

# 2025 Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan Progress Report



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), paaʔčiidʔatx (Pacheedaht), Spuneʔluxutth (Penelekut), Scʔianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SʔÁUTW (Tsawout), TʔSou-ke, WJOLEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsum (Kosapsum) Nations, 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: Thetis Lake Regional Park

Back: Mill Hill 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.

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# Regional Parks & Trails Overview

The CRD has committed to annually reporting on regional park and regional trail-related activities. This report summarizes 2025 activities and annual indicators identified in the CRD’s Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032, approved by the CRD Board on July 12, 2023.

## 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 capital region, 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*.

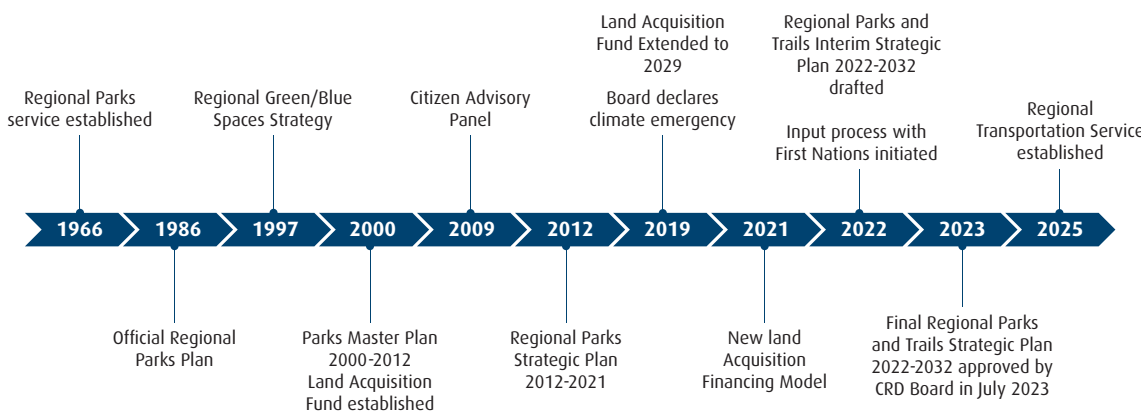
The CRD Board is the decision-making authority for the regional parks and trails service. The CRD Regional Parks Committee provides input to the Board on matters pertaining to regional parks and regional trails.

Since 2022, the CRD Transportation Committee has also been providing input to the CRD Board on regional trail matters such as mobility, recreation, trail management and operations.

In June 2025, the CRD Board established the Regional Transportation Service (RTS). Responsibility for planning and operating the regional trails—including the Galloping Goose, Lochside, and E&N regional trails—was transferred from Regional Parks to the RTS. Throughout the remainder of 2025, this transition of functions began to take place. While this report includes updates related to these regional trails, future reporting will fall to the RTS.

The timeline below reflects both historical and current policy documents, processes and decisions that have helped to shape the present day form of the CRD Regional Parks Division.

FIGURE 1. REGIONAL PARKS TIMELINE





## Funding & Service Delivery

The regional parks and regional trails service is funded primarily through a regional property tax requisition. In 2025, the annual operating budget for regional parks and regional trails was \$21.3M (representing 91.3% of total revenue).

Non-tax revenue also provides a portion of the funding stream for regional parks and trails (representing 8.7% of total revenue in 2025). 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 nearly 5,000 hectares (ha) of regional park land since 2000.

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

### CRD Regional Parks & Trails

- Planning & Development:**
  - Park Management Policies & Planning
  - GIS Mapping
  - Land Acquisition
  - Capital Planning & Asset Management
  - First Nations, Interest Holder & 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

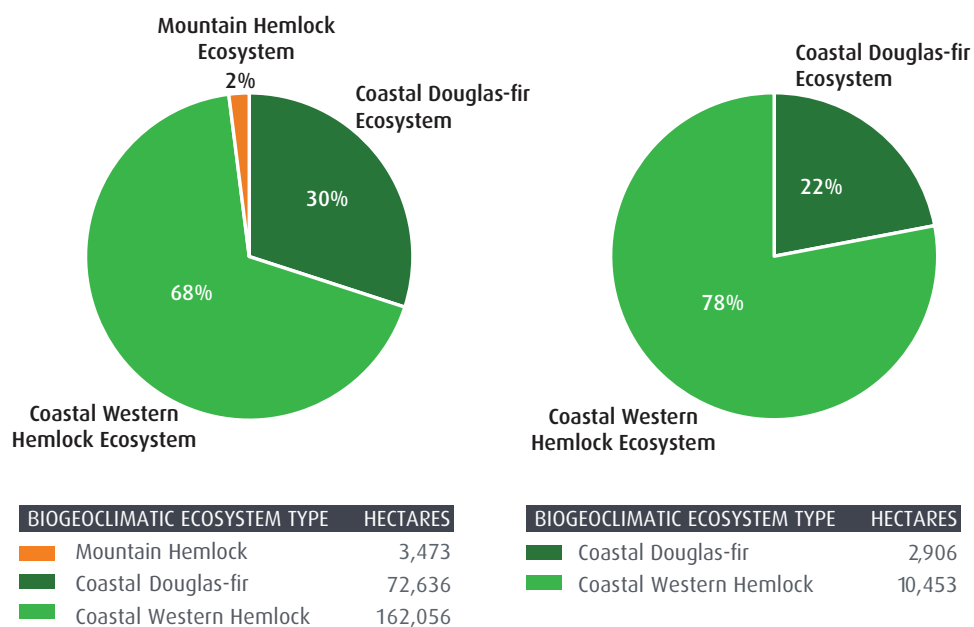
## System Information

As of December 31, 2025 there were 34 regional parks and four regional trails in the CRD's system, comprising over 13,350 ha of land.

Regional parks protect land and ecosystems in two of the three biogeoclimatic zones that occur within the region (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 December 31, 2025, the CRD protects over 4% (2,906 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 CAPITAL REGION & IN REGIONAL PARKS IN 2025



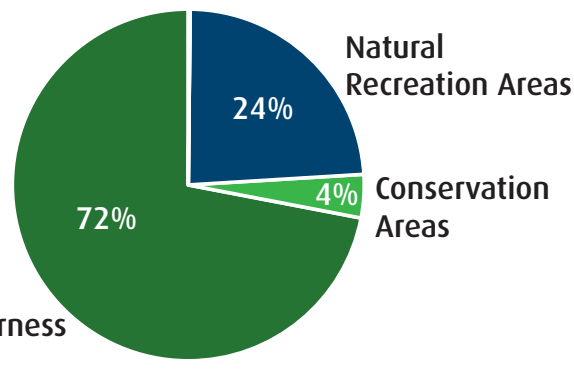


Mount Work Regional Park

The regional parks system by park classification as of December 31, 2025 was as follows:

FIGURE 3. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS BY HECTARE IN 2025

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF PARKS	HECTARES
Regional Wilderness Areas	3	9,584
Regional Conservation Areas	12	530
Regional Natural Recreation Areas	18	3,178
Regional Conservancy Areas	0	0
Unclassified*	1	22



\*The classification of the newly acquired George Hill Regional Park will be determined through the development of Interim Management Guidelines, anticipated to be complete in 2027.

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 2025, regional park and trail operations consumed 6,378 gigajoules of energy and generated approximately 264 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (tCO<sub>2e</sub>). Compared with the previous year, total energy consumption increased by about 13%, while emissions decreased by approximately 11%. The rise in energy use was primarily driven by an increase in staff and fleet vehicles within the Regional Parks Division. At the same time, emissions declined due to fleet electrification and fuel switching to lower-emission energy sources.

Emissions were predominantly generated by gasoline-powered vehicles in the regional parks fleet (61%), followed by diesel-powered vehicles and generators (27%), electrically heated buildings (9%), and propane-heated buildings (3%).

In the capital region, regional parks and regional trails serve to protect biodiversity and cultural heritage and to offer quality visitor experiences. Figure 4 highlights some of the 2025 visitor use and conservation statistics in regional parks and on regional trails.

FIGURE 4. 2025 CONSERVATION AND VISITOR USE DATA



# CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032

## History and Overview

Management of regional parks and trails has long been guided by strategic plans (Figure 1. Regional Parks Timeline). Following engagement with First Nations, the public, and interest groups, the CRD developed the Interim Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032 on July 13, 2022, for one year to allow continued First Nations engagement. The feedback received informed the final Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022–2032, approved on July 12, 2023.

The current plan emphasizes First Nations reconciliation, responds to current regional challenges and opportunities, and reflects recent CRD initiatives and priorities. Its success depends on strong relationships with First Nations, high-quality service delivery, and collaboration with partners.



*Francis/King Regional Park*

## Plan Vision, Mission & Values

The 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 of biodiversity by learning from and working with science and long-term land stewards and by connecting people to nature.**
- **Operate and manage a regional trail network for active transportation and recreation.**
- **Foster reconciliation by collaborating with First Nations in the operation and management of regional parks and regional trails through the establishment of traditional use agreements.**
- **Be fiscally responsible and accountable in decision-making.**



*Fawn Lily at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park*



*Salal at Matheson Lake Regional Park*

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 help guide the implementation of the Plan:

**Access:** Regional parks and regional trails can be accessed by transit, micro mobility, 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 well-being, connects us to each other and immerses us in nature.

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

**Reconciliation:** A commitment to take action towards Indigenous reconciliation by respecting Indigenous laws, creating opportunities to collaborate in the operation of parks and trails, and strengthening relationships with First Nations communities by applying the principles of respect, reciprocity and responsibility.

**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 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 focuses 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 actions.

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



East Sooke Regional Park

## Tracking Our Progress

Over the 10-year term of the CRD's Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, the actions contained within it 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 interest holders is 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:

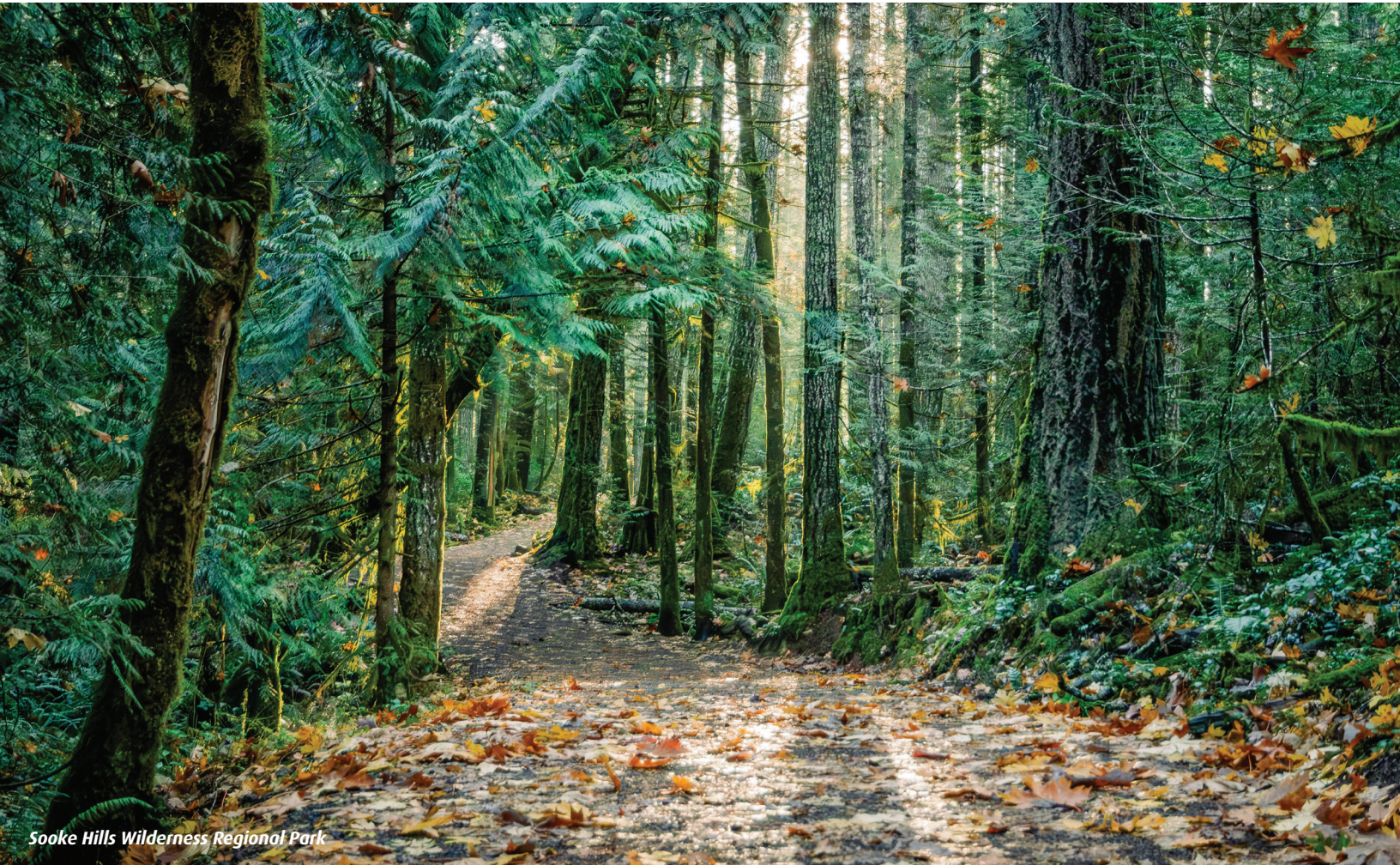
- continue on a journey of reconciliation with First Nations.
- prepare funding strategies to accompany implementation.
- continue to identify opportunities for external grant funding and partnerships.
- share knowledge and best practices with others.
- participate in professional development to improve 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 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan is reported annually. Reporting indicators have been identified for each strategic priority area. For each goal area, an action status reflects 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 to summarize progress made in the 2025 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.



*Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park*



## 2025 Overall Strategic Plan Progress

On Track

### Goal Areas



**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: Goal 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 Goal Status**  
On Track

## 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.

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.

### Goal Progress Snapshot

- Staff supported Scia'new First Nation (Beecher Bay) in hosting Tribal Journeys at East Sooke Regional Park.
- Cultural monitors from multiple First Nations were involved with capital and infrastructure projects at several regional parks.
- Staff continued to expand both the scope and depth of conservation and restoration projects delivered in partnership with First Nations.
- Staff, including CRD's Indigenous cultural programmer, continued to deliver programs and events featuring Indigenous perspectives to the public, school groups and by special request.

This goal contains

# 5

indicators



## Indicators



**Reconciliation workplans are developed with each First Nation**

- Facilitated by the First Nations Relations division, Regional Parks staff participated in several Memorandum of Understanding Implementation meetings and related discussions to understand related interests and priorities.



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

- Traditional use agreement in place with one First Nation and one Traditional use agreement is under development.



**Increased participation in Indigenous perspectives programs and presentation**

- Public participation in Indigenous perspectives programs and presentations increased in 2025 with the delivery of 101 programs and events, reaching over 4,000 people.
- Interpreters presented educational displays and activities at the National Indigenous People's Day event at Royal Roads University.
- The Cultural Programmer worked with Tsawout First Nation and the CRD conservation team to deliver summer and spring break camp sessions on removing invasive species.



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

- Staff continued to expand both the scope and depth of conservation and restoration projects delivered in partnership with First Nations, working collaboratively across multiple initiatives, including invasive species removal, culturally sensitive habitat restoration, shoreline restoration design, and watershed-scale planning.



**Increased number of economic opportunities made available to First Nations**

- Completed one agreement with T'Sou-ke First Nation for the continued operation of the Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) Campground.





# Conservation

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



**Overall Goal Status**  
On Track

## CRD Roles

Conservation Partnerships

Volunteer Program Management

Interpretive Education

Land Acquisition, Management & Planning

This goal contains

# 6

indicators

Regional parks contribute to a large, complex system of connected and protected natural areas. This system is vital to ensuring long-term viability of natural areas, conserving biodiversity and building resilience to the changing climate.

Protected natural areas help maintain ecological health, function and integrity and provide important space for a diversity of species, from the small and endangered sharp-tailed snake, to large carnivores like wolves, bears and cougars.

Additionally, regional parks help contribute to the protection of the region’s cultural heritage and archaeological sites protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

## Goal Progress Snapshot

- Advanced the development of a renewed Land Acquisition Strategy aligned with conservation targets, using science-based criteria to prioritize lands with high conservation and climate resilience value.
- Completed 152 volunteer-supported restoration events across 31 sites, restoring more than eight hectares of land.
- Initiated the EcoMonitor Program in order to collect rare plant data in parks, in partnership with the Province and local municipalities.
- Collaborated with five corporate groups, four community organizations, and three schools and youth groups to deliver 14 ecological restoration events through the volunteer program.
- Collaborated with T’Sou-ke First Nation and regional partners to plan watershed-scale management of invasive knotweeds.



*Contorted pod evening primrose*

## Indicators



### Increased area of regional park land protected

- Purchased two properties and completed the transfer of a former community park from the Pender Islands Community Parks and Recreation Commission (PIPRC) to establish the new 21.7-hectare George Hill Regional Park on North Pender Island.



### Increased area of regional park land restored

- Completed a total of 8.15 hectares of aquatic and terrestrial treatment areas across the regional parks system.



### Increased protection of at risk species and ecosystems in regional parks

- Implemented measures to mitigate threats to three plant species at risk across several regional parks.
- Supported habitat protection for western painted turtles, sharp-tailed snakes, and the blue-grey taildropper through invasive species management, fencing, and signage.
- Advanced planning to enhance sensitive ecosystems, including a wetland restoration project at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park and a shoreline restoration project at Coles Bay Regional Park.



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

- Staff collaborated with Tsawout First Nation on six invasive species removal and restoration events.
- Staff worked with Pauquachin First Nation on design and funding for the Coles Bay Restoration Project.
- Staff engaged with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council to support conservation initiatives in partnership with Mayne Island Conservancy.
- Staff engaged Tsawout First Nation on restoration planning and supported the development of interpretive signage.



### All staff receive cultural awareness training

- All new staff participated in cultural awareness training, coordinated by the First Nations Relations Division.



### Increased conservation and research partnerships

- Completed the addition of a new stewardship agreement with the Metchosin Invasive Species Collaborative, bringing the total number of stewardship agreements to three.
- Initiated work to update the agreement with the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, with completion targeted for early 2026.



# Visitor Experience

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



**Overall Goal Status**  
On Track

## CRD Roles

Recreation Partnerships

Interpretive Education

Compliance & Enforcement

Volunteer Program  
Management

Visitor Information

This goal contains

# 4

indicators

Accessing natural spaces and compatible recreational opportunities benefit not only mental and physical health but also promote social and community connectivity while being a relatively low barrier activity to enjoy for people from all walks of life.

Additionally, outdoor recreation opportunities and educational nature programming both play an important role in the quality of life that attracts people to this region.

### Goal Progress Snapshot

- Interpreters delivered 264 programs and events in 2025, reaching more than 9,200 participants.
- Staff worked with Outdoor Recreation License Agreement Holder groups to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through trail restoration, trail re-routing, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Regional parks volunteers contributed more than 8,220 hours of their time to parks, representing a significant increase from 6,680 hours in 2024.
- Ongoing recreational use monitoring was undertaken to support the development of the Rock Climbing Guidelines.



*Sensational Seaweeds  
Nature Program*

## Indicators



### Maintain high rates of visitor satisfaction

- Park Rangers conducted more than 3,700 hours of patrols across regional parks and trails in 2025 to support visitor safety and enjoyment. Supplemental Bylaw Officer patrols provided an additional 1,300 hours of coverage, with a focus on addressing regulatory non-compliance.
- Visitation to regional parks reach 5.2 million (1.1% increase over 2024) and visitation to regional trails reached 4.5 million (7.2% increase over 2024).



### Increased area available for compatible outdoor recreation

- Acquisition of the 21.7 hectare George Hill Regional Park on North Pender Island.



### Review and update interpretive program content every four years

- A new school cultural program was delivered in 2025.
- A new Interpretive Plan was initiated and will be developed in 2026.



### Increased number of volunteer hours

- 668 volunteers contributed more than 8,220 hours, representing a significant increase from 6,680 hours in 2024. Overall, volunteer hours have increased by 45% since 2022.



*Regional Parks Nature Programming*



# Climate Action & Resiliency



**Overall Goal 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

# 9

indicators

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.

In 2025, the CRD Board approved a bylaw establishing the Regional Transportation Service (RTS) to consolidate transportation planning and regional trail management across the Capital Region. Future reporting related to regional trails will come from the RTS.

### Goal Progress Snapshot

- Advanced the Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project, which will widen sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional Trails, add lighting, and renew key trestles to improve safety and accessibility.
- Applied energy-efficiency and emissions-reduction considerations to facility upgrade planning for Parks Headquarters (Mill Hill Regional Park) and through electrical capacity assessments at satellite worksites.



## Indicators



### Increased use of regional trails

- Visitation to regional trails reached 4,468,914 in 2025, representing a 7.2% increase over 2024.
- Staff led the annual Cruise With Courtesy public awareness campaign on regional trails to promote trail etiquette and support active transportation.



### Completed regional trail priorities

- The full-depth renewal and paving of the Lochside Regional Trail section at North Weiler was completed.
- Design and construction work for girder repairs on the Hereward, Helmcken, and Island Highway (4 Mile) bridges was started.
- Completed critical below deck repairs on the Selkirk Trestle.



### Minimized regional trail service disruptions

- Staff continued to implement the Regional Trails Closure Policy.



### Increase electric vehicle charging stations at park access

- Two electric vehicle chargers were installed at the Witty's Lagoon main parking lot and have been operational since April 2025.



### Reduced operational greenhouse gas emissions

- Regional park and trail operations emissions decreased by approximately 11% mainly due to fleet electrification and fuel switching to lower-emission energy sources.



### Maintain critical infrastructure in good condition

- Maintained up-to-date information on critical infrastructure location, condition, and expected service life to support informed asset management and renewal decisions.
- Conducted dam inspections, surveillance and audits to meet regulatory requirements.
- Completed technical studies to assess infrastructure condition.
- Advanced planning on a Dam Portfolio Risk Assessment was undertaken to support risk-based prioritization and long-term investment planning.

## Indicators



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

- Continued to advance one new management plan (Mount Work Regional Park).



**Increased area of regional park land**

- 21.7 hectares of regional parkland was added in 2025 through the acquisition of George Hill Regional Park.



**Increased representation of all regional park classifications**

- The classification of the newly acquired George Hill Regional Park will be determined through the development of Interim Management Guidelines, anticipated to be complete in 2027.



*Galloping Goose Regional Trail*



# Access & Equity



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

**Overall Goal Status**  
On Track

## CRD Roles

Recreation Partnerships

Data Collection & Monitoring

Interpretive Education

Visitor Information

The benefits of experiencing and interacting with nature for physical and mental well-being are felt by many and regional parks and trails are a public good that belongs to everyone. Medical professionals from the World Health Organization to Doctors of BC regularly advocate for equitable access to nature to safeguard the physical and psychological well-being 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 regional parks and regional 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 Snapshot

- Staff continued to embed accessibility considerations into project scoping for infrastructure initiatives.
- Implemented an Annual Accessibility Maintenance Audit to identify maintenance defects affecting accessibility in day-use areas and on User Friendly or Accessible trails. Between April and September 2025, 58% of identified defects were addressed.

This goal contains

# 2

indicators



*Accessible fishing dock at Elk Lake*

## Indicators



### Improved accessibility to regional parks and regional trails

- Added three accessible parking stalls at Island View Beach, East Sooke, and Roche Cove regional parks.
- Added an accessible picnic table at East Sooke Regional Park.
- Installed a seasonal Mobi-mat at Island View Beach Regional Park.
- Modified the accessible fishing dock at Elk Lake to improve wheelchair usability.
- Installed automatic push-button door openers at four washroom buildings in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.



### Cultural awareness information is incorporated into new park kiosks

- The cultural acknowledgment developed in 2022 is being incorporated into renewed kiosks. In 2025, panels featuring the statement were installed at three locations—two on the Lochside Regional Trail and one at Lone Tree Hill Regional Park.
- A review to improve the cultural statement and kiosk accessibility information was initiated and will occur in early 2026, with an updated standard applied by 2027.



*Mobi-mat at Island View Beach*

# Looking Ahead – 2026

In 2026, 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, improved and connected system of regional parks and regional trails and prepare for and adapt to climate change.

## **Initiatives planned for 2026 include, but are not limited to:**

**First Nations Engagement:** The CRD will continue to invite and work with First Nations to identify, develop and implement priority initiatives in regional parks, as well as engage with First Nations on major projects.

**Equitable Access:** A Cultural Practice and Safety Policy will be finalized for Board approval, which will aim to improve cultural safety for Indigenous peoples in accessing and enjoying regional parks and trails. Additionally, internal Accessibility Guidelines will be implemented, which will help establish updated standards for built infrastructure in regional parks.

**Volunteer Plan:** A new Regional Parks Volunteer Plan will be finalized and brought to the board for consideration. This plan will set the course for the regional parks volunteer program for the next five years with the main priorities being expansion, diversification, and community engagement.

**Emergency Planning:** New Emergency Response Plans for six of the most visited regional parks will be developed. This will ensure that an updated, structured framework is in place to protect visitors, staff and resources during crises like wildfires, severe weather, or major accidents.

**Management Planning:** Staff will continue to work with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council on the development of the Mount Work Management Plan. Engagement with other First Nations, user groups and interest holders will be undertaken in 2026, with an end goal of bringing a final draft management plan to the board in early 2027. Staff will begin work on the development of the George Hill Interim Management Guidelines.

**Land Acquisition Strategy Update:** The Land Acquisition Strategy Renewal will be brought to First Nations for a second phase of engagement, and a draft will be brought to the board for consideration.

**Stewardship Plan:** Work will continue on the Stewardship Plan and First Nations engagement will be initiated. This plan will establish systemwide policies that balance outdoor recreation opportunities with conserving the unique natural and cultural heritage values of the region.



CRD Regional Parks Staff  
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park

## Appendix A: Regional Parks & Trails – 2025 Report Card

The Regional Parks and Trails Report Card is intended to provide a high-level overview of the CRD's progress and performance towards achieving the five goals in the Strategic Plan by highlighting the actions taken in 2025 towards the Plan's 13 strategic priorities.

### Methodology

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

The Regional Parks and Trails Report Card compiles the reporting indicator performance relative to the baseline year. It is important to note that changes 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 each goal area, an overall priority status reflects general progress made towards all actions supporting that goal and its related strategic priorities. 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.

For 2025, indicators are reported from the beginning of January to the end of December.



## 2025 Overall Strategic Plan Progress

On Track

### Goal Areas



**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: Priority 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**



## Reconciliation

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



**Overall Priority Status**  
On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
	<b>1-1 Incorporate First Nation worldviews and knowledge in the ongoing management and operation of regional parks and regional trails</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported Scia'new First Nation in hosting Tribal Journeys at East Sooke Regional Park.</li> <li>Participated in the Island View Beach working group with Tsawout First Nation, the District of Central Saanich, and the CRD to address shared interests, coordinate initiatives and partner on projects such as mosquito management.</li> <li>Co-developed interpretive signage with Tsawout First Nation at Island View Beach highlighting culturally important plants and values.</li> <li>Worked with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council to incorporate their interests into the Mount Work Regional Park Management Plan.</li> <li>Engaged T'Sou-ke and Sc'ianew First Nations in planning and construction for the East Sooke Regional Park parking lot and washroom upgrades.</li> <li>Undertook watershed scale invasive knotweed management planning with T'Sou ke First Nation and others.</li> <li>Staff considered the cultural significance and archaeological impacts in capital planning that involved ground disturbance, engaged with First Nations cultural monitors to support protection of cultural sites and collaborated on project delivery across the regional parks system.</li> <li>Engaged with First Nations through multiple initiatives to support the development of the draft cultural practice and safety policy. The project is approximately 80% complete, with final phases to take place in 2026.</li> </ul>
	<b>1-2 Work with First Nations Governments in service delivery initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff, including CRD's Indigenous cultural programmer, continued to deliver programs and events featuring Indigenous perspectives to the public, school groups and by special request. Interpreters presented educational displays and activities at the National Indigenous People's Day event at Royal Roads University and attended the Tribal Journeys event at East Sooke Regional Park. The Cultural Programmer also worked with Tsawout Nation and the CRD conservation team to deliver summer and spring break camp sessions on removing invasive species.</li> <li>Collaborated with Tsawout First Nation at Island View Beach Regional Park on six invasive species removal and restoration events in areas of high cultural sensitivity for plant gathering.</li> <li>Worked with Pauquachin First Nation to complete the conceptual design and Federation of Canadian Municipalities funding application for the Coles Bay Restoration Project, and supported Indigenous led sea/clam garden construction at Coles Bay.</li> <li>Engaged with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council to support conservation initiatives at St. Johns Point Regional Park in partnership with the Mayne Island Conservancy.</li> <li>Engaged Tsawout First Nation on restoration planning at Island View Beach for 2026 and supported the development of interpretive signage highlighting culturally important plants and values.</li> <li>Worked with Cultural Monitors at East Sooke Regional Park, St. Johns Point Regional Park, and Island View Beach Regional Park to support restoration activities.</li> <li>Met with the Tsawout First Nation Marine Guardian at Island View Beach Regional Park for a joint patrol and information sharing and discussed opportunities for expanded training collaboration in 2026.</li> <li>Worked with T'Sou-ke First Nation to complete the renewal of the Sooke Potholes Regional Park, Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) Campground agreement. It renews T'Sou-ke's operation of the campground for five years (2025 – 2029 inclusive).</li> <li>Engaged with many First Nations throughout the region to support land altering works projects, including on-site cultural monitors where needed.</li> </ul>



## Conservation

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



### Overall Priority Status

On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
	<b>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</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the State of Natural Features Report and presented it to the Regional Parks Committee.</li> <li>Implemented Regional Parks' Impact Assessment (IA) Program, completing six complex IAs and 38 simple IAs and initiating a series of workshops to plan how to improve the IA program.</li> <li>Continued implementing best management practices to mitigate impacts to ecological values and ensured compliance with regulations, completing external permitting and notifications.</li> <li>Advanced the development of a renewed Land Acquisition Strategy (LAS) aligned with conservation targets, using science-based criteria to prioritize lands with high conservation and climate resilience value. Anticipated completion in 2027</li> <li>Continued ecological monitoring for species at risk within regional parks.</li> <li>Implemented protective signage and fencing at three regional parks to reduce impacts to sensitive ecosystems.</li> <li>Completed 152 volunteer-supported restoration events across 31 sites, restoring more than eight hectares of land.</li> <li>Maintained contributions to invasive American bullfrog monitoring and management at Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park.</li> <li>Restored and enhanced disturbed habitat by realigning a trail within Mount Work Regional Park.</li> <li>Managed invasive black knapweed at Devonian and Witty's Lagoon regional parks and on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.</li> <li>Staff completed Green Shore training to better inform project planning and delivery options.</li> </ul>
	<b>2-2 Respect and protect cultural heritage sites and traditional cultural use practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with the First Nations Relations (FNR) team through bi-monthly meetings to review proposed ground-disturbing activities, ensuring compliance with Corporate Policy and the Heritage Conservation Act.</li> <li>Continued Chance Find Training initiatives, including internal training sessions and one session for volunteers. CRD Archaeologist provided additional Chance Find Training for contractors and monitored field work to support compliance.</li> <li>Maintained ongoing informal discussions with First Nations to strengthen shared understanding of conservation priorities.</li> </ul>
	<b>2-3 Work with partners in taking care of the region's species, habitats and natural areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge sharing with partners, including the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC), the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC), and the Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership.</li> <li>Shared data with the Conservation Data Centre and the federal government to support species-at-risk recovery efforts, continued participation in Capital Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) meetings and advanced collaborations with academic partners and researchers through the research permit program, facilitating and issuing 20 research permits.</li> <li>Initiated the EcoMonitor Program in order to collect rare plant data in parks, in partnership with the Province and local municipalities.</li> <li>Organized a Research Exchange to share findings with operational staff and support understanding of human-wildlife coexistence.</li> <li>Collaborated on the expansion of a human-wildlife coexistence research project by sharing wildlife occurrence information.</li> <li>Worked with ecological covenant holders and species experts to advance and exchange knowledge on emerging invasive species management techniques at Mountain Forest Regional Park.</li> <li>Collaborated with five corporate groups, four community organizations, and three schools and youth groups to deliver 14 ecological restoration events through the volunteer program, strengthening partnerships and supporting hands-on stewardship activities in regional parks.</li> <li>Collaborated with T'Sou-ke First Nation and regional partners to plan watershed-scale management of invasive knotweeds.</li> </ul>



### Visitor Experience

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



### Overall Priority Status

On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
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#### 3-1 Offer compatible outdoor recreation experiences that are enjoyable, healthy, safe and immersed in nature

- The State of Outdoor Recreation Report was presented to the Board in 2025. It provides a summary of existing recreation opportunities and infrastructure, visitation trends and identifies physical and environmental barriers to accessing CRD regional parks and trails. The report will serve to inform the development of the CRD Regional Parks Stewardship Plan.
- Outdoor recreation value and user monitoring program continued with the goal of identifying areas of high recreational value and opportunities to be considered through management planning processes.
- Ongoing recreational use monitoring was undertaken to support the development of the Rock Climbing Guidelines.
- Initiated the process to establish a Park Emergency Response Plan working group in 2026, with the goal of developing six comprehensive emergency response plans for priority regional parks.
- Worked with Outdoor Recreation License Agreement Holder groups, including the Sooke Bike Club, South Island Mountain Bike Society and the Elk-Beaver Lake Equestrian Society to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through trail restoration, trail re-routing, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Through the Trail Repair Program, repaired and rerouted 1,285 meters of trail on the Quimper Summit Trail (South) in Sea to Sea Regional Park, improving visitor experience and meeting equestrian standards.
- Repaired and rerouted 140 meters of trail on the Centennial Trail at Francis/King Regional Park to further enhance the visitor experience.



#### 3-2 Foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and collaboration

- Initiated procurement process for the Interpretive Plan, with work scheduled to begin in 2026.
- Delivered 264 programs and events in 2025, reaching more than 9,200 participants, with new programs developed annually to reinforce key parks messaging related to visitor compliance, mental health, and climate change.
- Interpretation staff partnered with numerous organizations to support community events and education programs, including the Habitat Acquisition Trust, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea, Parks Canada, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Ocean Week Victoria, Royal BC Museum, West Shore Parks and Recreation, Panorama Recreation, Ocean Networks Canada, Victoria Paleontology Society, Power to Be, NatureVictoria, Dino Lab, SeaChange, and the Maritime Museum of BC.
- Park Naturalists continued to work closely with the Cultural Programmer to integrate a cultural lens into interpretive programs and events.



## Climate Action & Resiliency

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



### Overall Priority Status

On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
	<b>4-1 Advance regional active transportation opportunities that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CRD Board approved a bylaw establishing the Regional Transportation Service (RTS) to consolidate transportation planning and regional trail management across the Capital Region. Future reporting related to regional trails will come from the RTS.</li> <li>Advanced the Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project, which will widen sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional Trails, add lighting, and renew key trestles to improve safety and accessibility.</li> <li>Two public electric vehicle charging stations were installed at Whitty’s Lagoon Regional Park main parking lot and have been operational since April 2025.</li> <li>Completed a second year of data collection for the Regional Trail Use Study to understand the proportion of e-bikes and micromobility devices using the regional trail network, and shared baseline data with the Regional Trestles Renewal, Widening and Lighting project team.</li> <li>Worked with the Transportation Working Group to enhance and standardize accessibility across the Regional Trails network.</li> </ul>
	<b>4-2 Support the development of complete and connected communities by improving access to regional parks by transit, electric vehicles, micromobility, walking or cycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed the Salt Spring Island Regional Trail Feasibility Study, which proposes a trail alignment extending from the Fulford Harbour Ferry Terminal in the southeast, through Ganges Village, to the Vesuvius Bay Ferry Terminal. Initiated discussions with the Salt Spring Island Administration regarding implementation planning.</li> <li>Parking lot accessibility was considered through the development of Regional Parks Accessible Design Guidelines.</li> <li>Two public electric vehicle charging stations were installed at the Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park main parking lot.</li> </ul>
	<b>4-3 Align service delivery and infrastructure improvements in regional parks and regional trails with climate action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied energy-efficiency and emissions-reduction considerations to facility upgrade planning at Mill Hill Regional Park and through electrical capacity assessments at the 728 Worksite.</li> <li>Used updated electrical studies at the 728 Worksite to guide decisions on expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure in 2026.</li> <li>Enhanced asset management through updated infrastructure condition reporting across all Regional Parks facilities and assets.</li> <li>Improved weather monitoring with digital water-level sensors installed at Thetis Lake Regional Park.</li> <li>Incorporated projected water-level and storm-intensity impacts into the concept design for the Witty’s Lagoon – Sitting Lady Falls Bridge Replacement.</li> <li>Completed updated bathymetry and hydrotechnical studies for the Humpback Reservoir to support long-term risk management and capital planning.</li> <li>Updated bathymetric and geotechnical studies for Beaver Lake to inform concept development for future dam renewal and climate-resilient design.</li> <li>Advanced the Regional Parks Asset Renewal Plan with condition assessments completed for 50 assets across the North, South, East, and West regions. Began developing cost analyses and 5-10-20-year maintenance plans to inform future capital planning and project prioritization. The plan is to be completed in spring 2026.</li> </ul>



## Climate Action & Resiliency

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



### Overall Priority Status

On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
	<b>4-4 Ensure the long-term and consistent management of regional parks and protected natural areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued cross-departmental collaboration to support climate-related initiatives and protect sensitive watershed areas, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ongoing coordination between the Conservation team and Integrated Water Services (IWS) through bi-monthly meetings to advance shared climate-related projects.</li><li>Increased collaboration between Park Rangers and Watershed Protection staff in response to higher visitation at Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park, including joint efforts in information sharing, trespass mitigation, and enforcement within the drinking water protection zone.</li><li>A presentation delivered by IWS Watershed Protection staff at a Regional Parks all-staff meeting on climate impacts and opportunities.</li></ul></li></ul>
	<b>4-5 Strategically acquire and manage natural areas to address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Embedded climate mitigation and adaptation and ecological considerations in Board-endorsed renewed Land Acquisition Strategy principles and criteria. Refinement will occur in 2026.</li><li>Climate mitigation, adaptation and ecological considerations will be embedded in the criteria for the renewal of the Land Acquisition Strategy in 2026.</li><li>An ecological inventory will be completed for George Hill Regional Park in 2026.</li></ul>



### Access & Equity

Regional parks and regional trails are inclusive and accessible



#### Overall Priority Status

On Track

Status	Priority	Update on Actions
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#### 5-1 Enhance health and well-being by providing equitable access to regional parks and regional trails

- Continued to embed accessibility considerations into project scoping and charters for infrastructure initiatives, and actively reviewed designs to ensure accessibility best practices were incorporated.
- Completed an accessibility audit of regional park day use areas, and User Friendly and Accessible trails to identify minor accessibility barriers (i.e. seasonal erosion, overgrown vegetation). Between April and September 2025, 58% of identified accessibility barriers were remediated.
- Initiated procurement process to develop a set of Accessible Facility Guidelines for Regional Parks.
- Created Google Street Views of several regional park main accesses and trails to improve visitors' ability to trip plan.



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