



Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

9:30 AM

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

C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), J. Brownoff (Vice Chair), C. Coleman, S. Goodmanson, G. Holman,
L. Szpak, M. Tait, S. Tobias, K. Williams, R. Windsor, 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. [23-305](#) Minutes of the March 22, 2023 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of March 22, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Attachments: [Minutes - March 22, 2023](#)

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 at www.crd.bc.ca/address no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting 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.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [23-327](#) Capital Regional District Regional Parks and Trails - 2022 Progress Report

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Attachments: [Staff Report: CRD Regional Parks & Trails - 2022 Progress Report](#)
[Appendix A: 2022 Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strat Plan Progress Report](#)
[Presentation: 2022 Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strat Plan Progress Report](#)

7. Notice(s) of Motion

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is May 24, 2023.

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

Meeting Minutes

Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:30 AM

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

PRESENT

Directors: C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), C. Coleman, S. Goodmanson (EP) (9:52AM), G. Holman, L. Szpak, M. Tait (EP), S. Tobias, K. Williams (EP), R. Windsor (EP)

Staff: L. Hutcheson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer (for T. Robbins); J. Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; M. MacIntyre, Manager of Parks Operations, Regional Parks; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Directors: J. Brownoff, C. Plant (Board Chair, ex officio)

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Director Szpak provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,
That the agenda for the March 22, 2023 Regional Parks Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [23-242](#) Minutes of the February 22, 2023 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Tobias, **SECONDED** by Director Coleman,
That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of February 22, 2023 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

There were no Chair's remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [23-224](#) Capital Regional District Regional Parks - Entrance Signage

J. Leahy spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued on the naming convention where First Nations territories overlap.

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

That staff proceed with the replacement of the regional parks entrance signs using the 2021 Corporate Signage Guidelines, with the exception of the legacy entrance (log) sign at Thetis Lake Regional Park.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Tobias

6.2. [23-223](#) Capital Regional District Regional Parks - 2023 Capital Plan Update

M. MacIntyre presented Item 6.2. for information.

Director Goodmanson joined the meeting at 9:52 am.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- implications to converting the fleet to electric vehicles
- the status of capital projects that rely on grant funding
- methods of communicating algae bloom information to the public at the parks
- funding strategy for parks land acquisition

6.3. [23-229](#) Bylaw No. 4545: Amendment to the CRD Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3675

J. Leahy spoke to Item 6.3.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of extending the camping season at our campgrounds.

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

- 1. That Bylaw No. 4545, "Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010, Amendment Bylaw No. 10, 2023", be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and**
- 2. That Bylaw No. 4545 be adopted.**

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 Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,
That the March 22, 2023 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at
10:19 am.
CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District Regional Parks and Trails – 2022 Progress Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2022 Regional Parks and Trails Progress Report, which identifies progress toward the CRD's Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

BACKGROUND

The CRD has managed the regional parks service since 1966 and remains committed to providing exemplary regional park and trail services and facilities.

In November 2021, the Board initiated an update of the 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan to integrate Board priorities and commitments made since the plan was approved in 2012, as well as to address emerging challenges to the regional parks and trails system. The initial direction for the Strategic Plan update was set by the Board in February 2022, including that a lens of conservation and protection of biodiversity be applied to the priorities and process, and that early, ongoing and meaningful engagement with First Nations occur. A public engagement process was undertaken in spring 2022.

In July 2022, the Board approved the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan for 2022-2032 on an interim basis while engagement with First Nations continues. The Interim Strategic Plan will guide the CRD toward its desired vision for regional parks and regional trails. The plan sets out five goal areas where the CRD will focus its efforts. Each of these goals includes strategic priorities with supporting actions and timelines for implementation. Overall, there are 13 strategic priorities and 57 supporting sub-actions over the ten-year plan horizon. The CRD has committed to annually reporting on the progress toward achieving its goals for regional parks and trails.

The 2022 Regional Parks and Trails Progress Report provides a summary of the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan activities undertaken between July and December 2022 (Appendix A). The report also provides several annual indicators used to track progress of the CRD Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. Some of the key highlights include:

- continued engagement with First Nations on the Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan
- acquisition of 41 hectares of new regional park land
- involvement of cultural monitors from three First Nations in regional park and trail projects
- collection of species-at-risk inventory
- completion of Hamsterly Beach Nature Playground
- construction of the Mayne Island Regional Trail and E&N Rail Trail Phase 4 was initiated
- submission of grant funding applications for four regional trail priority projects

- initiation of an accessibility audit at select regional parks
- accessible fishing dock installed at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park

The Progress Report also includes a report card that compiles self-reported progress metrics from staff responsible for advancing each of the plan's 57 sub-actions. These metrics were used to produce a status measure for several informative categories, such as overall action plan progress, and the five goal areas of the strategy.

This systematic evaluation provides an indication of where focused efforts need to be made or increased to achieve targeted actions and outcomes within the Strategic Plan. The overall status for the 2022 year was calculated as 'on track', meaning 75%-100% of the annual targets were progressed as envisioned within the Strategic Plan's ten-year action plan.

The Progress Report also includes a list of reporting indicators that provide additional information of trends relevant to the regional parks and trails service, as well as progress made towards the strategic priorities. These indicators will be updated annually and may include additional metrics identified during the pending reconsideration of the interim status of the Strategic Plan.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

Regional parks and regional trails are vital in helping to achieve the region's climate action, natural resource protection and active transportation goals. Progress made in 2022 toward the conservation and climate action goals identified in the Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan include acquiring 41 hectares of regional park land, undertaking a species at risk inventory, and starting construction of two regional trail priority projects. Looking ahead to 2023, work will focus on developing a State of Natural Areas Report, a Conservation Plan, an Outdoor Recreation Plan, updating land acquisition criteria and processes, as well as advancing priority regional trail expansion and enhancement projects.

In 2022, CRD regional park and trails operations consumed 4,868.7 GJ and produced 252 tonnes of CO₂e, with 237.4 tonnes associated with corporate fleet vehicles and 14.6 tonnes coming from facilities and infrastructure. This data represents the total emissions attributed to the CRD's Regional Parks and Trails division during the reporting period of January 1 to December 31, 2022. This is the first year of reporting and offers a baseline level of energy consumption and emissions for future comparison. As the regional parks and trails system continues to expand with additional staff, equipment, new park acquisitions and facilities, options for converting energy consumption to clean sources and reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions will need to be incorporated.

Intergovernmental Implications

Working toward reconciliation with First Nations in the region is a foundational principle of the Strategic Plan. First Nations in the region have been invited to engage in the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan renewal and implementation in an ongoing and meaningful manner to determine how to strengthen relationships, and what key priorities and initiatives are most important to work on together over the next 10 years.

Continuing collaboration with First Nations governments, municipalities, park agencies and stakeholders will be integral to implementing the key priorities within the Strategic Plan. These priorities are met through initiatives such as, participation on the Transportation Working Group where transportation engineers and planners from across the region seek collaborative solutions to addressing regional transportation challenges or, the review and confirmation of the Lochside Trail Agreement, where Municipal, Regional and Provincial governments are coming together to provide an active transportation and recreation corridor. Other initiatives such as, work on addressing mosquito issues around Island View Beach are the result of the collaborative efforts of Central Saanich, the CRD and Tsawout First Nation. Many other examples of collaboration exist and will continue to be identified and implemented.

Social Implications

Equity is one of the guiding principles within the Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. In the implementation of the Strategic Plan, staff will work to ensure that actions are taken to increase inclusiveness and accessibility to residents across the region. A focus on improving access to, and visitor experiences in, regional parks and trails is also a key element included in the Strategic Plan. The CRD will continue to offer compatible outdoor recreation experiences in regional parks and trails that are enjoyable, healthy, safe and immersed in nature, and that foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Financial Implications

In 2022, the regional parks and trails service operated on an annual budget of approximately \$16.7 million, primarily funded through regional property tax requisition and supplemented by non-tax revenue, including external grant funding and permit fees. Acquisition of new park land is conducted through a separate Land Acquisition Fund requisition. Financial implications associated with service level adjustments identified to implement priority actions in the Strategic Plan will be considered by the CRD Board in future service planning processes.

Service Delivery Implications

The regional parks and trails service is managed and operated by the CRD through recommendations provided to the CRD Board through the Regional Parks Committee and the Transportation Committee. Any changes to the operation and management of regional parks and trails needed to implement the Strategic Plan will have service delivery implications.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The 2019-2022 CRD Board Priorities envisioned that residents of the region have additional land acquisitions and increased access to parks and recreational trails, and have access to convenient, green and affordable multi-modal transportation systems that enhance community well-being. These priorities were key drivers for the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. The 2023-2026 CRD Board Priorities of First Nations, Transportation, Climate Action and Environment align with the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is in alignment with recent Board-approved strategies: Regional Growth Strategy, Regional Transportation Plan, Climate Action Strategy and the Special Task Force on First Nations Relations Final Report.

CONCLUSION

The CRD's 2022 Regional Parks and Trails Progress Report outlines actions that the CRD has undertaken to advance its Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan since it was approved in July 2022. Overall, in 2022, the CRD progressed on several initiatives and has identified where focused efforts need to be made or increased to achieve targeted actions and outcomes. The overall status for the 2022 year was calculated as 'on track', meaning 75-100% of the yearly target of actions were progressed as envisioned within the Strategic Plan's 10-year action plan. Efforts will focus on continuing engagement with First Nations, increasing protection of biodiversity, offering compatible outdoor recreation, improving accessibility and equity, and advancing priority regional trail expansion and enhancement projects in the coming year.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: 2022 Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan Progress Report

2022 Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan Progress Report



Making a difference...together

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the traditional territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), P'a:chi:da?aht (Pacheedaht), Pune'laxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SĪÁUTW (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and x^wsepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.



Dancing Dragonflies by Chris Paul

The CRD commissioned WSÁNEĆ artist Chris Paul to create an image based on the idea of First Nation and Settler communities living side by side and our governments making a difference together.

Dragonfly is a symbol of change, transformation and swiftness. He represents a symbol of change in the view of self-understanding and the kind of change that has its source in maturity and insight into the deeper meaning of life.

It is our hope today that our work to change and transform will be swift, that as we mature we will develop insight that allows us to be poised for reconciliation and that we continue to build strong and meaningful relationships with local First Nations.

Cover photos:

Front: East Sooke Regional Park

Back: Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park

Organizational Overview

The Capital Regional District (CRD) delivers regional, sub-regional and local services to 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the CRD works collaboratively with First Nations and all levels of government to enable sustainable growth, foster community well-being, and develop cost-effective infrastructure, while continuing to provide core services to residents throughout the region.

Table of Contents

Regional Parks & Trails Overview.....	2
History & Governance.....	2
Funding & Service Delivery.....	3
System Information.....	4
Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2022-2032.....	7
Overview.....	7
Vision & Mission.....	8
Values.....	9
Goals & Priorities.....	10
Tracking Our Progress.....	11
Annual Progress Reporting.....	12
Goal 1: Reconciliation.....	14
Goal 2: Conservation.....	16
Goal 3: Visitor Experience.....	18
Goal 4: Climate Action & Resiliency.....	20
Goal 5: Access & Equity.....	22
Looking Ahead - 2023.....	24
Appendix A: Regional Parks & Trails 2022 Report Card.....	25



Regional Parks & Trails Overview

The CRD has committed to annually reporting on regional park and regional trail-related activities. This report summarizes 2022 activities and annual indicators identified in the CRD’s Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032, approved on July 13, 2022 on an interim basis for one year while engagement with First Nations in the region continues.

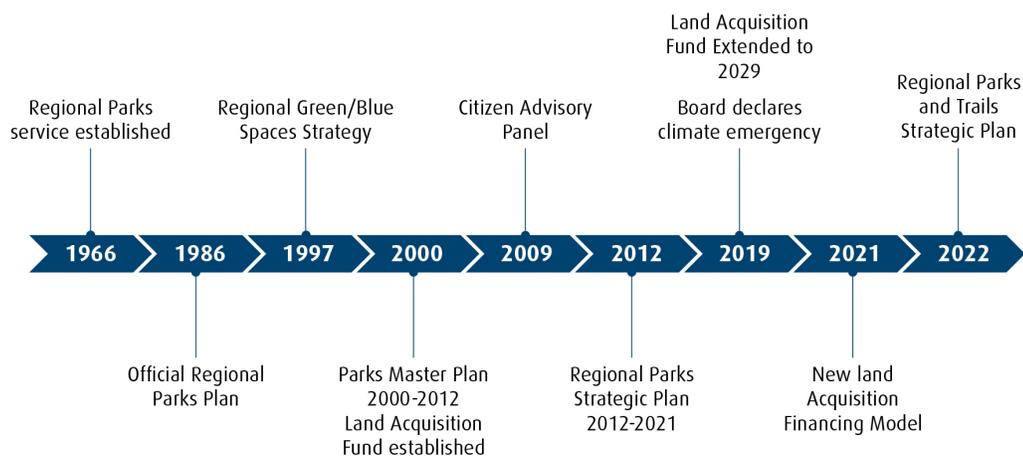
History & Governance

The CRD’s regional parks system was established in 1966 (Figure 1). Since then, the CRD has provided a service for the provision and maintenance of regional parks and regional trails to all municipalities and electoral areas in the CRD, as per the “Regional Parks Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1989,” CRD Bylaw No. 1749. The authority to provide a regional parks and regional trails service is granted by the Province of British Columbia (BC) to the regional district primarily through provisions outlined in the *Local Government Act*.

The CRD Board is the decision-making authority for the regional parks and trails service. The CRD Regional Parks Committee provides input to the Board on matters pertaining to regional parks and regional trails.

As of 2022, the CRD Transportation Committee also provides input to the Board on regional trail matters, such as mobility and recreation, trail management and operations.

FIGURE 1. REGIONAL PARKS TIMELINE





Funding & Service Delivery

The regional parks and trails service is funded primarily through a regional property tax requisition. In 2022, the annual operating budget for regional parks and regional trails was \$16.7 million. The previous CRD Board Strategic Plan 2019–2022 prioritized ensuring appropriate funding for parks and trails infrastructure, improvements, and maintenance.

Non-tax revenue provides a portion of the funding stream for regional parks and trails. Non-tax revenue is generated through the fees and permit provisions such as camping and pay parking in CRD Bylaw No. 3675, “Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010.” Other sources of non-tax revenue may include donations, facility rentals or lease agreements. Additionally, grant funding enhances the overall budget but is dependent on available opportunities and successful applications.

The CRD actively expands the regional parks system through use of the Land Acquisition Fund (LAF). Through the LAF and with the support of partners, the CRD has acquired approximately 4,900 hectares (ha) of land since 2000 for regional parks.

The management of regional parks and trails is divided into three areas:

CRD Regional Parks & Trails

Planning & Development:

- First Nations, Stakeholder and Government Engagement
- Park Management Policies & Planning
- GIS Mapping
- Land Acquisition
- Capital Planning & Asset Management
- Stakeholder & Government Relations

Operations:

- Operating & Maintaining Regional Parks & Trails
- Sign Development, Installation & Management
- Asset Monitoring, Repair & Replacement
- Fleet Services
- Safety Programs

Visitor Experience & Stewardship:

- Conservation & Recreation Partnerships
- Interpretive Education
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Volunteer Management
- Visitor Information
- Data Collection & Monitoring

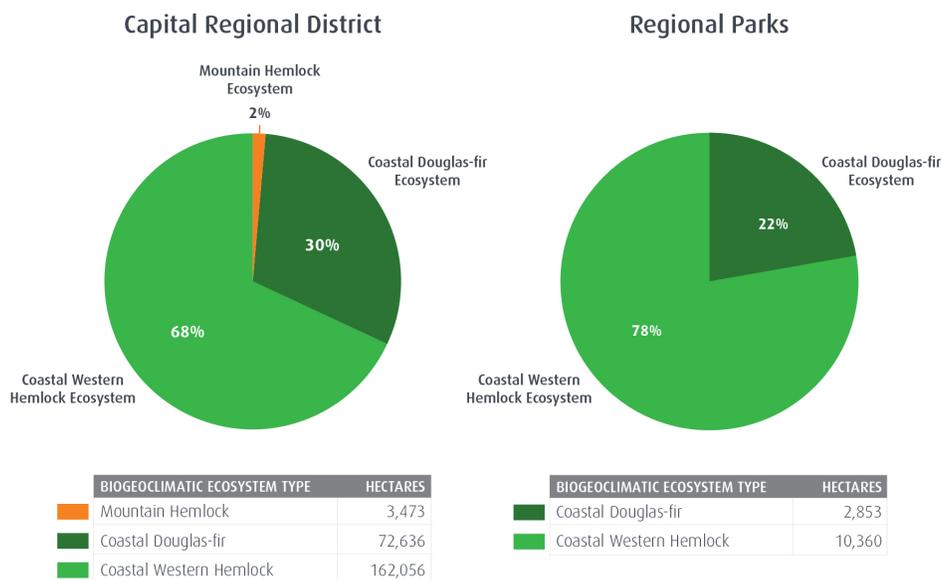
System Information

As of December 31, 2022, there were 33 regional parks and four regional trails in the CRD’s system, comprising over 13,300 ha of land. The regional parks system grew in 2022 with the addition of 15.5 ha of land to create one new regional park (Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park), and 25.7 ha of newly acquired land was added to existing parks (East Sooke and Mill Hill regional parks). The regional trails system also grew in 2022 with construction starting on the Mayne Island Regional Trail and the expansion of the E&N Rail Trail Regional Trail.

CRD regional parks protect land and ecosystems in two of the three biogeoclimatic zones that occur within the CRD (Figure 2). The Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone is home to the highest number of species and ecosystems at risk in BC, of which many are ranked globally as imperiled or critically imperiled. Only 0.3% of BC consists of CDF zone and it is the least protected zone in BC, with many of the protected areas being small, isolated parcels surrounded by development.

As of July 2022, the CRD protects 4% (2,850 ha) of the CDF occurring within the region, which comprises approximately 22% of the regional parks system as a whole.

FIGURE 2. BIOGEOCLIMATIC ECOSYSTEMS IN THE CRD & IN REGIONAL PARKS IN 2022

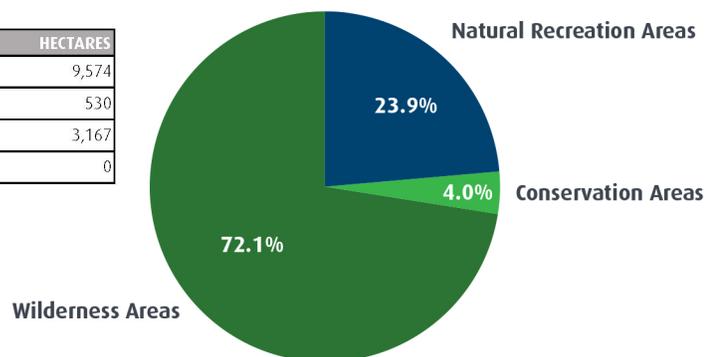




Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park

With the new additions, the regional parks system by park classification as of December 31, 2022 was as follows:

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF PARKS	HECTARES
Regional Wilderness Areas	3	9,574
Regional Conservation Areas	12	530
Regional Natural Recreation Areas	18	3,167
Regional Conservancy Areas	0	0



As part of the CRD’s commitment to climate action, tracking began in 2022 to determine the levels of energy consumption by regional parks and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Going forward, the CRD has committed to annually tracking GHG emissions with the end goal of reducing GHGs across the organization, including regional parks’ operational GHGs.

In 2022, regional park and trail operations consumed 4,869 gigajoules of energy and the total emissions were about 252 tonnes (t) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent (e) (tCO₂e). Emission sources were predominantly generated from gasoline powered vehicles in the regional parks fleet (66%), followed by diesel powered fleet vehicles (28%), propane heated buildings (4%) and electrically heated buildings (2%).

In the CRD, regional parks serve to protect biodiversity and cultural heritage and offer quality visitor experiences. Figure 4 highlights some of the 2022 visitor use and conservation statistics in regional parks and regional trails.

FIGURE 4. 2022 VISITOR USE AND CONSERVATION DATA



Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032

Overview

The management of regional parks and regional trails has been guided by various plans and strategies over the years. In 2019, the CRD Board made it a priority to update the former Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012–2021. Through engagement with First Nations, the public and stakeholders, the CRD developed the Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 between December 2021 and June 2022.

The 2022–2032 plan updates the former strategy with a lens on First Nations reconciliation to reflect current challenges and opportunities affecting the region, as well as to incorporate recent CRD initiatives and priorities. The success of the Plan relies on relationships with First Nations, a commitment to superior service delivery, and cooperation with partners.

On July 13, 2022, the CRD Board adopted the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan on an interim basis for one year while engagement with First Nations continues.

Much of the focus for the remainder of 2022 was on continuing to engage First Nations on the Interim Strategic Plan. Feedback received will be considered for incorporation into the final Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 for presentation to the Board.

Coles Bay Regional Park



Vision, Mission & Values

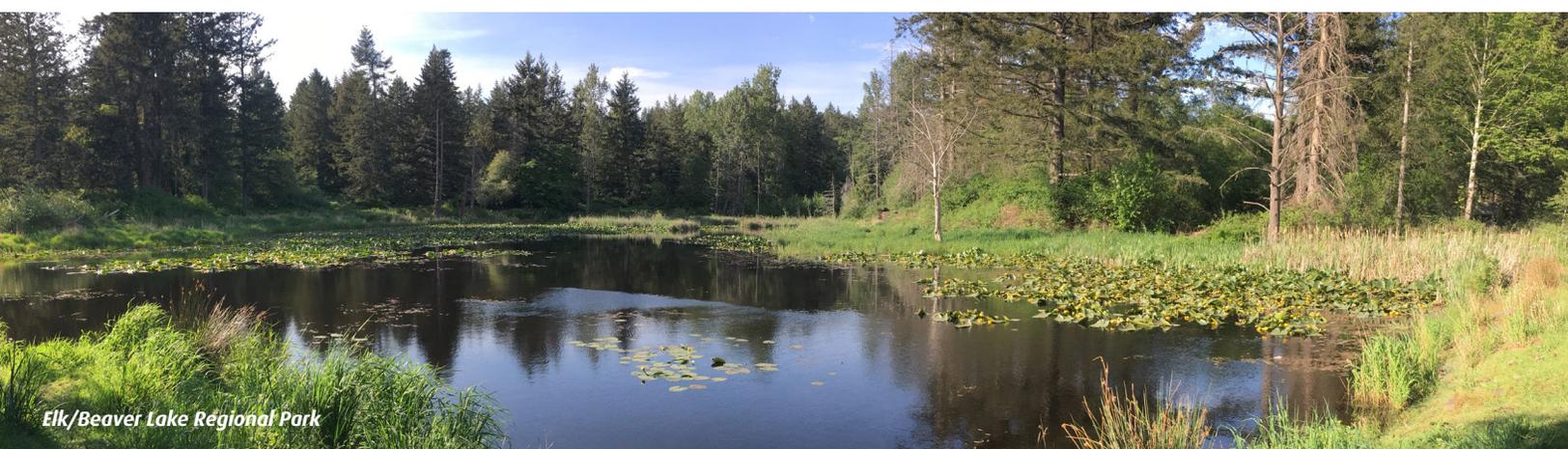
The Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 vision statement identifies the desired future state of regional parks and regional trails in 2032:

We have an expanded and connected system of regional parks and regional trails that are rich in biodiversity, respect Indigenous cultural heritage and use, inspire stewardship, are resilient to change, and provide enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.

Reaching the desired vision will be successful if the CRD works closely with First Nations communities, other levels of government, organizations, institutions, and residents in the region. A focus on equity and accessibility in the Plan is aimed at encouraging broader and safer participation in regional parks and trails.

The mission defines the fundamental purpose of the regional parks and regional trails system, describing why it exists, what it does, and the level of performance to be met or surpassed. The mission for regional parks and regional trails is to:

- Operate and manage a connected system of regional parks for public enjoyment.
- Foster stewardship by learning from and working with long-term land stewards and by connecting people to nature.
- Operate and manage a regional trail network for active transportation and recreation.
- Be fiscally responsible and accountable in decision-making.



The following values and guiding principles were also identified during the development of the 2022–2032 Strategic Plan. Values and principles define what is important to the CRD and will be applied to guide the implementation of the Plan:

Access: Regional parks and regional trails can be accessed by transit, micromobility, cycling and walking.

Accountability: Decision-making processes and financial management are transparent and based on the best available information.

Connectivity: Biodiversity depends on connected natural area corridors and complete communities depend on connected trail corridors and active transportation networks.

Conservation: Regional parks protect, restore and enhance the region’s cultural heritage, biodiversity, and rare and unique ecosystems.

Education: Promoting literacy of the region’s natural and cultural heritage increases awareness of the interconnectedness between humans and the nature and impacts of climate change.

Equity: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive, culturally safe, and accessible to visitors of all ages, abilities and income levels.

Outdoor Recreation: Outdoor recreation benefits our health and wellbeing, connects us to each other and immerses us in nature.

Partnership: A commitment to developing meaningful partnerships with First Nations that respects Indigenous knowledge, First Nations governance and cultural use, as well as to developing partnerships with other levels of government and organizations in the region.

Reconciliation: A commitment to take action towards Indigenous reconciliation by respecting Indigenous laws and strengthening relationships with First Nations communities.

Resiliency: Regional parks and regional trails adapt to change by incorporating solutions that take action on climate change, recognize the value of Indigenous cultural knowledge, ensure sustainable service delivery and aim to benefit future generations.

Stewardship: A commitment to learning from and implementing approaches from First Nations, who are the long term land stewards, and inspiring residents and visitors to be stewards of the region’s natural and cultural heritage by leading by example and showcasing best practices.

Goals & Priorities

The CRD’s Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan was developed to guide the CRD towards its desired vision for regional parks and regional trails. The Strategic Plan establishes five goal areas where the CRD will focus its efforts.

Each of these goals includes strategic priorities with supporting actions and timelines for implementation. Overall, there are 13 strategic priorities and 57 supporting sub-actions.

GOAL	PRIORITIES
Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate First Nation worldviews and knowledge in the ongoing management and operation of regional parks and regional trails. • Work with First Nations Governments in service delivery initiatives.
Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to increase protection of biodiversity, ecological integrity and natural assets in the region through improved knowledge, proactive stewardship and land acquisition. • Respect and protect cultural heritage sites and traditional cultural use practices. • Work with partners in taking care of the region’s species, habitats and natural areas.
Visitor Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer compatible outdoor recreation experiences that are enjoyable, healthy, safe and immersed in nature. • Foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and collaboration.
Climate Action & Resiliency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance regional active transportation opportunities that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction. • Support the development of complete and connected communities by improving access to regional parks by transit, electric vehicles, micromobility, walking or cycling. • Align service delivery and infrastructure improvements in regional parks and regional trails with climate action. • Ensure the long-term and consistent management of regional parks and protected natural areas. • Strategically acquire and manage natural areas to address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population.
Access & Equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance health and well-being by providing equitable access to regional parks and regional trails.



Tracking Our Progress

Over the ten-year term of the CRD's Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, the actions contained within will form the basis of service plans and work plans that are approved by the Board annually as part of the financial planning process. Collaboration with First Nations Governments, municipalities, other park agencies, CRD divisions and stakeholders will be integral to this process.

As progress is made in the implementation of this Plan, knowledge and understanding of impacts to regional parks and regional trails will continue to develop. To remain flexible and adaptable, and to support consistent implementation over time, CRD staff will:

- Continue on a journey of reconciliation with First Nations
- Prepare a funding strategy to accompany implementation
- Continue to identify opportunities for external grant funding and partnerships
- Share knowledge and best practices with others
- Participate in professional development to improve service delivery
- Continue to monitor data to track progress over time
- Evaluate progress and adjust actions, as needed
- Continue to improve on current practices

Annual Reporting

Progress on the implementation of the 10-year Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan will be reported annually. Reporting indicators have been identified for each strategic priority area proposed for annual reporting. For each goal area, an action status will reflect general progress made towards all actions supporting that goal. This helps to summarize at-a-glance progress made on actions that may not be easily measurable or reflected in another indicator, such as actions that are ongoing or taking place over a long period. For other measures, an icon is provided to indicate the desired direction of the indicator over time (increasing or decreasing), if applicable.

The following section is intended to provide a high-level, easy-to-understand overview of the CRD's performance and progress related to regional parks and regional trails, and summarize progress made in the 2022 year for each goal area.

Detailed information on each goal, its related action items and progress on those action items is contained in Appendix A: Report Card.



Mount Work Regional Park



2022 Overall Strategic Plan Progress

On Track

Goal Area



Reconciliation: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.



Visitor Experience: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.



Conservation: Protect the region's natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations.



Climate Action & Resiliency: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change.



Access & Equity: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible.

Legend: Action Status



On Track: 75% or greater of yearly target progress



Opportunity for Improvement: 50% - 75% of yearly target progress



Attention Required: less than 50% of yearly target progress



Future Action

Legend: Indicators



Direction of arrow indicates **current trend direction**



Indicator is trending in the **desired direction**



Indicator is trending in the **wrong direction**



Indicator is intended to provide **contextual information**



Reconciliation



Goal 1: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.

Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement

CRD Roles

First Nations Engagement

Park Management & Planning

Cultural Heritage Protection

Interpretive Education

The Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 focuses on strengthening government-to-government relationships and understanding between the CRD and First Nations in the region. Through the latter half of 2022, engagement on the Interim Strategic Plan took place with First Nations in the region.

The CRD is committed to maintaining an open dialogue with First Nations to confirm that Indigenous cultural values and cultural uses are respected and that the priorities and actions remain relevant and meaningful.

The Plan supports ongoing engagement with First Nations in the management and operation of regional parks and regional trails in years to come and ensures that parks and trails remain culturally safe and inclusive.

This goal contains

6

sub-actions

Goal Progress Summary

- CRD staff invited Nations to identify priority initiatives related to regional parks and regional trails and to develop workplans with associated timelines and budgets for implementation.
- An operating agreement for Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) Campground at Sooke Potholes Regional Park was renewed with T'Sou-ke Nation.
- The CRD's *Exploring Indigenous Perspectives* programming was offered to a growing number of park visitors throughout the year.



Culturally Modified Tree

Indicators



Reconciliation workplans are developed with each First Nation

- First Nations invited to develop workplans.



Traditional use agreements are initiated with all First Nations in the region

- Traditional Use Agreement in place with one First Nation.



Increased participation in Indigenous perspectives programs and presentation

- The CRD's *Exploring Indigenous Perspectives* programming was offered to over 1,000 park visitors. This grouping of programs encourages park visitors to learn about the cultural history of the region and the time-honoured traditions of Indigenous people and the importance of their relationship with the land.



Increased number of conservation and restoration projects in partnership with First Nations

- Small scale, culturally important plant propagation initiated from Coles Bay Regional Park plant stock.



Increased number of economic opportunities made available to First Nations

- Timber from Mayne Island Regional Trail construction (and related tree removal) went to the WJOLELP Tsaltilp First Nation & an operating agreement was renewed with the T'Sou-ke Nation for KWL-UCHUN Spring Salmon Place Campground.



Indigenous Perspectives Programming at Francis/King Regional Park



Conservation

Goal 2: Regional parks protect the region’s natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations.



Overall Action Status
On Track

CRD Roles

Conservation Partnerships

Volunteer Program Management

Interpretive Education

Land Acquisition, Management & Planning

Regional parks contribute to a large system of connected natural areas that protect natural assets, maintain ecological health, function and integrity, and provide important refuge for a diversity of species, from the threatened blue-grey taildropper slug to large carnivores, including wolves, bears and cougars.

This complex and diverse system of protected areas is vital to ensuring long-term viability of natural areas, conserving biodiversity and building resilience to changing climates and increasing pressures on the landscape. Regional parks also contribute to the protection of the region’s cultural heritage and archaeological sites protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Goal Progress Summary

- In 2022, 41 hectares of new regional parkland was acquired.
- A Species At Risk inventory was conducted in regional parks in 2022.
- Restoration of over 15 separate sites is ongoing as part of CRD Regional Parks’ Ecological Restoration Volunteer Program.
- A Cultural Heritage Protection Plan pilot project got underway in 2022 with two First Nations in East Sooke, Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.
- There were 26 research permits issued in regional parks in 2022. Of those, 20 related directly to conservation and ecological values.

This goal contains

13

sub-actions



Western Painted Turtle

Indicators



Increased area of regional park land protected

- In 2022, the CRD acquired a new park - a 15.5 hectare park now known as Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park. An additional 9.8 hectares of land was also added to Mill Hill Regional Park and 15.90 hectares to East Sooke Regional Park.



Increased area of regional park land restored

- CRD volunteers spent a total of 2,506 hours restoring and enhancing about 12.4 hectares of regional park land.



Increased protection of at risk species and ecosystems in regional parks

- Inventory conducted for federally and provincially listed species at risk including sharp-tailed snake, western painted turtle and contorted-pod evening-primrose.
- Conservation fencing and signage installed in three regional parks to enhance protection of rare species and ecosystems.



Increased percentage of First Nations collaborating with CRD on cultural heritage protection projects

- Two First Nations began collaborating with the CRD on cultural heritage protection projects in East Sooke Regional Park and Roche Cove Regional Park.
- Cultural monitors from three First Nations were involved in four regional park and trail projects.



All staff receive cultural awareness training

- All Regional Parks staff received cultural awareness training in 2022.



Increased conservation and research partnerships

- Two official conservation and research partnerships in place between the CRD Regional Parks team and local groups.





Visitor Experience

Goal 3: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.



Overall Action Status
On Track

CRD Roles

Recreation Partnerships

Interpretive Education

Compliance & Enforcement

Volunteer Program
Management

Visitor Information

This goal contains

9

sub-actions

Outdoor recreation opportunities play an important role in the quality of life that attracts people to this region, benefiting mental and physical health, promoting social and community connectivity, and being relatively low-barrier to access.

Goal Progress Summary

- In 2022, the CRD added new mountain bike-rated trails in the regional park system and a new park in the Natural Recreation Area classification.
- Increased engagement with parks visitors on management issues.
- 2023 Interpretive School Program content and materials were revamped to include increased focus on climate change.
- The volunteer program supported diverse opportunities for participation and contribution to regional parks, as well as ongoing partnership development with community organizations.
- Trail standards and rock-climbing guidelines were initiated, as well as work with geocaching groups to ensure caches were not located in sensitive areas or within the protected watershed area.



Sea to Sea Regional Park

Indicators



Maintain high rates of visitor satisfaction

- Visitor satisfaction to be included in the Resident Survey in 2023.



Increased area available for compatible outdoor recreation

- Twelve kilometers of new, official mountain bike-rated trails were opened in Thetis Lake Regional Park in areas which had already had established use and disturbed areas.
- Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park was added as a new Natural Recreation Area.
- The accessible Hamsterly Beach nature playground in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park was completed.



Review and update interpretive program content every four years

- Three new cultural programs (public and school) were created in 2022. Repeated programs are refreshed each year and new programs created.



Increased number of volunteer hours

- A total of 621 volunteer naturalists, restoration volunteers, park stewards and trail ambassadors contributed 5,664 hours to regional parks.



Thetis Lake Regional Park



Climate Action & Resiliency



Overall Action Status
On Track

Goal 4: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change.

CRD Roles

Regional Trail Management & Planning

Regional Park Management & Planning

Land Acquisitions

Interpretive Education

Conservation

This goal contains

24

sub-actions

The CRD Board declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since committed to take action to address climate change within operations at the regional level and to take a leadership role to pursue carbon neutrality.

The CRD can contribute to regional greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions in regional parks and trails by integrating the corporate climate lens framework, making operational choices that reduce GHG emissions, and through the planning, design, and operation of the regional trails system, which serves as the anchor of the region’s active transportation network. Additionally, the CRD can ensure the long-term and consistent management and acquisition of regional park land and protected natural areas to help address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population.

Goal Progress Summary

- The 100 kilometers of regional trails continued to be well used in the CRD through 2022.
- Construction of E&N Rail Trail Phase 4 was initiated in partnership with the City of Victoria.
- The construction of Mayne Island Regional Trail began in late 2022. This expansion to the regional trail network into the Gulf Islands increases multi-modal access across the region.
- Grant applications were submitted related to priority regional trail expansion and enhancement projects.



Galloping Goose Regional Trail

Indicators



Increased use of regional trails

- There were 3.3 million visits to regional trails in 2022 compared to 3.79 in 2021.
- There were 4.8 million visits to regional parks in 2022 compared to 5.1 in 2021.
- However, the ten year visitation trend shows a use increase of 12.9% between 2013 and the end of 2022.



Completed regional trail priority projects

- Four grant funding applications were submitted to support regional trail priority projects.
- Construction of Mayne Island Regional Trail and E&N Rail Trail Regional Trail Phase 4 was initiated.



Minimized regional trail service disruptions

- Guidelines for trail closures under development.



Increase Electric Vehicle charging stations at park accesses

- Funding was secured in 2022 for future charging station implementation at high-use regional park accesses.



Reduced operational greenhouse gas emissions

- Overall, the CRD's total emissions are up 1% over 2021.
- Regional Parks division-specific energy consumption and emissions data was established in 2022 to inform future divisional progress reporting.



Maintain critical infrastructure in good condition

- Ongoing asset renewal and capital project work through 2022, including Veitch Creek Bridge and Charters Trestle, helped to maintain critical infrastructure in good condition.



Increase the percentage of parks with management plans less than 15 years old

- 8 out of 33 regional parks have management plans less than 15 years old.
- Mount Work Regional Park Management Plan Draft was completed.



Increased area of regional park land

- Just over 41 hectares of regional parkland was acquired.



Increased representation of all regional park classifications

- Land acquisitions saw 15.9 hectares added to the Wilderness Area classification, 9.8 hectares added to the Conservation Area classification, and 15.5 hectares added to the Natural Recreation Area classification. No land was added to the Conservancy Area classification.



Access & Equity



Goal 5: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible.

Overall Action Status
On Track

CRD Roles

- Recreation Partnerships
- Data Collection & Monitoring
- Interpretive Education
- Visitor Information

Regional parks and regional trails are a public good that belong to everyone in the region. The benefits of experiencing and interacting with nature for physical and mental well-being are felt by many. Medical professionals from the World Health Organization to Doctors of BC are advocating for equitable access to nature to safeguard the physical and psychological wellbeing of residents. Factors such as lack of access to transportation and distance to parks can be barriers preventing members of society from enjoying the benefits of parks and trails.

Increased benefits of accessing nature and public spaces can be realized when they adapt to the needs of diverse populations, such as people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, mobility levels and income brackets.

Goal Progress Summary

- In 2022, an accessibility audit was launched at select regional parks to learn more about barriers and deterrents to access and potential improvements that can be made.
- A Gender Equity Study on CRD regional trails was launched that will improve understanding of barriers and deterrents to use.
- Park information kiosk standards were updated in 2022 to include cultural awareness information.
- Engagement with First Nations is underway to better understand cultural safety concerns.
- The CRD's *Exploring Indigenous Perspectives* programming was delivered to over 1,000 park visitors.
- Accessible and user-friendly facilities were added in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

This goal contains

5

sub-actions



User-Friendly Trails
Francis/King Regional Park

Indicators



Improved accessibility to regional parks and regional trails

- Accessibility audit at select regional parks was initiated in 2022 to identify potential improvements.
- An accessible fishing dock was installed at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.
- New user-friendly nature playground was added and construction began on an accessible washroom facility at Hamsterly Beach in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.
- New mobi-mats were installed at Thetis Lake Regional Park.
- A bus stop realignment project at Thetis Lake Regional Park was completed, meaning better transit access is now available.



Cultural awareness information is incorporated into new park kiosks

- A cultural acknowledgement was developed with First Nations Relations and Corporate Communications and is being added as park kiosk panels are installed or renewed.
- The new kiosk format with cultural statement and additional cultural information launched at Roche Cove Regional Park in 2022.



*Nature Playground
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park*

*Accessible Fishing Dock
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park*

Looking Ahead – 2023

In 2023, the CRD will continue to work with First Nations to better understand and respect Indigenous cultural heritage and use, focus on the protection of biodiversity, further inspire stewardship in parks, offer desirable outdoor recreation experiences, develop an expanded and connected system of regional parks and trails and prepare for and adapt to climate change.

Some initiatives planned for 2023 include:

Engage First Nations: As per the CRD Board’s direction, engagement will continue with First Nations on the Strategic Plan in 2023. Building on these relationships, the CRD will invite First Nations to identify, develop and implement priority initiatives in regional parks and regional trails. The CRD will find ways to incorporate First Nations knowledge into the management of regional parks and trails.

Increase Protection of Biodiversity: Research will be conducted to inform a report outlining the State of Natural Values in Regional Parks; this work will be done to support the development of a Natural Areas Conservation Plan. An Impact Assessment tool will be launched to mitigate effects on important habitat and sensitive ecosystems in regional parks and regional trails. The CRD will also continue to support conservation initiatives and partnerships and research.

Offer Compatible Outdoor Recreation: The CRD will advance Trail Standards and Rock Climbing Guidelines and begin preparing for development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan. Staff will continue to work with local geocaching groups to ensure caches are not located in sensitive areas or within the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.

Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Plan for and implement electric vehicle and electric bike charging stations at CRD worksites and at high-use regional park accesses.

Regional Trail Enhancement Projects & Active Transportation Initiatives: Complete construction of the Mayne Island Regional Trail and secure funding to implement priority regional trail enhancement and expansion projects. Initiate asset inventory for regional trails and update regional trail agreements. Review service levels and emerging needs for CRD’s regional trails and work with municipalities on a regional active transportation network and a consistent approach to service disruptions on regional trails.

Management Planning: Finalize Mount Work Management Plan and initiate interim management guidelines for new regional parks.

Land Acquisition: Engage First Nations on updating land acquisition criteria and processes.

Access and Equity: Perform an Accessibility Assessment to better understand how we can improve accessibility in regional parks and on regional trails.



Brooks Point Regional Park

Appendix A: Regional Parks & Trails 2022 Report Card

The Regional Parks and Trails Report Card is intended to provide a high-level, easy to understand overview of the CRD’s progress and performance towards achieving the five goals in the Strategic Plan.

Methodology

The Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 identifies specific actions to guide CRD efforts over the lifespan of the Plan. These include 13 strategic priorities with 57 sub-actions and associated timelines. Section five of the Plan establishes a monitoring and reporting system and a set of performance indicators.

For each goal area, an action status will reflect general progress made towards all actions supporting that goal. This helps to summarize at-a-glance progress made on actions that may not be easily measurable or reflected in another indicator, such as actions that are ongoing or taking place over a long time period. Icons are used to indicate the desired direction of the indicator over time (increasing or decreasing) where applicable.

The Regional Parks and Trails Report Card compiles the reporting indicator performance relative to the baseline year. It is important to note that change in year-to-year performance do not always equate to a long-term trend and that while performance in any given year may be positive or negative, it may take years to complete the actions and achieve the desired results.

For 2022, indicators are reported for July-December as the CRD Board adopted the Plan on an interim one-year basis in July 2022. Going forward, indicators will be reported for the full calendar year.



2022 Overall Strategic Plan Progress

On Track

Goal Area



Reconciliation: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.



Visitor Experience: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.



Conservation: Protect the region’s natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations.



Climate Action & Resiliency: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change.



Access & Equity: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible.

Legend: Action Status



On Track: 75% or greater of yearly target progress



Opportunity for Improvement: 50% - 75% of yearly target progress



Attention Required: less than 50% of yearly target progress



Future Action

Legend: Indicators



Direction of arrow indicates **current trend direction**



Indicator is trending in the **desired direction**



Indicator is trending in the **wrong direction**



Indicator is intended to provide **contextual information**



Reconciliation

Goal 1: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.



Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	1-1 Incorporate First Nation worldviews and knowledge in the ongoing management and operation of regional parks and regional trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of continuing engagement with First Nations in the region on the Interim Strategic Plan, CRD staff are inviting Nations to identify priority initiatives related to regional parks and regional trails and to develop workplans with associated timelines and budgets for implementation. • Developing a policy for supporting and clarifying Indigenous cultural use and cultural safety in regional parks has been identified as a short term action to be initiated after First Nations engagement on the Strategic Plan is completed.
	1-2 Work with First Nations Governments in service delivery initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional parks hired a full time equivalent (FTE) Cultural Programmer in 2020 and opened applications for a FTE Assistant Cultural Programmer in 2022. • The Sooke Potholes Regional Park Spring Salmon Place KWL-UCHUN campground operating agreement was renewed with T'Sou-ke First Nation. • Timber from construction of the Mayne Island Regional Trail was provided to WJOLELP Tsartlip First Nation, and six First Nations received Requests for Expressions of Interest for the construction tender of Mayne Island Regional Trail.



Conservation

Goal 2: Regional parks protect the region's natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations



Overall Action Status
On Track

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	2-1 Take action to increase protection of biodiversity, ecological integrity and natural assets in the region through improved knowledge, proactive stewardship and land acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Species At Risk inventory was initiated in regional parks which will inform a future Conservation Plan. A State of Natural Values Report was also initiated in 2022. • An Impact Assessment was initiated in 2022 for regional parks, as well as project-type specific Best Management Practice Guidelines for activities within regional parks in development. • Conservation fencing and signage installed in three regional parks to better protect rare species and ecosystems. • CRD acquired 41 hectares of regional parkland in 2022. • CRD volunteers spent a total of 2,506 hours restoring and enhancing about 12.4 hectares of ecosystem within regional parks.
	2-2 Respect and protect cultural heritage sites and traditional cultural use practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural monitors from three First Nations were involved in construction projects within regional parks. • All Regional Parks staff received CRD Cultural Competency training in 2022. • A Cultural Heritage Protection Plan pilot project was initiated with two First Nations in East Sooke, Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.
	2-3 Work with partners in taking care of the region's species, habitats and natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight CRD Regional Parks staff participated and/or presented at the 2022 BC Protected Areas Research Forum. • Park Stewardship staff sit on the steering committee of the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership. • Several planning and stewardship staff participate in Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership events including <i>Mapping Solutions Workshop: A Framework for Nature-based Solutions in South-west BC</i>. • CRD staff hosted one and participated in an additional bimonthly invasives species management meetings as part of the Capital Regional Invasive Species Partnership, and permitted and facilitated 20+ academic, government or eNGO biodiversity and ecology research projects in regional parks in 2022.



Sustainable Land Use, Planning and Preparedness

Goal 3: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences



Overall Action Status
On Track

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	3-1 Offer compatible outdoor recreation experiences that are enjoyable, healthy, safe and immersed in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trail Standards and Rock-Climbing Guidelines started development.In 2022, CRD staff worked with geocaching groups to ensure geochaches aren't located in sensitive areas.Updates to Regional Parks & Trails Emergency Planning began in 2022; parks staff collaborating with Protective Services to align direction.12 kilometers of new, rated and official mountain bike trails were opened in Thetis Lake Regional Park in areas which had already had established use and disturbed areas and which fit with park management plan direction.
	3-2 Foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2023 Interpretive School Program content and materials were revamped to include increased focus on climate change.Park Naturalists worked closely with CRD Parks Cultural Programmer to include a cultural lens in interpretive programs and events.Increased visitor engagement in regional parks and on regional trails.Ongoing Volunteer Program development supports diverse opportunities for participation and contribution to regional parks, as well as ongoing partnership development with community organizations.



Climate Action & Resiliency

Goal 4: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change



Overall Action Status

On Track

Status	Action	Update
Progress on Actions		
	4-1 Advance regional active transportation opportunities that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four grant applications were submitted for regional trail priority projects. Staff participated in the Transportation Working Group and the renewal of regional trail tenure agreements was initiated.
	4-2 Support the development of complete and connected communities by improving access to regional parks by transit, electric vehicles, micromobility, walking or cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects to improve connectivity of and access to the regional trail network got underway, including Mayne Island Regional Trail and phase four of the E&N Rail Trail. Funding was secured to install electric vehicle charging stations at high-use regional park accesses.
	4-3 Align service delivery and infrastructure improvements in regional parks and regional trails with climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Climate Lens Assessment was included in three grant applications for regional trail priority projects.
	4-4 Ensure the long-term and consistent management of regional parks and protected natural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Work Regional Park Management Plan draft was completed. Increased collaboration between Regional Parks and Watershed Protection to reduce unauthorized access to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.
	4-5 Strategically acquire and manage natural areas to address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal land transfer to Mill Hill Regional Park. Additional land added to East Sooke Regional Park through the Land Aquisition Fund.



Access & Equity

Goal 6: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible



Overall Action Status
On Track

Status	Action	Update
--------	--------	--------

Progress on Actions



5-1 Enhance health and well-being by providing equitable access to regional parks and regional trails

- Gender equity study on regional trails initiated.
- Accessibility audit launched at select regional parks to identify barriers and deterrents to access.
- Continued engagement with First Nations underway to inform how to improve Indigenous cultural safety in regional parks.
- New user-friendly and accessible assets added to two regional parks, including new mobi-mats at Thetis Lake Regional Park and a new, accessible fishing pier at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.
- Construction began on an accessible washroom facility at Hamsterly Beach in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.
- A bus stop realignment project at Thetis Lake Regional Park was completed, meaning better transit access is now available.



| **Capital Regional District**

625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6
250.360.3000

www.crd.bc.ca
Twitter: @crd_bc
Facebook: Capital Regional District

2022 Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan Progress Report

April 26, 2023

Agenda

1. Interim Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032
2. Tracking Our Progress
3. Looking Ahead – 2023
4. Report Card



Interim 2022-2032 Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan

Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan

2022-2032

Interim approval 2022-2023

How did we get here?

- **2019:** The previous CRD Board made it a priority to update the former Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021.
- **December 2021 - June 2022:** The Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 was developed.
- **July 13, 2022:** The previous CRD Board adopted the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan on an interim basis for one year while engagement with First Nations continues.

The 2022-2032 plan updates the former strategy with a lens on First Nations reconciliation and conservation and protection of biodiversity to reflect current challenges and opportunities affecting the region, as well as to incorporate recent CRD initiatives and priorities.


Making a difference...together



Reconciliation

Goal 1: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.



Overall Action Status

Opportunity for Improvement



Culturally modified tree in Francis/King Regional Park.

Progress Summary

- CRD staff invited Nations to identify priority initiatives related to regional parks and regional trails and to develop workplans with associated timelines and budgets for implementation.
- An operating agreement for Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) Campground at Sooke Potholes Regional Park was renewed with T'Sou-ke Nation.
- The CRD's *Exploring Indigenous Perspectives* programming was offered to over 1,000 park visitors. This grouping of programs encourages park visitors to learn about the cultural history of the region and the time-honoured traditions of Indigenous people and the importance of their relationship with the land.



Conservation

Goal 2: Regional parks protect the region's natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations.



Overall Action Status
On Track



Progress Summary

- In 2022, 41 hectares of new regional park land was acquired.
- A Species At Risk inventory was conducted in regional parks in 2022.
- Restoration of over 15 separate sites is ongoing as part of CRD Regional Parks' Ecological Restoration Volunteer Program.
- A Cultural Heritage Protection Plan pilot project got underway in 2022 with two First Nations in East Sooke, Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.
- There were 26 research permits issued in regional parks in 2022. Of those, 20 related directly to conservation and ecological values.



Visitor Experience

Goal 3: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.



Overall Action Status
On Track



Progress Summary

- In 2022, the CRD added new mountain bike-rated trails in the regional park system and a new park in the Natural Recreation Area classification.
- Increased engagement with parks visitors on management issues.
- 2023 Interpretive School Program content and materials were revamped to include increased focus on climate change.
- The volunteer program supported diverse opportunities for participation and contribution to regional parks, as well as ongoing partnership development with community organizations.
- Initiated development of trail standards and rock-climbing guidelines, as well as worked with geocaching groups to ensure caches were not located in sensitive areas or within the protected watershed area.



Climate Action & Resiliency

Goal 4: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change.



Overall Action Status
On Track



Progress Summary

- The 100 kilometers of regional trails continued to be well used for active transportation in the CRD through 2022.
- Construction of E&N Rail Trail Phase 4 was initiated in partnership with the City of Victoria.
- Funding was secured in 2022 for future charging station implementation at high-use regional park accesses.
- The construction of Mayne Island Regional Trail began in late 2022. This expansion to the regional trail network into the Gulf Islands increases multi-modal access across the region.
- Grant applications were submitted related to priority regional trail expansion and enhancement projects.



Access & Equity

Goal 5: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible.



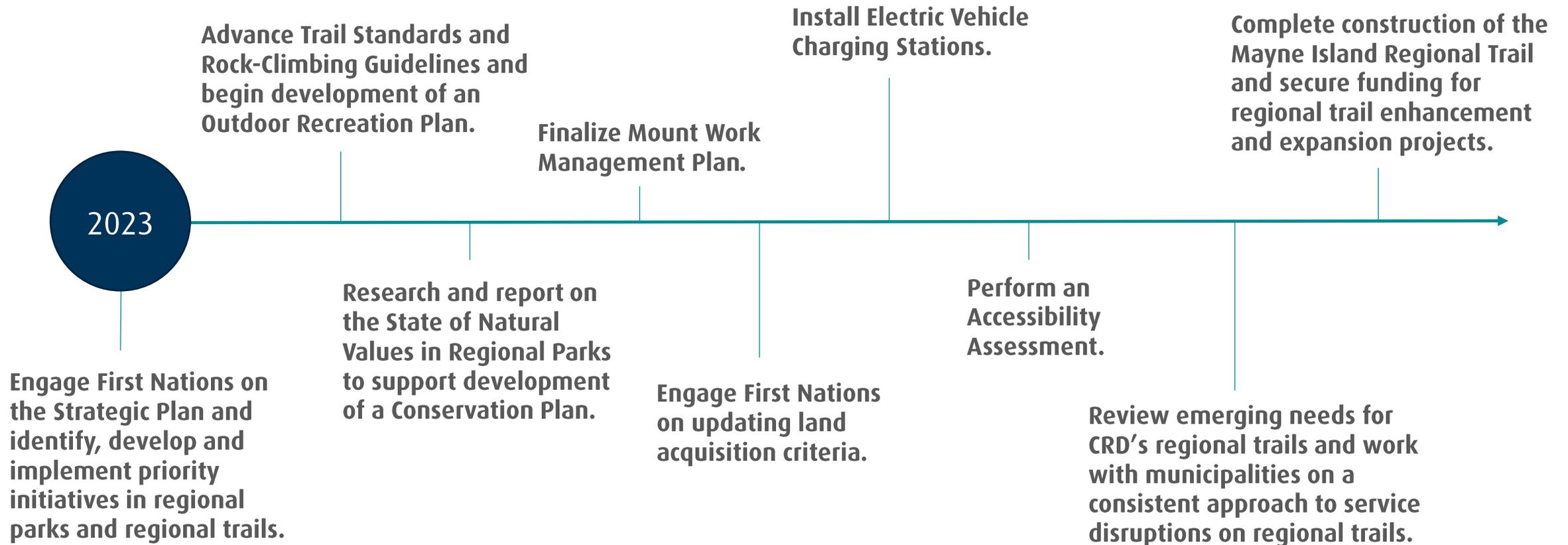
Overall Action Status
On Track



Progress Summary

- Accessibility audit launched at select regional parks to learn more about barriers and deterrents to access.
- A Gender Equity Study on CRD regional trails was launched that will inform the development of an equity lens.
- Park information kiosk standards were updated in 2022 to include cultural awareness information.
- Engagement with First Nations is underway to better understand cultural safety concerns.
- Accessible and user-friendly facilities were added in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

Looking Ahead – 2023 Initiatives





Regional Parks & Trails 2022 Report Card

Legend: Action Status

-  **On Track:** 75% or greater of yearly target progress
-  **Opportunity for Improvement:** 50% - 75% of yearly target progress
-  **Attention Required:** less than 50% of yearly target progress
-  **Future Action**



2022 Overall Strategic Plan Progress On Track

Goal Area



Reconciliation: Strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.



Visitor Experience: Visitors to regional parks are involved in stewardship and have enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences.



Conservation: Protect the region's natural assets and cultural heritage for future generations.



Climate Action & Resiliency: Regional parks and regional trails are resilient and take action on climate change.



Access & Equity: Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible.



Thank you

jleahy@crd.bc.ca | 250.360.3340



@crdvictoria



Capital Regional District



CRDVictoria



crd.bc.ca