

# Little Qualicum River Regional Park Management Plan

**2013-2023**



**December 2012**

## Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Part One: Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Regional Context.....	1
About this Plan.....	1
<b>Part Two: Property Overview .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Conservation Values .....	2
Recreation Values .....	2
Land Use / Electoral Area 'F' Official Community Plan .....	4
Legal Status & Encumbrances.....	4
<b>Part Three: Park Planning Process .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Project Management .....	6
Inventory & Analysis .....	6
Public Consultation Approach.....	13
<b>Part Four: Understanding Issues &amp; Opportunities .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Environmental Protection.....	16
Park Access.....	19
Partnerships & Collaboration.....	24
<b>Part Five: Management Plan.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Vision.....	27
Management Principles .....	27
Goals & Objectives.....	28
Policies & Actions.....	30
<b>Part Six: Implementation Plan 2013-2023.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>40</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Map of LQRRP in relation to Meadowood Community Park and Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. (Regional Park access points indicated).....	3
Figure 2. Dogs swimming at the Glory Hole.....	4
Figure 3. Little Qualicum River Falls in the Provincial Park.....	8
Figure 4. LQRRP Inventory and Analysis .....	11
Figure 5. Workshop #1 participant input.....	14
Figure 6. Proposed Park Zones for the Little Qualicum River Regional Park .....	16
Figure 7. Sensitive Habitat Protection Area recommended for lands outside the current regional park boundary.....	17
Figure 8. Erosion of the river bank at the popular Glory Hole is accelerated by human use of the area.....	18
Figure 9. Potential areas for parkland use agreements, either for conservation or recreation in the natural environment zone. ....	19
Figure 10. Existing parking lot and trailhead located off of Meadowood Way. ...	20
Figure 11. Haul bridge that crosses the river within the LQRRP.....	21
Figure 12. Fire protection coverage around the LQRRP .....	21
Figure 13. Formal trail agreements required to sanction the use of the switchback .....	22
Figure 14. Vegetation in the hydro corridor is a mix of native and non-native invasive species.....	24

## List of Tables

Table 1. List of encumbrances on the Little Qualicum River Regional Park property. ....	5
Table 2. Stakeholders invited to provide feedback during the LQRRP management plan project (and simultaneous Meadowood Community Park Design project). ....	13

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### **Little Qualicum River Regional Park Management Plan Advisory Committee:**

- Julian Fell, Area 'F' Director
- Marc Lefebvre, City of Parksville Councillor
- Dave Willie, Town of Qualicum Beach Councillor
- Alfred Jablonski, Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee
- Reg Nosworthy, Area 'F' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

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- Neil Smith, Pacific Leadership Design Inc.
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- Kelsey Cramer, Parks Planner, Project Manager
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- Pam Newton, GIS Technician
- Chrissie Finnie, Recreation Programmer
- Wendy Marshall, Parks Manager
- Tom Osborne, General Manager of Recreation & Parks Services

## Executive Summary

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The Little Qualicum River Regional Park (LQRRP) is a 44 hectare (108.5 acre) riparian corridor property located in Electoral Area 'F'. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) acquired the Little Qualicum River property in 1999 as parkland dedication from the Qualicum River Estates subdivision process. The Little Qualicum River supports salmon and trout and numerous wildlife species. The park also encompasses a portion of the BC Hydro right-of-way which lays perpendicular to the river. As resource extraction (forestry and gravel) and residential development progress on surrounding lands, protection of the Little Qualicum River watershed becomes increasingly important. To date, there is little formal development in the park. Formal access is limited to the parking area off Meadowood Way Rd, which leads into the adjacent Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park.

An RDN staff working group, with guidance and input from an Advisory Committee, coordinated the development of a management plan to guide the management, development and operations of the park over the next 10 years (2013-2023). The plan was developed through a comprehensive analysis of property values and public and stakeholder consultation through workshops, surveys and interviews. The plan confirms the long-term vision and goals for the LQRRP and identifies shorter term management policies and actions over the 2013-2022 period. Due to proximity and timeliness, the management plan process for the regional park was coordinated in tandem with the site design process for the adjacent Meadowood Community Park.

The overall vision for the park is expressed in three main principles of maintaining a strong commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship; providing recreational activities that respect the park's ecology; and, a commitment to education and collaborative management with RDN stakeholders, volunteers and other organizations to achieve park projects. A Conceptual Park Master Plan visually communicates the overall management approach for the Regional Park as well as shows the connections with the adjacent Meadowood Way Community Park.

Derived from overarching park management principles are practical policies and actions which are divided into high, medium and low priority. A detailed implementation plan outlines the prioritized capital projects and operational implications over the ten year management plan period. The total estimated cost to implement the plan is \$99,500 for capital development, and anticipated additional operational costs are estimated at \$4,500 a year when the improvements are completed.



## Part One: **Introduction**

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The Little Qualicum River Regional Park (LQRRP) is a 44 hectare (108.5 acre) riparian corridor property located in Electoral Area 'F'. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) acquired the Little Qualicum River property in 1999 as parkland dedication from the Qualicum River Estates subdivision process. Unlike most other Regional Parks where management is through partnership with environmental organizations or lease from the Crown, the LQRRP is solely owned and managed by the RDN.

### **Regional Context**

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The Regional District of Nanaimo manages 2,060 hectares of regional park, trail, and conservation lands in the mid-Vancouver Island area along with another 588 hectares of neighbourhood or community park and trail. The Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (RPTMP), completed in 2005, sets out goals with respect to land management, stewardship and recreational use of regionally significant properties. A primary recommendation in the RPTMP for these regionally significant lands is to prepare individual Regional Park Management Plans. Together, the RDN and its partners aim to protect and steward the lands while at the same time provide rewarding and educational outdoor recreational experiences for residents and visitors.

### **About this Plan**

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The LQRRP Management Plan guides the operations, development, and stewardship of the property based on a comprehensive analysis of property values and public and stakeholder consultation. This is the Regional Park's first management plan since its acquisition in 1999. The plan confirms the long-term vision and goals for the LQRRP and identifies management policies and actions for the 2013-2023 period. The document serves to guide decision-making and provide direction on key park issues including environmental conservation, recreational uses, and park development over the next 10 years. A detailed implementation plan prioritizes capital projects and outlines operational implications.

A supplementary park master plan visually communicates the overall management approach for the Regional Park as well as connections with the adjacent Meadowood Way Community Park and Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park.

## Part Two: **Property Overview**

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### **Conservation Values**

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The Little Qualicum River flows northeast from Cameron Lake to the Little Qualicum River Estuary in the Strait of Georgia. The estuary is protected as a Regional Conservation Area. Little Qualicum River Regional Park is in essence a river corridor park, located immediately downstream of the Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. Bordering both sides of one of Vancouver Island's large rivers, it protects 2.7 km of valuable riparian margin along the middle reaches of the river. The Little Qualicum River supports salmon and trout and numerous wildlife species. In-stream restoration works (the installation of large wood debris) carried out in 2004 to improve habitat for Steelhead within the park, are continually monitored by the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF). As resource extraction (forestry and gravel) and residential development progress on surrounding lands, protection of the Little Qualicum River watershed becomes increasingly important. Tributaries that flow into the Little Qualicum River from surrounding lands could be subject to increased silt runoff and contamination, affecting downstream habitat for fish and other species that depend on the river.

The park occurs within the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone (moist maritime subzone) and experiences the mildest climate in Canada. An Environmental Overview completed by Ursus Environmental in August 2011 describes six plant communities within the park ranging from treed swamps to dry upland mixed forest. The latter is of considerable conservation concern and red-listed by the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC). In addition, the report describes the LQRRP to be "...minimally disturbed and supports natural forest cover." However, two areas of ecological concern include the hydro corridor and roadside east of the private bridge where invasive vegetation was documented (including Scotch Broom, Canada Thistle, and Tansy Ragwort) (Ursus Environmental, 2011). There are no recorded sites of archaeological interest within the park.

### **Recreation Values**

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Current recreational values within the park are limited. Public access to the river is compromised by steep banks and few developed trails. Local residents are likely to be the primary users of this park at this time.

### **Park Access**

The park is currently accessed at 3 locations: 1) From a parking lot for 5-8 cars on the east side of Meadowood Way Rd through a short section of forest trail leading into Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park; 2) pedestrian access under the hydro corridor on Galvin Place (BC Hydro right of way); and 3)



vehicle/pedestrian access off the private road originating from Corcan Road (Figure 1).

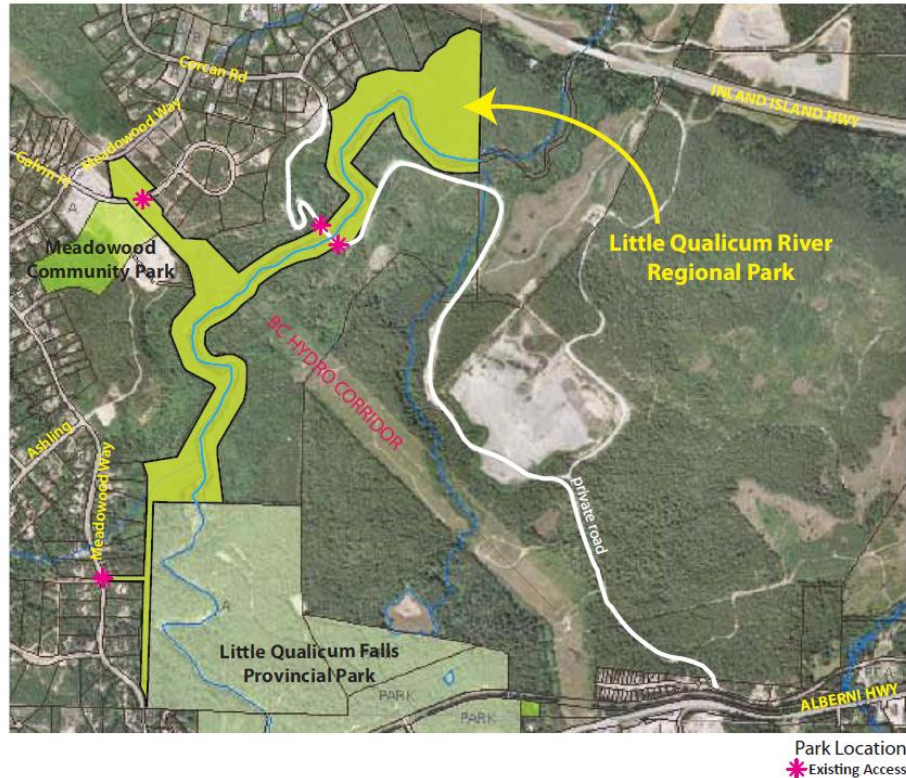


Figure 1. Map of LQRRP in relation to Meadowood Community Park and Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. (Regional Park access points indicated)

Other than the short trail that leads into the Provincial Park from Meadowood Way, there are no formally developed trails within the Regional Park. At Galvin Place, a gate controls vehicular access into the Regional Park within the hydro corridor right of way. From the end of Corcan Road, the private gravel road switchbacks down towards the river. The private gravel road serves and is maintained by the gravel extraction operations in the area (Ozero) and passes over the Little Qualicum River through an easement within the Regional Park. The road is gated on the weekends and during times of fire-risk in the summer and heavy snow in the winter. Many local area residents use this road to access the Alberni Highway (Hwy 4) during the week, when the gates are not locked.

### Park Uses

Limited development of the park since its acquisition in 1999 results in few current opportunities for recreational uses. Given the topography and hydrology within the LQRRP including steep slopes, swamps and sensitive riparian habitat, any future development should not compromise the river by way of erosion, sedimentation or other physical impact to water quality (e.g. temperature

changes). To date the park is primarily used by local area residents. In the vicinity of the bridge, park users are able to easily access the “Glory Hole” for swimming, picnicking and fishing on both sides of the river (Figure 2). However, this access requires the use of the private road. In addition, campfire sites have been observed at two other locations along the river where trespassing across private property would have occurred to access the sites. Campfires are not permitted in regional parks.

ATV users are known to access the river near the bridge as well. Bringing ATVs within close proximity to the river is not desirable for the stability of the riparian ecosystem. ATV users also access the park within the hydro corridor, riding between the Regional and Community Parks and adjacent gravel extraction site.

The Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park offers a number of amenities including camping facilities, washrooms, trails, and lake and river access day-use sites directly adjacent to LQRRP. The level of services provided within the provincial park may negate the need for substantial development within the regional park.



*Figure 2. Dogs swimming at the Glory Hole.*

## **Land Use / Electoral Area ‘F’ Official Community Plan**

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The LQRRP site is zoned Parks & Open Space 1 (P-1) in the Electoral Area ‘F’ Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw No. 1285, 2002. The park is surrounded to the east and west by lands zoned Rural and Village Residential (R-1 & R-3) and are privately owned by Wicklow West Holdings. Meadowood Way Community Park borders the LQRRP to the west and will serve the Qualicum River Estates Village Centre as it develops. Approximately 20 Rural Residential (R-2) lots abut the regional park on the west and north edges. Electoral Area ‘G’ borders the park to the northeast (zoned RU-1V: Rural 1 and owned by Island Timberlands). A hydro corridor travels through the park from southeast to northwest.

In time, the Qualicum River Estates Village Centre will grow around the community park and west edge of the regional park. No timeline for this development was provided by the land-owner (Wicklow West Holdings, pers.comm.), but there will be the opportunity for trail connections between the parks and as new residential and commercial development occurs.

## **Legal Status & Encumbrances**

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The LQRRP property is legally described as LOT 1 BLOCK 359 NEWCASTLE DISTRICT PLAN VIP69346.

Compared to other regional park properties, the LQRRP property is heavily encumbered. Table 1 summarizes the various encumbrances, the implications of which will be considered in the policies and actions described later in this plan.

Table 1. List of encumbrances on the Little Qualicum River Regional Park property.

<b>Encumbrance</b>	<b>Owner of Charge</b>	<b>Description</b>
Covenant EM75385	Regional District of Nanaimo	Creation of Regional Park, including access areas granted for the purposes of public pedestrian access to and from the Regional Park and limited public parking for users of the Park.
Easement EN72440	Wicklow West Holdings Ltd.	Use and maintenance of the existing bridge that crosses the Little Qualicum River within the Regional Park.
Statutory Right of Way EN72443	Province of British Columbia (Ministry of Transportation)	Accommodation of surface runoff from highways and the construction and maintenance of storm drainage works by the Ministry provided such works do not materially damage the natural environment of the Park land.
Exceptions & Reservations M76300	Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway	Standard encumbrance on all properties from the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century E&N Crown Land Grant.
Right of Way G89918	BC Hydro and Power Authority	Transmission and distribution of electricity and gas and associated works to erect, operate, maintain, remove and replace towers and poles.
Covenant EK116444	Province of British Columbia	No building or sewage system to be built on the land until a detailed geotechnical report is prepared.
Covenant N35832	Province of British Columbia	10m setback from top of bank where no buildings or drainage or sewage systems shall be located (lots 34 & 35) and specific setbacks from Kinkade Creek (outside Regional Park).
Covenant EK116448	Regional District of Nanaimo	No buildings to be located within 7.5m of swamp or marsh.
Covenant EM10126	Regional District of Nanaimo	No building to be located within 15m of Kinkade Creek (outside Regional Park).
Covenant EN72442	Province of British Columbia (Ministry of Transportation)	Future road dedication or return to Crown ownership of lands referred to in Right of Way G89918.

## Part Three: **Park Planning Process**

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### **Project Management**

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It is important to note that simultaneous to the development of the LQRRP management plan, RDN staff was also undertaking a park design project for the adjacent Meadowood Community Park. The project management outline described below applies to both projects, which were pursued together for efficient use of staff and community resources, to consolidate the public engagement processes and to provide an integrated view of each park in the context of the other.

A Staff Working Group, comprised of two Parks Planners, the Manager of Parks Services, and one Recreation Programmer, coordinated development of the management plan project. Other RDN staff resources including Planning, Mapping and Parks Operations staff were brought into the project as specific information or feedback was needed.

In addition, an Advisory Committee was selected to provide advice on materials produced prior to public review including: principles, vision statement, goals and objectives, issues, summaries from public input, management policies, and concept plans. The Advisory Committee was comprised of two representatives from the RDN Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee (RPTSC), two representatives from the Electoral Area 'F' Parks & Open Space Committee (POSAC), one representative from the Qualicum First Nation, and the Area Director for Electoral Area 'F'. The Advisory Committee also reviewed draft plans prior to presentation to the Regional Board.

The management plan is to be reviewed in five years (2018) by RDN Parks Staff and updated formally at ten-year intervals.

### **Inventory & Analysis**

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The initial stages of developing this plan began with a thorough review of relevant documents and studies to inventory major issues and opportunities with the site. Specific documents reviewed include:

- Legal documents: Electoral Area 'F' OCP and encumbrances on the property (see Part Two of this plan).
- LQRRP Environmental Assessment (see below)
- RDN Parks and Trails Master Plan (see below)
- Other information relevant to demographics, the river, adjacent Provincial Park and surrounding subdivision.

In addition to reviewing background documents, staff contacted key stakeholders to obtain further information as needed. A graphic site analysis map (Figure 2) highlights the ecological and geographical opportunities and constraints that were uncovered during the inventory and analysis phase of the project.

### **LQRRP Environmental Assessment**

The RDN commissioned an “Environmental Overview of Little Qualicum River Regional Park” by Ursus Environmental in August 2011 (Appendix A). The report details plant communities and animal species that occur (or are expected to occur) in the park. Of particular conservation concern is the Dry Upland Mixed Forest community which is red-listed by the BC Conservation Data Centre. Other uncommon plants: Snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*) and Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*) were observed under the power lines off Galvin Place. While no red or blue-listed animal species were observed, there is suitable habitat within the park for the blue-listed red-legged frog. The Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS) database did not reveal any nesting trees within the park. However, several large veteran trees and snags do exist in the park.

The environmental overview also detailed other environmental and park use data including erosion prone areas, invasive species occurrence, the location of two campfire spots, an abandoned car and existing informal foot or ATV trails in and around the park.

### **Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (2005-2015)**

The Regional Parks & Trails Plan classifies the LQRRP as a Regional Natural Area that protects the natural environment and provides a range of appropriate outdoor experiences. Specific improvements to the LQRRP include the addition of basic infrastructure such as signs, toilets, parking, and trails. To date, a parking lot, entrance sign and trailhead have been developed off Meadowood Way. Part Six of this plan provides more detail on future capital expenditures.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Demographics**

Statistics Canada released updated census data in the spring of 2012. The RDN’s Electoral Area F has a population of 7,422, which represents an 11% increase from 2006. When broken down by age range, the Area F population saw a 1% decrease in the number of children ages 0-14, compared to a 10% increase in those aged 15-64 and 34% increase in those 65 and older (Statistics Canada, 2011).

The trend towards an aging population in this part of the regional district, and the rest of the Province is linked to recreational trends shifting towards more informal, individual activities, culture and the outdoors, over high-intensity, strenuous activities (BCRPA, 2006).

### Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

Directly upstream of the LQRRP is the Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park. This Provincial Park offers year-round camping, trails, picnicking, fishing and swimming. The park contains the impressive Little Qualicum Falls (Figure 3) and borders the south shore of Cameron Lake. Park amenities also include parking, toilets and an adventure playground. There are no plans for future acquisition or major improvements to the provincial park.



Figure 3. Little Qualicum River Falls in the Provincial Park.

RDN Parks staff explored the potential for a trail connection between the regional and provincial park. Steep terrain and swampy lowland limit the feasibility of this connection. In addition, BC Parks expressed concern over the introduction of an uncontrolled access to the provincial park in the vicinity of the waterfalls, which pose a safety risk for the public (BC Parks, pers.comm.).

### River Habitat Enhancement Works

In 2004, as part of the Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan, fish habitat enhancement was constructed in the Little Qualicum River, within the boundaries of the LQRRP. The Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan is an initiative of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (now Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) and the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF).

The works involved construction of large woody debris jams in the main channel of the LQR to provide rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead (Craig, 2005). Four locations were improved and are shown in Figure 4: LQRRP Inventory and Analysis. Monitoring of the installations includes structural reviews and assessments of use by juvenile steelhead and coho, and resident trout. The BCCF indicated no further works are planned along the river within the regional park (BCCF, pers.comm.). They did note however, that sensitive tributary habitat is located along the east side of the river on private lands, and that it would be desirable to maintain connectivity and protect these areas, if possible.

### Surrounding Subdivision Development

RDN Parks staff met with Wicklow West Holdings, the land owner and developer of the lands surrounding the majority of the LQRRP. There are many constraints to further subdivision and development of the lands around LQRRP. The Village Centre concept in particular is a challenge because half of the property is geotechnically un-usable for development due to steep slopes. Other areas are limited by riparian setbacks, environmentally sensitive areas, current zoning and uncertain market demand (Timberlake Jones Engineering, pers.comm.).

Due to the lack of developable land on east side of river (salmon spawning channels, floodplain, steep slopes) and the great expense required to construct

a road and bridge crossing to current standards, subdivision and development on the east side of the river is not likely within the foreseeable future.

In terms of recreation connections and improvements, the land owner was amenable to the prospect of formalizing access agreements for trails or other park uses on his land (Wicklow West Holdings, pers.comm.).





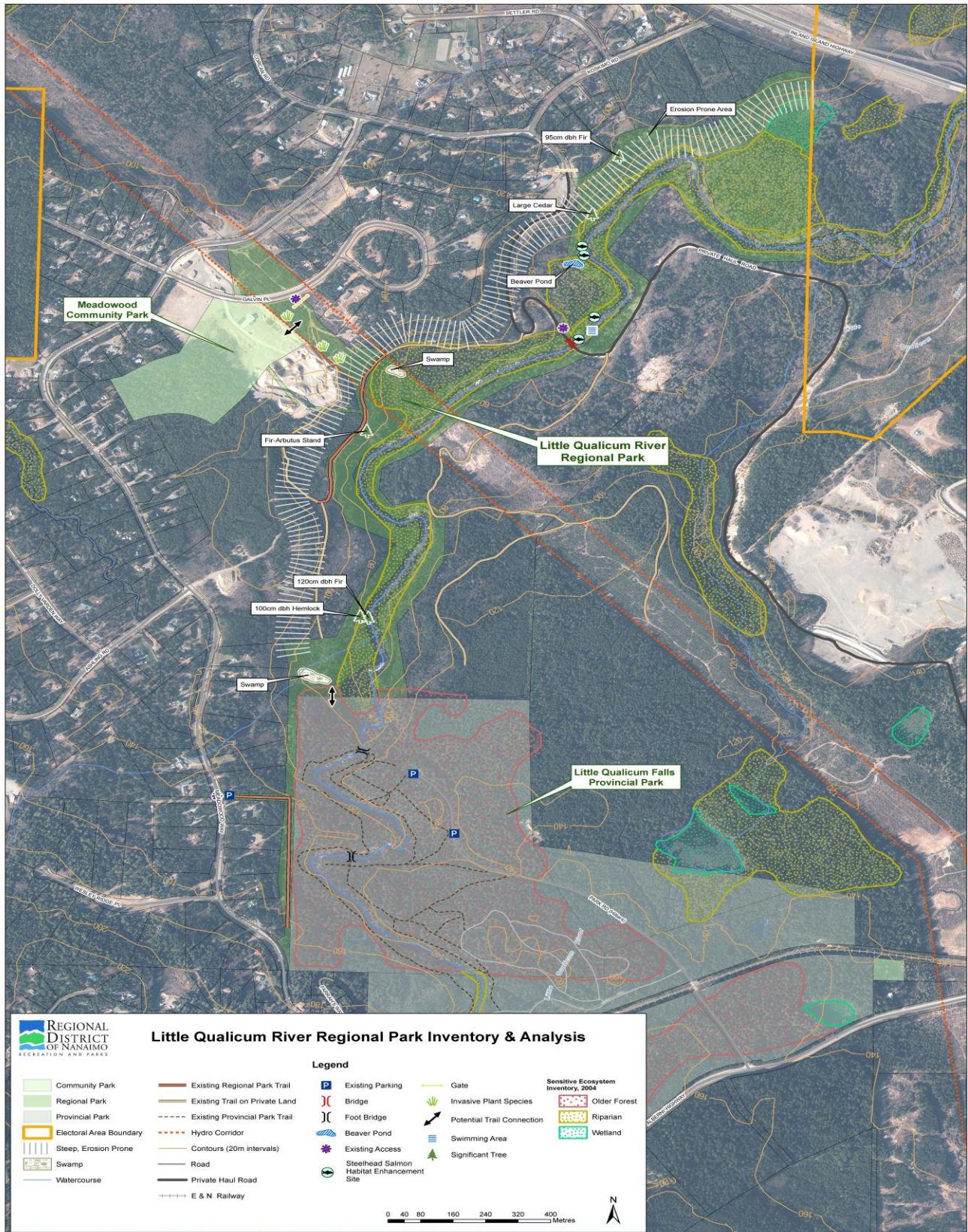


Figure 4. LQRRP Inventory and Analysis





## Public Consultation Approach

RDN staff undertook a comprehensive public engagement process, consistent with the RDN ‘Public Consultation Policy.’ Staff acquired information and feedback from the public and stakeholders at various stages during the development of the management plan. As previously noted, the engagement process for the management plan occurred concurrently with that for the Meadowood Community Park Design. Participants were asked to consider and offer feedback on both projects at once.

Several modes of engagement were used: two workshops, each with an online questionnaire (using Survey Monkey), stakeholder interviews, and a final open house to seek feedback on the draft plans near the completion of the projects. The RDN website also served as a window into the project and the various means of participation.

General advertisements broadcast the workshop sessions to the public (requesting RSVP), whereas stakeholders (Table 2) were sent direct invitations to the workshops. Key stakeholder interviews were conducted to acquire or clarify specific information. Consultants were retained to support RDN staff during the preparation and implementation of the workshops.

*Table 2. Stakeholders invited to provide feedback during the LQRRP management plan project (and simultaneous Meadowood Community Park Design project).*

<b>Community/ Stewardship Organizations</b>	Corcan-Meadowood Community Association, BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF), Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, Mid-island ATV Club, Parksville & Qualicum Beach Fish & Game Club, Arrowsmith Mountain Bike Club, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation, Arrowsmith Naturalists, WiTS (wildlife tree stewardship – BC Nature), Parksville Chamber, Qualicum Beach Chamber
<b>Government Agencies</b>	BC Parks, Ministry of Environment – Parks & Protected Areas Division, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests and Range, Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Qualicum First Nation, City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach
<b>Other Organizations</b>	Wicklow West Holdings, BC Hydro, Dashwood Fire Department (Fire Hall #1 & Meadowood Fire Hall), Island Timberlands, School District 69, Vancouver Island University, Arrowsmith Community Enhancement Society, Ozero Sand & Gravel

## Engagement #1 Summary

Both the Survey and Workshop addressed similar content. Input was sought on: park issues, key words for the creation of a long-term vision statement, draft management principles and, park-use ideas for future management and development of the park (Figure 5). Forty-one (41) people completed the online survey, which was available from April 13 to May 11, 2012 on the RDN website. It was also available in hard copy at the Workshop. The majority of respondents were from Electoral Area 'F' (68%), or from Qualicum Beach (17%).

Twenty-one (21) people attended the first Workshop, held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Workshop participants were grouped to represent either the Community Park or the Regional Park. Of the 21 people there, nine (9) represented the LQRRP at two tables. However, all participants at the Workshop were invited to provide feedback on both parks.



Figure 5. Workshop #1 participant input

In addition, six (6) key stakeholder interviews were conducted to gain further information from specific organizations about the LQRRP and implications for future management and development of the park. The organizations interviewed were: Mid-island ATV Club, BC Parks - Ministry of Environment Parks & Protected Areas, Wicklow West Holdings, BC Hydro, Dashwood Fire Department (Meadowood Fire Hall), and Ozero Sand & Gravel Operations.

A full summary of input received is available in Appendix B.

## Engagement #2 Summary

Phase 2 engagement sought input on: draft vision, draft management goals, and the preliminary conceptual master plan. The survey sought more specific feedback on the park management objectives that support each goal. Participation in the second round of engagement was much less than the first round. It is speculated that the low participation rate may be related to the limited recreational opportunities available in the park and relatively few concerns about the environmental protection direction presented to date. Only two (2) people completed the online survey, which was available from June 8 to June 29, 2012 on the RDN website. It was also available in hard copy at the Workshop. Respondents were from Electoral Area 'F'. Thirteen (13) people attended the second Workshop, held Saturday, June 16 from 9-12noon at the Lighthouse Community Centre. Workshop participants were grouped to

represent either the Community Park or the Regional Park. Of the 13 people there, three (3) represented the LQRRP, however, as with the first Workshop, participants were invited to provide feedback on both parks.

A full summary of input received is available in Appendix B.

### Open House Summary

Seventeen (17) people attended the Open House, held Saturday, October 13 from 10-12noon at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Open House attendees could review the complete Little Qualicum River Regional Park Planning process posted throughout the room. A presentation was given that summarized the planning process and how the RDN developed the Park Conceptual Master Plan for the park. A brief question and answer period allowed participants to ask questions relating to the conceptual master plan and implementation strategy of the park. Staff were also invited to the Meadowood Corcan Neighborhood Association AGM on October 21 to present the draft Final Plan to approximately 20 residents.

An online survey addressed general questions about how effectively the management plan met the community needs and interests. Input was sought on: vision statement, management goals, and the draft master plan and implementation strategy. Participation in the third round of engagement was greater than the second round. Ten (10) people completed the online survey, which was available from October 9 to October 24, 2012 on the RDN website. It was also available in hard copy at the Open House. Respondents were from Electoral Area 'F', 'H' and Qualicum Beach.

A full summary of input received is available in Appendix B.

## Part Four: **Understanding Issues & Opportunities**

Based on information uncovered during the inventory and analysis stage, as well as through community engagement (Workshops & Surveys and Stakeholder Interviews), several issues and potential opportunities arose.

In general, park issues that surfaced as the most important to address in the management plan fall into two primary themes – *Environmental Protection* and *Park Access*. As with other regional parks, *Partnerships and Collaboration* will also be an important aspect to managing the LQRRP.

### Environmental Protection

#### Park Zoning

One of the primary messages heard for future park management is the need to identify park management zones for the park. This is consistent with the park zoning policy described within the Regional Parks and Trail Master Plan (Figure 6).

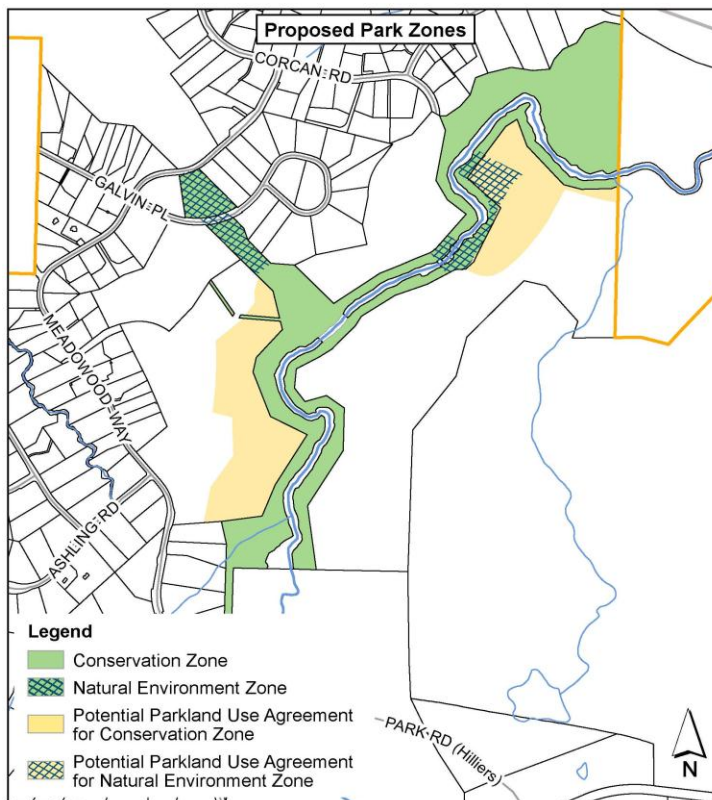


Figure 6. Proposed Park Zones for the Little Qualicum River Regional Park

The **Conservation Zone** would cover a majority of the park and also references areas of land outside the park boundary that are important to protect from future development. This zone aims to protect the natural environment.

The **Natural Environment Zone** would include areas that offer appropriate outdoor experiences and activities. The area under the hydro corridor and day-use opportunities near the river are examples of Natural Environment Zones within the park.

### Habitat Management

Protection of the river, protection of rare and sensitive ecosystems and fire management were raised as three important issues to address. Protecting salmon spawning areas and erosion along the river bank were also noted.

Areas outside the current regional park boundary that are important spawning habitat were identified (Figure 7) and should be flagged for protection from future development.



Figure 7. Sensitive Habitat Protection Area recommended for lands outside the current regional park boundary



Potential conflicts between park users and wildlife is a concern and effort should be made to keep active use areas and future trail development away from wildlife habitat areas (eg. riparian habitat, spawning and rearing areas, and treed and shrubby swamps).

Habitat management should be a collaborative effort, involving other agencies, organizations and governments.

### Erosion and Water Quality

Steep slopes occur on both sides of the river. Activities that occur at the top of bank, on residential or other private property have the potential to impact the watershed and the LQR directly. Protection of vegetation on the steep slopes will help to reduce the risk of erosion.

The river itself is a dynamic system and natural scouring of the river bank will occur. This natural process can be accelerated by human activity, particularly if people repeatedly access the water from steep banks. The popular swimming hole, known as the Glory Hole, is an area that is showing signs of increased erosion due to public use (Figure 8).



*Figure 8. Erosion of the river bank at the popular Glory Hole is accelerated by human use of the area*

There is also concern of sedimentation from the gravel access road flowing into the river. Vegetation buffering and stormwater detention may help mitigate the issue.

### Parkland Acquisition

Specific areas of natural habitat were highlighted as important to protect from future development. Due to the sensitive nature of the land surrounding the LQRRP, it is unlikely that much of this land is developable, and if it is pursued, environmental regulations/restrictions would apply. Therefore, the need to specifically acquire additional land is not as pressing since this land is not at high risk of being lost to development.

In addition to the sensitive areas, there is the possibility to work with the adjacent land owner to permit the use of additional land for day-use activity north of the Glory Hole on the east side of the river (Figure 9). Due to the challenges with accessing the site, day-use activity in this area would likely be walk-in, without public parking provided.





Figure 9. Potential areas for parkland use agreements, either for conservation or recreation in the natural environment zone.

## Park Access

There are several challenges to formalizing pedestrian and vehicular access to the LQRRP for recreational purposes. Access topics include: few formal pedestrian trail access points to the park, insufficient parking and motorized access through the park by ATVs.

Existing formal access is provided on the east side of Meadowood Way Rd (Figure 10). A short section of forest trail leads from a parking lot for 5-8 cars, into Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park.

The park is also accessed under the hydro corridor on Galvin Place. Motorized and non-motorized uses currently exist in this area. Existing trails meander in and out of the regional park property and would require formal agreement with the adjacent land owner for sanctioned use.



Figure 10. Existing parking lot and trailhead located off of Meadowood Way.

Finally, the private gravel haul road that originates from the end of Corcan Road and Melrose Place allows informal vehicle access to the regional park boundary and river. The road passes through the park at the bridge, by way of easement.

### Parking

Community input indicated that the parking lot off Meadowood Way is not big enough for current park use. Expanding the parking lot is limited by adjacent properties.

In terms of high park use areas (near the Glory Hole), it would be desirable to locate parking on the west side of the river near the bridge. This, however, will require looking at the safety requirements of the gravel road to the bridge. In lieu of parking close to the bridge, there is the potential to develop parking at the end of Corcan Rd in the road right of way or on private land, with agreement from Wicklow West. This parking lot would serve weekend park visitors when the gate across the private road is closed. Visitors would have to access the river on foot, along the private access road.

### Private Haul Road & Bridge

The private road and bridge originated during the logging activity that occurred on the lands surrounding the LQRRP prior to their purchase by Wicklow West Holdings. During the subdivision process for the Little Qualicum Estates area, the Regional District of Nanaimo acquired the LQRRP, which includes the bridge across the river. Access to the park was not well-planned, however, a Statutory Right of Way (SROW) was put in place to provide parking and public pedestrian access from the end of Corcan Rd to the regional park.

An easement through the park at the bridge location allows for ongoing use of the haul bridge for gravel extraction operations until the gravel operations at Meadowood and Ashling cease (Figure 11). Ozero Sand & Gravel currently controls and maintains the private gravel road from Corcan Rd to Melrose Pl. This road is gated on weekends and during heavy snow or risk of fire (Ozero Sand & Gravel, pers.comm.).

The SROW allows for pedestrian access from Corcan Rd, however, the narrow serpentine gravel road will not accommodate a separate pedestrian route to the river. Safety is the main concern and issue along this road. Should the Regional District wish to provide parking near the river or promote the use of this road by vehicles, an engineering study would be advised to determine required upgrades to the road. Opportunities for trail and parking within SROW will increase in time if/when gravel operations cease, however, access would only be to the river, as the SROW does not encompass private land on east side of river. A separate agreement for access to private lands on the east side of river and an additional engineering study to examine the safety upgrade requirements to the haul bridge safe for pedestrian and/or vehicular crossing would be required.



Figure 11. Haul bridge that crosses the river within the LQRRP.

Safety could be somewhat improved if some vegetation clearing could occur along the road within the regional park property on the east side of the bridge. Sight lines are impeded by the current vegetation at the sharp bend in the road.

### Emergency Access

Of note is the importance of the haul bridge for emergency access across the river in the case of fire or other emergency. At minimum, pedestrian access across the river at this bridge, or another location, is important to maintain.

The local fire protection coverage for the LQRRP is partly covered by the Dashwood Fire Dept. However, the majority of the park is currently outside local fire protection coverage (Figure 12). Due to proximity, the Meadowood Fire Hall (part of Dashwood Fire Dept.) would likely be first responders to an emergency in the park (Dashwood Fire Dept., pers.comm.)



Figure 12. Fire protection coverage around the LQRRP



## Trails & Connections

Narrow corridors and steep terrain limit the development of any trails to the river completely within the regional park boundary. To formalize trails from the top of bank to the river will require agreements with adjacent private landowners. One major existing trail is in place and could be formalized through an access agreement (Figure 13).

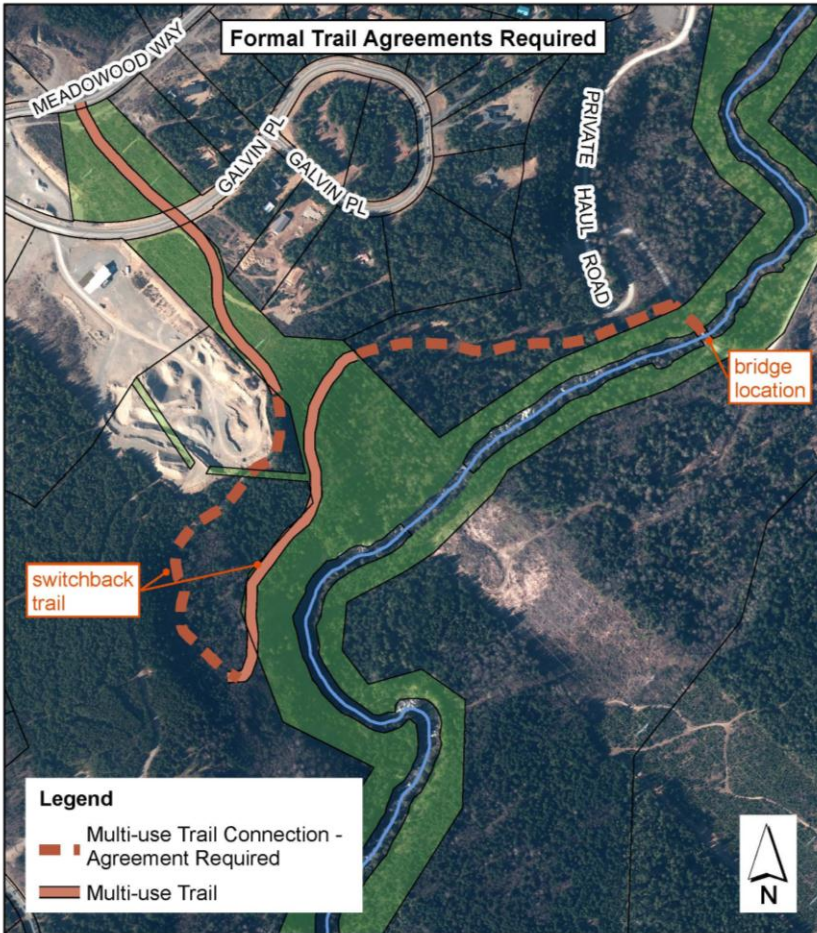


Figure 13. Formal trail agreements required to sanction the use of the switchback trail from the hydro corridor to the bridge.

The community pointed to the current use of a trail within the narrow band of park land that leads south from the Meadowood Way parking lot. This trail has not previously been recognized as a formal park trail, but there is the desire to see it formalized.

The strong desire to see a Conservation Zone designated in and around the park, means that trail development should be limited and should be done with

environmental sensitivity. At the time of future subdivision and development of the Qualicum Estates Village Centre, the RDN could work with the developer to ensure community and park connections are provided along new roads (eg. sidewalks).

### **Shared Roadways**

Another form of community pedestrian connection is along roads. The RDN could work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to formalize specific neighbourhood links between local amenities (eg. Meadowood Store, Meadowood Community Park, and LQRRP and the Provincial Park).

### **ATVs**

ATVs and dirt bikes currently frequent the gravel pit site and the hydro corridor off Galvin Place. The only access to and across the river in this area is by way of the private haul road, a secondary trail that meanders in and out of the park boundary, and the haul bridge that crosses within the LQRRP.

ATV access to crown land and other destinations is increasingly compromised by land development (Mid-Island ATV Club, pers.comm.). The current Regional District bylaw does not permit motorized uses within parks. For ATVs to pass through the LQRRP at a designated crossing location (e.g. the bridge) the Regional Board would have to review and amend the Parks Use Bylaw to permit this use in parks. The main implication with permitting this use is accepting the liability for public safety of motorized-vehicle users and other users within the park. A second issue is the interface with private property, and directing motorized-vehicle users from parkland on to private land.

### **Recreation & Site Amenities**

The most common topics for future park use and management as identified through the public engagement process emphasize trails, site amenities such as benches and signage, and ecological restoration including salmon habitat and invasive vegetation removal. It was noted that recreational activities should not coincide with areas of ecological significance, minimizing impacts on the river and the natural ecosystem. Uses such as horseback riding and biking should occur in appropriate areas.

Specific suggested site amenities improvements include:

- Interpretive signs to communicate about wildlife in the area and how to avoid conflicts (cougars, bears) and about regulations specific to fish – need to post fishing regulations if fishing permitted)
- Picnic tables, benches, garbage can, and toilet located in or near natural environment zones and where they will be serviceable for maintenance.

- ⇒ Garbage cans should be wildlife proof (eg. “big belly” garbage cans to reduce maintenance needs)
- ⇒ Consider composting toilet for reduced maintenance needs
- Trail development along the narrow band of regional park land south of Meadowood Way parking area is a high priority
- Multi-use gravel trails and revegetation with native species within the hydro corridor

### Shared Uses with Meadowood Community Park

As the adjacent Meadowood Community Park develops, several community amenities will be provided that do not necessarily need to be duplicated within the regional park. Below is a list of uses that the community felt could be shared with the Community Park:

- Washrooms
- Parking
- Bike park

## Partnerships & Collaboration

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### BC Hydro

RDN Parks staff met with BC Hydro to discuss possible recreational opportunities within the right of way. There are a number of compatible uses that could be considered. The main considerations are material use and maintaining set-backs from towers/guy wires (10m requirement), and wires (no closer than 6m), and maintaining access to the towers. Projects that reduce future maintenance for BC Hydro are preferred, such as in kind services of site prep/clearing and control practises to eliminate tall growing tree vegetation or where property owners have current and active invasive weed management programs (Figure 14).



*Figure 14. Vegetation in the hydro corridor is a mix of native and non-native invasive species.*

### Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

The MOTI indicated that there are no current plans for development in this area, and that MOTI must continue to retain maintenance access to existing roads and surface drainage infrastructure in regional park land.

The concept of community trail connections on road right of way shoulders would require collaboration with the MOTI.

### **BCCF & MOE**

The BC Conservation Foundation and the Ministry of Environment (formerly Water Land and Air Protection) installed large woody debris at 4 locations in the river within the LQRRP to enhance steelhead habitat in 2004. Future opportunities for habitat enhancement within the river may exist and the RDN should continue to maintain a relationship with the BCCF and MOE regarding fish habitat and the river's health in general.

### **Adjacent Lands**

The regional park is bordered by private residential lands, private development lands, the provincial park to the south, and Island Timberlands to the northeast. The Meadowood Community Park also adjoins the regional park along Galvin Pl.

### **Residential Interface**

Only a small number of large lots currently border the regional park directly. The dry summers of this region pose the risk of fire. Following an Emergency Response Plan for the park, the RDN should communicate the risks and prevention measures to neighbouring landowners. Encroachment, dumping of green or solid waste and tree removal are other topics that may require education and communication with residential neighbours.

### **Private Development**

Environmental and socio-economic factors limit the likelihood of future development around the regional park in the short-term. At the time of subdivision application, RDN Planning and Parks departments will need to discuss desired trail connections and/or park uses with the land owner. Environmentally sensitive areas will also require identification and protection, and development practices should aim to minimize impacts on the watershed and Little Qualicum River.

### **Island Timberlands**

Island Timberlands owns land downstream (northeast) of the LQRRP. No implications due to logging on this land are expected to affect the management of the LQRRP.

### **Provincial Park**

The Provincial Park offers many amenities that the regional park cannot. While these parks are adjacent, trail connections between them is unlikely due to environmental constraints. BC Parks would have to approve future proposals for trail connections in the future.

### **Community Park**

There is the opportunity to pair certain services provided in the Community Park with needs of the regional park users. Collaboration and communication amongst RDN Parks staff will be required to take full advantage of this opportunity.



## Part Five: **Management Plan**

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Future management of the LQRRP will be guided by an overarching vision, principles and more detailed management goals and objectives. These foundational elements of the management plan follow and reflect the community input that was received.

### **Vision**

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*Bordering both sides of the Little Qualicum River, the Regional Park provides protection for a forest and river wildlife corridor within the greater watershed. Recreational activities minimize environmental impact and promote balance between park use and ecological integrity. Open communication encourages partnerships, stewardship, and long-term support for the park's vision.*

### **Management Principles**

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The following principles provide the basis for requirements or obligations of management, creating the platform from which management goals and decisions arise.

1. A strong commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship will guide management initiatives.
2. Recreational activities within the park will respect natural features and practice a 'leave-no-trace'\* code of conduct, protecting the park for all generations.
3. Through education and cooperative management, the RDN, stakeholders, volunteers and other organizations will work collaboratively to achieve park projects.

**Principles of Leave No Trace**  
*(refined for the LQRRP)*

- ✓ **Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- ✓ **Travel on Durable Surfaces**
- ✓ **Dispose of Waste Properly**
- ✓ **Leave What You Find**
- ✓ **Respect Wildlife**
- ✓ **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

\* Leave No Trace Canada describes a behavioural attitude and ethic about protecting resources and future recreation opportunities (see [www.leavenotrace.ca](http://www.leavenotrace.ca) and side bar for more information).

## Goals & Objectives

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Management of the LQRRP will strive to achieve the following goals by meeting the objectives outlined below.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE
<i>The park's river, forest and shrubland ecosystems are protected and enhanced.</i>	New development in the park avoids locations where environmentally sensitive areas or wildlife use areas are known to exist.
	Protective fencing or barriers may be required to minimize erosion at key locations along trails or the river bank.
	Invasive vegetation is actively controlled by an inventory, removal and monitoring approach.
	Wildlife/Hazard trees are removed only in the event they pose a public safety risk.
	Protection options for adjacent privately-owned environmentally sensitive lands may be considered within the conservation zone.
<i>Outdoor recreation within the park minimizes environmental impact. Park users respect each other and nature.</i>	Public safety is considered above recreational or experiential activities within park development proposals.
	Site furniture is situated to enhance visitor enjoyment and minimize user-conflicts.
	Construction materials are selected to fit with the environment and are locally sourced, when possible.
	Leave-no trace Code of Conduct is expressed on signage and supported by regular park maintenance in day-use/natural environment zones of the park.
	Low-impact, non-motorized, passive activities are supported within the park.
	Interpretive signage, where appropriate, will educate park users about the park.

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Potential future trails within park will be developed to limit environmental impacts.

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Clear signage informs park visitors of park use regulations and recreational opportunities within the park.

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*A cooperative management approach enables collaboration on park access, development, stewardship and maintenance activities.*

Neighbouring land managers are consulted regarding connections between community, regional and provincial parks and surrounding neighbourhoods.

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Steelhead and other fish habitat is protected and enhanced with the collaborative efforts of the BCCF and MoE.

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Volunteers are supported in park improvement and stewardship initiatives.

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Information about park uses is posted on-line and on signage in the park.

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Emergency response procedures are determined in collaboration with the local fire department, BC Forest Service, RCMP and other emergency responders.

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Vegetation management within the hydro corridor is achieved through collaboration with BC Hydro.

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Community partnerships or in-kind donations may support the development of park furnishings and trails.

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Park projects are phased within an implementation strategy that defines capital and operating costs and partnership opportunities.

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## Policies & Actions

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This section presents policies and actions that will guide the management, development and stewardship of the LQRRP over the 2013-2023 year period. Policies and actions are organized under the themes of the management goals. In several cases, the policies touch on more than one goal at a time, but are presented under the goal they most heavily reflect.

### Ecosystems are Protected and Enhanced

#### Policy 1: Park Zoning

Park use zones will be established to manage the LQRRP for both conservation and appropriate recreational activities.

***Action 1.1:** Establish and graphically display conservation and natural environment park zones, consistent with those described in the Parks and Trails Master Plan, on park maps and signage.*

#### Policy 2: Invasive Vegetation

Invasive vegetation within the park will be managed by inventory, removal and monitoring.

***Action 2.1:** Develop an invasive species management program that aims to visually survey and map known locations in the park, and prioritize target areas for restoration to limit the spread to other sites in and around the park.*

***Action 2.2:** Work with community volunteers and BC Hydro to remove and restore affected areas within the hydro right-of-way. Restored areas should meet BC Hydro's guidelines for planting near power lines.*

#### Policy 3: Protecting Adjacent Sensitive Lands

The RDN will identify areas of land on both east and west sides of river that could enhance habitat protection and/or recreational opportunities.

***Action 3.1:** Communicate adjacent areas of ecological concern that merit protection to the Planning Department.*

***Action 3.2:** Work with the developer to identify and secure areas of recreational interest for public use as park or trail, whether through acquisition or use agreement.*

#### Policy 4: Forest Management

Trails and day-use areas within the park will be monitored annually for hazard trees by operations staff. The majority of the park will be managed as natural forest land with minimal intervention by RDN staff.

**Action 4.1:** *Staff arborist annually inspects and documents trees of concern located along trails and in day-use areas.*

**Action 4.2:** *Remove hazard trees only if they pose an immediate threat to park user safety or property. Remaining trees provide wildlife habitat.*

#### Policy 5: River Management

The RDN will continue to support the work of BCCF and MOE, regarding the steelhead recovery program and other fish habitat enhancement works.

**Action 5.1:** *Work in collaboration with BCCF and others to support monitoring efforts and to help communicate results.*

#### Policy 6: Erosion Prevention & Mitigation

The RDN will monitor sections of trail and riverbank for erosion concern. Sedimentation of the river will require immediate attention.

**Action 6.1:** *Install fencing and stairs to control access at erosion prone area along the river at the Glory Hole location.*

**Action 6.2:** *Monitor trails for seasonal erosion or erosion due to recreational activities.*

### Outdoor Recreational Minimizes Environmental Impact

#### Policy 7: Code of Conduct

The RDN will employ the “Leave No Trace” code of conduct within the park. Park users will be informed of the Leave No Trace principles on website and print material.

**Action 7.1:** *Update RDN website to include reference to Leave No Trace Canada for the LQRRP and all regional parks.*

### Policy 8: Amenity Development

New recreational amenities will not be located within the conservation zone or other areas of the park that are known to be ecologically sensitive.

Development will be concentrated within the Natural Environment zone.

Material selection will be compatible with native materials on site and will be sourced locally, when possible.

**Action 8.1:** *Install site amenities (picnic tables, signage, parking, portable toilet) at or near formal day-use/swimming areas.*

**Action 8.2:** *Prior to locating new trails or amenities within the conservation zone of the park, conduct bioinventory research to determine the appropriate siting of park amenities or trails.*

### Policy 9: Park Access

Vehicular access/parking for the LQRRP will be provided as shared parking with the Meadowood Community Park, including the development of a trail connection from the community park to the regional park within the hydro corridor.

Vehicular parking specifically for the LQRRP will be limited to the end of Corcan Rd until a time when the road is upgraded to safety standards. Vehicle access and use of the private haul road is controlled by Wicklow West and Ozero. Liability associated with the road is also their responsibility. If the road was upgraded and vehicle access was legally granted, the RDN could explore the possibility of locating parking on the west side of the river within the SROW.

Pedestrian access from Corcan Rd to the park is legally possible within the SROW, however, since it is unsafe to have pedestrians and vehicles using the road at the same time, the RDN needs to ensure due diligence. Due to safety conflicts with active gravel trucks, the private haul road will be available for pedestrian access only on the weekends, when the gate at the end of Corcan Rd is closed.

Sanctioned use of the haul bridge (for pedestrians and emergency vehicles) would also require an engineering study and recommended upgrades to the bridge. The RDN could not provide for general vehicular access across the bridge without securing legal use of the private haul road on the east side of the river. Therefore, use of the bridge would be limited to pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

**Action 9.1:** *Formalize shared parking and a trail connection with the Meadowood Community Park.*

**Action 9.2:** *Work with MOTI or developer to formalize and install parking at the end of Corcan Rd.*

**Action 9.3:** *Maintain contact with Wicklow West and Ozero regarding the status of the haul road and associated controls.*

**Action 9.4:** *Pending the improvement of the road, look at developing additional parking with signage on the west side of the river near the bridge.*

**Action 9.5:** *Commission an engineering study to assess required safety upgrades to the haul bridge for safe pedestrian and emergency vehicle crossing to the remainder of the regional park on the east side of the river. The implementation of any upgrades will depend on the outcomes of the study.*

### **Policy 10: Trails & Shared Roadway Connections**

The RDN will pursue agreements with the adjacent private land owner and the MOTI to formalize trails or roadway connections to and around the regional park.

Future development will present an opportunity for new roadway connections that should be explored with the Planning Dept and the developer at the time of subdivision application. This opportunity will provide an alternate route to a direct connection to the provincial park and will avoid new trail connections in sensitive lands.

**Action 10.1:** *Formalize a use agreement for the switchback trail that leads from the Hydro corridor, south on private land and turns back into regional park land, with the adjacent private land owner (Wicklow West).*

**Action 10.2:** *Formally recognize and upgrade if required, the existing trail within regional park land that heads south from the Meadowood Way parking lot.*

**Action 10.3:** *Work with Planning, future development, and MOTI to formalize roadway linkages (sidewalks) along new roads to the regional park.*

**Action 10.4:** *Work with MOTI to formalize shared roadway connections that support the overall Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, including local connections between regional, community and provincial parks and other community amenities (eg. Meadowood Store).*

### Policy 11: River Access

River access will be provided at specific locations within the Natural Environment zone. Signage will inform park users of the risks of recreating near water and will encourage proper precautions to avoid injury.

**Action 11.1:** *Formalize pedestrian trails to river access points, on both the east and west sides, within the natural environment zone of the park.*

### Policy 12: Signage

Interpretive, regulation and directional signage will be installed to inform users about the park.

**Action 12.1:** *Install signage in the Corcan Rd parking lot informing visitors that the haul road to the river is only safe for pedestrian use when closed to vehicles. Signage indicating the length of the road/trail and its steepness should also be provided.*

**Action 12.2:** *Install interpretive signage at key points within the park: day-use areas, restoration sites, etc.*

**Action 12.3:** *Provide clear messaging about 'Leave No Trace' on park information material and signage.*

**Action 12.4:** *Install directional signage, small maps and regulatory signage at all trailheads and trail junctions, as well as type of trail and recreational uses permitted.*

### Policy 13: Motorized Vehicles

ATV use in the area surrounding the LQRRP is prominent. Motorized vehicles (ATVs, dirt bikes) are not permitted within regional parks under the current Parks Use Bylaw. Given the strong interest for this use within the immediate community, the RDN will look to ways it can support the ATV community specifically around the LQRRP (eg. providing designated staging areas/parking for ATV users), acknowledging however, that such use will bring forth liability and safety management concerns and will set a precedent for other regional parks, that the Regional Board will have to consider.

**Action 13.1:** *Seek further direction from the Regional Parks and Trail Select Committee on the topic of ATV access through and/or staging areas at the LQRRP specifically.*



#### **Policy 14: Pets**

Pets must be under their owner's control at all times in the park.

#### **Policy 15: Camping**

Camping/camp fires were observed in the regional park. Camping is only permitted in designated campground parks (Descanso Bay, Horne Lake). Due to extreme fire risk in the summer months and emphasis on conservation management, camping and campfires will not supported at the LQRRP.

### **Cooperative Management & Collaboration**

#### **Policy 16: Utility Corridor**

The RDN will work with BC Hydro to restore and develop trail within the Hydro Corridor.

***Action 16.1:** Refer to BC Hydro documents: Rights-of way guidelines for compatibles uses, and; Planting Near Power Lines, when planning/designing the area within the ROW.*

***Action 16.2:** Notify BC Hydro at least 1-year before desired works to plan for possible cost-sharing opportunities.*

#### **Policy 17: Emergency Response**

The RDN will coordinate with the Dashwood Fire Dept., the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Dept., the BC Forest Service Wildfire Management Branch, the RCMP and other emergency responders to prepare an Emergency Response Plan for the park (including fire-related concerns).

***Action 17.1:** Develop an Emergency Response Plan for the Regional Park in collaboration with the organizations noted above.*

***Action 17.2:** Implement and enforce temporary trail closures and/or smoking bans as necessary during peak fire season.*

#### **Policy 18: Stewardship**

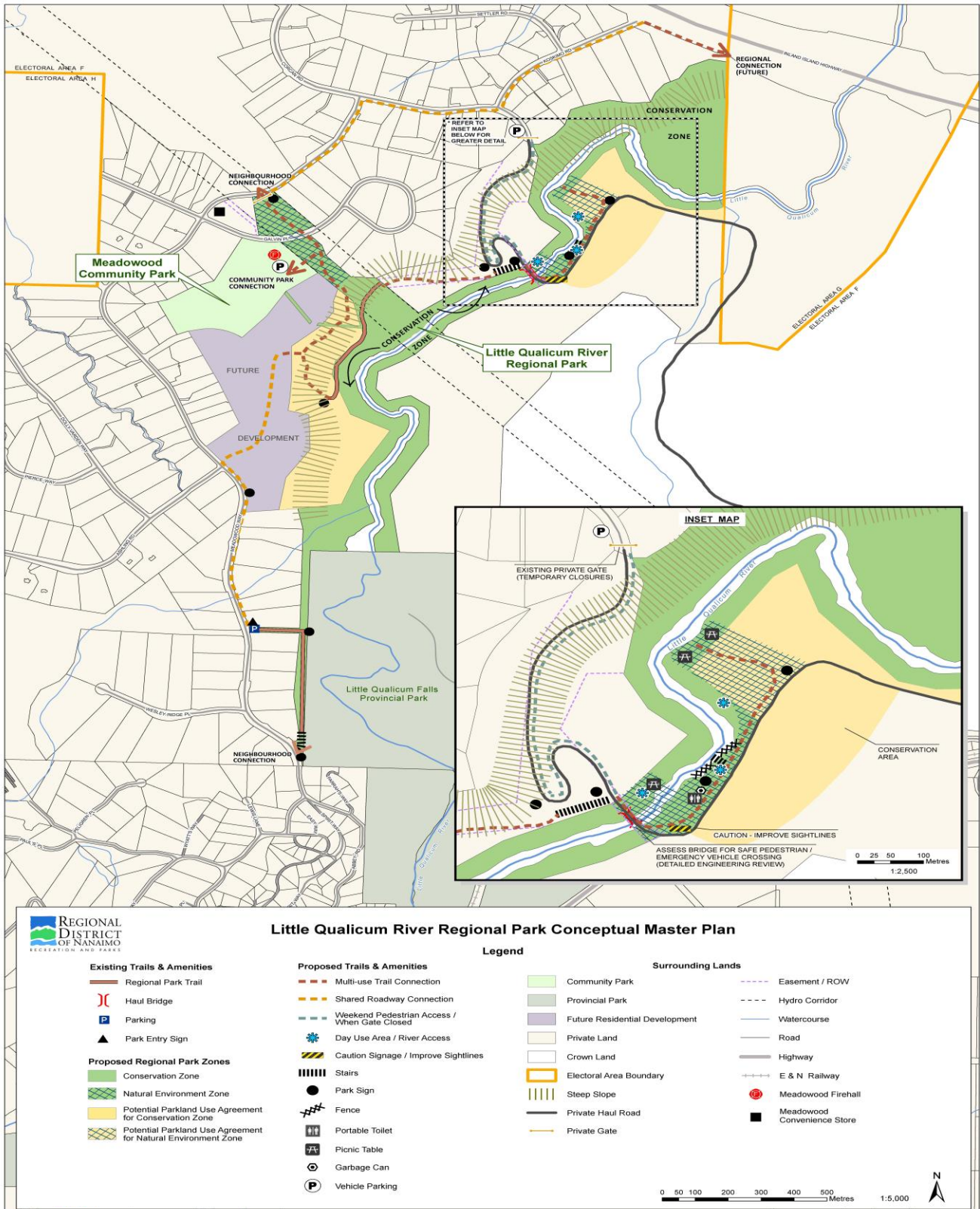
The RDN will continue with existing and seek new opportunities to partner with other organizations and volunteer groups to assist with management and/or operational tasks in the park.

**Action 18.1:** *Consider establishing a park warden program or stewardship group ('Friends of Little Qualicum River Regional Park') should the demand exist.*

**Action 18.2:** *Work with BC Hydro monitor the regeneration of native vegetation within the Hydro Corridor.*

### Conceptual Master Plan

The schematic Conceptual Master Plan for the future development of the LQRRP follows.



Little Qualicum River Regional Park  
2013-2023 Management Plan

Part Six: Implementation Plan 2013-2023

Little Qualicum River Regional Park  
2013-2023 Management Plan

Part Six: Implementation Strategy 2013-2022

The anticipated costs to implement the actions outlined within this plan amount to \$99,500 for capital development and related studies. This value reflects an approximate estimate and is not a guaranteed cost figure. Cost estimates will be refined as detailed designs are prepared.

Goal Category:  
REC - Recreation; ENV - Environmental Protection; COL - Collaboration

Project Codes:  
CAP - Larger Capital Projects DEV = Smaller park development projects, identified within parks-specific budgets. OPP = General operational items and maintenance within parks. MGT = Planning, Legal, Research, Bylaw related projects.

The expected additional operational cost to implement this plan is in the order of \$4,500/year at build out.

Priority Projects <i>Sort by Priority, then Project Code</i>	Goal Category	Project Code	Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Cost Estimate	Participation	Budget Notes
				2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			
<b>Priority Projects</b>																	
<b>Action 10.2:</b> Formally recognize and upgrade if required, the existing trail from the Meadowood Way parking lot.	REC	CAP	1												\$2,000	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 1.1:</b> Establish and display conservation and natural environment park zones on park maps and signage.	ENV	MGT	1												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 3.1:</b> Communicate adjacent areas of ecological concern that merit protection to the Planning Dept.	ENV	MGT	1												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 3.2:</b> Work with the developer to identify and secure areas of interest for recreational park use.	ENV	MGT	1												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 8.2:</b> Prior to locating trails/amenities in conservation zone, conduct bioinventory to determine siting.	REC	MGT	1												\$4,000	Consultant services	Staff time to oversee/coordinate.
<b>Action 6.1:</b> Install fencing and stairs to control access around erosion prone area along river at Glory Hole.	ENV	CAP	1												\$7,500	Consultant & RDN Staff	(\$2500 included for consultant design services if required)
<b>Action 2.1:</b> Develop an invasive species management program and prioritize target areas for restoration.	ENV	MGT	1												\$8,500	Consultant services	Staff time to oversee/coordinate.
<b>Action 10.1:</b> Formalize a use agreement for the switchback trail with the adjacent private land owner.	REC	MGT	2												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 9.1:</b> Formalize shared parking and a trail connection with the Meadowood Community Park.	REC	CAP	2												\$15,000	Contractor & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 10.3:</b> Work with Planning, etc. to formalize linkages (sidewalks) along potential new roads to regional park.	REC	MGT	2												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 17.1:</b> Develop Emergency Response Plan for the Regional Park in collaboration with appropriate organizations.	ENV	MGT	2												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 12.4:</b> Install directional and regulatory signage at all trailheads and trail junctions.	REC	CAP	2 3												\$2,000	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 8.1:</b> Install site amenities (picnic tables, signs, parking, toilet) at/rear formal day-use/swimming areas.	REC	CAP	2 3												\$10,000	Contractor & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 13.1:</b> Seek further direction from the RPTSC on the topic of ATVs through/staging areas at the LORRP.	REC	MGT	3												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Tally: High Priority Projects (Year 1-3)</b>															<b>\$49,000</b>		
<b>Action 9.2:</b> Work with MOTI or developer to formalize and install parking at the end of Corcan Rd.	REC	CAP	4												\$5,500	Contractor & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 12.1:</b> Install signage at Corcan Rd parking lot about timing of haul road use and safety for pedestrians.	REC	CAP	4												\$500	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 9.5:</b> Commission an engineering study to assess safety upgrades to the haul bridge.	REC	MGT	4												\$15,000	Consultant	Staff time to oversee/coordinate.
<b>Action 16.1:</b> Refer to BC Hydro documents when planning/designing the area within the ROW.	COL	MGT	4												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 16.2:</b> Notify BC Hydro at least 1-year before desired works to plan for possible cost-sharing opportunities.	COL	MGT	4												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 9.4:</b> Pending improvement of the road, look at developing additional parking on the west side of the river.	REC	CAP	5												\$8,000	Contractor & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 11.1:</b> Formalize pedestrian trails to river access points within the natural environment zone of park.	REC	CAP	5												\$5,000	Contractor & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 2.2:</b> Work with volunteers and BC Hydro to remove and restore affected areas within the hydro ROW.	ENV	OPP	5												\$2,000	BC Hydro, Volunteer Support	Cost-sharing/in-kind support. Staff time to oversee/coordinate.
<b>Action 12.2:</b> Install interpretive signage at key points within the park: day-use areas, restoration sites, etc.	REC	CAP	6												\$5,000	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 12.3:</b> Provide clear messaging about 'Leave No Trace' on park information material and signage.	REC	CAP	6												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 10.4:</b> Work with MOTI to formalize shared roadway connections for regional trail linkages.	REC	MGT	7												\$5,000	MOTI & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 18.1:</b> Consider establishing a park-specific stewardship group should the demand exist.	COL	MGT	8												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Tally: Medium to Low Priority Projects (Year 4-10)</b>															<b>\$46,000</b>		
<b>Action 6.2:</b> Monitor trails for seasonal erosion or erosion due to recreational activities.	COL	OPP	On-going												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 5.1:</b> Work with BCCF and others to support monitoring efforts and to help communicate results.	ENV	MGT	On-going												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 7.1:</b> Update RDN website to reference Leave No Trace principles of conduct.	REC	OPP	As needed												\$500	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 9.3:</b> Maintain contact with Wicklow West and Ozero regarding the status of the haul road.	REC	MGT	On-going												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 18.2:</b> Work with BC Hydro to ensure ongoing monitoring of native vegetation within the Hydro Corridor.	COL	MGT	On-going												\$1,000	BC Hydro & RDN Staff	
<b>Action 4.1:</b> Staff arborist annually inspects and documents trees of concern along trails and in day-use areas.	ENV	OPP	On-going												\$0	RDN Staff	
<b>Action 4.2:</b> Remove hazard trees only if they pose an immediate threat to park user safety or property.	ENV	OPP	On-going												\$2,500	Contractor services	Staff time to oversee/coordinate.
<b>Action 17.2:</b> Implement/enforce temporary trail closures/smoking bans as necessary during peak fire season.	ENV	OPP	On-going												\$500	RDN Staff	
<b>Ongoing Projects (Annually or As-needed Basis)</b>															<b>\$4,500</b>		
<b>Approximate Expected Plan Implementation Costs</b>															<b>\$99,500</b>		



## References

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[http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about\\_bcrpa/documents/Trends.pdf](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about_bcrpa/documents/Trends.pdf)

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Personal Communications:

Mid-Island ATV Club, pers.comm. Linda Owens, May 14, 2012.
Wicklow West Holdings and Timberlake Jones Engineering, pers.comm. Wally Campbell, John Garkut, May 15, 2012.
BC Parks, pers.comm. Sharon Erickson, Drew Chapman, May 29, 2012.
BC Hydro, pers.comm. Ray Read, Chris MacNeal, May 28, 2012.
Ozero Sand & Gravel, pers.comm. Dennis Ozero, May 29, 2012.
Dashwood Fire Dept. pers.comm. Nick Acciavatti, Harvey Twidale, June 19, 2012.
BCCF, pers.c omm. James Craig, April 28, 2012.
MOTI, pers.comm. Bob Wiley, March 7, 2012.