

# PROJECT BACKGROUND

## NANAIMO RIVER BRIDGE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

A multi-use bridge crossing over the Nanaimo River within the MCRT has been noted as a priority item in the following RDN planning documents and studies:

- Area 'A' Community Trails Study (2001)
- Regional Parks and Trails Plan (2005)
- Area 'A' Active Transportation Plan (2009)

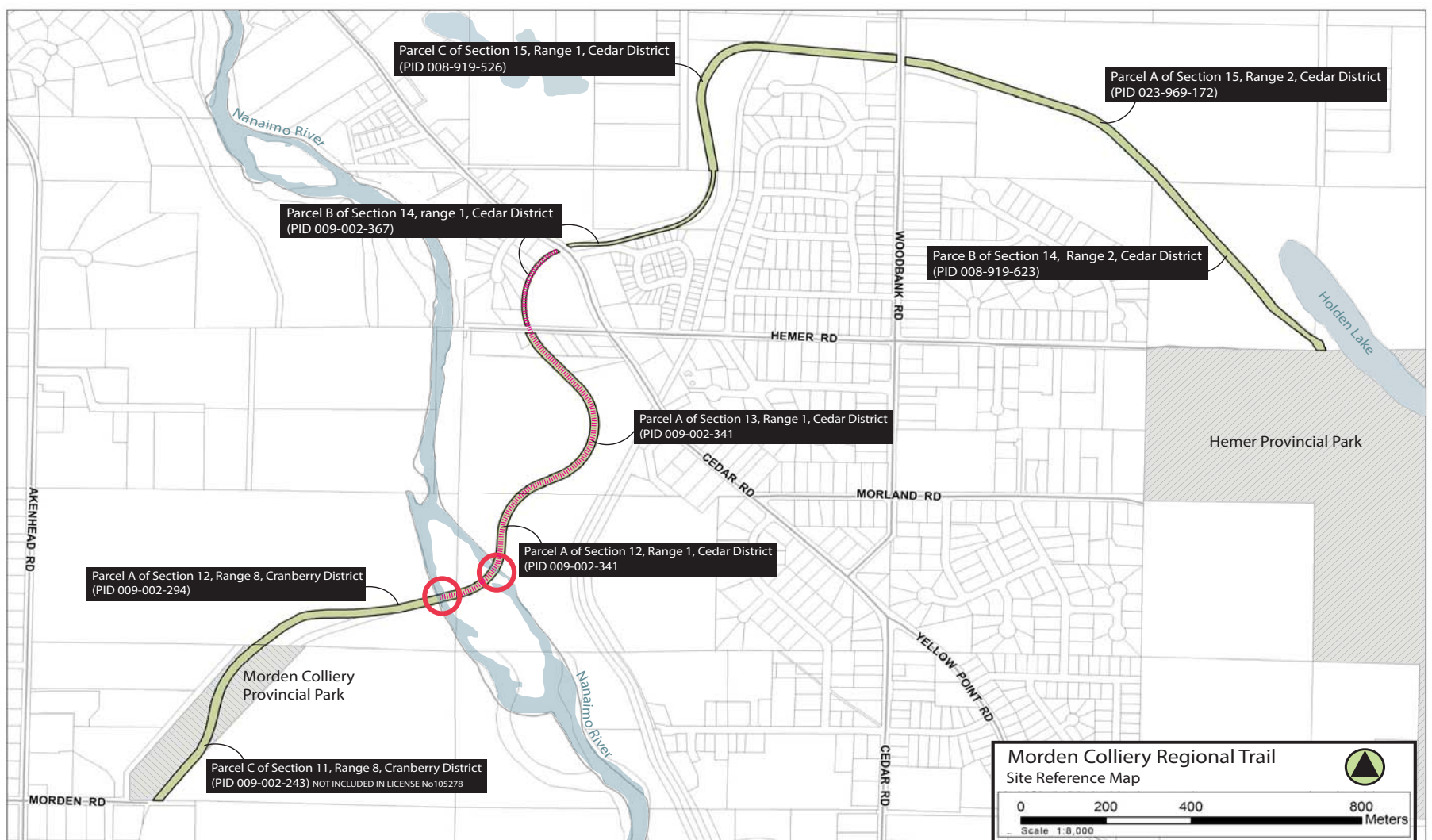
A copy of each plan is available at the Open House. Links to each plan are also available on the project website at [www.rdn.bc.ca/MCRTbridges](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/MCRTbridges).



West channel of Nanaimo River at MCRT



East channel of Nanaimo River at MCRT



Location of proposed steel truss multi-use trail bridges over the Nanaimo River.



Undeveloped segment of the MCRT (approximately 1km between Nanaimo River and Cedar Road).



Undeveloped trail south of Cedar Rd.



Undeveloped trail south of Hemer Rd.

## BENEFITS OF BRIDGE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Bridge construction and associated trail development from the Nanaimo River to Cedar Road would:

- Create a continuous 4km-long regional trail between Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park and Hemer Provincial Park.
- Create an active transportation link between the communities of South Wellington and Cedar.
- Help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobile use.
- Enhance local and regional recreational opportunities.
- Enhance opportunities for tourism.
- Provide economic benefits for local residents and businesses.