



Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan: 2012-2022 Volume One



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan (2012 – 2022) is the result of collaborative efforts by the residents of the Regional District of Nanaimo, Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation), partnering organizations, Regional District staff, the Moorecroft Regional Park Advisory Committee and the project team from O2 Planning and Design.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Moorecroft Regional Park is located in Nanoose Bay, approximately 8 km east of the City of Parksville. The site is approximately 34.4 ha (85 acres) in total area and is located at the northern terminus of Stewart Road, extending along the northeast coast of the Nanoose Peninsula to just beyond Arab Cove. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) acquired Moorecroft Regional Park in partnership with The Nature Trust of British Columbia in March 2011.

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan has been prepared to guide management, development and operations of the park over the next 10 years (2012-2022). The park is valued for its significant ecological features, including a sensitive Garry Oak ecosystem, its natural recreation setting and its cultural history. The most pressing management issue at Moorecroft Regional Park is balancing the potentially conflicting values of ecological preservation and protection with visitor use and the development of new facilities or experiences.

The management plan was developed using a phased planning process and by working with citizens, park users, stakeholder organizations, First Nations partners, and elected representatives from the RDN. Information gathered through public and stakeholder engagement activities provided direction for the development of a vision for the park and its strategic management framework, insight into the park's natural, recreational and cultural values, as well as feedback on the preferred Park Concept Design scenarios. A draft plan was also presented for stakeholder and public review.

Park Values

The park's natural, recreational and cultural values were researched and assessed early in the study process. Findings from this assessment contributed to the development of a vision for Moorecroft Regional Park as well as informed the management goals, policies, actions and design concepts of the park's management plan.

Natural Values

The natural environment at Moorecroft Regional Park is characterized by a sensitive Garry Oak ecosystem within the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone. The ecosystem at Moorecroft Regional Park represents a relatively contiguous swath of CDF forest in a landscape that is otherwise fragmented and should be protected as part of a broader effort to preserve biodiversity within the CDF zone.

Recreational Values

Moorecroft Regional Park is valued as an outdoor recreation destination for its natural setting and for the trail network that provides access through the park. While some existing amenities and infrastructure are serviceable, a large number of the buildings on the site are generally in poor condition and in most instances do not meet public safety and risk management requirements. Recreational uses tend to be low impact, passive activities. However, the potential for user conflict exists and should be addressed to minimize impacts to user experiences.

Scenic Values

The distinct coastal landscape contributes significantly to the aesthetics and character of Moorecroft Regional Park. Vesper point affords broad scenic vistas of the Strait of Georgia (Salish Sea) framed by a uniquely west coast Garry Oak ecosystem with rocky outcrops. A fine-grain, intimate landscape experience is provided by specific landscape features at the intertidal zone, the mature Douglas-fir and Big Leaf Maple forests, and Skipsey Lake. The diversity of views and places within the park provide truly unique experiences.

Cultural Values

Moorecroft Regional Park has long been a place of gathering, celebration and teaching; first through traditional Snaw-Naw-As use and then as a youth camp. These cultural histories are infused throughout the site and offer unique partnership opportunities with local First Nations to develop and understand cultural connections to ecological features within the park.

Vision

In 2022, residents and visitors alike recognize Moorecroft Regional Park as a destination for nature, community and learning. Moorecroft is a place to celebrate the region's ecological features, its history, local arts and vibrant First Nations culture.

The park's native biodiversity and cultural assets have been protected, and are enhanced. The park serves as a small, yet intact, refuge for wildlife in an increasingly fragmented landscape. Previously disturbed areas within the park have been reclaimed and non-native invasive species are under control.

Moorecroft operates through various partnership opportunities among the Regional District of Nanaimo, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, Snaw-Naw-As, academic institutions, and the private and not for private-profit sectors. Experiential learning opportunities, sustainable infrastructure and committed stewardship deliver enhanced visitor experiences.

Moorecroft Regional Park remains a place for families and visitors of all ages to enjoy.

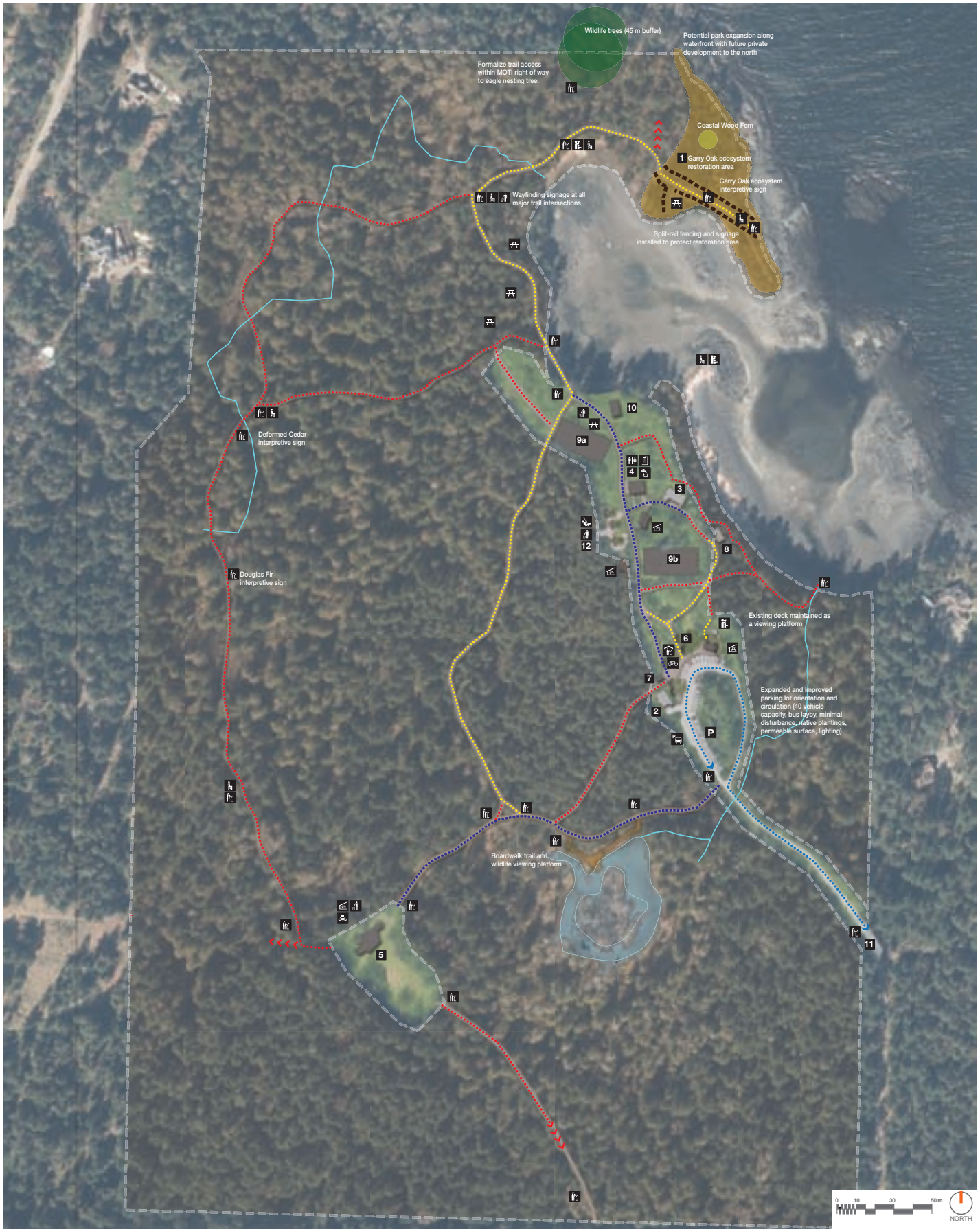


Figure 1. Design Concept for Moorecroft Regional Park (Legend below and concept map opposite)

LEGEND

CIRCULATION

- Existing pedestrian trails to remain
- >>> RDN will work to formalize south, west, and north pedestrian park entries
- Upgrade existing trail for accessible use
- Upgrade existing trail access for vehicle access
- Vehicular access

AREAS

- 1** Garry Oak ecosystem recovery area

PARK STRUCTURES

- 2** Caretaker House - maintain and refurbish
- 3** Kennedy Lodge - facility for special events, RDN parks visitor centre, community fitness and wellness programs
- 4** Splash House - new building on Director's Cabin site, washrooms and showers
- 5** Large picnic shelter and pavillion for special events
- 6** Formalized park arrival with information kiok, donor's recognition wall, waste and recycling, and bicycle parking
- 7** Storage shed

BUILDINGS

- Existing buildings to be retained
- Proposed new buildings/structures

ZONES

- Conservation zone
- Development zone
- Watercourse
- Wildlife tree buffer
- Coastal Wood Fern
- Park boundary
- Split rail fence

- 8** Ms. Moore's Cabin - Options for maintenance and/or refurbishment to be considered
- 9** Long House - Ecological and cultural learning programming. Location (2 options) to be determined in design development.
- 10** Existing boathouse to be refurbished / rebuilt
- 11** Park entry feature
- 12** Children's activity area

FACILITIES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Wayfinding, regulatory, interpretive signs | Parking |
| Pavilion | Waste or recycling receptacle |
| Formalized viewpoint | Freshwater shower |
| Covered picnic shelter | Picnic table |
| Children's activity area | Toilet / wash facilities |
| Donor recognition wall | Bench |
| Park information kiosk | Secure bicycle parking |
| Bus layby | Water fountain |

BUILDING SUMMARY

Existing Buildings

23 - buildings currently exist within the park.

19 - buildings will be demolished. A detailed demolition plan will determine schedule and procedure for demolition.

4 - buildings will not be demolished: Caretaker's House, Kennedy Lodge, Boathouse, and Ms. Moore's Cabin. Refurbishments to be determined through a further study.

Proposed Buildings/Structures

1 - Long House/Learning Centre

3 - Covered Picnic Shelters

1 - Pavilion/Large Picnic Shelter

1 - Splash House/Washroom (on site of existing Director's Cabin)

Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan Recommendations

Park Classification - Regional Natural Area

Four management goals were identified and defined. These goals represent the basis of the plan and inform the management objectives, policies and priority actions as well as the concept plan and design guidelines.

1. Conservation + Protection
2. Outdoor Recreation, Active Living + Learning
3. Visitor Management + Safety
4. Community Engagement + Stewardship

A concept plan was developed to outline the long-term conservation strategy and potential development in the park. The design concept translates the vision and policy direction into more detailed design recommendations and is presented below in the Moorecroft Regional Park Concept Plan (Figure 1).

The elements of the Concept Plan include:

- Demolition of existing structures
- Ecosystem recovery areas
- Multi-use grass meadow
- Gateways and Entrances
- Access Road and Parking
- The Central Development Area
- Trails, Pathways and Boardwalks
- Structures
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Natural Playgrounds
- Utility Infrastructure

Conservation is achieved through zoning recommendations that provide spatially explicit policy direction and clearly communicate management objectives for defined areas within the park. The zoning is presented below in Table 1. Consistent with the zoning strategy, all development elements are limited to the Development Zone or to areas of existing development footprint.

Table 1. Sizes of the Park Zones

Zone	Area (ha)	Percent of Park (%)
Conservation Zone	32.04	93
Intensive Recreation Use/Development Zone	2.09	7

The management plan also sets out an implementation strategy that includes phasing recommendations and a cost estimate. Phasing was recommended in terms of assigning high priority projects (1-3 years) and low priority projects (4-10 years) to policy action and design items over a 10-year time frame. The recommendations for all planning, operational and capital projects are presented in Table 2. Cost estimates are included for capital items only. Expected operational costs are presented in Table 3.

Table 2. Phasing Recommendations

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Phase 1: High Priority (1-3 years)				
Plan for demolition of existing facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stringer Hall •Wood Shed • Splash Houses • Director’s Cabin • Cabins (14) • Light Standards" 	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN + Contractor
Develop feasibility plan for the Long House with Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation)	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1	Staff time	RDN, NFN + Consultant
Develop emergency response plan, including fire risk plan	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN
Explore feasibility of off-leash opportunities in woodlot south of park	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN + Crown Woodlot
Develop a Garry Oak ecosystem recovery plan/Conduct invasive plant inventory	Ecological protection	1	\$1,000	RDN, GOERT + partners
Assess amphibian habitat at trail and road crossings	Ecological protection	1	Staff time	RDN
Install boardwalks at key locations/along sensitive areas of trails	Ecological protection	1	\$20,000	RDN + Contractor - COMPLETED
Assess and install water level control at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	1	\$2,000	RDN + Contractor
Construct split rail fence at Vesper Point	Ecological protection	1	\$19,250	RDN
Demolish buildings as per the schedule identified in the demolition plan	Visitor safety + management	1	\$121,000	RDN + Contractor
Demolish and remove existing light standards	Visitor safety + management	1	\$1,000	RDN + Contractor
Demolish buildings as per the schedule identified in the demolition plan	Visitor safety + management	2	\$121,000	RDN + Contractor
Demolish and remove existing light standards	Visitor safety + management	2	\$1,000	RDN + Contractor
Site amenity improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog waste bag dispensers • Large wildlife-proof garbage container and small containers (5) • Bike racks • New benches (7) and new picnic tables (5) • Outdoor recreation, active living + learning" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1	\$10,000	RDN + Future RDN Donation Program

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Upgrade and maintain Kennedy Lodge	Visitor safety + Management	1	\$60,000	RDN + Contractor
Develop and implement signage program for park usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog management signage • Signs at undesignated trail access points/park boundary • New way-finding signage and maps • Park kiosk and information signage" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1+2	\$18,000	RDN + Contractor
Explore park entry along northern and western boundaries and secure ROW if necessary	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN, MOTI, adjacent community
Develop and implement interpretive signage program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological and cultural interpretive signage + website" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	3	\$15,000	RDN + Consultant
Renew foreshore lease for Block A, Lot 249	Ecological protection	3	Staff time	RDN + NFN
Secure Foreshore lease for Second Bay	Ecological protection	3	Staff time	RDN + NFN
SUBTOTAL HIGH PRIORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$267,250	
Phase 2: Low Priority (4-10 years)				
Secure northern ROW as ecological buffer	Ecological Protection	4	Staff time	RDN + MOTI
Develop regional trail connections to the south + east of Moorecroft Regional Park	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	4	Staff time	RDN, Crown + MOTI
Upgrade and maintain Caretaker's House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New windows • Closet doors 	Visitor safety + Management	5	\$15,000	RDN
Assess parking lot and upgrade if needed	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6	\$157,500	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct Long House	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6 ¹	Funding through partnerships and grants	RDN + Partners
Design and construct entry feature	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$12,500	RDN + Contractor
Construct park operations storage shed	Visitor safety + Management	7	\$25,000	RDN + Contractor

1 Timing dependent upon funding; could occur sooner than year 6.

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Design and construct new day use/picnic shelter at Stringer Hall location	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$28,000	RDN + Contractor
Construct recognition and donor wall	Community engagement + stewardship	8	\$12,500	RDN + Contractor
Upgrade and maintain Boat House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Roof • New floor/extra support • New sliding door and entrance door securement • Depending on future use - redesign inside and add electrical 	Visitor safety + Management	8	\$35,000	RDN
Develop plan for future of Ms. Moore's Cabin	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN + Parks Forum
SUBTOTAL LOW PRIORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$285,500	
Ongoing, Yearly Operational and/or Capital works				
Monitor and enforce on-leash policy	Visitor safety + management	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Monitor visitor satisfaction	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Continue ecosystem monitoring program with NCC	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Facilitate Moorecroft Regional Park partnership forum (yearly meeting)	Community engagement + stewardship	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Supplementary nest box program at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Deliver public guided interpretive tours	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Monitor the development and condition of informal trails	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Maintain science research partnerships when interest arises	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Explore options for private donations in accordance with future RDN policy direction	Community engagement + stewardship	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Invasive plant management throughout park; restoration planting within Development Zone	Ecological protection	On-going	In-kind	RDN + Volunteers

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Implement surface water controls along trails and roads	Visitor safety + management	On-going	\$5,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL ONGOING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$5,000	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (High, Med, Low and Ongoing)			\$557,750	
Contingency		(10% Design Fee) (20% Construction)	\$167,325	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES + CONTINGENCY			\$725,075	

Optional / To be assessed yearly based on operational needs				
Prepare detailed site servicing plan	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN + Consultant
Construct barrier-free trails	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	4	\$262,500	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new boardwalk at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	5	\$94,400	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct natural playscape	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	5	\$40,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new day use / picnic shelters (2)	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6	\$56,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct pavilion in meadow	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$140,000	RDN + Contractor
Implement plan for future Ms. Moore's cabin	Visitor safety + Management	7	\$15,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new splash house, if required	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$100,000	RDN + Contractor
Assess and widen entry road, if required	Visitor safety + management	8	\$85,000	RDN + Contractor
Install new waterline to Meadow, if required	Visitor safety + Management	8	\$125,000	RDN + Contractor
Upgrade electrical service, if required	Visitor safety and Management	8	\$65,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$982,900	

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
TOTAL OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$982,900	
Contingency	(10% Design Fee) (20% Construction)		\$294,870	
TOTAL CAPITAL, OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES + CONTINGENCY			\$1,277,770	

Table 3. Operational Cost Requirements

Expected Operational Costs for High Priority and Ongoing Capital Projects			
Operational Action	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Building repair/maintenance (including septic tank service)	Yearly	\$10,000	RDN + Consultant
General repair/maintenance (including toilet, gravel, trees, invasive species, trails, signs)	Yearly	\$15,000	RDN
Electricity/water/propane	Yearly	\$5,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL YEARLY OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES		\$30,000	

A monitoring plan and review process, as well as an amendment process, has also been developed. The success of the management plan is dependent on informed decision-making and a commitment to continual improvement.

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan effectively balances ecological conservation with nature-based recreation and education. Moorecroft Regional Park is destined to become a unique and valued destination in the Regional District of Nanaimo's parks and trails system.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Park Overview

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) acquired Moorecroft Regional Park in partnership with The Nature Trust of British Columbia in March 2011. The park is located in Nanoose Bay, approximately 8 km east of the City of Parksville. The site is approximately 34.4 ha (85 acres) in total area and is located at the northern terminus of Stewart Road, extending along the northeast coast of the Nanoose Peninsula to just beyond Arab Cove.

Open to the public since March 2011, this ocean front park has a rich history as a place of traditional use by the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation) and as Moorecroft Camp under the direction of the United Church of Canada. It is valued for its significant ecological features, including a sensitive Garry Oak ecosystem, its natural recreation features and its cultural connection to the region. The acquisition of the park achieves strategic RDN recreation and parks objectives related to ecological preservation, enhanced regional recreation opportunities, and increased community use of parks.

The site provides an opportunity to balance ecological conservation with nature-based recreation and education. Prior to acquisition, 93% of the park was placed under a Conservation Covenant held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to preserve and enhance the ecological values of the park. The most pressing management issue at Moorecroft Regional Park is balancing the potential conflict between environmental preservation and protection and visitor use as new facilities and programming experiences are developed.

1.2 Purpose of the Management Plan

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan is intended to guide management, development and operations of the park over the next 10 years. The management plan establishes a clear vision, management goals, policies and actions to guide park management decisions, as well as design concepts and guidelines, and a strategy to implement the management plan. This management plan provides clear direction to the RDN and its partners on how to ensure the preservation and rehabilitation of the Park's important and sensitive ecosystems while providing quality, nature-based recreation opportunities and visitor experiences.

1.3 Plan Organization

The management plan is comprised of nine chapters intended to provide a user-friendly overview of the planning process and management framework that will guide the development and operation of Moorecroft Regional Park.

- Chapters one to three present the planning process, consultation and planning context that informed the development of the management plan.
- Chapter Four identifies the Park's natural, recreational and cultural values and assesses the issues and opportunities each presents.
- Chapter Five describes a vision and guiding principles for Moorecroft Regional Park and identifies the four core goals that inform the management plan.

- Chapter Six presents the park management objectives, policies and priority actions. For ease of use, these actions have been organized in a table according to each goal.
- Chapter Seven recommends park zoning requirements as well as a preliminary design concept for the developed area of the park.
- Chapter Eight outlines implementation priorities and describes how the plan will move from concept to implementation.
- Chapter Nine provides a framework for monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities.

1.4 Planning Process

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management plan was developed using a phased planning process.

Phase One Preliminary background research and data acquisition.

Phase Two Comprehensive review of background information and park inventory, including an integrated spatial analysis of social, cultural and natural environments to identify issues and opportunities at the site.

Phase Three Develop a strategic framework to outline the vision, principles and management goals for the park. Identify specific policies, priorities and conceptual designs to provide further management direction.

Phase Four Draft a preliminary park management plan for review and comment.

Phase Five Finalize and approve the management plan.

Community input was sought throughout the planning process in accordance with a public and stakeholder engagement strategy, described in greater detail in Chapter Two.

Figure 2 summarizes the five project phases and associated project timelines.

1.5 Legislative and Policy Context

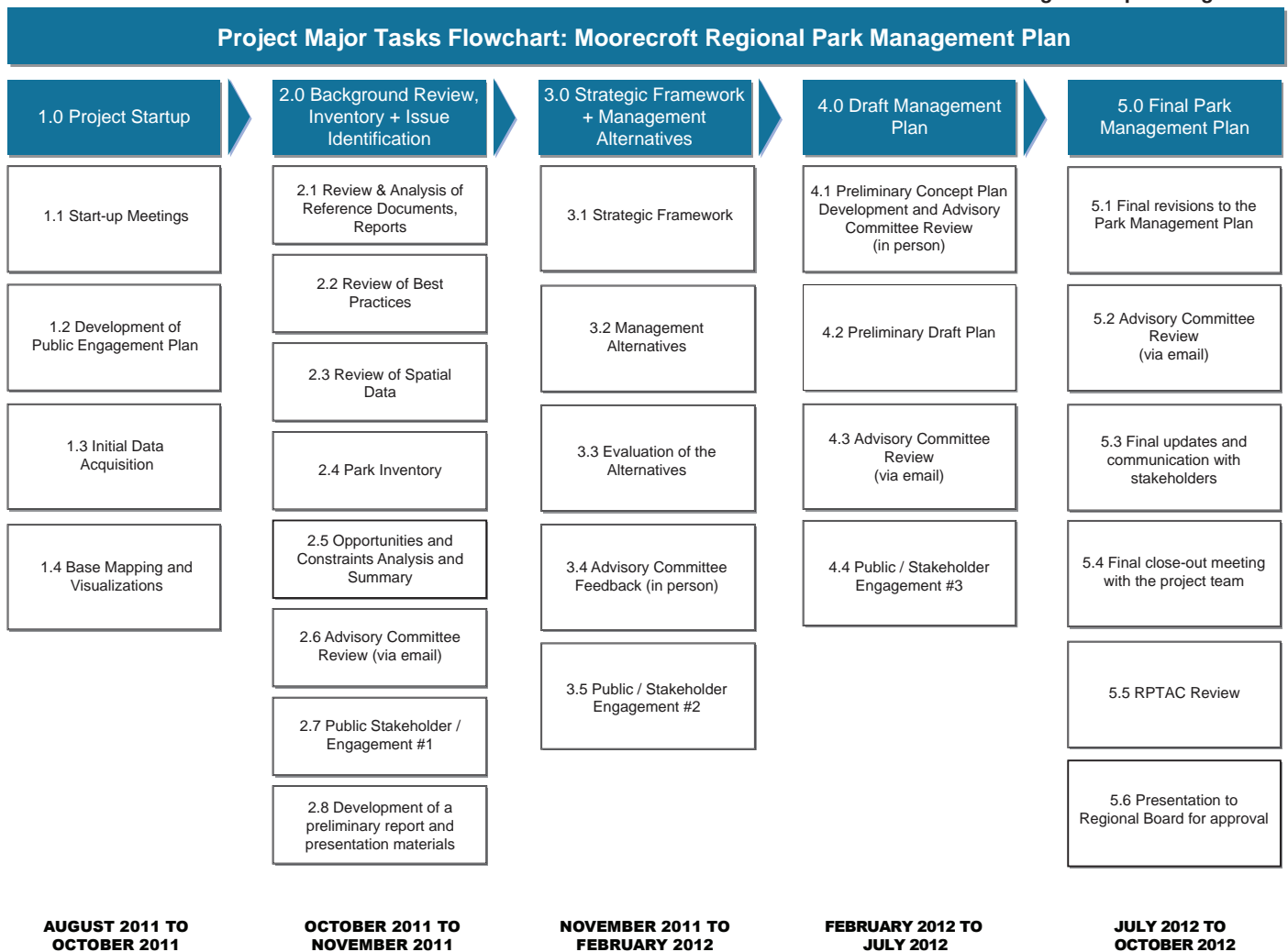
The management of Moorecroft Regional Park and the contents of this plan abide by the legislative requirements established in the Local Government Act; the Regional District of Nanaimo Park Use Regulations Bylaw No. 1399, 2004; Land Use and Subdivision Bylaw No. 500, 1987; the Moorecroft Conservation Covenant and Access Agreement; and is consistent with the priorities established in the following regional policies:

- RDN Regional Growth Strategy
- RDN Parks and Trails Plan
- RDN Youth Recreation Strategic Plan
- Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan
- RDN Public Consultation/Communication Framework Policy No. A1.23

Moorecroft Regional Park will be managed in accordance with relevant provincial and federal legislation and regulations including (but not limited to):

- Fisheries Act
- Species at Risk Act
- Navigable Waterways Protection Act
- Wildlife Act
- Fish Protection Act
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Local Government Act
- British Columbia Building Code (BCBC)

Figure 2. Moorecroft Regional Park Management planning Process



2.0 PUBLIC + STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

“Involving citizens is about creating ideas that have a better chance of working for them” (Bason, 2011). Following the concept of “co-creation”, this management plan was developed by working with citizens, park users, stakeholder organizations, the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation), and elected representatives from the RDN.

Centralized and decentralized engagement approaches were used throughout the planning process to enable convenient access to the planning process for all citizens and stakeholders, as depicted in Figure 3. All approaches were designed to facilitate meaningful participation for all those potentially affected by the development of the management plan. Opportunities to participate were provided early in the planning process and on an on-going basis throughout the project.

Public and stakeholder engagement included advisory committee meetings, held to coincide with key project milestones, and three engagement sessions comprised of centralized and decentralized activities. The first engagement session was held in Fall 2011 to seek initial input into the vision and management objectives for the management plan. The second engagement session was held in Spring 2012 to confirm the vision, goals and principles for the management plan, to provide feedback on conceptual design options and to comment on a proposed dog management strategy. The third engagement session was held in Summer 2012 to receive feedback on the draft management plan.

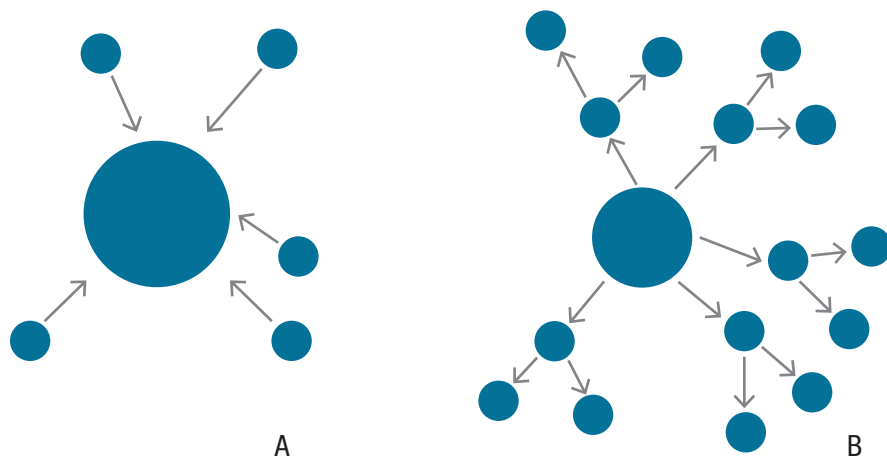


Figure 3. Centralized vs Decentralized Engagement

CENTRALIZED VERSUS DECENTRALIZED CONSULTATION

The typical centralized engagement model (A) forces the community to attend a small number of events. The decentralized model (B) builds on existing networks in the community and through technology. This increases effectiveness and efficiency, while creating early commitment to the plan.

2.1 Advisory Committee

Under direction of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Recreation and Parks Department, O2 Planning and Design Inc. was hired to develop the plan in conjunction with review and input from an advisory committee. The advisory committee met throughout the project to comment on key aspects of the plan, including:

- Feedback on the planning process and public engagement activities;
- Input on the direction of the management plan such as contributing to the development of the vision, principles, goals, policies and actions; and
- Input on the concept plan and implementation strategy.

Moorecroft Regional Park Planning Advisory Committee

- Area Director for Nanoose Bay (Electoral Area E)
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- RDN Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
- Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation)

2.2 Phase One Public Engagement Activities

The first set of community and stakeholder engagement activities was held to obtain input, information, and ideas on existing park uses, preferred management direction and an overall vision for the park. This input confirmed and elaborated background research on existing park uses and informed the development of a vision for the park and its strategic management framework. Activities included an open house, an online survey and stakeholder interviews, summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Phase one Public Engagement Activities

Activity	Location	Participants
Open House	October 22, 2011 12:00 - 4:00pm Kennedy Lodge Moorecroft Regional Park	100 attendees
Survey	Available online from October 6, 2011 - October 31, 2011 and in paper at the Open House	74 survey responses
Interviews	Telephone interviews lasting 25-50 minutes conducted in October and November 2011	The Nature Trust of British Columbia Nanoose Bay Recreation and Activities Society Nanoose Naturalists BC Conference of The United Church of Canada Milner Gardens and Woodlands RDN Recreational Programming Past president of the Moorecroft Camp Society VIU Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development

Stakeholders and members of the public were asked to provide input on the following four themes:

- Current park uses
- Management issues (concerns, issues, opportunities, constraints, priorities)
- Appropriate activities, amenities, services, and facilities for the park
- Park vision

Information gathered from the public engagement activities was analyzed in detail and documented in a What We Heard summary report. The report is available under separate cover in Appendix A. Four key messages were heard through the first phase of public and stakeholder engagement activities.

Youth Engagement - Respondents clearly indicated that the park has been and continues to be important for engaging youth and strengthening environmental understanding with youth. Particularly, exposing youth to ecological values through recreational activities and hands-on learning opportunities was a vital element of this park. However, many respondents felt the need for greater input from youth in developing the park vision and identifying opportunities and barriers to achieving that vision. As confirmation, there were few youth in attendance at the open house, and few youth that completed the survey. Many recommendations focused on the need to directly engage youth in the management planning process.

Park Awareness - Based on discussions with participants at the open house and the survey responses, a considerable amount of the input received has been from residents near the park. This suggests that either many people in the RDN are not aware of the park and the management plan process, or they have chosen not to be engaged in the process. It is important that efforts are made to maximize opportunities for regional residents to visit the park and provide input of the future of the park. Of those who have visited the park and participated in the management plan process so far, many have indicated that the park is unique in the region and has the potential to be an iconic regional destination.

Level of Service - There are opposing perspectives on the future level of service associated with the park. Some respondents feel it should be a passive experience focused on ecological preservation with the majority of existing buildings and infrastructure removed and footprints rehabilitated. However, most respondents view the park to be a vibrant, regionally-significant natural destination that encourages active living, health, wellness, building community social capital, and creating nature-based learning opportunities, particularly with a focus on youth initiatives and connecting people and planet. This indicates that the intended role of the park in the regional park system should be explicitly stated from a policy perspective. Priority

actions should enable the park to positively contribute to both the local and regional community sense of place.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship - In light of the diverse range of perspectives on recreational opportunities, development of services and amenities, and environmental conservation, the consensus among public and stakeholder respondents is that a balance must be achieved between the human and natural values associated with the park. Recognizing the need to upgrade the facilities and services in the park, respondents do not wish to see any degradation of the park's core natural values and wish to protect and rehabilitate the sensitive ecosystems. This balance must ensure the long-term preservation of ecosystem functions, taking an environmentally precautionary approach to park service and amenity developments.

2.3 Phase Two Public Engagement Activities

The second set of community and stakeholder engagement activities was held to receive input on a preferred park concept design scenario as well as to confirm the proposed vision, goals and principles for the management plan. The online map editor tool allowed respondents to interactively identify what they liked and disliked about different elements proposed in the park concept design scenarios. Activities for this phase included an open house, an online survey and an online map editor tool, summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Phase two Public Engagement Activities

Activity	Location	Participants
Open House	February 11, 2012 12:00-4:00pm Kennedy Lodge Moorecroft Regional Park	120 attendees
Survey	Available online from January 25, 2012 to February 29, 2012 and at a dedicated station at the open house. Paper copies were also available at the open house.	63 online survey responses 2 mail-in survey responses
Online map editor tool	Available online from January 25, 2012 to February 29, 2012 and at a dedicated station at the open house	88 entries

Information gathered from the public engagement activities was analyzed in detail and documented in a What We Heard summary report. The report is available under separate cover in Appendix A.

Based on the input received through stage two engagement techniques and discussions held with the advisory committee, the following overarching themes were identified:

- The majority of respondents felt that the vision, management goals and principles suitably represent the desired future of the park.
- Understanding First Nations traditional use and history of the site and collaborating with local First Nations for interpretive programming and park design elements in the park should be highlighted in the vision, goals, and principles.
- The majority of respondents felt that a blend of the low- and medium-use concept options best represent the desired future of the park.
- Basic/simple park facilities, services and amenities are the most consistently desired elements.
- There is consistently strong support for connecting families and children with nature through natural play areas.
- Leveraging existing partnerships, volunteer resources, and local stewards (similar to Camp Moorecroft) can help maximize the values of the park.
- There is a mix of opinions about formalizing the park entrances to the west and northwest of the park (linking adjacent residential areas using existing trails).
- There are mixed opinions regarding the potential for accommodating youth overnight for educational and nature-based learning experiences.
- There is consistently limited support for commercial overnight accommodations in the park.
- There is at least moderate support for the proposed options for managing dog activities with the recognition that more discussion is required. There was no consensus among respondents on what represents the most appropriate outcome.

2.4 Phase Three Public Engagement Activities

The third set of community and stakeholder engagement activities was held to receive feedback on the draft Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan. Input provided through these activities helped to finalize the policy direction and priority actions identified in the plan and confirm the conceptual design of the park. Activities included an open house, and a survey, summarized in Table 3.

Table 6. Phase three Public Engagement Activities

Activity	Location	Participants
Open House	June 16, 2012 2:30 – 4:30 pm Kennedy Lodge Moorecroft Regional Park	58 attendees
Survey	Available online* from June 16 – 29, 2012. Paper copies were also available at the open house.	17 hard copy survey responses 3 e-mail comments

* A copy of the survey was available on-line; however, respondents were required to print and send their completed hard-copy to the RDN.

Stakeholders and members of the public were asked to provide input on the following three themes:

- Policy direction and priority actions
- Park concept and design guidelines
- Satisfaction with the draft Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan

Information gathered from the public engagement activities was analyzed in detail and documented in a What We Heard summary report. The report is available under separate cover in Appendix A. Three key messages were heard through the second phase of the public and stakeholder engagement activities.

Dog Management Strategy - Open house attendees and survey respondents indicated the need for a dog management strategy, although there is no consensus for a strategy approach. The approach presented in the draft management plan proposed designating the meadow as the only off-leash area in the park. Some feedback suggested that the meadow is an inappropriate off-leash area as it presents high potential for conflict between off-leash dogs, children and families. Considerable feedback requested that the management plan either bans dogs altogether or has a strict on-leash policy in all areas of the park as dogs impede conservation and ecological protection goals. Conversely, some feedback was received suggesting that the dog off-leash area be larger.

Keep it Simple - Input on the draft park concept and design guidelines was generally positive. Consistent feedback was for the management plan to adopt a “keep it simple” approach by minimizing development and adopting traditional design concepts that are in keeping with the context of the site. Respondents support a park concept with little development and regularly maintained and upgraded trails.

Longhouse + Amenities are Key Priority Actions - Implementation priorities were strongest for actions that support Outdoor Recreation, Active Living and Learning. Specifically, the development of a feasibility plan for the Longhouse was identified as the most important priority. This focus on the Longhouse is consistent with feedback received through the survey. Other amenities that should be implemented as priorities include upgrading trails to four-season use and increasing trail accessibility for people with mobility needs. The provision of new benches and picnic tables was also indicated as a priority. Ecological Protection actions were also important priorities to respondents, including the development of a Fire-Smart Plan and a Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

3.0 PARK CONTEXT

3.1 Site History

Moorecroft Regional Park is in the traditional Coast Salish territory of the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanose) and Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nations. An archaeological site identified in the area in 1975 indicates ancient occupation by First Nation communities.

The park property was formally developed by Ms. Gertrude Moore at the beginning of the 20th century and began operating as an all-girls camp in 1934 (Huffman, 2008). Moorecroft Camp was named after Ms. Moore's family homestead in Ontario. In 1955 the United Church of Canada purchased the property. The property was first operated as a summer camp and then as a year-round camp rentable for retreats and field courses by schools and community groups.

The subdivision and development of nearby residential areas led to the purchase of 14 additional acres in 1976 to act as a buffer zone between Camp activities and adjacent housing. Improvements to the camp were made throughout the 1990s such as the construction of Skipsey Lake in 1992. Following financial difficulties, the United Church began exploring options for sale of the property in 2010. The site began operating as Moorecroft Regional Park in 2011.

3.2 Acquisition

In 2007, the United Church indicated support in-principle for the sale of the camp property. The property was sold to the RDN in 2011 to establish Moorecroft Regional Park. The Nature Trust of BC worked in partnership, through agreement, to raise funds to assist with acquisition of the park.

As a condition of sale by the United Church, a conservation covenant was registered on title at the time of acquisition and is administered by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Through the zoning system established in the covenant, approximately 93% of park is protected "to reflect the public interest in the ecological values of the land and the amenities for conservation" (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011, p. 9).

The covenant recognizes that the majority of the forested lands and wetlands in the park are provincially listed as endangered or vulnerable. It states that the park is to allow natural ecological processes and disturbance regimes to take place with due consideration to maintaining human safety and reducing risks to adjacent private property. The covenant also recognizes the importance of public recreational opportunities, environmental and cultural programming, trails, and appropriate park infrastructure while ensuring protection of ecological features.

3.3 Land Use

Moorecroft Regional Park is approximately 34.4 ha (85 acres) in total area. The site is located at the northern terminus of Stewart Road and extends along the northeast coast of the Nanoose Peninsula to just beyond Arab Cove.

The Moorecroft site is composed of two parcels of land.

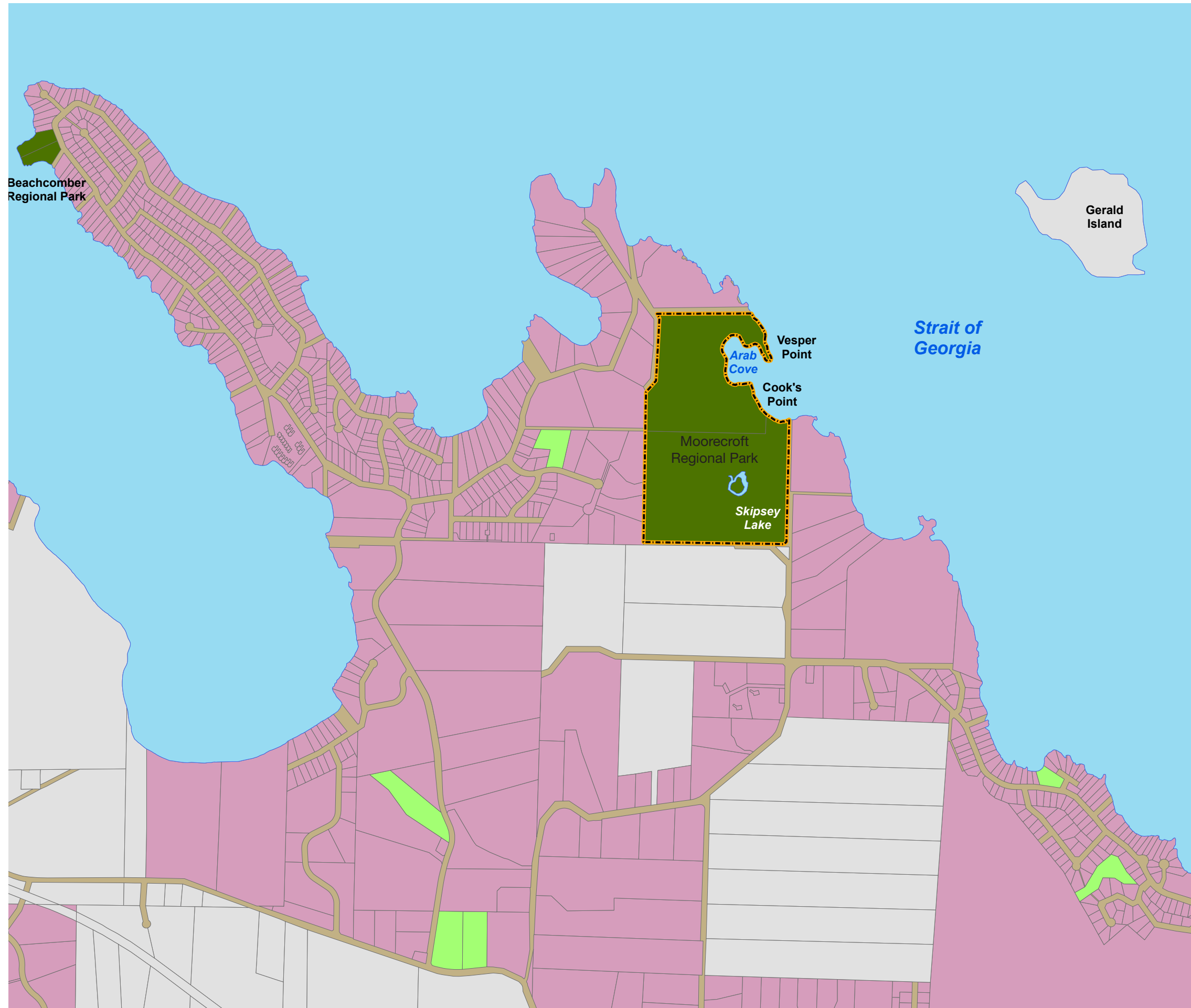
North parcel – Lot A, District Lot 110, Nanoose District, Plan 1777 (PID 006-884-849), and

South parcel – Lot 1 of District Lots 52 and 110, Nanoose District, Plan 31217 (PID 001-170-228).

Both parcels are zoned Recreation 1 (RC1) with 'V' subdivision district in the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan. The zoning permits Campground, Outdoor Recreation and Residential Use, as follows:

- Campground Use is limited to a maximum of 60 camping spaces per parcel.
- Residential Use is limited to one dwelling per parcel with a minimum parcel size of 50 ha.
- Recreation is currently defined as “a recreational activity undertaken where the outdoor setting and landscape is a significant element in the activity, and the density of recreational users is not a significant element and includes playing field, botanical garden, arboretum, outdoor exhibit, golf course, driving range and mini golf where the course structures do not exceed 1m in height” (Regional District of Nanaimo, 1987, p. 3-35).

Adjacent land use is characterized by residential properties to the north, east, and west of the park. The Strait of Georgia (Salish Sea) shoreline extends along the northeastern portion of the park. Crown land, currently under a forestry lease, borders the south side of the park. A road right-of-way that has not been developed is immediately adjacent to the north side of the park boundary and is used by adjacent land owners to informally access the park. A foreshore lease covers Arab Cove adjacent to the park (Block A of Lot 249). This lease was acquired by the RDN from the previous owner and expires in 2016. The lease allows boat launching and swimming at Moorecroft. Land uses are illustrated in Map 1.



Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan

Surrounding Land Use

Legend

-  Road Right of Way
-  Park Boundary
-  Ocean
- Land Use Zoning**
-  Community Park
-  Crown Lands
-  Private / Residential Lands
-  Regional Park



3.3.1 Regional Land Use Framework

The acquisition of Moorecroft Regional Park satisfies land use and recreation objectives identified in regional and municipal plans such as the RDN Draft Regional Growth Strategy, the Regional Parks and Trails Plan, the RDN Youth and Strategic Plan and the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan. In addition, the park is well positioned to capitalize on increased interest in outdoor recreation and tourism activities. Key objectives for each of these planning documents are presented below.

Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)

The Regional Growth Strategy defines “a regional vision for sustainable growth” for the RDN and acknowledges the importance of preserving sensitive ecological values and ensuring the successful stewardship of the environment, culture, and history of the region (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2011).

The acquisition of Moorecroft Regional Park ensures that residential development will not further encroach along the peninsula, thereby achieving a stated objective to “minimize impacts of development in coastal zones” (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2011, p. 23).

In accordance with RGS goals, the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan supports:

- Avoiding ecological damage related to human activity
- Enhancing the environment
- Celebrating the unique natural beauty, culture and history of the region
- Addressing climate change and maintaining resilience in adapting to climate change
- Providing new tourism facilities and developments to attract new visitors
- Providing new parks and trails and enhancing cultural and historic resources
- Collaborating and coordinating planning with First Nations

Regional Parks & Trails Plan 2005 - 2015

The Regional Parks and Trails Plan provides a framework for the management and expansion of the RDN's regional parks and trails system. The RDN currently manages approximately 2060 hectares of regional parks and 70 km of regional trails. Regional parks and outdoor recreation opportunities within the RDN are illustrated in Map 2.

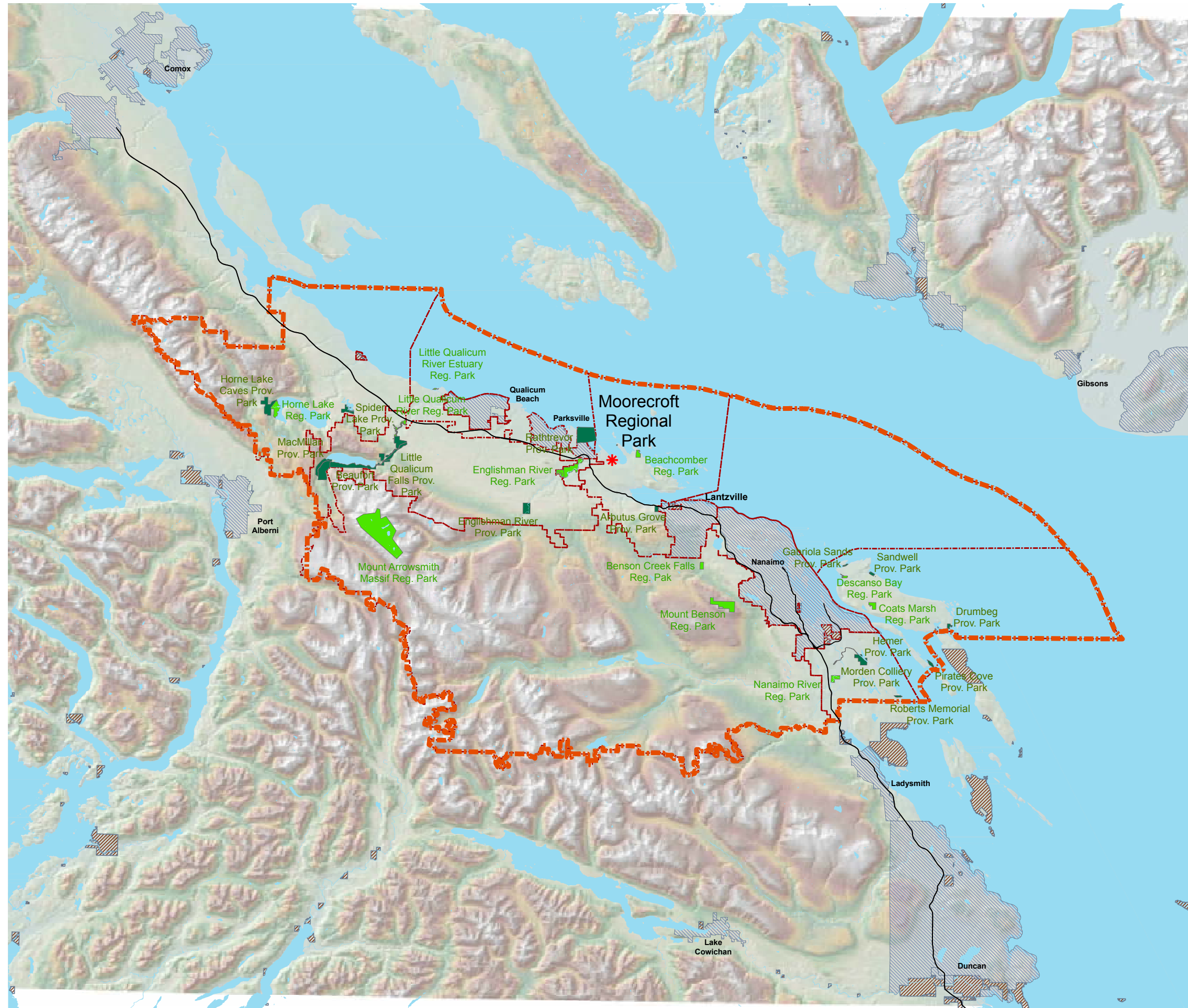
The Regional Parks and Trails Plan “defines the future direction, policies, priorities and actions for Regional Parks and Trails over the next 10 years (2005-2015)” (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2005, p. 2) and establishes a clear vision and desired goals for the system.

RDN regional parks and trails system goals

- Represent key landscapes and ecosystems of the Region.
- Encompass unique natural, historic, cultural and archaeological features.
- Assist in protecting watersheds and important habitats as part of the RDN's broader land use planning mandate.
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of regional parks and trails in a manner that assures their qualities are unimpaired for generations to come.
- Provide education and interpretation of the Region's natural features.
- Link components within the system as well as with other parks and trails in the Region and adjacent Regional Districts.
- Provide opportunity to all RDN residents to access and enjoy regional parks and trails.
- Assist the economy of the Regional District by attracting tourists and generating revenue, as appropriate, to support the parks and trails system.

The Regional Parks and Trails Plan recognized the Moorecroft site as a priority acquisition based on its significant ecological, recreational and cultural values. The archaeological potential at the site, combined with partnership opportunities with Snaw-Naw-As, positions Moorecroft Regional Park as a unique site within the RDN regional parks and trails system.

A key objective of the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan was to determine a management class for Moorecroft Regional Park in relation to the regional park classification system established in the Regional Parks and Trails Plan. The recommended management class (Regional Natural Area) is discussed in Section 5.2. The overall regional park classification system is provided in Table 7.



Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan

Regional Recreation Context

Legend

- Major Roads
- Regional Parks
- Provincial Parks
- - - Regional District of Nanaimo
- - - Electoral Boundaries
- ▨ Municipal Boundaries
- ▨ Indian Reserves

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometres



RDN Youth Recreation Strategic Plan 2011-2016

The RDN Youth Recreation Strategic Plan guides the “planning and delivery of RDN youth recreation services” (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2011, p. 28). The Strategic Plan indicates that four major shifts are needed to better address youth recreation services in the RDN, including:

- Expanding the scope of youth recreation;
- Encouraging recreation which is driven by young people;
- Expanding the department’s community development role with strengthened communication; and
- Shifting from a program delivery role to a youth development approach.

In light of its past as a youth recreational and educational facility, Moorecroft Regional Park offers strategic opportunities to implement these shifts. These opportunities are further explored by policy direction and priority actions in Chapter 6.

Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan

The Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan (OCP) directs land use and development in Nanoose Bay. The OCP acknowledges the need to:

- Preserve the natural environment, important ecosystems, indigenous species and local wildlife.
- Preserve coastal lands, green spaces, viewsapes and beach accesses (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2011, p. i).

The Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan addresses these goals in accordance with the policies, priorities and bylaws contained within the Nanoose Bay OCP.

Table 7. Regional Park Classification

Management Class	Primary Focus
Regional Conservation Area	Protection of the natural environment. Limited, low impact outdoor activities permitted but may be restricted to specific areas. Environmental interpretive facilities permitted provided they have minimal impact.
Regional Natural Area	Protect the natural environment and provide opportunities for a range of appropriate outdoor experiences and activities. These areas protect key natural areas that are significant to the environmental character of the region. They are not as ecologically sensitive as RCA's but may contain some sensitive ecosystems.
Regional Recreation Area	Provide opportunities for a wide range of outdoor experiences, adventure activities and events; managed to accommodate a relatively high number of visitors.
Regional Trail	Connect regional parks to other parks and trails, key points of interest (natural and cultural) and communities. In or near urban areas, to encourage non-vehicular modes of transportation.

4.0 PARK VALUES

The RDN, community members and the Snaw-Naw-As people value Moorecroft Regional Park for its peaceful natural setting, ecological diversity, rich cultural history and recreational opportunities. This chapter describes the park's natural, recreational and cultural values and identifies potential impacts and opportunities to be addressed by the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan.

4.1 Natural Values

This section provides an overview of the significant natural environmental features at Moorecroft Regional Park. These features have been fully assessed in the Baseline Documentation Report of the Moorecroft Covenant prepared by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. A Level 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessment has also been conducted for the property and findings have been included in this section.

4.1.1 Geology, Landforms and Soil

Moorecroft Regional Park is located on the Nanoose Peninsula in the Nanaimo Lowland, extending south-eastwards along the east coast of Vancouver Island (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). The Moorecroft property is relatively flat and reaches its highest point at the southwest corner. Within the general low grade of the property there are higher dry rocky outcrops and lower moist and flooded depressions. There are two rocky bays cutting into the property, Arab Cove and Second Bay (Figure 4), each bordered by bedrock headlands. The northern shore is steep bedrock, with elevations ranging from sea level in the northeast corner and south along the waterfront, reaching its peak of approximately 40 m above sea level in the southwest corner of the property (Ursus Environmental, 2011; Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011).

Sedimentary rock that was overridden by ice during the Pleistocene underlies the shallow soils. The direction of ice movement is reflected in the rock formations on the property. The low relief was further reduced by glacial erosion and by the deposition of glacial and fluvio-glacial materials (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Soils are of the brunisolic type, and are moderately acidic. The soils on the park property have undergone moderate development, with limited weathering because of their young age and drier climate.

Figure 4. Second Bay



4.1.2 Water Resources and Hydrology

Ephemeral streams with pooling areas can be found throughout the park property and primarily run west to east. There are several wet areas in topographic depressions and lowlands on the park property.

Skipsey Lake is a wetland that was originally excavated in a donut shape. Skipsey Lake now displays features of a natural wetland (Figure 5). A swampy “island” dominated by Red-osier dogwood occupies the center of the wetland.

The surrounding wetland area is lined by cattails, downed wood and several herbaceous species. A stream follows the perimeter of the wetland area and flows toward the ocean. The downstream channel was modified with cobbles, likely when the wetland was dugout, with further evidence suggesting that many of the other watercourses on the property were modified. A weir at the wetland outflow once regulated the wetlands water levels. Beaver dams and mud barriers currently control water levels in select locations around the wetlands.

The coastal portion of the Moorecroft property fronts the Straight of Georgia (Salish Sea). The northern shore of the property consists of a rocky outcrop that drops off steeply at the coast. The Moorecroft property title excludes the intertidal and shore zone, however a foreshore lease that includes Arab Cove will continue to be held with the option of renewal by the RDN into the future.

Figure 5. Skipsey Lake



4.1.3 Vegetation

The park is dominated by young to mature Douglas-fir and Big Leaf Maple forests in the uplands and Arbutus and Shore Pine along the coastline (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Other significant trees in the park include Garry Oak, Red Alder, Western Red Cedar, Grand Fir, Western Hemlock, Black Cottonwood and White Pine. The White Pine is currently experiencing an outbreak of blister rust. Past development, resource extraction and fire prevention in the park has resulted in a relatively homogenous age class distribution (40 to 80 years old) and a relatively young forest structural stage. The understorey is dominated by dull Oregon-grape and salal, a sparse herb layer, and a well-developed moss layer dominated by Oregon beaked moss (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Appendix B lists the vegetation species that have been identified in the park.

A Garry Oak ecosystem is located along Vesper Point near the northern edge of the site (Figure 6). This area of the park is sensitive to human disturbance. These ecosystems are typically rich in biodiversity and are populated by numerous at-risk species of plants, mammals, reptiles, birds, butterflies and other insects (GOERT, 2012). Coastal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris Arguta*), a known species at risk associated with the Garry Oak ecosystem, has been identified in the park. The Coastal Wood Fern is blue-listed provincially and nationally ranked as “special concern” by COSEWIC (GOERT, 2008). Garry Oak ecosystems in British Columbia occupy only 1 to 5% of their former area.

Figure 6. Garry Oak Ecosystem at Vesper Point



Numerous exotic invasive species common to southeastern Vancouver Island can be found in the park, including Scotch broom, holly plants and several herbs (i.e. including Canada thistle, bull thistle, foxglove, dandelion, dovefoot geranium and sheep sorrel) that grow in disturbed areas or are scattered throughout the property.

Two wildlife trees (veteran Douglas-firs) have been identified in the northern area of the park (Figure 7) and marked with yellow provincial wildlife tree signs. Bald Eagles are commonly observed perching on these trees. Wildlife trees are identified and maintained to ensure biodiversity in managed woodlots and parks as they provide habitat and food for various species of birds, mammals and insects.



Figure 7. Wildlife tree

4.1.4 Wildlife

Moorecroft Regional Park provides important habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Common species frequently spotted include Sitka Blacktail Deer, Bald Eagle, Rufus Hummingbird and Beaver. Appendix A lists the wildlife species that have been identified in the park.

The coastal area of the park receives moderate ocean exposure. This intertidal interface creates habitat for Jellyfish, Mussels, Limpits, Purple laver and several other brown seaweeds (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Harbour Seals and Sealions can often be seen from the shore. The two shallow unconsolidated rocky bays can be almost completely navigated by foot at low tide (Figure 8). Oysters, Barnacles, Rockweed and Sea Lettuce (Figure 9) dominate the bays. Purple Stars, Shore Crabs, Hermit Crabs, Sculpins and a diversity of sea weeds are also common (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011).

Four Red- or Blue-listed rare species (as per the Canada Species at Risk Public Registry) have been identified on the Moorecroft property (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011), including:

- Great Blue Heron,
- Northern Red-legged Frog,
- Stellar Sea Lion, and
- Western Painted Turtle.

Figure 8. Arab Cove at Low Tide



4.1.5 Ecological Units

The Nature Conservancy of Canada delineated nine ecological units to describe the park's ecological and physical characteristics and identify sensitive areas (Map 3).

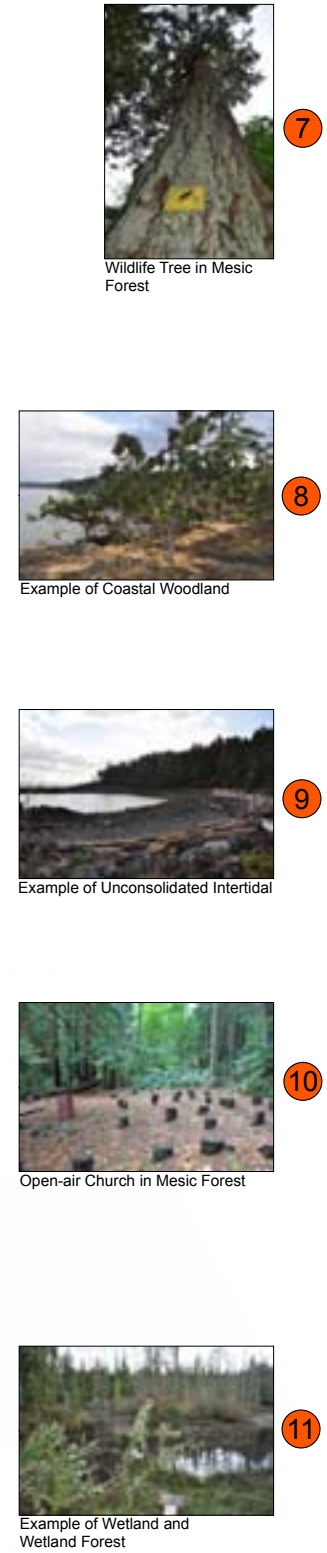
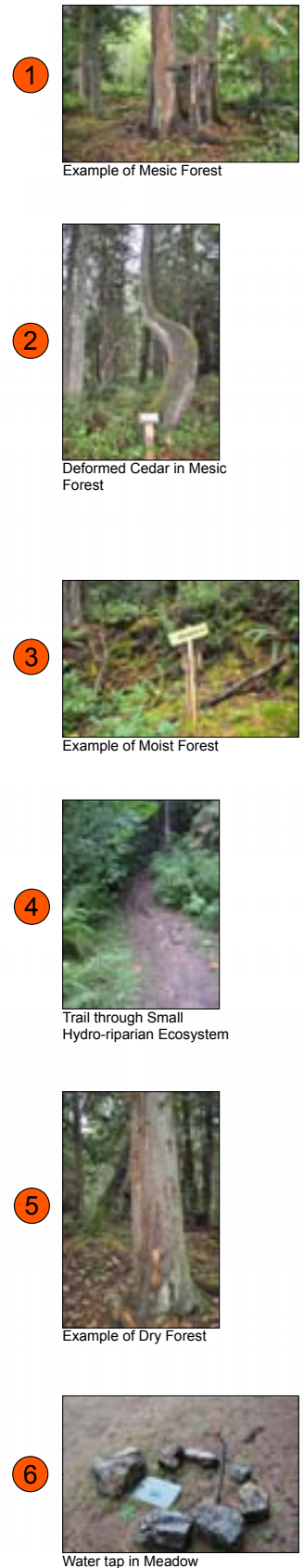
Ecological units were not identified in the developed portions of the property as the ecological value in these areas was deemed disturbed or degraded as a result of development. The Nature Conservancy determined that all non-intertidal ecological units on the property are Red- or Blue listed by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011).

Moorecroft Regional Park Ecological Units

- Mesic forest,
- Dry forest,
- Moist forest,
- Hydro-Riparian,
- Coastal Woodland,
- Consolidated Intertidal,
- Unconsolidated Intertidal,
- Wetlands, and
- Wetland Forest

Figure 9. Intertidal marine life at Second Bay





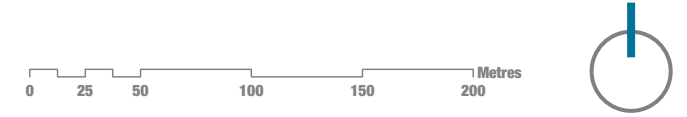
Moorecroft

Regional Park Management Plan

Ecological Units

Legend

- Park Boundary
- Formal Trails
- Road and Parking
- Ephemeral Creek
- Ocean
- Ecological Units**
- Coastal woodland
- Consolidated Intertidal
- Developed
- Dry Forest
- Mesic Forest
- Moist Forest
- Small Hydro-riparian Ecosystem
- Unconsolidated Intertidal
- Wetland
- Wetland Forest



4.1.6 Natural Disturbance Processes

Natural disturbances to the landscape include historic fire, windthrow, root rot, flooding from beavers and erosion from storms. Natural disturbance processes are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem, where many organisms and ecosystems depend on disturbance for survival. However, natural disturbance processes have been largely altered due to past land uses on site and public safety concerns from adjacent landowners. For example, two young alder stands in the mid-western portion of the property were cleared because of the danger the trees created by root rot (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Figure 10 demonstrates the Douglas-fir succession occurring in the Garry Oak stand on Vesper Point. Opportunities to restore, or mimic, natural disturbance processes will be important to maintaining ecosystem processes in the park.

4.1.7 Anthropogenic Disturbance, Restoration and Reclamation

Human disturbances to the property include trail development and use, development and operations of a camp, historic small-scale forestry operations, watercourse modification, timber removal for firewood, and human-induced fire (Ursus Environmental, 2011; Huffman, 2008). The impacts of these disturbances vary from affecting ecological processes, such as the 40-80 year age class distribution of forest stands on the site (Figure 11) to potential soil or groundwater contamination due to camp operations and building maintenance.

Figure 10. Douglas-fir regeneration in Garry Oak stand



A Level 1 and Level 2 Environmental Site Assessment was conducted prior to the RDN's acquisition of the site. The assessment concluded that there is a "low potential for significant soil and/or groundwater contamination resulting from past uses" (Ursus Environmental, 2011). Slightly elevated hydrocarbon levels for oil and grease parameters were detected around the flammable liquids storage shed where hydrocarbon-based products were stored; however, the levels identified did not exceed provincially-designated thresholds under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR) and remediation is therefore not mandatory. As per recommendations in the report, bioremediation of the soil took place at the same time the storage shed was removed (summer 2011). In addition, buildings originally heated by oil were converted to lower-risk propane (Kennedy Lodge) and electric (Caretaker's House) heating systems.

Figure 11. Young forest stands following past site disturbances



4.1.8 Climate

Moorecroft Regional Park is within the Coastal Douglas-fir Moist Maritime Variant (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic zone. The area's average annual temperature is 9.6 degrees Celsius, with the average temperature of the coldest month being 3 degrees Celsius and 16.9 degrees Celsius for the warmest month. The average annual precipitation is 1091 mm, with 61 mm of that as snow. The CDF zone is characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

The CDF zone covers less than one percent of the province, which contains 70-80% of the zone's global range. The provincial government recognizes that "only fragments of these unique ecosystems remain in an old-growth state, and that the province is in danger of losing what is left" (BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 1999, p. 1). Ninety-seven percent of ecosystem communities in the zone are of provincial conservation concern (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011). Due to the intensive development and landscape change within the CDF zone, much of the remaining ecosystems within the zone are considered provincially rare and are considered important to maintaining biodiversity in the region.

Major risks to the CDF zone include urban and industrial development, resource extraction activities, invasive species and disease, and the effects of climate change (BC Ministry of Forests, 1991; BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 1999).

Climate models indicate that for southern British Columbia, by 2050 summers might get warmer by 1.5 to 4 degrees and drier by as much as 35%. Also, winters might be warmer by 1.5 to 3.5 degrees and wetter by 0 to 20% (Nature Conservancy of Canada, 2011, p. 20). Climate change has the potential to alter the disturbance regime, soils and vegetation as species and the ecosystem responds to shifts in temperature, moisture and weather patterns. Climate change is also anticipated to increase sea level changing marine habitats and posing risks to any built elements close to the shoreline. To date, the specific effects of climate changes on the park's ecosystems and the contribution of the park's ecological values to mitigating climate change are not yet fully understood.

4.1.9 Summary

The natural environment at Moorecroft Regional Park is characterized by a sensitive Garry Oak ecosystem within the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone. The park's natural environment is significant because it represents a relatively contiguous swath of CDF zone in a landscape that is otherwise fragmented by residential and forestry uses. Within this ecosystem, regional biodiversity and ecological processes are maintained. In conjunction with efforts to establish connections and corridors between existing protected areas, the ecosystem at Moorecroft Regional Park should be protected as part of a broader effort to preserve biodiversity within the CDF zone.

Management Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Further development, greater visitation, and increased recreational activities may result in impacts to ecological values.
- Natural ecosystem disturbance processes have been altered, or stopped, by past and current site management practices.
- Natural ecosystem processes (i.e. windthrow, fire) may pose risks to public safety, adjacent residential property, and built park facilities.
- Beaver activity may alter the water level at Skipsey Lake and pose a flooding risk downstream, including the area around the Caretaker's House.
- Adjacent land development patterns threaten regional ecosystem connectivity and species movement.
- Exotic and invasive plant and animal species threaten ecological values.
- Some natural park features may be susceptible to impacts from climate change.

Opportunities

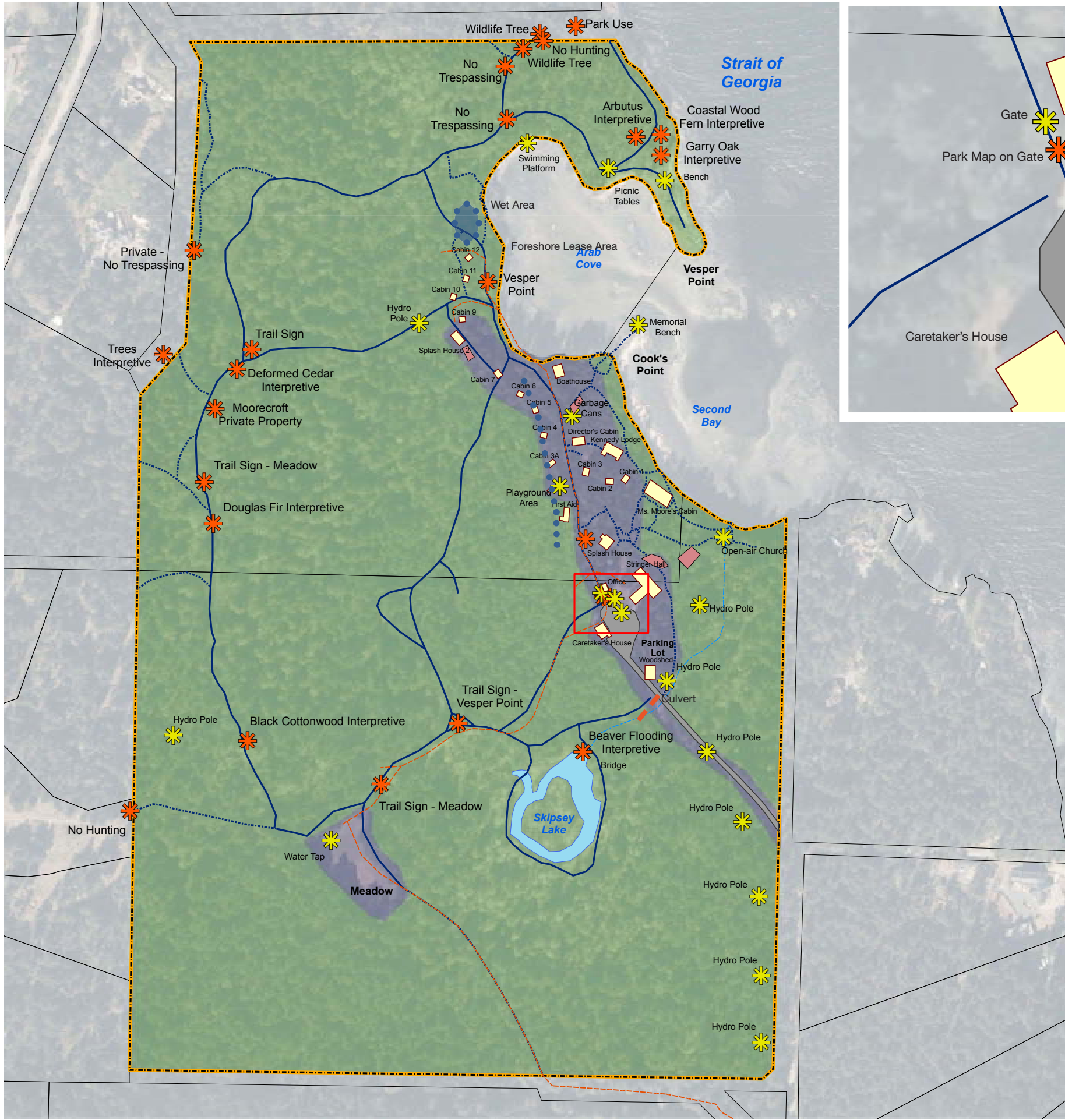
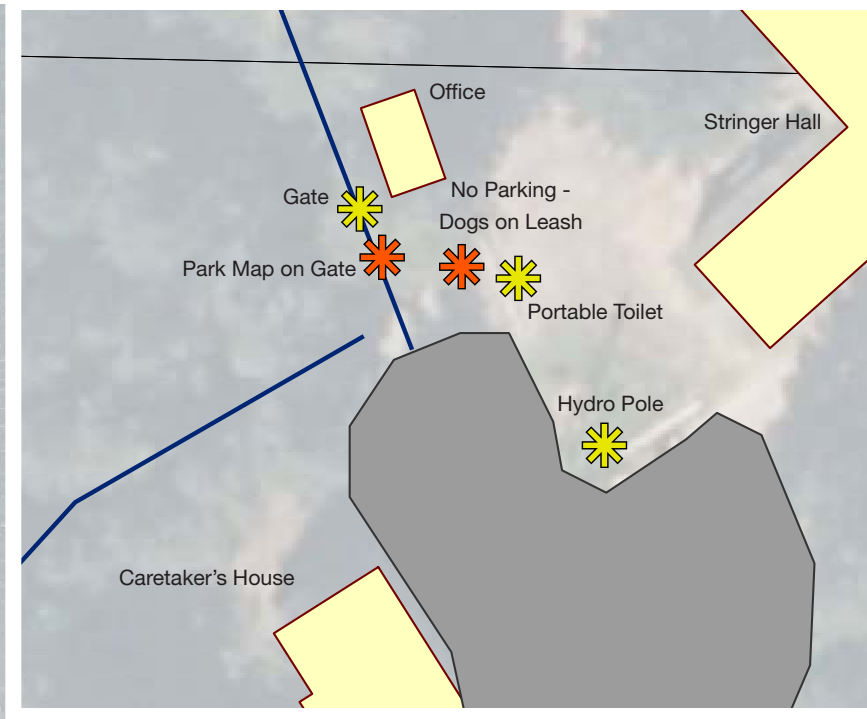
- As a regional example of a CDF zone and a Garry Oak ecosystem, the ecological values of the park are significant to conservation groups and may be useful for scientific research.
- Outdoor education opportunities exist to engage youth, residents and visitors on issues such as the regional ecosystem and conservation activities.
- Site issues (eg. invasive species, regional ecological and recreational connections, etc.) present opportunities to formalize long-term partnerships for park management and operations.



Moorecroft

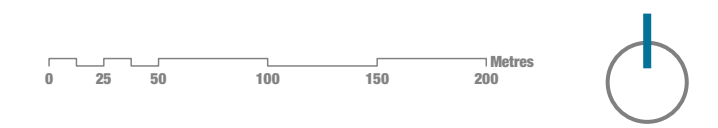
Regional Park Management Plan

Existing Facilities and Amenities



Legend

- Amenity
- Sign
- Formal Trails
- Informal Trails
- Skipsey Lake
- Buildings
- Road and Parking
- Ephemeral Creek
- Park Boundary
- Lot Boundaries
- Zone A: Developed
- Septic Field
- Water Service
- Wet Area / Eroded Trail



4.2 Recreational Values

This section describes the spectrum of recreation activities at Moorecroft Regional Park and the facilities and amenities that currently exist on the site. Information was gathered from multiple site visits, public input provided during public engagement sessions and observations from the resident caretaker. Map 4 shows the location of existing facilities and amenities.

4.2.1 Park Setting

Recreation activities occur within two primary zones at Moorecroft Regional Park. The Development Zone includes the area occupied by the former camp and is characterized by considerably modified areas including the parking lot and a network of buildings. This area is located at the entrance of the park and provides park access as well as amenities such as washrooms and a beach access.

The Conservation Zone occupies approximately 93% of the park and is protected by a conservation covenant registered on title of the property. A trail network extends through the park and provides visitors with access to the park's natural features, including the intertidal zone, mature Douglas-fir and Big Leaf Maple forests, Skipsey Lake (Figure 12) and Vesper Point.

Figure 12. Skipsey Lake



4.2.2 Recreation Activities

The park is currently used as a setting for nature appreciation and outdoor recreational activities. As Moorecroft is a new Regional Park, visitor experience programming to date has been limited to a handful of guided interpretive tours by RDN staff.

The recreation activities currently enjoyed at the park are relatively compatible with the park's sensitive environmental features. Instances of competing or conflicting visitor uses have been experienced in the park, as documented in the monthly Caretaker's report and as communicated by members of the public during public engagement sessions. With visitation levels expected to increase, there is potential for these conflicts to more significantly impact the park's ecological values and the quality of the visitor experience.

Recreation Activities

- Dog walking
- Diving*
- Hiking
- Interpretive tours
- Nature appreciation
- Paddling*
- Painting
- Photography
- Picnicking
- Sketching
- Swimming

*Vehicular access to the beach is not provided and users should be prepared to walk to the beach with their equipment.

Visitor Use Conflicts

- Soil compaction and vegetation damage
- Trail rutting and widening
- Increased wildfire risks
- Wildlife harassment and feeding
- Human encounters with wildlife
- Conflicts with off-leash dogs
- Conflicts with adjacent land owners
- Limited motorized vehicle (ATV) trespass on trails
- Littering

Some impacts are the result of uninformed and inexperienced users while others result from careless users and illegal activities. The community has expectations that the park and the values that it protects are maintained for future generations.

4.2.3 Park Amenities

The park is mostly forested, with development clustered near the park entrance at Stewart Road and heading north toward the shore in the Development Zone. Developed features on the site at acquisition included roads, a parking lot, a playing field, a children’s playground, various clearings, an excavated water feature (Skipsey Lake), a network of trails and 27 buildings (Figure 13). Since acquisition, the playground and 4 buildings/cabins were removed due to hazardous conditions and safety concerns.

Buildings at Moorecroft Regional Park

- Kennedy Lodge (main lodge)
- Dining hall (includes a commercial kitchen)
- Two splash houses
- Caretaker’s residence
- First-aid building
- Storage and auxiliary buildings
- 17 cabins

Figure 13. Existing cabin



In addition to the buildings, a suite of infrastructure and utilities are also present on the site, including:

- Access roads
- Informal volleyball court, an open-air church area and memorial bench at Cook's Point
- Firehose stations
- Hydro lines & poles
- Lighting
- Picnic tables
- A water weir at Skipsey Lake
- Vehicle parking
- Water lines

The trail system is one of the park's main recreation features. There is an extensive network of formal and informal trails throughout the park that vary in terms of their usage. The quality and condition of the trails also varies throughout the park with some trails showing rutting from vehicles and large muddy sections (Figure 14). Generally, the trails are dirt or grass trails that have been constructed over time. The main trail through the site follows the existing vehicle access route. Secondary trails are much narrower and cannot support vehicular traffic.

Figure 14. Main park trail showing rutting and mud



In 2011, the Regional District of Nanaimo commissioned a Risk Control Survey Report for the site. The report found that existing facilities and infrastructure were in varying states of disrepair and required significant maintenance attention (Figure 14). In many cases, the buildings require decommissioning in order to meet public safety and risk management requirements. Buildings deemed unsafe (Figure 15) have been closed to unauthorized access and labelled as such by the RDN.

The report also identified ancillary safety issues within the park including, tripping hazards along trails, human-wildlife conflicts, domestic dog attacks, wildfire and natural hazards such as bluffs, tides, open water and falling trees.

4.2.4 Summary

Moorecroft Regional Park is valued as an outdoor recreation destination for its natural setting and for the trail network that provides access through the park. While some existing amenities and infrastructure are serviceable, a large number of the buildings on the site are generally in poor condition and in some instances do not meet public safety and risk management requirements. In addition, user conflicts have the potential to escalate if left unaddressed, resulting in potential impacts to user experiences.

Figure 15. The Boat House - Typical building condition



4.2.5 Management Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Infrastructure and amenities require upgrading or replacement to meet new servicing requirements and standards.
- Facilities and buildings require significant maintenance and, in some cases, do not meet public safety and risk management requirements.
- Potential for impacts to the natural environment such as vegetation impacts, wildlife harassment, and soil compaction, rutting and erosion resulting from improper trail use, human-wildlife conflicts and impacts from dogs.
- Potential for impacts to visitor experience resulting from user conflicts such as conflicts with dogs.
- Potential risk for wildfires and associated public safety and property risks.
- Current road and access routes do not meet standards for access by emergency responders.
- Potential for vandalism and improper park use (e.g. partying).
- Little is known about current visitor satisfaction.

Opportunities

- Improve visitor experience and conservation of ecological and cultural values through the active management of visitor impacts and facility safety.
- Provide regionally unique recreation and learning opportunities.
- Design programs and park infrastructure that enable both directed and self-directed learning opportunities.
- Improve understanding of visitor satisfaction and demands.
- Improve park infrastructure.
- Develop volunteer and stewardship opportunities to maximize the natural and human activities taking place in the park and to provide early warning of damaging practices or unexpected events.
- Regular research and monitoring to update and validate existing environmental and human-built conditions and maintaining a current understanding of Park visitors.

4.3 Cultural Values

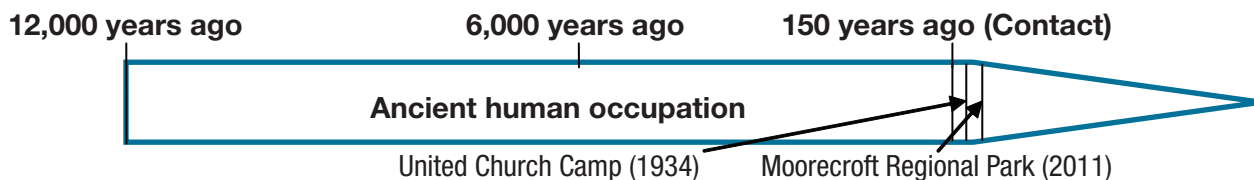
Moorecroft Regional Park has a rich cultural history dating from pre-contact with Europeans to its recent operation as a youth camp. Multiple groups ranging from the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation) to stakeholders including the United Church, community members and local businesses have an interest in maintaining the park's recent and historical legacy as a place of gathering, celebration and teaching. Figure 16 provides a chronological perspective of human occupation at the site and the relatively recent historic camp and new Regional Park.

4.3.1 First Nations

Moorecroft Regional Park is in the core traditional Coast Salish territory of the Snaw-Naw-As and within the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo First Nation). In 1975 an archaeological site was recorded on the Moorecroft United Church camp during a large survey of eastern Vancouver Island (Murton and Foster, 1975). Archaeological site DhSb-13 was noted in this location but did not undergo any assessment or further study beyond simply recording the presence of an ancient archaeological site. In 2011 the Regional District of Nanaimo requested an Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) for removal of one building on the site known as the "craft hut" to ensure archaeological site deposits were not disturbed during removal (Baseline Archaeological Services Limited, 2011). This review was restricted to the craft hut area.

In 2012, the Archaeological Society of British Columbia – Nanaimo Branch (ASBC-NB) observed the boundaries of site DhSb-13 had not been accurately recorded in 1975. The ASBC-NB recognized an update was needed especially in light of the newly acquired park, planning and public consultation process for the future of Moorecroft Regional Park. Using this as an opportunity to invite the public to learn more about archaeology, the ASBC-NB conducted a very brief preliminary field review of a small portion of the park to update the archaeological site boundaries. This work was done in an effort to ensure the ancient cultural values were identified and incorporated into the planning process in an attempt to prevent any impact. The ASBC-NB registered the new archaeological site boundary with the BC Archaeology Branch and presented their findings to the Moorecroft Advisory Committee on May 2, 2012.

Figure 16. History of Human Occupation at the Site



Archaeological sites are sensitive, fragile and are highly susceptible to destruction and to protect this site and out of respect for the ancient cultural values inherent in archaeological sites; specifics (content, location, etc.) will not be disclosed publicly.

Moorecroft Regional Park is a remnant of a much larger ancient landscape of natural and cultural ecological values that once existed everywhere. Surviving physical evidence of Snaw-Naw-As ancient occupation, land use and cultural traditions is a significant link to the past that not only survives as physical evidence in archaeological sites but also in environmental and historic data, oral tradition, and ethnography. All of these sources contribute to learning about ancient cultural landscapes. Moorecroft Regional Park presents a specific opportunity to work with Snaw-Naw-As to better understand and study this link to the past. This could provide a significant educational benefit to the community.

One of the physical archaeological features identified by the ASBC-NB during the brief preliminary site visit was a culturally modified tree, shown in Figure 17. Bark stripped Douglas-fir trees like this were used by Coast Salish people as an important fire starter and fuel resource as fir bark has been found to have the highest BTU of any wood species available in the Northwest coast and will burn in ambient wet winter conditions if harvested correctly. Given the challenging environmental conditions and exposed locations found on the Northwest Coast that many semi-sedentary hunter gatherer populations would have faced on a regular basis, resources such as fir bark would have been critical to survival.

Figure 17. Culturally Modified Douglas-fir Tree



4.3.2 Moorecroft Camp

Ms. Gertrude Moore originally opened Moorecroft Camp in 1934. The camp was operated as an all-girls camp and was named after Ms. Moore’s family homestead in Ontario. In 1955 the United Church of Canada purchased the property and ran it first as a summer camp and then as a year-round camp rentable for retreats and field courses by schools and community groups. Overnight accommodation was a vital component of the park, as was a focus on engaging youth in physical activity, nature appreciation and learning opportunities. The document “Moorecroft Camp: a look back” summarizes the vision and history of the camp (Huffman, 2008).

The majority of the buildings on the site were constructed after 1955, following the United Church’s purchase of the property. Many of these buildings were constructed off-site from surplus materials following the construction of a pulp mill at Port Alberni. Improvements to the buildings were made in the 1970s and again in the 1990s, including cabin winterization and the construction of new buildings such as the Caretaker’s House. Table 8 summarizes the major events at Moorecroft Camp.

Table 8. Timeline of Major Events at Moorecroft

Date	Key events or activities
1934	Ms. Moore establishes girls camp
1955	United Church of Canada purchased the property and started summer camp
1956	Road into Camp Moorecroft extended and completed
1969	Ms. Moore dies at the age of 75
1970	Local presbytery established Moorecroft Camp Committee to assume management and operation of the camp
1976	Purchase of 14 additional acres for Camp Moorecroft site Fireplace irons from the late Ms. Moore’s home in Ontario were shipped and installed in Ms. Moore’s cabin on site
1981	Camp Moorecroft hosts open house, free camping weekend and seafood dinner.
1970-1985	Capital improvements and growth of the camp, including winterization of key buildings, full time resident caretaker, purchase of camp vehicles, ongoing leadership training, year-round use established, and sailing camps and other activities promoted.
1986	30-year foreshore lease negotiated with the Province to 2016
1989-1992	Additional cabins constructed and structural improvements made to existing facilities. “Skipsey Lake” created (excavated) and stocked with trout.
1993-2001	Continued improvements and upgrades made to camp facilities. Ongoing training and updated camp standards manual completed. Peak of 425 summer campers, 29 “pre-campers” in 1995.
2002	Large deficit resulted in termination of all staff.
2003	Selective logging conducted.
2005	Initial recommendation made for the closure and sale of Camp Moorecroft.
2007	Presbytery supports “in principle” sale of the camp property.
2011	Moorecroft site is sold to the Regional District of Nanaimo with funding assistance from The Nature Trust of British Columbia to establish Moorecroft Regional Park.
2012	First Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan completed.

4.3.3 Local Community and Businesses

Local businesses have been a key element in the ongoing operations and success of the Moorecroft Camp prior to its transfer to the RDN as a regional park. These businesses have provided funding and in-kind support to help ensure the Camp's goals and vision were achieved.

There are a number of enduring activities and long-term relationships that already exist between the park and the local community. Moorecroft Regional Park has the opportunity to continue as a venue for formalized learning activities offered throughout the year by Vancouver Island University, School District #69, and other organizations.

4.3.4 Summary

Moorecroft Regional Park has long been a place of gathering, celebration and teaching; first through traditional Snaw-Naw-As use and then as youth camp. These cultural histories are infused throughout the site in its the buildings, trees and archaeology. There is a desire to preserve this place and its cultural uses as the site enters a new phase as Moorecroft Regional Park.

4.3.5 Management Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- The current understanding of Snaw-Naw-As traditional use of the site and cultural connections to the ecological features of the site are limited.
- The future use of the park will differ from previous uses of the site and these changes in use patterns may impact those who have previously used the site in different ways.
- Facility and amenity development will need to avoid archaeologically sensitive areas and/or adhere to provincial requirements/guidelines.

Opportunities

- Develop a unique recreation experience within the RDN regional parks and trails system based on the site's significant cultural history.
- Identify and develop partnership opportunities with the Snaw-Naw-As for cultural programming and site-sensitive development.
- To help build and maintain quality park experiences, leverage the long-term community relationships that were established when Moorecroft Camp operated.
- Continue the recent and historical legacy of the site as a place of gathering, celebration and teaching.
- Enhance relationships with other stakeholders to strengthen stewardship of the park and create of new visitor experiences.
- Engage and collaborate with children and youth to ensure the sustainability of the park for future generations and to address youth recreation service needs as identified by the RDN Youth Recreation Strategic Plan.

5.0 VISION, PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Management decisions need to be guided by a shared long-term vision of the park's future. By describing the vision statement, principles, and management goals, this section provides the foundation and direction for the plan's policies and actions. The vision, principles and goals also serve as a foundation on which to base decisions on future management issues that arise but were not anticipated in this plan.

5.1 Vision of Moorecroft Regional Park

In 2022, residents and visitors alike recognize Moorecroft Regional Park as a destination for nature, community and learning. Moorecroft is a place to celebrate the region's ecological features, its history, local arts and vibrant First Nations culture.

The park's native biodiversity and cultural assets have been protected, and are enhanced. The park serves as a small, yet intact, refuge for wildlife in an increasingly fragmented landscape. Previously disturbed areas within the park have been reclaimed and non-native invasive species are under control.

Moorecroft operates through various partnership opportunities among the Regional District of Nanaimo, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation), academic institutions, and the private and not for profit sectors. Experiential learning opportunities, sustainable infrastructure and committed stewardship deliver enhanced visitor experiences.

Moorecroft Regional Park remains a place for families and visitors of all ages to enjoy.

5.2 Park Classification

Park Classification - **Regional Natural Area**

A **Regional Natural Area** protects “the natural environment and provides opportunities for a range of appropriate outdoor experiences and activities. These areas protect key natural areas that are significant to the environmental character of the region. They are not as ecologically sensitive as Regional Conservation Area's but may contain some sensitive ecosystems” (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2005, p. 26).

Moorecroft Regional Park effectively contributes to achieving many of goals established in the Regional Parks and Trails Plan. Specifically:

Representation

- The park represents a relatively intact parcel of Coastal Douglas-fir zone.

Important Habitats

- Moorecroft protects habitat for a number of provincial red and blue listed species and a small portion of one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems – the Garry Oak ecosystem. The park also protects known wildlife trees, coastal bluffs wetlands and riparian areas.

Unique Cultural Features

- Moorecroft Camp and some buildings on site are recognized as cultural assets to the local community, though they do not have any provincial historical recognition.
- The park is also part of the traditional Snaw-Naw-As territory. The park protects archaeological sites important to the Snaw-Naw-As people.

Enjoyment, Appreciation, Education + Economics

- Magnificent views, attractive settings, ecological assets and the park's history provide an appealing foundation on which to build memorable visitor experiences.
- The visitor experiences prescribed in this plan will establish the park as a destination for both local and short haul tourists. This visitation is likely to stimulate some economic benefits in the immediate community.

Accessibility

- Moorecroft Regional Park helps achieve a more equitable distribution of parks for residents of Electoral Area E.

5.3 Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the management of Moorecroft Regional Park:

Environmental Protection

- Recognize the ecological significance of the site and ensure the protection of its ecological values in accordance with the Conservation Covenant.

Collaboration

- Community, partners and stakeholders collaborate with the Regional District to manage Moorecroft Regional Park.

Character & History

- Built features and landscapes honour the park's historical and recent cultural legacies while harmonizing with the natural environment. Learning and connecting with nature should be infused into all amenities and park programming.

Healthy, Active and Enriched Living

- The park is a place for visitors to engage in activities that improve physical and mental well-being and quality of life.

Accessibility

- Built elements and programs, whether delivered by the Regional District or its partners, will strive to enable access for all; regardless of age, ability, or income.

Informed Decision-Making

- Park management decisions are based on the best information available to the Regional District and its Moorecroft partners. Ongoing monitoring will enable adaptive management and continuous improvement.

Connectivity

- Strive to achieve long-lasting connections between youth, families, the community and nature through park management decisions. Use trails to connect park visitors and adjacent communities with other recreational opportunities.

5.4 Management Goals

The management goals for Moorecroft Regional Park are summarized in Table 9.

Table 9. Management Goals and Objectives

Management Goals	Management Objectives
CONSERVATION + PROTECTION	The park's biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem processes, historic resources and scenic qualities are protected, enhanced and continue unimpaired.
	Research & monitoring inform adaptive management and support knowledge-based decision-making.
OUTDOOR RECREATION, ACTIVE LIVING + LEARNING	Outdoor recreation opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles, a connection with nature, personal growth, and a sense of community are enjoyed by visitors of all ages and abilities.
	The park serves as a directed and self-directed educational centre to enhance visitors' environmental literacy and their personal connection with the natural and cultural values of the site.
	Recreational experiences enjoyed by visitors to the site should generate an interest in the regional parks and trails system, enabled through connectivity to adjacent parks and recreation opportunities.
VISITOR MANAGEMENT + SAFETY	Visitors are responsible and respectful while enjoying the park. Park infrastructure and facilities are developed and maintained to provide a safe place to play, recreate, learn, contemplate and celebrate.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + STEWARDSHIP	Partners, stakeholders, First Nations and visitors are active stewards of the park and are engaged in park management, program delivery and maintenance.

6.0 OBJECTIVES, POLICY DIRECTION + PRIORITY ACTIONS

Policies and priority management actions are described in this chapter. These policies and actions will advance management of the Park towards the future vision while addressing the issues and opportunities that emerged through the planning process. The section is organized according to the goals established in Chapter 5.

6.1 Conservation and Protection

Moorecroft Regional Park provides a unique and globally significant contribution of ecological features and sensitive ecosystems. The most pressing management issue in Moorecroft Regional Park is balancing the potentially conflicting values of ecological preservation and protection with visitor use and development of new facilities or experiences. Management strategies must focus on the avoidance and mitigation of further human-induced disturbance, while maintaining the ecological values and natural processes that are protected under the conservation covenant.

Table 10. Conservation and Protection Policies

Objective	Policies	Actions
The park's biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem processes, historical values and scenic qualities are protected, restored and continue unimpaired, where they do not pose an unacceptable risk to public safety and built assets.	Maintain the diversity and abundance of the park's native terrestrial, marine and aquatic flora and fauna.	In accordance with the conservation covenant, prohibit new developments in the Conservation Zone.
		Maintain designated trails throughout the Conservation Zone and manage visitor use to those trails.
		Designate and manage the Garry Oak ecosystem system (Vesper Point) as a Special Management Area and actively control visitor access to designated trails.
		Install fencing and other control measures such as information signs to manage visitor access within the Garry Oak Ecosystem, Coastal Wood Fern site and other sensitive areas.
		Encourage the continued naturalization of Skipsey Lake.
		Discourage travel around Skipsey lake. Manage visitor use to the future boardwalk and viewing platform.

Objective	Policies	Actions
		As necessary, implement seasonal closures on trails near known raptor nests and perch trees during incubation and rearing times.
		Work with partners and local volunteers to monitor and manage the White pine blister rust (<i>Cronartium ribicola</i>) in accordance with the Pine Stem Rust Management Guidebook, prepared by the BC Ministry of Forests.
		Work with partners to establish a supplementary nest box program around Skipsey Lake targeting wood ducks, bats and small cavity nesting owls such as the Western Screech-owl.
		Work with partners to assess amphibian habitat. Develop a strategy to minimize impact at trail and road crossings during seasonal migration times.
		Formalize ROW agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) along northern park boundary to secure an ecological buffer to the park and eagle nest tree.
		Install interpretive signage, with Quick Response (QR) codes, and work with partners to deliver interpretive programs to educate visitor's about the park's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological significance • Cultural significance • Wildlife • Vegetation • Species at risk • Restoration initiatives.
		Continue to restrict shellfish harvesting in Arab Cove (Foreshore Lease).
		Using native planting, naturalize the development zone to enhance wildlife habitat and visitor experiences.
	Work with partners to preserve and restore the ecological integrity of disturbed areas in park.	In partnership with the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, prepare a Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan for the special management area.
		Work with partners and the future Moorecroft Regional Park partnership forum to coordinate and deliver Park Stewardship Days to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore human disturbed areas • Manage non-native invasive species • Naturalize the development zone • Enhance wildlife habitat & nesting around Skipsey lake.

Objective	Policies	Actions
Research & monitoring inform adaptive management and support knowledge-based decision-making.	Support the continuation of natural ecosystem processes where they do not pose an unacceptable risk to public safety and built assets.	Maintain and avoid disturbance of the beaver dam at Skipsey Lake, to the extent that it does not pose an unacceptable risk to public safety and built assets. A pond leveller may be required to maintain water levels should public safety and built assets be at risk.
	Invasive flora and fauna species will be detected early and actively controlled in and adjacent to the park.	Work with partners and volunteers to remove existing non-native invasive species in and adjacent to the park.
		Work with partners to establish and implement an invasive species early detection and monitoring program.
		Encourage adjacent property owners to monitor and, if detected, expedite control of non-native invasive species.
	Promote habitat connectivity to, and minimize potential ecological impacts from, adjacent land use.	Renew the foreshore lease for Block A, Lot 249 in 2016.
		Proceed with securing the foreshore lease for Second Bay.
		Develop conservation stewardship partnerships with conservation organizations to communicate exemplary land management practices to landowners adjacent to the park.
	Pursue natural and social science research to enable knowledge based decision-making.	Continue to work with the NCC, on the Ecosystem Monitoring Program to evaluate progress towards the goals established in this plan.
	Work with interested partners to maintain a science research partnership for the park. The strategy is to include both natural and social science and inform park management.	
	Provide park use permits for key academic, research and conservation agencies that may be interested in monitoring potential effects of climate change on park terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.	

6.2 Outdoor Recreation, Active Living + Learning

A recreation opportunity may be understood as the ability for a person to engage in a preferred activity within a preferred setting “to obtain a desired experience” (Clarke & Stankey, 1979). Three site-specific park planning, management and development considerations informed the policy direction for this goal.

Visitor Experience Programming

Facilitate directed and self-directed learning opportunities through visitor experience programming that deliver a high quality visitor experience. Programming should create enjoyable, engaging and interactive experiences that help visitors discover, value, protect and enjoy the park’s natural and cultural environments.

Primary Interpretive Themes

Utilize consistent messaging and incorporate the primary interpretive themes into visitor experience programming.

- Sensitive ecological features (terrestrial and marine)
- Ecosystem processes and values (terrestrial and marine)
- Plants and wildlife in the park (terrestrial and marine)
- History and cultural significance (including First Nations traditional uses) of the site
- Importance of partnerships in park acquisition and management

These primary themes will be refined during implementation and integrated into all park messaging, interpretive programming, communications and other initiatives aimed at improving visitors' understanding of the significance of the park.

Technology and Visitor Experience Programming

Effective visitor experience programming provides visitors the opportunity to engage in and learn about the park on their terms. Given widespread technology use, visitors expect that information is made available through new and evolving mediums such as social media, smartphones and tablets. Visitor experience programming at Moorecroft Regional Park should explore ways to incorporate technologies and social media.

Table 11. Outdoor Recreation, Active Living + Learning Policies

Objective	Policies	Actions
Outdoor recreation opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles, a connection with nature, personal growth, and a sense of community are enjoyed by visitors of all ages and abilities.	Provide a diverse range of modern, safe, inclusive and sustainable facilities and infrastructure that appeal to all visitors and minimize visitor impacts on the park's ecological values.	Demolish existing buildings not identified for refurbishment.
		Refurbish Kennedy Lodge to provide rental facility space for events.
		Build new splash house on site of existing Director's Cabin, based on park demand.
		Maintain the caretaker's house to support park operations.
		When and if needed, prepare a detailed site servicing plan to address the site's needs for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable water • Electricity • Waste water and sewage • Internet.
		Follow approved environmental practices for decommissioning, removal and construction of buildings.
		Work with partners and youth to design and build a natural playscape.
		Design and construct a new day use / picnic area.

Objective	Policies	Actions
		Install wildlife proof garbage and recycling containers and dog waste bag dispensers throughout the park.
		Work with partners to design, construct and install park amenities (eg. benches, bike racks, picnic tables).
		Work with the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation) to examine the feasibility and explore opportunities to develop a Longhouse for cultural and community uses.
		Design and upgrade the existing parking lot to meet future needs and current standards.
		Work with partners to develop a strategy for the future use of Ms. Moore's Cabin. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Demolition •Natural decay on site •Refurbishment for preservation without public access •Refurbishment for public access
		As opportunities arise, seek funding to implement capital and operational goals.
	Provide and maintain a safe, sustainable and barrier free trail system to facilitate visitor experiences and to manage the impact of visitor use. Trails within the park will only permit self-propelled use.	To the extent possible, major trails within the Development Zone will be barrier free to accommodate visitors with mobility constraints.
		Develop regional connections through adjacent lands and within the RDN parks and trails system.
		Designate and maintain the existing trail system throughout the Conservation Zone.
		Continue working with the Crown woodlot tenure holder to explore, and if deemed possible, develop regional trail connections through Crown Lands to the south of the park.
		Through restoration and signage, discourage the development and use of informal trails from adjacent communities.
		Work with MOTI and adjacent landowners to formalize a pedestrian park entry along the park's northern and/or western boundaries. The park entry should include way-finding and regulatory signage.
		Install boardwalks along the park's trail system where necessary to protect sensitive habitat or minimize erosion.
		Evaluate park trails for decommissioning.

Objective	Policies	Actions
The park serves as a directed and self-directed outdoor classroom to enhance visitors' environmental literacy and their personal connection with natural and cultural values of the site.	Provide visitors with self-guided interpretive opportunities to learn about and appreciate the unique environmental, social and cultural values of the park and region.	<p>Work with RDN Recreation Programmers, Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation) and with representatives from the NCC, TNT, School District 69, Vancouver Island University, woodlot owner, and other potential partners to develop and deliver a strategy for ecological, and cultural educational programming in the park.</p> <p>Content may include information about the Park's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique vegetation • Wildlife trees • Ecosystem processes • Restoration initiatives • Archaeological sites • Cultural histories
		<p>Erect interpretive signs and displays throughout the park to implement the interpretive program.</p> <p>Ensure all interpretive displays contain QR codes re-directing visitors to web pages with additional interpretive information.</p>
	Provide visitors with guided interpretive opportunities to learn about and appreciate the unique environmental, social and cultural values of the park and region.	Continue to deliver regular public guided interpretive tours of the park in collaboration with partners.
		Work with partners to coordinate and host public events to engage park visitors in learning about the unique environmental, social and cultural values of the park and region.

6.3 Visitor Management and Safety

As Moorecroft Regional Park grows as a destination for residents and visitors, it will be important to ensure that increased visitation rates do not have undesirable impacts on the park's resources or the quality of the visitor experience. Three site-specific park planning, management and development considerations informed the policy direction for this goal.

Visitor Impacts

Use direct and indirect management techniques to respond to visitor impacts. Management techniques have been chosen based on the anticipated severity of the impact and the motivations of the impacting party.

Management techniques

Direct:

- Zoning,
- Rationing use as informed by carrying capacities,
- Activity restrictions,
- Park patrol and Bylaw officer presence, and
- Enforcement.

Indirect:

- Infrastructure design and/or alterations, and
- Information and education programming.

Public Safety and Emergency Response

Address the main safety issues within the park including facility and infrastructure conditions, tripping hazards along trails, human wildlife conflicts, domestic dog incidences, wildfire and natural hazards such as bluffs, tides, open water and falling trees. Maintain a strong relationship with local emergency responders (fire, RCMP, Search and Rescue) and the local Conservation Officer service to ensure continued public safety and emergency response throughout all aspects of regional park operations.

Compliance and Enforcement

Use a compliance model based on education, prevention and enforcement to ensure compliance and enforcement with district bylaws and provincial statutes (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Compliance Model

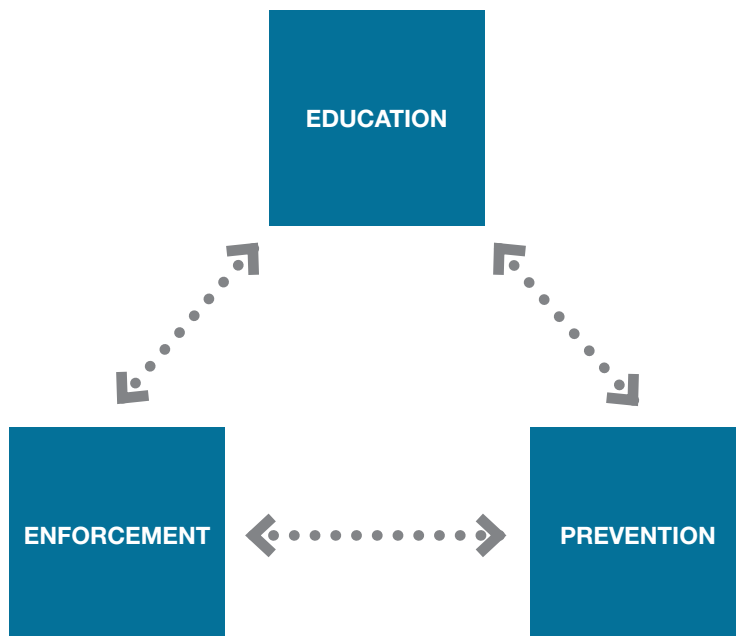


Table 12. Visitor Management and Safety Policies

Objective	Policies	Actions
<p>Visitors are responsible and respectful while enjoying the park. Park infrastructure and facilities are developed and maintained to provide a safe place to play, recreate, learn, contemplate and celebrate.</p>	<p>Educate and inform park visitors about visitor impacts to park resources, the visitor experience, responsible skills and ethics and relevant bylaws.</p>	<p>Install information signs and other media to educate visitors about responsible use of the park and the park bylaws.</p>
		<p>Adopt the principles of the international Leave No Trace program and apply the program to promote responsible enjoyment of the park.</p>
		<p>Using social, web and print media, educate the public about the issues and challenges facing the park and the actions used to address those issues.</p>
		<p>Continue to prohibit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized recreation • Overnight camping • Campfires in the park.
	<p>Assure compliance with the RDN Park Use Bylaw</p>	<p>Work with Bylaw Enforcement to respond efficiently to recurring non-compliance issues.</p>
	<p>Manage commercial activities and special events within the park to minimize impacts to the park's resources and the visitor experience.</p>	<p>Require commercial dog-walkers to obtain a park use permit from the RDN. Until proven otherwise, individuals walking more than 4 dogs at one time are considered to be a commercial dog-walker and require a permit from the RDN.</p>
		<p>Require all other special events and commercial activities to obtain a park use permit.</p>
	<p>Dogs are required to be leashed at all times to minimize impacts to the park's environmental resources and conflicts with other visitors.</p>	<p>Install signs at key locations in the park to inform visitors of the on-leash park policy and their legal obligations.</p> <p>Signs will include QR codes and information to direct dog owners to local off-leash areas.</p>
		<p>Continue to formalize off-leash dog-walking opportunities in the woodlot to the south of the park.</p>
	<p>Improve and maintain an effective way-finding system throughout the park.</p>	<p>Construct and install a park entry kiosk.</p> <p>Construct and install way-finding signs.</p> <p>Work with provincial and local transportation and tourism authorities to erect way-finding signage near the junctions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway 19 and NW Bay Road • Old Island Highway and NW Bay Road <p>Signage should direct visitors to the main park entry and parking lot.</p>

Objective	Policies	Actions
	Discourage access from the park to adjacent properties to minimize conflicts with adjacent property owners.	Clearly indicate Park boundary location.
		Install signs at each of the undesignated trail access points in the park that lead to adjacent properties to discourage visitor use of these routes.
		Monitor visitor trespass on adjacent lands and, if necessary, close and restore undesignated trails around the boundary of the park as issues arise.
	Trails and park facilities will be designed, developed and maintained to minimize ecological impacts and maintain a quality visitor experience.	Conduct regular trail inspections and maintenance efforts to maintain the quality of trails and avoid detrimental ecological impacts.
		Ensure the design and development of all trails and facilities in the park are in accordance with the design guidelines established in Chapter 7.
		Complete regular grading and resurfacing on the main access road entering the park.
	All park facilities will be brought into line with current safety codes, best building practices, and security measures.	Prepare a detailed demolition strategy to outline the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive approaches to demolition of existing facilities that are not deemed to be salvageable.
		Complete a building assessment for potential uses of Kennedy Lodge including fire safety analysis and capital expenditure plans to determine the upgrades that are required to bring the building to an acceptable level of service for the specified use.
		Continue to upgrade and maintain the Caretaker's House.
		Prepare and implement a capital and major asset maintenance plan for the park.
	Actively monitor the park for, and respond to, public safety and property risks.	Develop an emergency response plan to proactively mitigate the risks of wildfires to public safety and property in and adjacent to the park.
		Continue on-going hazard tree assessment and management within the Development Zone and along trails in the Conservation Zone.
	Apply direct and indirect measures to minimize the risk and impacts of human wildlife conflicts.	Educate park visitors, through installation of park signs and visitor programming, about wildlife encounters and appropriate measures to reduce the possibility and impact of human wildlife encounters.
		Encourage park visitors to report aggressive wildlife encounters.
		Establish and maintain an effective relationship with the local Conservation Officer Service to ensure a timely and appropriate response to reported human wildlife conflicts.

Objective	Policies	Actions
		As appropriate, education, habitat modification, facility design, aversion techniques, relocations and site closures may be used to minimize or respond to human wildlife conflicts.
	Public safety emergencies in the park will be anticipated and proactively planned for.	District Bylaw Officers will maintain delegated authorities to enforce district bylaws and limited provincial statutes. For enforcement matters beyond the authorities of Bylaw officers, the district works with the local RCMP. Compliance issues within the park will be prioritized based on staff availability, severity of the infraction and in consideration of compliance issues in other regional parks.
		Work with the local Fire Department, RCMP, Emergency Medical Services, Conservation Officer Service and Ministry of Forests and Range to develop an Emergency Response Plan complete with clear policies and best practices to respond to emergencies that can be anticipated within the park.
	Initiate efforts to assess park visitor satisfaction and evaluate trends.	Work with partners to monitor visitor satisfaction to understand and track visitor perceptions and satisfaction.

6.4 Community Engagement and Stewardship

Community engagement, effective outreach, and inclusive practices contribute to the development of a strong sense of stewardship. Community engagement is a process of promoting change and achieving collectively valued objectives through an effective working relationship between local residents, visitors, park managers, partners, stakeholders and the Snaw-Naw-As. Effective development and management of Moorecroft Regional Park depends on informed and supportive community engagement that will work to integrate the park into the regional landscape. Five site-specific park planning, management and development considerations informed the policy direction for this goal.

Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation)

Commit to an ongoing dialogue with the Snaw-Naw-As about the park’s natural, cultural, and heritage resources and identify ways to incorporate traditional knowledge into park programming (e.g. relevant Aboriginal languages, naming conventions, and traditional ecological knowledge in interpretive information). Explore partnership opportunities for implementation and operational aspects of the plan.

Local Community and Businesses

Engage the public and local business stakeholders via outreach, in-house programs, relationship building, and partnerships. The communities and businesses in the region are key stakeholders in Moorecroft Regional Park.

Youth

Work to involve children and youth in the planning, operations, and management of the park to help build environmental literacy, appreciation of parks and protected areas and recreation activities that meet youth needs. The park may also provide youth with seasonal employment.

Partnerships

Develop partnerships between the Regional District of Nanaimo, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Snaw-Naw-As, academic institutions and the private and not-for profit sectors to ensure operations and management of the park is effective and responsive. Explore conservation stewardship partnerships with adjacent landowners.

Volunteerism

Encourage opportunities for volunteer collaboration and stewardship to maximize the natural and human activities taking place in the park and to cultivate an ethic of care and respect for park activities and amenities.

Volunteer Activities

- Park hosts
- Facility and trail development and maintenance
- Assisting with education and interpretation
- Assisting with resource management
- Assisting with special events
- Exhibit and publication development
- Photography
- Scientific studies and research

Research and Environmental Monitoring

Continue the practice of making informed, knowledge-based decisions that was used in the development of the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan by supporting research and monitoring opportunities. Use an inclusive and collaborative approach to observation, research and planning.

Table 13. Community Engagement and Stewardship

Objectives	Policies	Actions
Partners, stakeholders, First Nations and visitors are active stewards of the park and are engaged in park management and program delivery.	Inspire and embrace partners and citizens to actively contribute to the management, restoration, maintenance and protection of the park and delivery of visitor programs.	Work with partners, volunteers and the local community to establish a Moorecroft Regional Park Partnership Forum. The purpose of this group would be to, among other priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Report maintenance concerns •Early detection of visitor impacts or other issues •Coordinate park stewardship day •Support restoration initiatives •Educate and inform visitors •Support maintenance •Observe and report instances of visitor non-compliance with park regulations or policies •Meet yearly with the RDN to provide feedback on park management activities.
		Work with partners to promote and publicize volunteer opportunities to regional residents.
		Work with partners, School District, educational institutions, and the local community to identify and establish new partnerships, collaborative student opportunities, or sponsorships with local businesses to assist in delivering park restoration, maintenance, construction, and programming.
		Work with partners and local businesses to develop marketing material, identify opportunities for promotional support and secure donations.
	Provide additional resourcing for park operations and development through fees for value-added services, grants, revenue generating project, donations, and fundraising with park partners and The Nature Trust of British Columbia and by supporting volunteerism.	Explore ways to generate revenues for park management from facility rentals and special events within the park.
	Partner with academic institutions, other government agencies, research organizations, and local First Nations to better understand and preserve ecosystem processes and cultural and heritage values associated with the park.	RDN will work with partners, local stewardship groups, other government agencies, and research organizations (including VIU) to conduct regular research and monitoring to update and validate existing environmental and human-built conditions and to help maintain a current understanding of visitation rates and visitor satisfaction of the park.
		Work with local First Nation(s) to incorporate relevant Aboriginal languages and traditional ecological knowledge in the park's interpretive information.

Objectives	Policies	Actions
	Celebrate and recognize the contributions of partners and volunteers to the management and improvement of the park.	Construct and maintain a Recognition and Donor Wall to celebrate the contributions of volunteers and partners to the park.
		Explore options for private donations in accordance with future RDN policy direction on donations and legacy funding.
		Maintain existing memorial bench on Cook's Point.

7.0 CONSERVATION AND DESIGN CONCEPT

The following sections outline the long-term conservation strategy and potential development in the park. Park zoning and the elements of the proposed design development concept are described.

7.1 Zoning

Zoning establishes policy direction and management objectives for defined areas within a park. The Regional District of Nanaimo's Regional Parks & Trails Plan, 2005-2015 established the following park zones:

- Intensive Recreation
- Natural Environment
- Conservation

7.1.1 Management Intent

The zoning in Moorecroft Regional Park reflects the priority of protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem processes. The Conservation and Intensive Recreation Use zones are consistent with the Conservation Covenant and Access Agreement. 93% of the park falls within the Conservation Zone. Table 14 presents the sizes of the park zones and Map 5 illustrates the zoned areas.

Zone	Area (ha)	Percent of Park (%)
Conservation Zone	32.04	93
Intensive Recreation Use/Development Zone	2.09	7

Table 14. Size of the Park Zones

Conservation Zone

The primary management intent of the Conservation Zone is to protect, unimpaired in perpetuity, the park's biodiversity, visual qualities, ecosystems and ecosystem processes; where the continuance of these processes do not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety and adjacent public values.

The secondary management intent of the zone is to facilitate visitors' appreciation of the park's natural values through low-impact recreation opportunities as well as directed and self-directed educational programs. Park visitors will enjoy a largely unaltered landscape with few amenities, infrastructure and services provided in this zone. Infrastructure will be limited to that required for active management of visitor impacts. Any new development within this zone that extends beyond the footprint of existing development requires the written approval of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Intensive Recreation Use / Development Zone

The Intensive Recreation Use / Development Zone is consistent with the Development Zone identified in the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Conservation Covenant. The management intent of the Development Zone is to provide infrastructure that supports outdoor recreation and learning opportunities that promotes healthy lifestyles and a connection with nature and culture. Management of the zone will prevent the further deterioration of ecological values and take action to restore native vegetation, where practical. Visitors will find a modified, yet predominantly natural landscape with a range of safe, accessible and sustainable infrastructure and amenities that support the quality of visitor experiences.

7.2 Design Concept

The design concept translates the vision and policy direction into more detailed design recommendations to guide short, medium and long-term park capital improvements. The concept illustrates the physical improvements to the landscape, architecture, infrastructure and ecology of Moorecroft Regional Park.

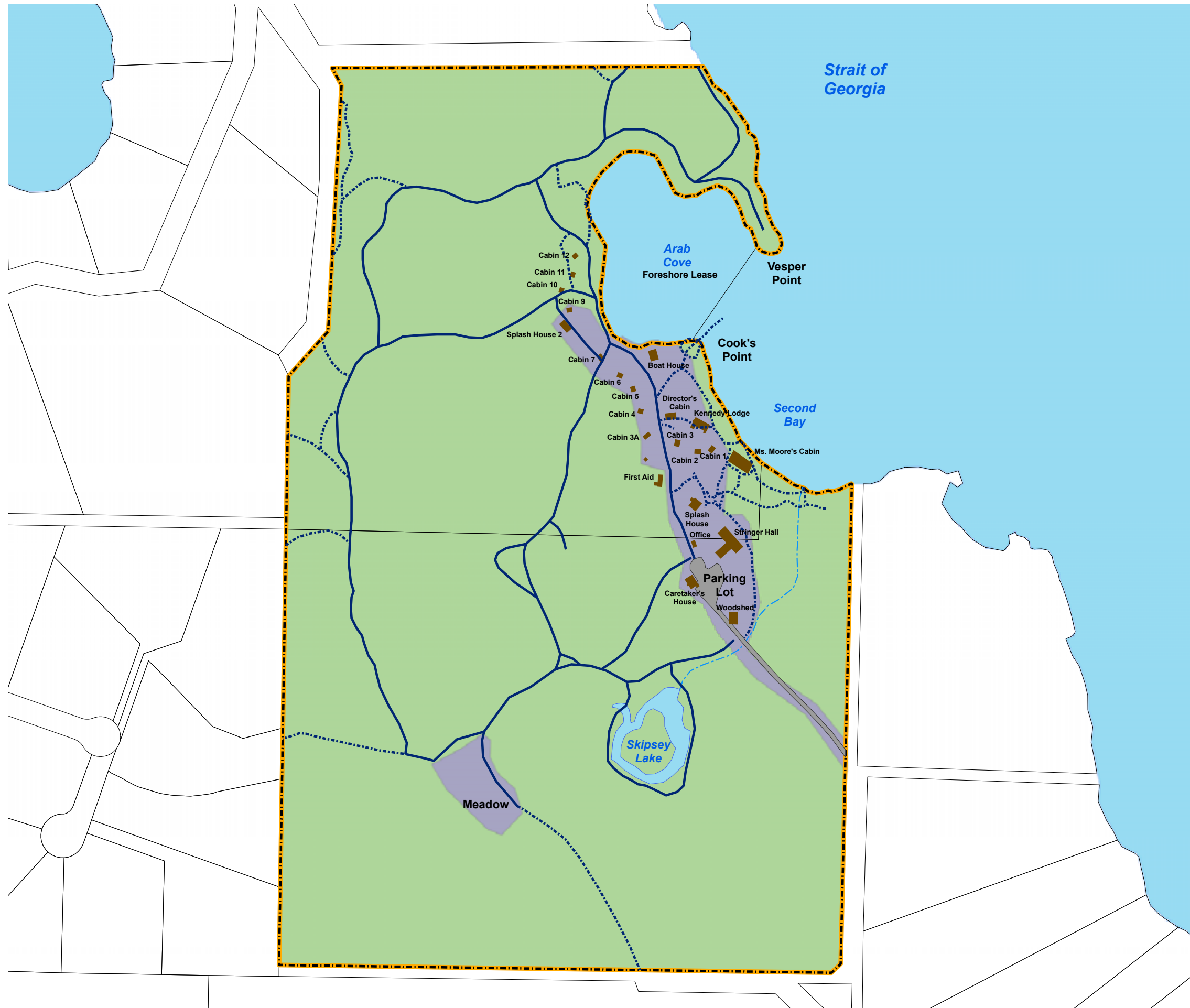
The design concept (Figure 19) is based on input received from the RDN, Advisory Committee, stakeholders, and the public on three potential design concept scenarios. The input was used to determine a preferred future that best reflects the vision, management principles, and goals of the park.

The park concept is founded on three underlying principles.

1. Protection and enhancement of the natural environmental and ecological processes.
2. Provision of a modest framework of appropriately designed infrastructure that supports and improves the visitor experience.
3. Ecological, cultural and economic sustainability

Key drivers for the design concept include:

- Public safety
- Areas of environmental sensitivity
- Archaeological resources
- Preservation of character and visual quality
- Accessibility
- Educational opportunities
- First Nations cultural opportunities
- Seniors and youth opportunities
- Desired uses and amenities
- Potential for renovation or removal of existing facilities
- Durability and resilience of materials, structures and facilities
- Parking and vehicular access improvements
- Full life cycle costing
- Maintenance and operational efficiency

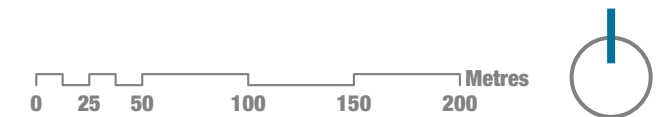


Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan

Park Zoning + Existing Site Conditions

Legend

- Park Boundary
- Zone A: Developed
- Zone B: Conservation
- Lot Boundaries
- Existing Buildings
- Road and Parking
- Skipsey Lake
- Ocean
- Ephemeral Creek
- Formal Trails
- Informal Trails



7.2.1 Overview of the Concept Elements

The management plan interventions adopt two strategies:

1. Maintain or improve ecosystem function by excluding activities from areas sensitive to use and development.
2. Enhance visitor experience and understanding of the park with selective development of appropriate facilities and infrastructure.

Consistent with the zoning strategy, all development elements are limited to the Development Zone or to areas of existing development footprint. The elements of the plan fall into several categories:

- Demolition of structures
- Garry Oak ecosystem recovery areas
- Multi-use meadow
- Gateways and Entrances
- Access Road and Parking
- The Central Development Area
- Trails and Boardwalks
- Structures
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Natural Playgrounds
- Utility Infrastructure

7.2.2 Demolition of Structures

Following building assessments, it was determined that most of the existing park structures are beyond economic repair and repurposing. Many will be removed. The following structures will not be demolished and further study will determine their future use or need:

- The Caretaker House
- Kennedy Lodge
- Ms. Moore's Cabin
- The Boathouse

Where possible, the existing foundations will be reused for the new structures. For example, the existing Director's Cabin will be demolished and a new splash house and washroom facility may be constructed in its place, making use of the existing water services and septic system. A new picnic shelter is proposed within the footprint of Stringer Hall.

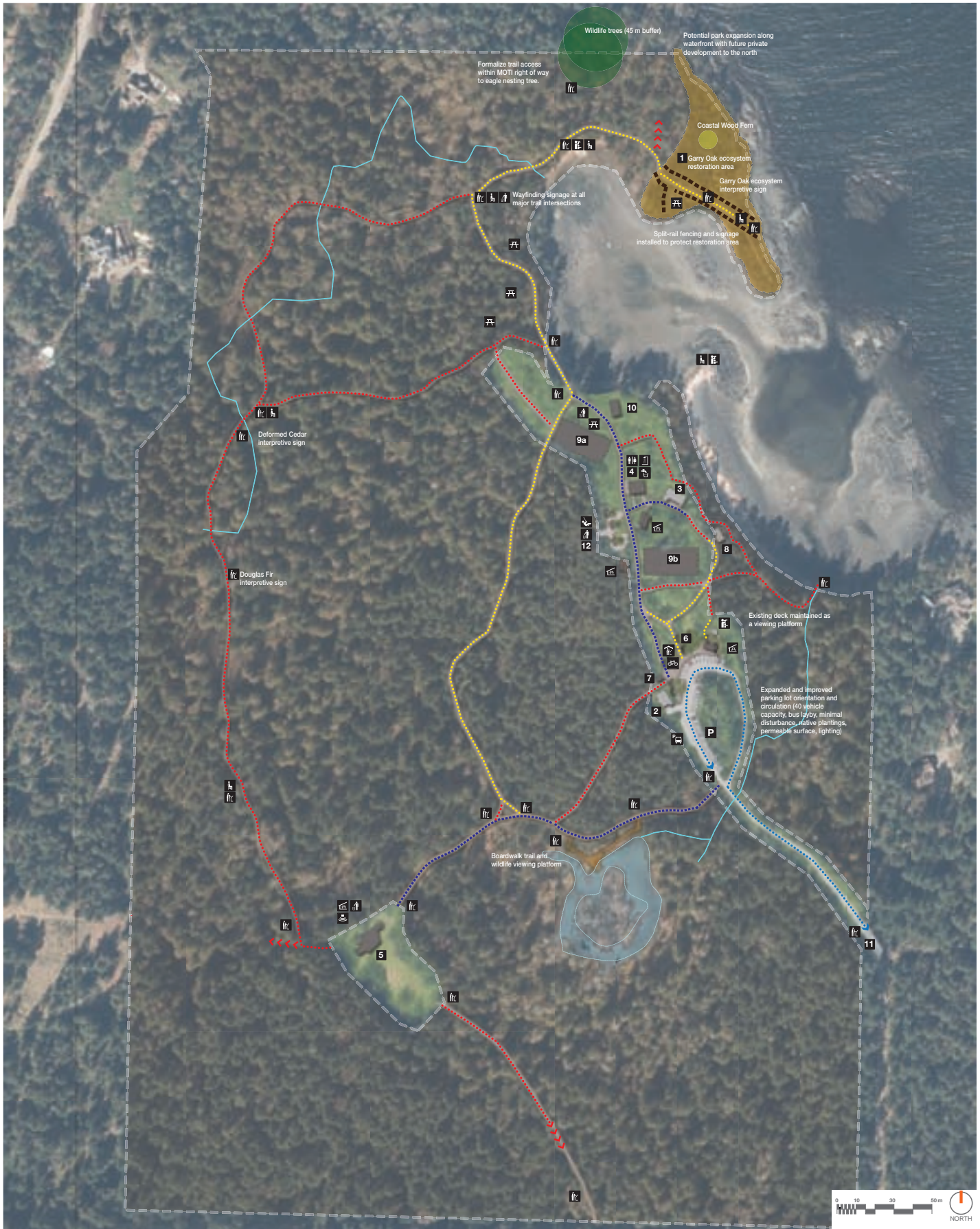


Figure 19. Design Concept for Moorecroft Regional Park (Legend below and concept map opposite)

LEGEND

CIRCULATION

- Existing pedestrian trails to remain
- >>> RDN will work to formalize south, west, and north pedestrian park entries
- Upgrade existing trail for accessible use
- Upgrade existing trail access for vehicle access
- Vehicular access

AREAS

- 1** Garry Oak ecosystem recovery area

PARK STRUCTURES

- 2** Caretaker House - maintain and refurbish
- 3** Kennedy Lodge - facility for special events, RDN parks visitor centre, community fitness and wellness programs
- 4** Splash House - new building on Director's Cabin site, washrooms and showers
- 5** Large picnic shelter and pavillion for special events
- 6** Formalized park arrival with information kiok, donor's recognition wall, waste and recycling, and bicycle parking
- 7** Storage shed

BUILDINGS

- Existing buildings to be retained
- Proposed new buildings/structures

ZONES

- Conservation zone
- Development zone
- Watercourse
- Wildlife tree buffer
- Coastal Wood Fern
- Park boundary
- Split rail fence

- 8** Ms. Moore's Cabin - Options for maintenance and/or refurbishment to be considered
- 9** Long House - Ecological and cultural learning programming. Location (2 options) to be determined in design development.
- 10** Existing boathouse to be refurbished / rebuilt
- 11** Park entry feature
- 12** Children's activity area

FACILITIES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Wayfinding, regulatory, interpretive signs | Parking |
| Pavilion | Waste or recycling receptacle |
| Formalized viewpoint | Freshwater shower |
| Covered picnic shelter | Picnic table |
| Children's activity area | Toilet / wash facilities |
| Donor recognition wall | Bench |
| Park information kiosk | Secure bicycle parking |
| Bus layby | Water fountain |

BUILDING SUMMARY

Existing Buildings

23 - buildings currently exist within the park.

19 - buildings will be demolished. A detailed demolition plan will determine schedule and procedure for demolition.

4 - buildings will not be demolished: Caretaker's House, Kennedy Lodge, Boathouse, and Ms. Moore's Cabin. Refurbishments to be determined through a further study.

Proposed Buildings/Structures

1 - Long House/Learning Centre

3 - Covered Picnic Shelters

1 - Pavilion/Large Picnic Shelter

1 - Splash House/Washroom (on site of existing Director's Cabin)

7.2.3 Garry Oak Recovery Area

A split rail fence will be installed to restrict access to the sensitive and important Garry Oak Ecosystem and Coastal Wood Fern community. The existing path and picnic area will be retained so visitors can still enjoy the outstanding ocean views. Visitors will be encouraged to stay on designated trails and in developed areas to allow for ecosystem recovery. The success of the recovery area will be monitored in conjunction with partners including the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The concept for the Garry Oak recovery area is illustrated in Figure 20 (refer to Figure 19 legend).

7.2.4 Multi-use Meadow

The meadow area in the southwest of the park will be encouraged for multiple purposes, such as small festivals and community events. Facilities include a modest performance shelter together with a large picnic area. Access to the meadow will be improved to allow for servicing. The concept for the meadow area is illustrated in Figure 21 (refer to Figure 19 legend).

7.2.5 Gateways and Entrances

A major gateway is suggested at the entrance to the park. Drawing inspiration from west coast architecture and art, the feature will provide a strong and recognizable sense of entry. Constructed of large cedar timbers and planks, it is appropriate to the location and character of the park. A similar feature with donor recognition wall, information kiosk, orientation mapping, storyboards and bike parking will be placed at the entry to the development zone off the parking area. The concept for the gateway and entrance area is illustrated in Figure 22.

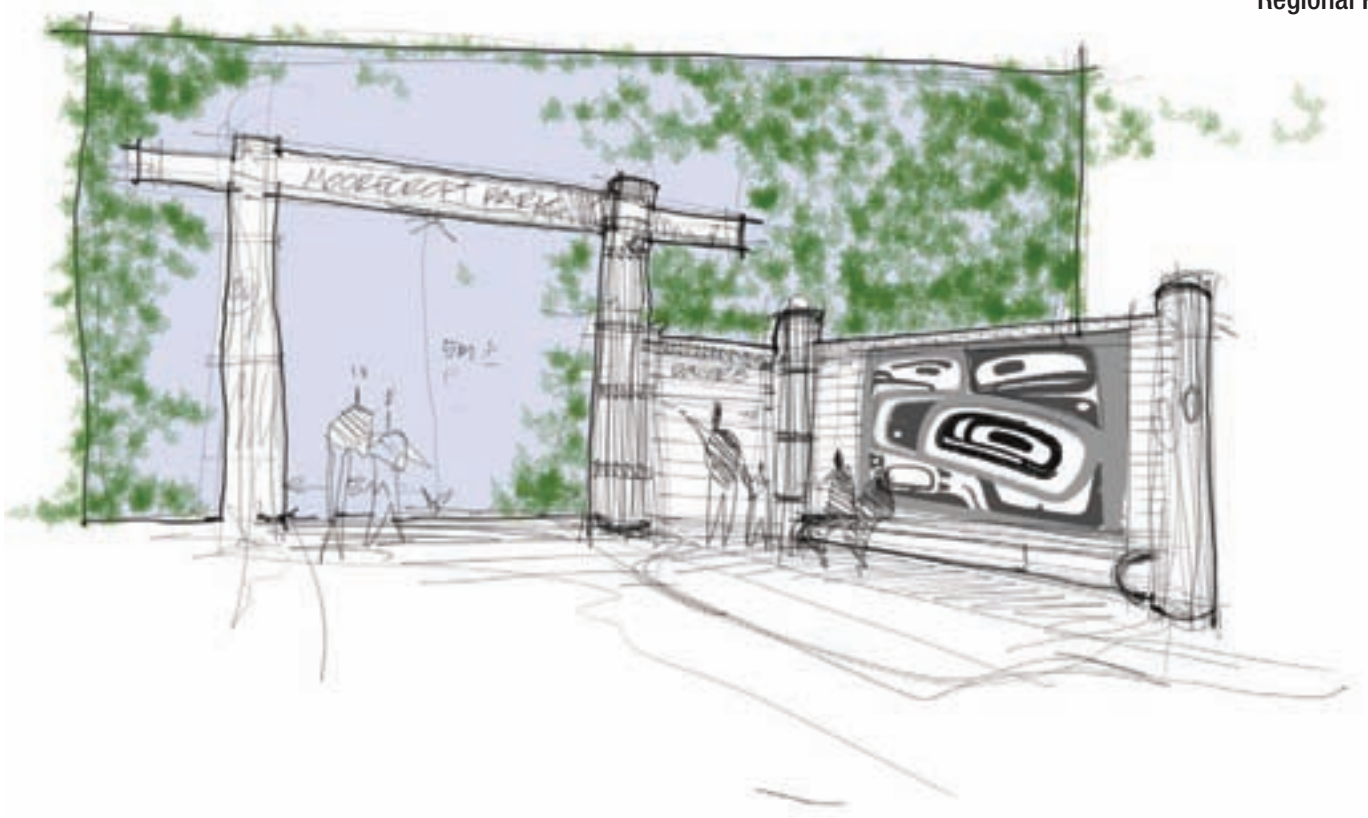
Figure 20. Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Area



Figure 21. Multi-use Meadow, Access Trail and Boardwalk



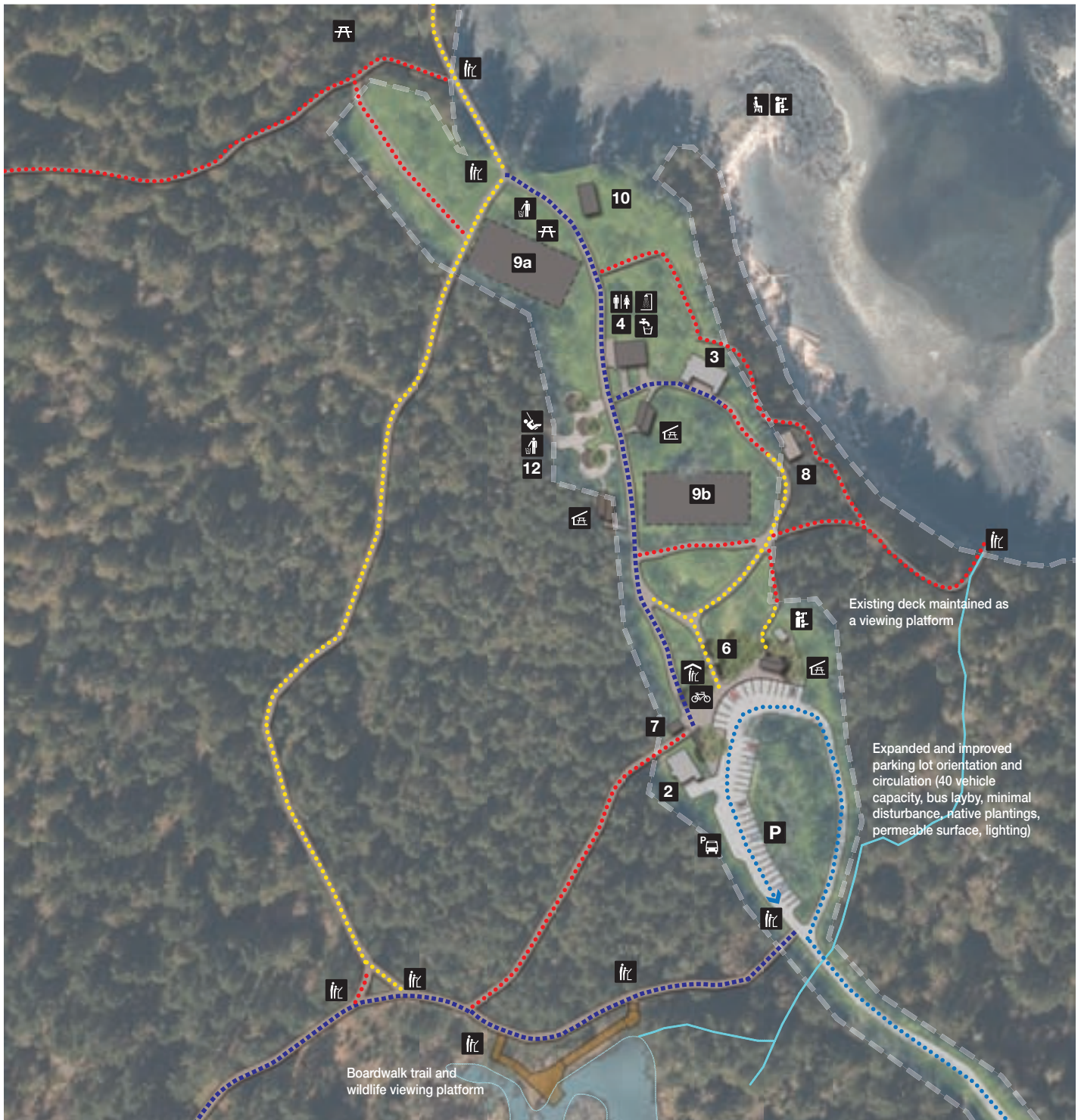
Figure 22. Gateway to Moorecroft Regional Park



7.2.7 The Central Development Zone

Development is clustered in the central development zone. The Caretaker House and Kennedy Lodge are retained and refurbished. The future of Ms. Moore’s Cabin will be determined. A splash house and washrooms may be installed on the site of the Director’s cabin. A children’s play area and covered picnic area is provided. One of two potential Longhouse sites is in this area. The concept for the central development zone area is illustrated in Figure 24 (refer to Figure 19 legend).

Figure 24. Central Development Zone with Accessible Trails



7.2.8 Trails and Boardwalks

With the exception of additional minor circulation trails in the main development zone, no new trails will be constructed. Rather, existing alignments will incorporate tread and drainage improvements to ensure a stable surface and to avoid the creation of multiple tracks. All trails are indicated on the main plan (Figure 19). The main walkway and circulation route past Skipsey Lake, including the boardwalk, will aim to be wheelchair accessible.

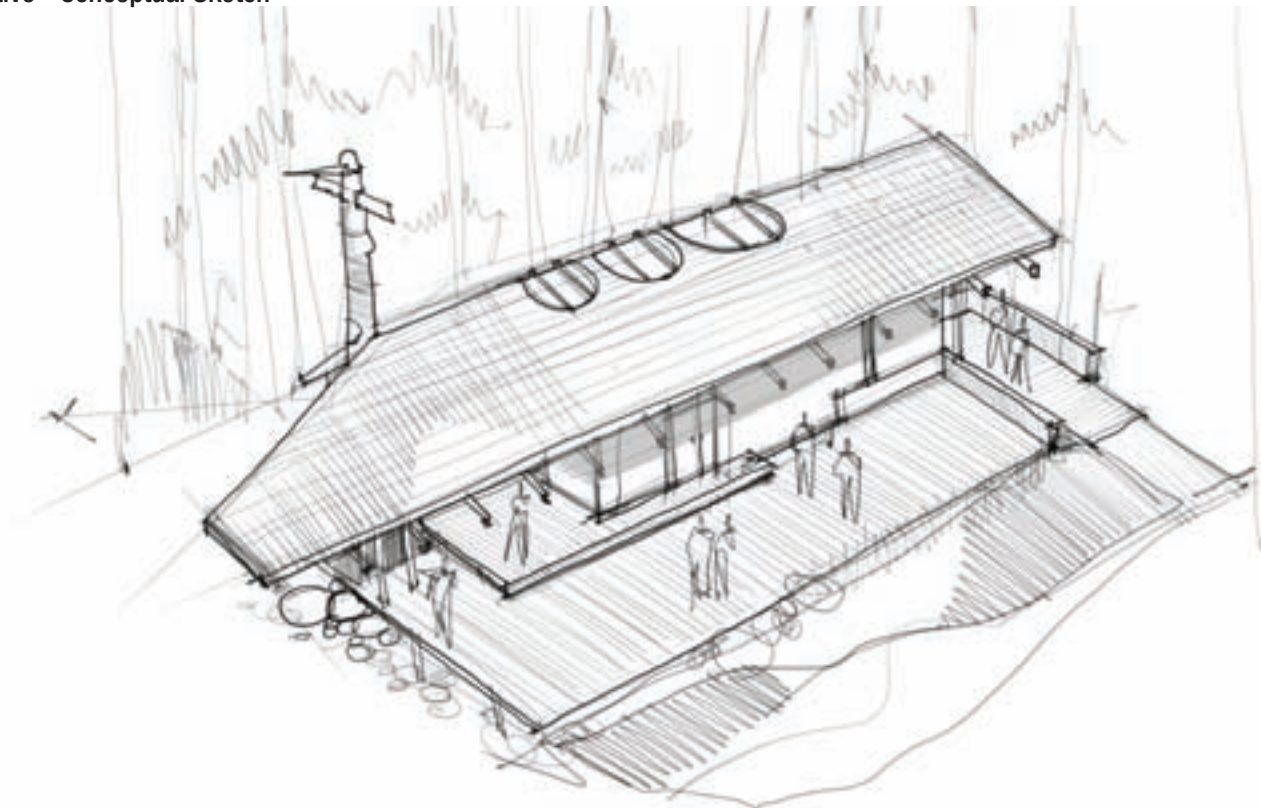
7.2.9 Structures

In support of the proposed park program, several structures are anticipated including:

- A refurbished or reconstructed boathouse
- A Longhouse
- Splash house and washrooms
- Picnic shelters

The conceptual sketches and photographs illustrated in Figure 25 to Figure 32 are included as potential precedents for the design character of the structures. Further development will occur as designs move into more detailed stages. A detailed program for the Longhouse will need to be developed in collaboration with

Figure 25. The Longhouse -
Perspective - Conceptual Sketch



potential partners including the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation). The intent of the Longhouse is to provide a learning centre for Snaw-Naw-As traditions and to promote cultural and environmental values to all park visitors.

The west coast architecture of Coast Salish First Nations provides a significant inspiration and typology for Moorecroft Regional Park and should be considered as part of the overall character and development of the park over time. Several examples of First Nations West Coast structures are provided for reference. Designers are encouraged to consult with Snaw-Naw-As representatives to ensure traditional architecture and artistic elements are incorporated within the development area.

Figure 26. The Longhouse - Plan and Elevation - Conceptual Sketch

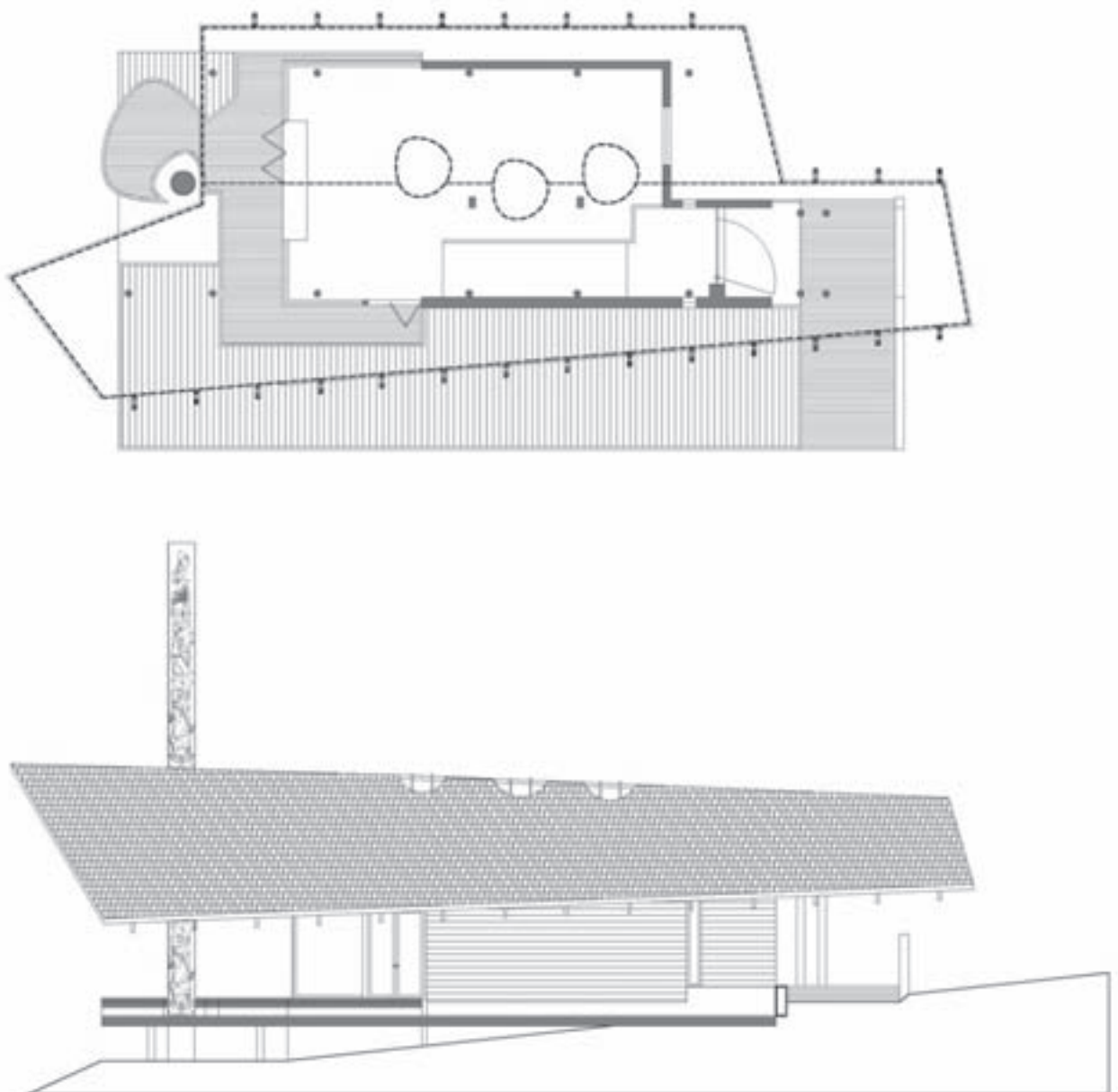


Figure 27. The Longhouse - Traditional or Contemporary Form



Figure 28. The Splash House and Washrooms - Conceptual Sketch

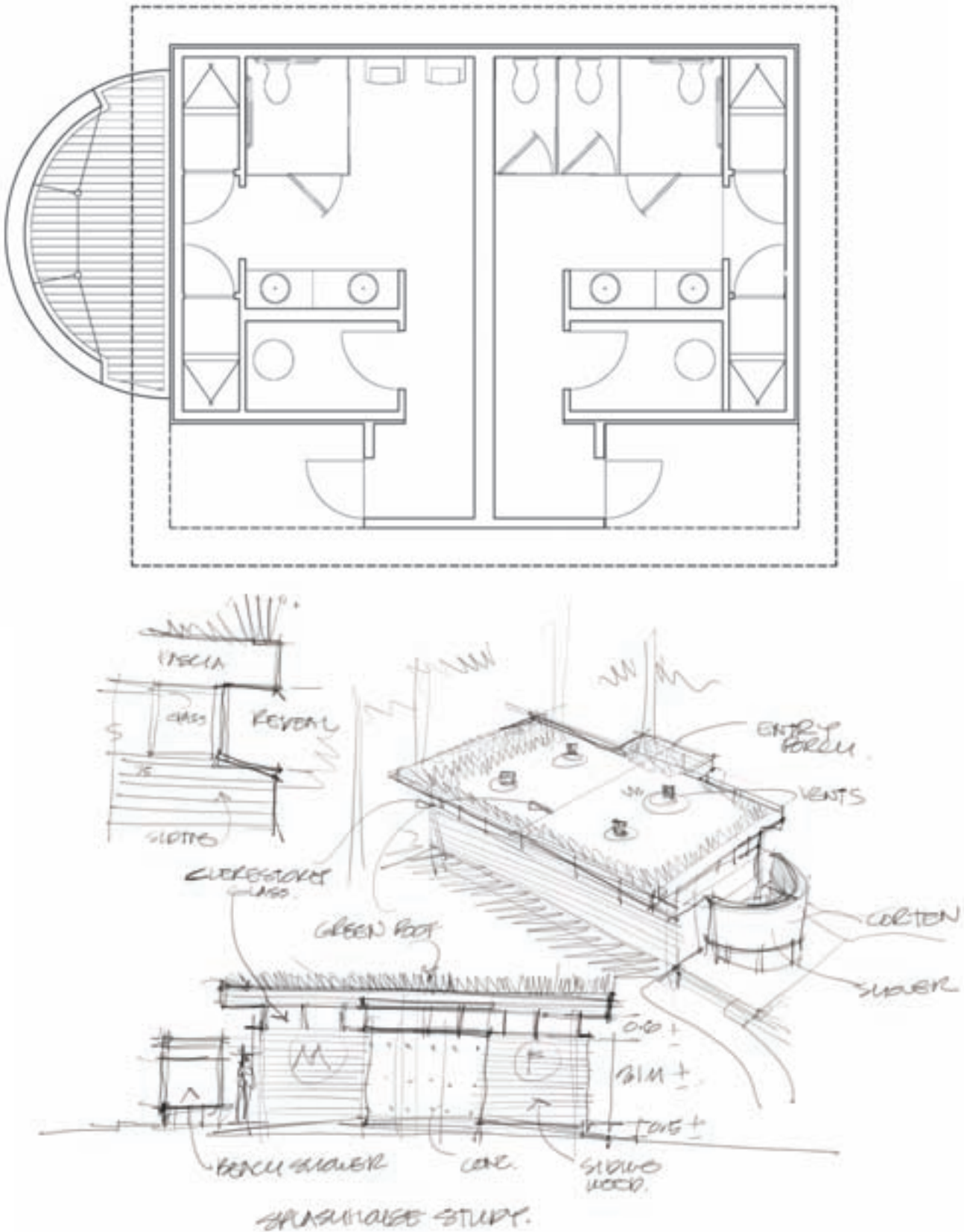


Figure 29. The Splash house and Washroom Precedents



Figure 30. The Picnic Shelter - Conceptual Plan and Elevation

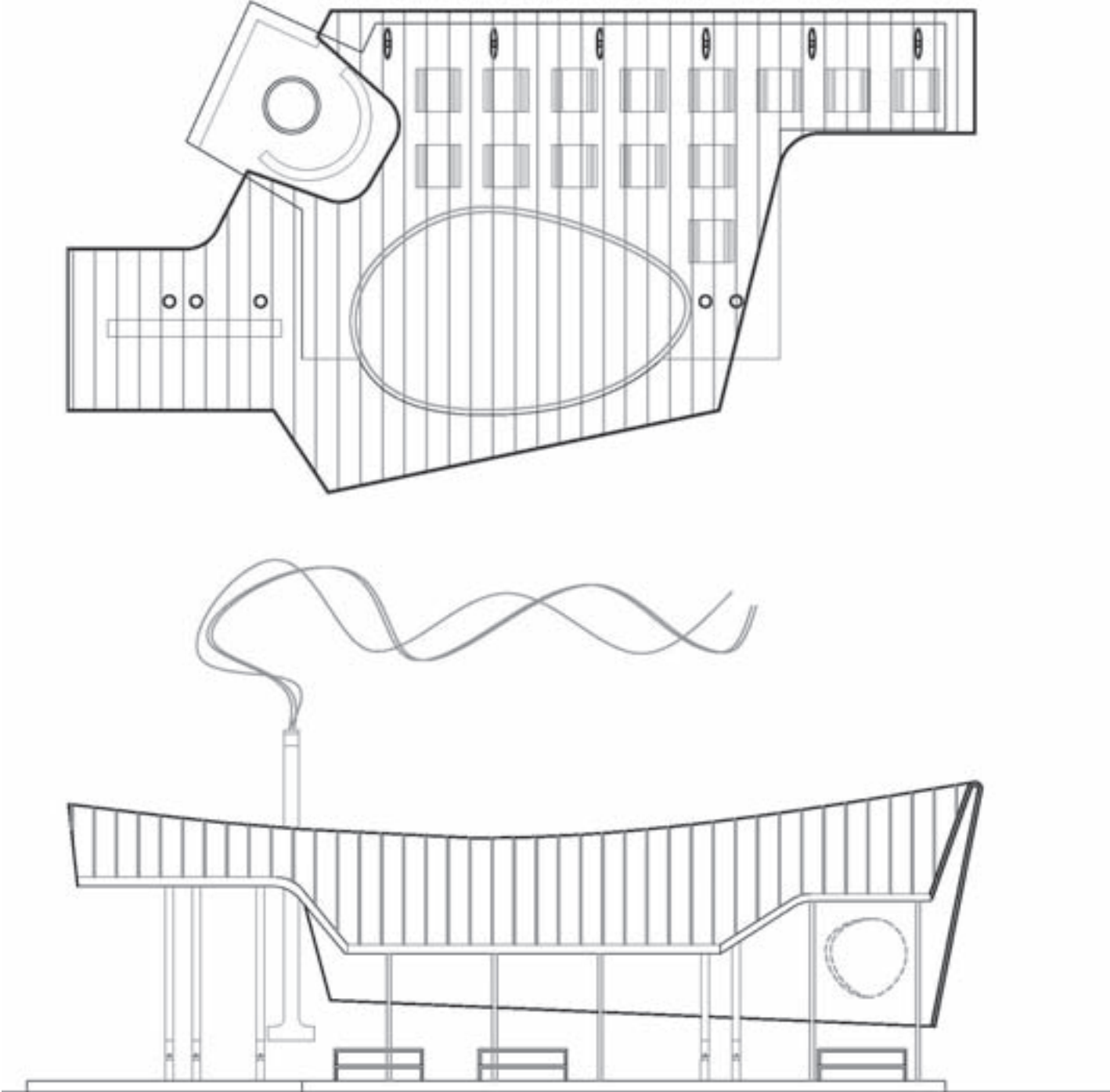


Figure 31. The Picnic Shelter - Conceptual Sketch and Section

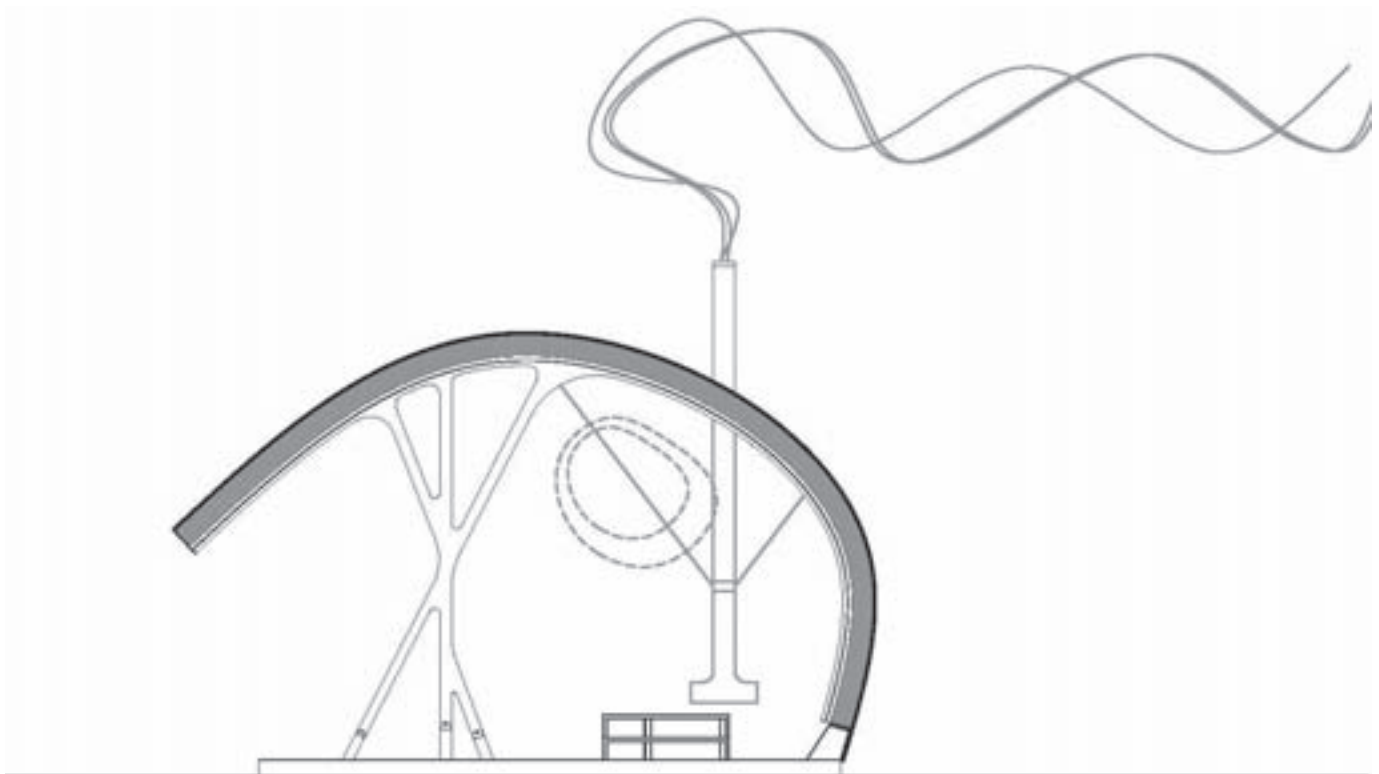
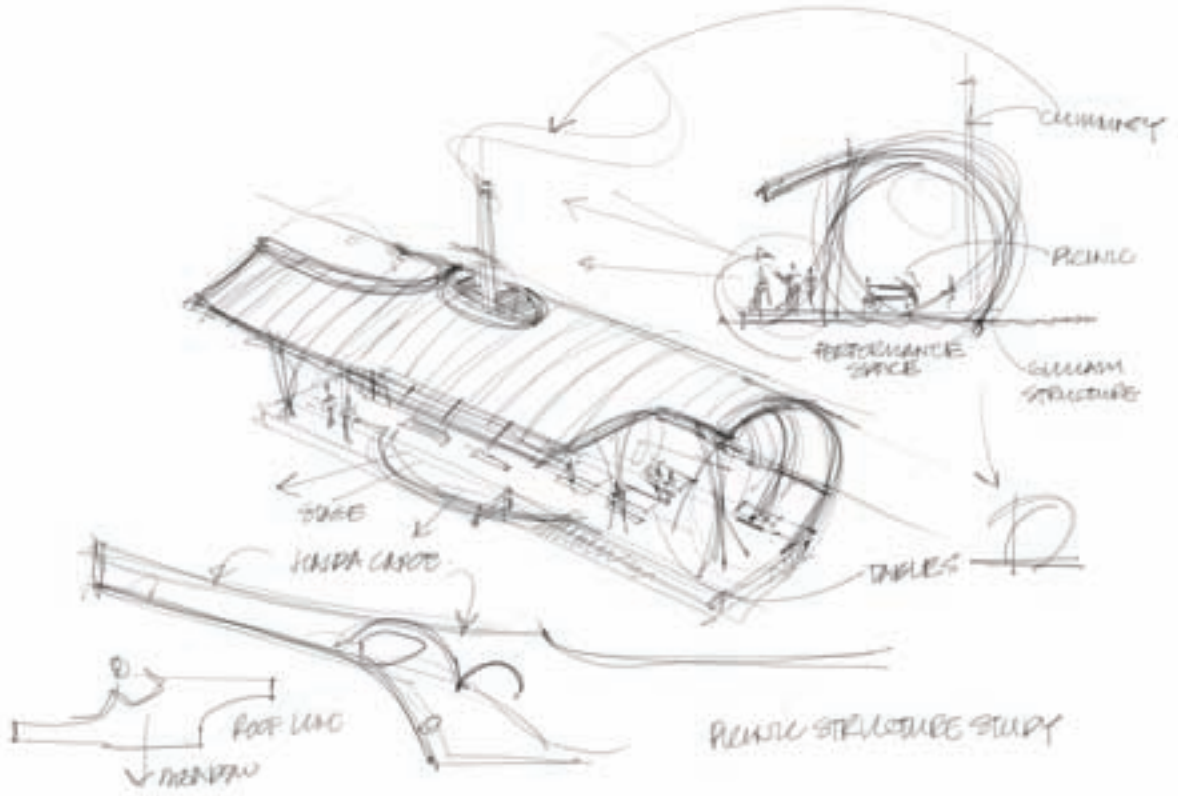


Figure 32. The Picnic Shelter - Potential Precedents



7.2.10 Natural Playgrounds

The development of “natural” playgrounds is encouraged on the Moorecroft Regional Park development site. This will enhance and improve the user experience of the park by providing environmental, health, and early development opportunities. Natural playground design takes into consideration, climate, ecology, habitat and natural features of the land. Hills, rocks and trees are incorporated to fit the playground into the existing landscape. This is a cost effective and sustainable approach in encouraging observation, exploration and discovery of the environment as well as creative problem solving. There are opportunities for the RDN to also enable schools to add features that support a given curriculum as in outdoor learning stations or outdoor gathering spaces for instruction.

7.2.11 Infrastructure + Utilities

The implementation of future utilities and services for Moorecroft Regional Park must conform to all Codes and regulations of the province and RDN. Key considerations in the design of services must include:

- Reliable, attractive (where visible), unobtrusive, easy to maintain, and economical to operate;
- Regulatory and other permitting agencies should be involved early when considering any innovative technologies;
- Emphasize ease of maintenance as well as ease of redesign and reconstruction to accommodate ongoing cost savings and technical innovation.
- Consider common underground utilities for water, gas, communications flows could be in easily opened sub-surface channels, not requiring breaking up existing trails and roads.
- Seek infrastructure technologies that can operate in a modular and/or decentralized fashion, whenever this is economically and technically feasible. Note: Modular and decentralized technologies save present investment so long as provision is made for adding additional capacity, as it is required.
- Design installation of infrastructure to maintain natural characteristics of the site, including landforms, slopes, water flows, wind flows, trees, and plants.

Water

- Future development will require additional engineering review to determine if current capacities to the site are adequate. Where possible utilize water efficient fixtures and systems throughout the development area.
- The redevelopment of the Director’s Cabin into a new splash house and washroom will require an engineering review to ensure adequate water supply.

Fire Protection

- Fire protection is available on the site however, a fire safety and response review by authorities is recommended prior to the development of future facilities. Due to the dense forest coverage of the site fire safety in the summer and shoulder seasons will be a priority.

Sanitary

- Four septic fields are located on the site. The two septic fields that previously serviced Splash House II and Stringer Hall require decommissioning to Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) standards. The septic field that services the Caretaker's House requires repairs. The septic field that services the Director's Cabin is functional and may be used to service the new Splash House in this location. An additional septic field may be constructed to accommodate facilities in the Longhouse. This is dependent on the final location of the Longhouse and site conditions.
- Composting toilets may also be located throughout the park facility.

Solid Waste and Recycling

- The recycling of solid waste should be considered as part of the management plan. In the event that larger groups utilize the site for day activities, (school trips and overnight accommodation) the management of waste will require recycle and trash stations to be installed over and above the existing garbage collection areas. This may also provide an educational opportunity for school groups.

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The management, protection and use of Moorecroft Regional Park require an effective implementation strategy that is feasible and cost-effective. This chapter proposes phasing recommendations for the priority actions identified in this Plan and a preliminary cost estimate for its implementation.

8.1 Phasing Recommendations and Preliminary Capital Cost Estimate

The phasing recommendations for the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan are organized according to the Management Goals proposed in Chapter 6. The recommendations for all planning, operational and capital projects are presented in Table 15. Cost estimates are included for capital items only. Expected operational costs are presented in Table 16.

The total cost to implement the complete design concept is estimated to be \$2,002,845. Of this total, several items have been identified as “Optional.” If the optional items are omitted, the estimated cost to implement the Design Concept is **\$725,075**. Included in these estimate are contingencies for design fees (10%) and construction (20%).

Note that this estimate represents the total cost to implement the **built infrastructure and facilities** and does **not** include costs for ongoing park maintenance, programming and planning. All figures are opinions of probable costs, and are not guaranteed cost figures. Cost estimates will be refined as detailed designs are prepared. Due to the conceptual nature of the design plan, these figures may not reflect actual costs.

Table 15. The Phasing Recommendations

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Phase 1: High Priority (1-3 years)				
Plan for demolition of existing facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stringer Hall •Wood Shed • Splash Houses • Director’s Cabin • Cabins (14) • Light Standards" 	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN + Contractor
Develop feasibility plan for the Long House with Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose First Nation)	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1	Staff time	RDN, NFN + Consultant
Develop emergency response plan, including fire risk plan	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN
Explore feasibility of off-leash opportunities in woodlot south of park	Visitor safety + management	1	Staff time	RDN + Crown Woodlot
Develop a Garry Oak ecosystem recovery plan/Conduct invasive plant inventory	Ecological protection	1	\$1,000	RDN, GOERT + partners
Assess amphibian habitat at trail and road crossings	Ecological protection	1	Staff time	RDN
Install boardwalks at key locations/along sensitive areas of trails	Ecological protection	1	\$20,000	RDN + Contractor - COMPLETED
Assess and install water level control at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	1	\$2,000	RDN + Contractor
Construct split rail fence at Vesper Point	Ecological protection	1	\$19,250	RDN
Demolish buildings as per the schedule identified in the demolition plan	Visitor safety + management	1	\$121,000	RDN + Contractor
Demolish and remove existing light standards	Visitor safety + management	1	\$1,000	RDN + Contractor
Demolish buildings as per the schedule identified in the demolition plan	Visitor safety + management	2	\$121,000	RDN + Contractor

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Demolish and remove existing light standards	Visitor safety + management	2	\$1,000	RDN + Contractor
Site amenity improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog waste bag dispensers • Large wildlife-proof garbage container and small containers (5) • Bike racks • New benches (7) and new picnic tables (5) • Outdoor recreation, active living + learning" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1	\$10,000	RDN + Future RDN Donation Program
Upgrade and maintain Kennedy Lodge	Visitor safety + Management	1	\$60,000	RDN + Contractor
Develop and implement signage program for park usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog management signage • Signs at undesignated trail access points/park boundary • New way-finding signage and maps • Park kiosk and information signage" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	1+2	\$18,000	RDN + Contractor
Explore park entry along northern and western boundaries and secure ROW if necessary	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN, MOTI, adjacent community
Develop and implement interpretive signage program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological and cultural interpretive signage + website" 	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	3	\$15,000	RDN + Consultant
Renew foreshore lease for Block A, Lot 249	Ecological protection	3	Staff time	RDN + NFN
Secure Foreshore lease for Second Bay	Ecological protection	3	Staff time	RDN + NFN
SUBTOTAL HIGH PRIORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$267,250	

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Phase 2: Low Priority (4-10 years)				
Secure northern ROW as ecological buffer	Ecological Protection	4	Staff time	RDN + MOTI
Develop regional trail connections to the south + east of Moorecroft Regional Park	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	4	Staff time	RDN, Crown + MOTI
Upgrade and maintain Caretaker's House: • New windows • Closet doors	Visitor safety + Management	5	\$15,000	RDN
Assess parking lot and upgrade if needed	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6	\$157,500	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct Long House	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6 ¹	Funding through partnerships and grants	RDN + Partners
Design and construct entry feature	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$12,500	RDN + Contractor
Construct park operations storage shed	Visitor safety + Management	7	\$25,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new day use/picnic shelter at Stringer Hall location	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$28,000	RDN + Contractor
Construct recognition and donor wall	Community engagement + stewardship	8	\$12,500	RDN + Contractor
Upgrade and maintain Boat House: • New Roof • New floor/extra support • New sliding door and entrance door securement • Depending on future use - redesign inside and add electrical	Visitor safety + Management	8	\$35,000	RDN
Develop plan for future of Ms. Moore's Cabin	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN + Parks Forum
SUBTOTAL LOW PRIORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$285,500	

¹Timing dependent upon funding; could occur sooner than year 6.

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Ongoing, Yearly Operational and/or Capital works				
Monitor and enforce on-leash policy	Visitor safety + management	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Monitor visitor satisfaction	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Continue ecosystem monitoring program with NCC	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Facilitate Moorecroft Regional Park partnership forum (yearly meeting)	Community engagement + stewardship	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Supplementary nest box program at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Deliver public guided interpretive tours	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Monitor the development and condition of informal trails	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Maintain science research partnerships when interest arises	Ecological protection	On-going	Staff time	RDN + Partners
Explore options for private donations in accordance with future RDN policy direction	Community engagement + stewardship	On-going	Staff time	RDN
Invasive plant management throughout park; restoration planting within Development Zone	Ecological protection	On-going	In-kind	RDN + Volunteers
Implement surface water controls along trails and roads	Visitor safety + management	On-going	\$5,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL ONGOING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$5,000	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (High, Low and Ongoing)			\$557,750	
Contingency	(10% Design Fee)		\$167,325	
	(20% Construction)			
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES + CONTINGENCY			\$725,075	

Action	Management Goal	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Optional / To be assessed yearly based on operational needs				
Prepare detailed site servicing plan	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	2	Staff time	RDN + Consultant
Construct barrier-free trails	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	4	\$262,500	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new boardwalk at Skipsey Lake	Ecological protection	5	\$94,400	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct natural playscape	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	5	\$40,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new day use / picnic shelters (2)	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	6	\$56,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct pavilion in meadow	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$140,000	RDN + Contractor
Implement plan for future Ms. Moore's cabin	Visitor safety + Management	7	\$15,000	RDN + Contractor
Design and construct new splash house, if required	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$100,000	RDN + Contractor
Assess and widen entry road, if required	Visitor safety + management	8	\$85,000	RDN + Contractor
Install new waterline to Meadow, if required	Visitor safety + Management	8	\$125,000	RDN + Contractor
Upgrade electrical service, if required	Visitor safety and Management	8	\$65,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			\$982,900	

TOTAL OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		\$982,900
Contingency	(10% Design Fee) (20% Construction)	\$294,870
TOTAL CAPITAL, OPTIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES + CONTINGENCY		\$1,277,770

8.2 Operational Cost Estimate

Based on operational expenditures over the last year, Staff have estimated required costs to implement the Ongoing and High Priority projects described in this plan to be about \$30,000 per year (Table 16).

Operational requirements will be reassessed at the time additional capital projects are considered for implementation. It can be expected that as additional projects are implemented, the operations costs will increase concurrently.

Table 16. Operational Cost Requirements

Expected Operational Costs for High Priority and Ongoing Capital Projects			
Operational Action	Year	Cost	Responsibility
Building repair/maintenance (including septic tank service)	Yearly	\$10,000	RDN + Consultant
General repair/maintenance (including toilet, gravel, trees, invasive species, trails, signs)	Yearly	\$15,000	RDN
Electricity/water/propane	Yearly	\$5,000	RDN + Contractor
SUBTOTAL YEARLY OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES		\$30,000	

9.0 PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

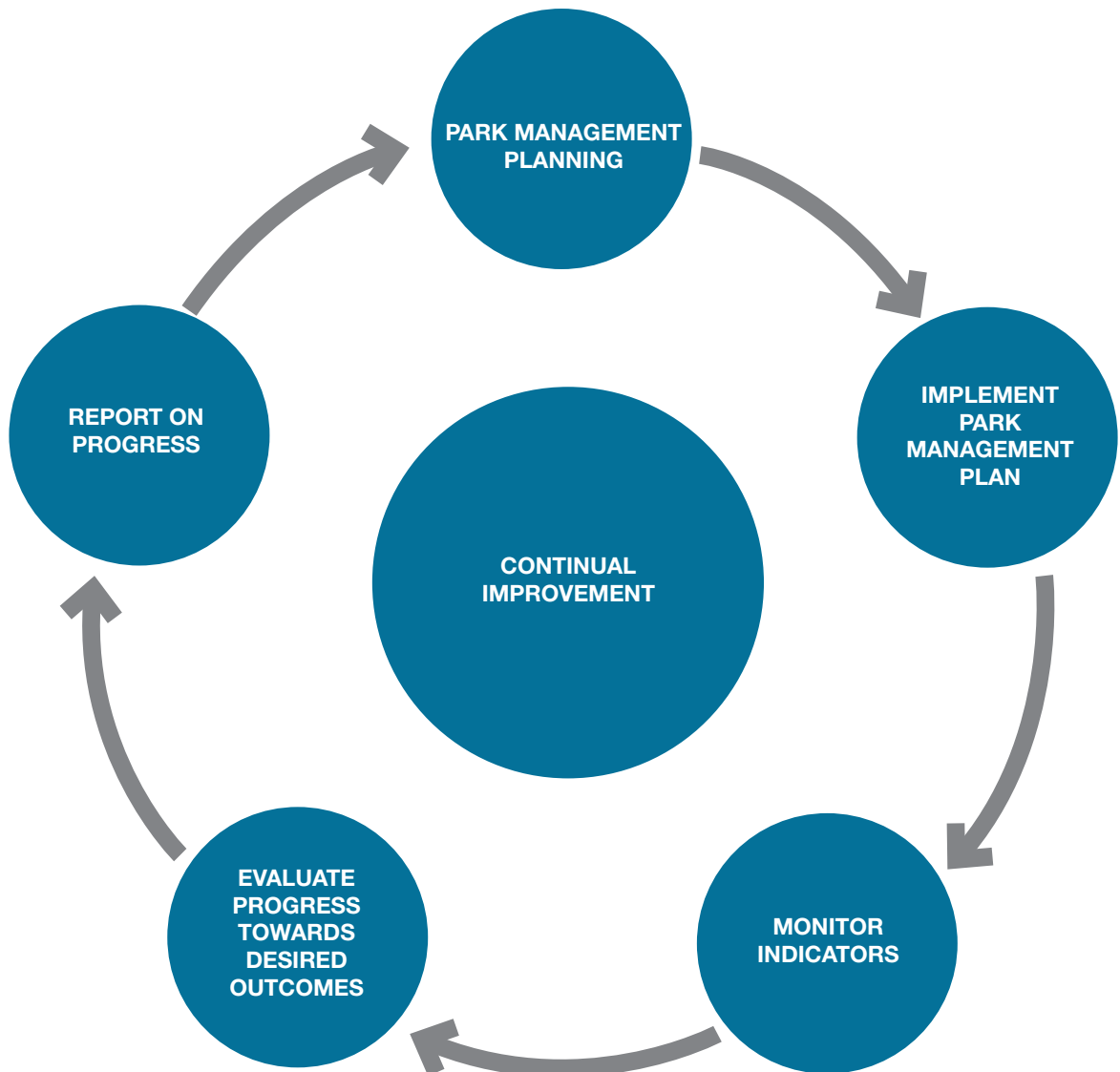
9.1 Monitoring of the Plan

Knowledge-based decision-making, adaptive management and accountability are important to the effective management of Moorecroft Regional Park. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting is critical to enabling park managers, partners and interested parties to evaluate and track progress and ensure effective management responses to new insights and changing circumstances. This section defines the performance monitoring process and management plan review and reporting process. Performance indicators have not been determined and should be developed through a collaborative process with park partners.

9.2 Monitoring Process

An adaptive management process will guide the implementation of the Moorecroft Regional Park, as shown in Figure 33. Management Implementation reports will be prepared to document and highlight accomplished activities.

Figure 33. Moorecroft Regional Park Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Process



9.2.1 Plan Review and Amendment

The plan will be measured by its effectiveness in meeting defined outcomes, the effectiveness of identified strategies, and the success of actions taken to resolve management issues. Continual improvement is the driving motivation of adaptive management. To ensure continual improvement and the incorporation of the best available information, the Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan will be reviewed and, if needed, amended every ten (10) years or as major management issues arise and are found to be inadequately addressed in the plan. If deemed necessary by park managers, the vision, management goals and objectives for the park will be examined, the understanding of issues facing the park will be updated and new policies and actions will be identified and pursued.

9.2.2 Performance Indicators

Progress towards achievement of management goals should be monitored, evaluated and reported based on meaningful, pragmatic, transparent and cost-effective indicators. The RDN will lead a collaborative process with park partners to identify and establish monitoring methods for relevant performance indications.

When the indicators are identified, the results of monitoring indicators should be reported on the park's website. Plan implementation report(s) will also be prepared annually to document and highlight the activities accomplished in support of this plan.

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