential future trail (to	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
link potential future			
parking area to Corry Rd			
Trail)			
Designated Mountain Bi	king Area		
Double Black Diamond Tr	ails		
Big Whoop	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Birth Control Upper*	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Birth Control Lower*	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Falling Satellites	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Green Ribbon	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Hot Cherry <sup>*</sup>	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Lower Orange Crush	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Mother Hucker	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Organ Donor	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Small Craft Warning	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Upper Daryl's Dive	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Upper Organ Donor	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Black Diamond Trails			
Axe Hole*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash

Daryl's Dive	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Dave's Dementia*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Diaphram	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Diaphram Connector	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Extension Ladder	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Fire Drill Rolly Ridge Link	Outdoor Recreation	Bike Hike	On-leash
Harem-Scarem*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Huge Ribbon	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Inventive	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Jelly Roll	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Lemming's Run	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Lost Trail	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Lumpy Pants	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Mindbender	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Old Payoff	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Old Payoff Connector	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Orange Crush	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Phase Two	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Prybar*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Rock Bottom	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Rolly Ridge	Rolly Ridge	Rolly Ridge	Rolly Ridge
Say Ahh Connector	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Seven	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Short Cut	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Snakes and Ladders**	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Southern Cross	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Step Ladder	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Switchback	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
The Plunge	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Twister**	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
WYD **	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands	Bike/Hike	On-leash
90s Jank	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash

Blue Trails			
Bottom Feeder	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Centerfold	Outdoor Recreation and	Bike/Hike	On-leash
	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands		
Crazy Horse* **	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Crossover	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Dave's Line	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
(currently black; changing to			
blue in the long term)			
Don't Ask Don't Tell*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Emergency 1	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Emergency 2	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Fire Drill	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Fun Trail	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Get Wet*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Heads Up	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Kokanee Highway	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Little Face	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Madonna	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Madonna Connector	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Middle Earth	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
N Trail	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Night Shift**	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Northridge**	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Northwest Passage	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
One Less Car	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Over Dive	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Painless	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
R'n R	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Ruff 'n Roll	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Ruffles	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Say Ahh	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Shock Treatment	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Sidewinder	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Skull	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Sofa King	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain biking	On-leash
Southridge	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash

(currently black; changing to blue)			
Southridge Loop	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
The Plunge Extension	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Torpedo Run	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain biking	On-leash
Trillium**	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Two Trees	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Waterworks	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Waterworks-Dave's Line	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Connector			
Woodridge Place Access	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Green Trails			
Connector*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Easy Rider	No park zone on Hartland Landfill lands	Bike/Hike	On-leash
Regional Trail*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Regional Trail Link*	Outdoor Recreation	Bike Hike/Horse	On-leash
Second Avenue	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Second Avenue- Regional	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash
Connector			
Push Up Trails			
Organ Donor Push Up	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Torpedo Push Up	Outdoor Recreation	Mountain Biking	Dogs not permitted
Durrance Lake Area			
Durrance Lake Trail (north	Outdoor Recreation	Bike/Hike	On-leash
side of lake and where			
co-located with			
Taildropper Trail)			
Durrance Lake Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash
(remainder)			
Sharptail Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only (this trail will be changed to hike/cycle in future if BC Parks allows cycling in Partridge Hills (no Mt. Work	On-leash
		management plan amendment needed)	

Taildropper Trail	Environmental Protection	Bike/Hike	On-leash		
Killarney Lake Area	Killarney Lake Area				
Beach Access Trail	Environmental Protection	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash		
Beach Link Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash		
Climbers Access Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash		
Hartland Access Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash		
Killarney Lake Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike/Horse	On-leash		
Meadowbrook Trail	Environmental Protection	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash		
Overlook Trail	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash		
West Area					
McKenzie Bight Trail	Environmental Protection	Bike/Hike/Horse	On-leash		
Environmental Protection	Environmental Protection	Hike Only	On-leash		

#### Note:

Some trails may be renamed based on work with First Nations or SIMBS.

<sup>\*</sup>These trails have been identified as possible trails for initial renaming consideration.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Trails or trail sections on Hartland Landfill lands are scheduled to be closed.

### Appendix 5: Initial Infrastructure Cost Estimates

Most of the actions in the management plan are conceptual in nature, and the scope, design and cost details will be established at the project stage. Management actions may be implemented through a mix of budgets, including core budget, capital budget, and/or special funding, such as grants. Implementation of specific park management actions is subject to availability of staff and financial resources and must be considered in relation to other priorities in the Regional Parks system. The chart below illustrates the costs for the infrastructure that can currently be estimated (2022 estimates). Other proposed management actions and infrastructure not listed in this table will be costed at the time of project planning.

Table 4: Initial Infrastructure Cost Estimates

Location & Infrastructure	Estimated Cost	Implementation Timing
Kilarney Lake	\$305,500	short term
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
2 tables (\$3,900)		
Equestrian mounting block (\$3,900)		
Horse bridge (\$227,500)		
Designated Mountain Biking Area	\$130,000	short term
Covered staging/TTA viewing area (\$130,000)		
Willis Road Primary Access	\$343,200	short term
Design (\$260,000)		
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		
Durrance Lake	\$114,400	
2 tables (\$3,900)		medium term
Double Toilet (\$97,500)		medium term
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		short term
Whole Park	\$19,500	short term
Trail signage (\$19,500)		short term
	TOTAL \$912,600	

### MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK – MANAGEMENT PLAN ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FLOWCHART

#### March 2022

The original flow chart was provided to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in June 2020 as part of a staff report outlining the scope for Mount Work management planning and the proposed engagement process. The process has taken longer than originally anticipated and the chart below has been updated for 2022.

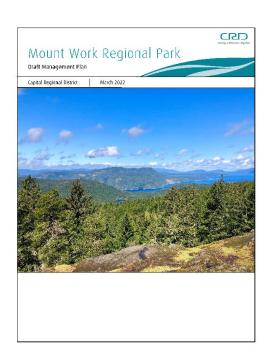
Announce Project			
Announce the project publicly through social media and media release following CRD Board approval to initiate	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 <b>completed</b>		
Prepare for Engagement			
<ul> <li>Create/post project webpage</li> <li>Create/post public awareness information (e.g., in-park signs)</li> <li>Develop any necessary digital tools (e.g., webinar, online displays)</li> </ul>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 completed		
Create initial input survey			
Initial Engagement			
Engage with First Nations     (Note: initial engagement with WLC continued through September 2021)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 <b>completed</b>		
Notify/engage with local, regional, provincial and federal agencies and key stakeholders	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter - 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 <b>completed</b>		
Post online information and input survey for initial public engagement	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 completed		
Analyze comments received     (Note: With over 9,000 comments received, analysis of initial input took longer to complete)	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 <b>completed</b>		
Report on initial public engagement     (Note: With more than 9,000 comments received, initial engagement reporting took longer to complete. Initial Engagement Report was completed in 1st Quarter;     Addendum Report was completed in May 2021)	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 <b>completed</b>		
Draft the Management Plan			
Prepare Draft Management Plan	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 <b>completed</b>		

Prepare for Engagement on Draft Management Plan	
Create input survey for draft plan	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 <b>in progress</b>
<ul> <li>Develop necessary digital tools for engagement (e.g., newsletter #2, Bang the Table engagement platform, online displays)</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 in progress
Develop advertising for engagement process	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 in progress
Update public information (e.g., webpage, in-park signs/posters)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Prepare for online (zoom) open house	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
CRD Board approval to release the Draft Management Plan for public review	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Engagement on Draft Management Plan	
Refer draft plan to First Nations, key government agencies and key stakeholders and seek their review and comments	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Notify public about engagement opportunities (survey, open house)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Host public engagement	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Analyze input received	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022
Report on public engagement	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
Finalize Management Plan	
Finalize recommended management plan	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022
Endorsement & Approval of Management Plan	
Update project webpage to include notice of Regional Parks Committee meeting date and potential CRD Board meeting date	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
Regional Parks Committee meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
CRD Board meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
Send notices re: management plan approved	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023



#### **APPENDIX C**

# Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan



Highlights Presentation for the Regional Parks Committee March 23, 2022

## **Management Planning Process**



### **Project initiated by CRD Board**

May-June 2020



Summer-Fall 2020

### Drafting management plan

Winter 2020-Spring 2022

### **Engagement on draft plan**

Spring –Summer 2022

Finalize management plan

Fall-Winter 2022

**Seek CRD Board approval** 



**WE ARE HERE** 

### **Introduction**



### Mount Work Regional Park

- ➤ Is known as WMÍYEŦEN (Wh-o-myathen) by the WSÁNEĆ Peoples
- > Is located at the base of the Saanich Peninsula
- Is part of the Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone
- Protects 6 sensitive ecosystems, 6 "at risk" plant communities and 4 species at risk
- ➤ Has 3 lakes—Durrance, Killarney, and Pease
- Offers 85 km of trails, including hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian opportunities and lake-based activities, including swimming, fishing and picnicking



# **Park Background**

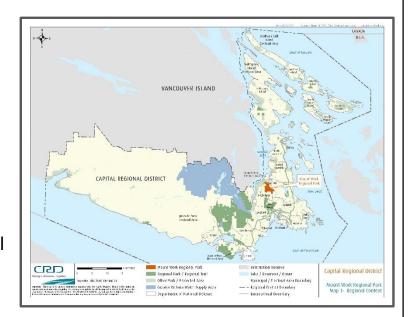


#### Classification: Regional Natural Area

- Important areas that protect natural environment and provide for a range of appropriate outdoor experiences and activities.
- Where they contain sensitive and threatened ecosystems, conservation will be priority.

#### **Current size:** 744 hectares

- Ongoing acquisitions since 1970s.
- Two parcels acquired through federal Ecological Gifts Program and restrictions exist.



Current use levels: 300,000+ visits/year

### **Park Values**



#### **Conservation Values**

➤ Nearly 85% of the park is provincially identified as sensitive ecosystems

### **Cultural Heritage Values**

Many First Nations cultural sites exist in park (shelter areas, hunting and harvesting areas, cultural sites)

#### **Recreation Values**

- Regionally significant mountain biking, hiking, swimming and fishing areas in park
- Connects with Gowlland Tod Provincial Park

# **Proposed Park Vision**



The purpose of the vision is to express the desired end state in 15 years.

### Proposed vision:

"The delicate balance between conservation and recreation is well maintained, with a mix of areas providing engaging recreational activities and undeveloped areas maintained for nature. Park visitors appreciate both the physical and mental health benefits of recreating in nature and the need to steward the park lands for nature.

There is significance in the past, the present and the future use of this area. The principles of friendship and respect are shown to First Nations by working cooperatively to ensure that First Nation peoples feel welcome on their traditional lands, Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into ongoing park management and park values are available to the next generations.

Research, educational programs, and partnering opportunities are fostering a greater understanding of the natural, cultural and recreational environment of the park, a desire to help protect those different values and ongoing respect between park visitors."

# **Proposed Goals**





#### **Environmental Goal**

To protect park ecological values from negative impacts.

### **Cultural Heritage Goal**

To support First Nations cultural practices within Mount Work and to minimize disturbance to known First Nations cultural features and practices in the park.

#### **Visitor Use Goal**

To provide a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities related to trail and lake use that connect people to nature and accommodate visitors with different interests, ages and abilities.

### **Land Acquisition**

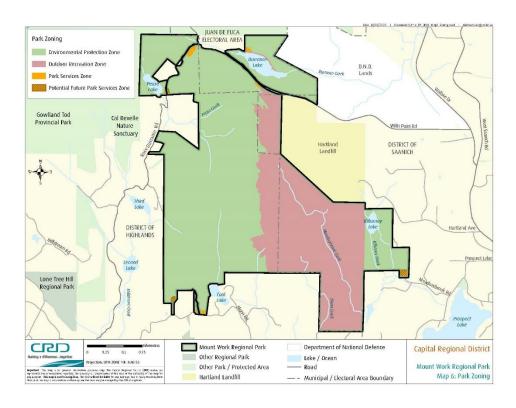
To continue to expand Mount Work, through land donations and acquisitions, to foster recreation and/or conservation opportunities.

# **Proposed Park Zoning**



Three zones used:

Environmental Protection – 65% of park / 482 hectares
Outdoor Recreation – 34% of park / 250 hectares
Park Services – 0.6% of park / 4.5 hectares



# **Proposed Park Trail Plan**



To meet interests heard through the initial engagement process, the draft plan proposes:

- > A mix of single-use, dual-use and multiple-use trails
- Approximately 85 km of official trails (50 km of these in designated mountain biking area)
- > 25 hectare expansion of the designated mountain biking area (including 5 km of trails)
- Improvements to many trails to better protect natural values, improve visitor experience or increase safety
- Close/decommission unsanctioned trails and where feasible rehabilitate these areas
- ➤ The CRD works with BC Parks regarding trails that link between the regional park and provincial park

# **Park Development Concepts**



The development concept is the plan for how the park will be developed—anticipated major infrastructure, management actions, significant changes proposed.

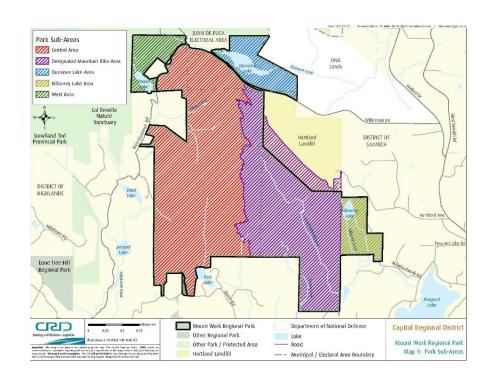
**Durrance Lake** 

**Designated Mountain Biking Area** 

**Killarney Lake** 

**Central Area** 

**West Area** 



# **Park Development Concepts**



Approximately 40 actions are proposed in the draft management plan. Example actions include:

- Action with First Nations: Work cooperatively with interested First Nations on project of mutual interest or mutual benefit
- Ongoing Action: Continue the agreement with South Island Mountain Biking Society
- Whole Park Action: Develop and implement a trail decommissioning plan
- Durrance Lake Area action: Explore opportunities to connect cycling trail to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park
- > Designated Mountain Biking Area action: Develop visitor facilities near technical training area
- Killarney Lake Area action: Develop visitor facilities at/by beach
- Central Area action: Develop new primary access on south side of Willis Point Road.
- **West Area action:** Develop an agreement with BC Parks regarding provincial park use of regional park lands.

# **Plan Implementation**



Location & Infrastructure	Estimated Cost	Implementation Timing
Killarney Lake	\$305,500	short term
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
2 tables (\$3,900)		
Equestrian mounting block (\$3,900)		
Horse bridge (\$227,500)		
Designated Mountain Biking Area	\$130,000	short term
Covered staging/TTA viewing area (\$130,000)		
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Double Toilet (\$97,500)		medium term
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		short term
Whole Park	\$19,500	short term
Trail signage (\$19,500)		short term
	TOTAL	
	\$912,600	

