



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

MOORECROFT
REGIONAL PARK

MAY 15, 2017



**REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO**

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INTRODUCTION

Workshop Overview

- The planning workshop for Moorecroft Regional Park was held on Monday, May 15th at Nanoose Place Community Centre and included a group site visit and tour of the park.
- Invitations were sent to representatives of stakeholder groups and community representatives including: Nanoose First Nation, Nanoose Bay Elementary, Ecole Ballenas Secondary, RLC Interpreters, Moorecroft Stewards, Nanoose Bay Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Committee, RDN Recreation & Parks, and RDN Electoral Area Directors.
- **13** individuals participated in the day-long workshop, along with 2 facilitators.

Workshop Format

MORNING:

- Introductions & Project Background Presentation
- Guided Group Site Visit

AFTERNOON:

- **SESSION A:** Site Tour Debrief, Key Opportunities and Constraints
- **SESSION B:** Concept Plan Development (2 small working groups)
- **SESSION C:** Preferred Concept Plan (1 large working group)
- Workshop Review & Next Steps

Workshop Goals

- Review changes in the park from when the Park Management Plan was prepared in 2012;
- Establish a mutual understanding of the current Moorecroft Regional Park site conditions, opportunities, and constraints;
- Build on and confirm the vision for future amenities and facilities in the park;
- Work collaboratively to refine ideas and locate proposed amenities; and
- Generate a preferred site plan for the study area.



Workshop participants at Moorecroft Regional Park.

SESSION A:

Site Tour Debrief, Key Opportunities, Constraints, & Priorities

Key Priorities

- Children are key park users – School groups and day-camps use a wide variety of spaces in the park and are present in the park on a regular basis
- Consider the WHOLE park – work towards a cohesive park
- For the development areas of the park (outside the covenant area), consider overall themes that are complimentary to the park as a place of conservation and access to nature
- Provide facilities that support safe and desired park use, but that are appropriate for a regional park that is natural and rustic in character
- Balance programs and uses

| CHALLENGES AND ISSUES | OPPORTUNITIES |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weather/wind in certain areas of the park ■ Circulation in the parking area ■ Vandalism ■ Safety for bus drop off area for school groups ■ Risks with Ms. Moore’s Cabin condition ■ Dog walking on/off leash use ■ Currently, portable toilets are not in locations that are convenient for key park destinations ■ Portable toilets fill quickly and require frequent pumping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ School programs are active and adaptive in the park ■ The meadow area is valuable dragonfly and insect habitat ■ The grassy knoll by the parking lot is accessible, protected from the wind, and receives considerable sun ■ Potential to celebrate local First Nations culture within the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Place names in Hul’q’umi’num ■ Native plants stories and uses ■ Stories from the land and Salish Sea in this area ■ Great views to water from Ms. Moore’s Cabin site ■ Provide a shared place for gathering ■ Provide access to washrooms in more than one location ■ The parking area is the entry and first impression for the park - consider how to incorporate current vegetation and character while planning for expansion |

SESSION B:

Concept Plan Development

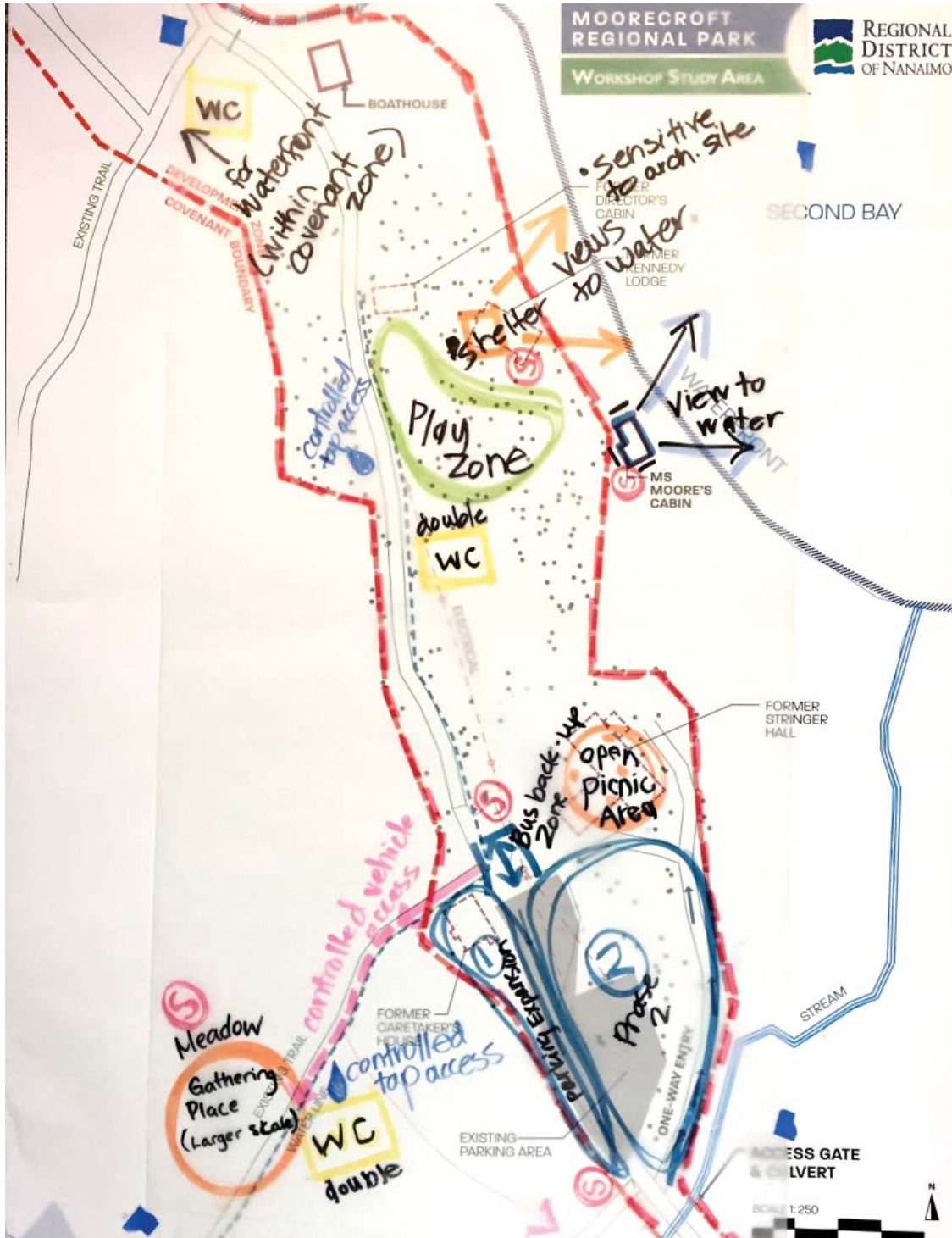
Group A | Concept Development Summary Points

| KEY TOPICS | IDEAS |
|--------------------------|---|
| Gathering Places | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Consideration for vehicle access to enable special events■ Two Scales 1) Large gatherings 2) Daily/smaller/families■ Smaller gathering place at former Kennedy Lodge site with: small covered shelter and tables (with views to water), close proximity to play/toilet, and site sensitive design. |
| Meadow | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Larger gathering place location, to include: open air shelter, controlled vehicle access, controlled water tap access, and double vault toilet■ Also a place for education activities■ Requires change of water line location or upgrade to accommodate vehicle passage■ May require road upgrade around Skipsey wetland |
| Signage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Kiosk sign and map information at entry■ Preference for interpretive signage to be distributed throughout park for storytelling of park history, natural assets, First Nations, etc.■ Interpretive signage to be “Kid Friendly” and interactive, as part of a play opportunity. Potential locations: Trailhead south of parking lot, trailhead at gate north of parking lot, in meadow, by Ms. Moore’s Cabin, and former Kennedy Lodge site |
| Ms. Moore’s Cabin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Failed structure – but carrying the story forward is important to maintaining sense of place■ Contributes to history and roots of the park■ Take down cabin, but re-use some of the cabin materials (e.g. cedar, chimney brick) for other features in the park (e.g. benches)■ Create a story telling place with benches as a lookout■ Consider interpretation with signage or having a physical representation of the building footprint |
| Top of Knoll | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sunny spot with good access to parking lot for elders or those with limited mobility■ Open area with picnic tables and benches |
| Play Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dedicated area for ‘natural playground’ not needed■ Instead, have ‘sacrificial zone’ of forested area within the development area for play with close proximity to small picnic shelter and toilet |

Toilets

- Vault toilets are the preferred style for the park (portable toilets fill too quickly, flush toilets are not necessary)
- Multiple locations:
 1. Central to development zone (double)
 2. Meadow (double)
 3. Near Waterfront, within development zone (single)

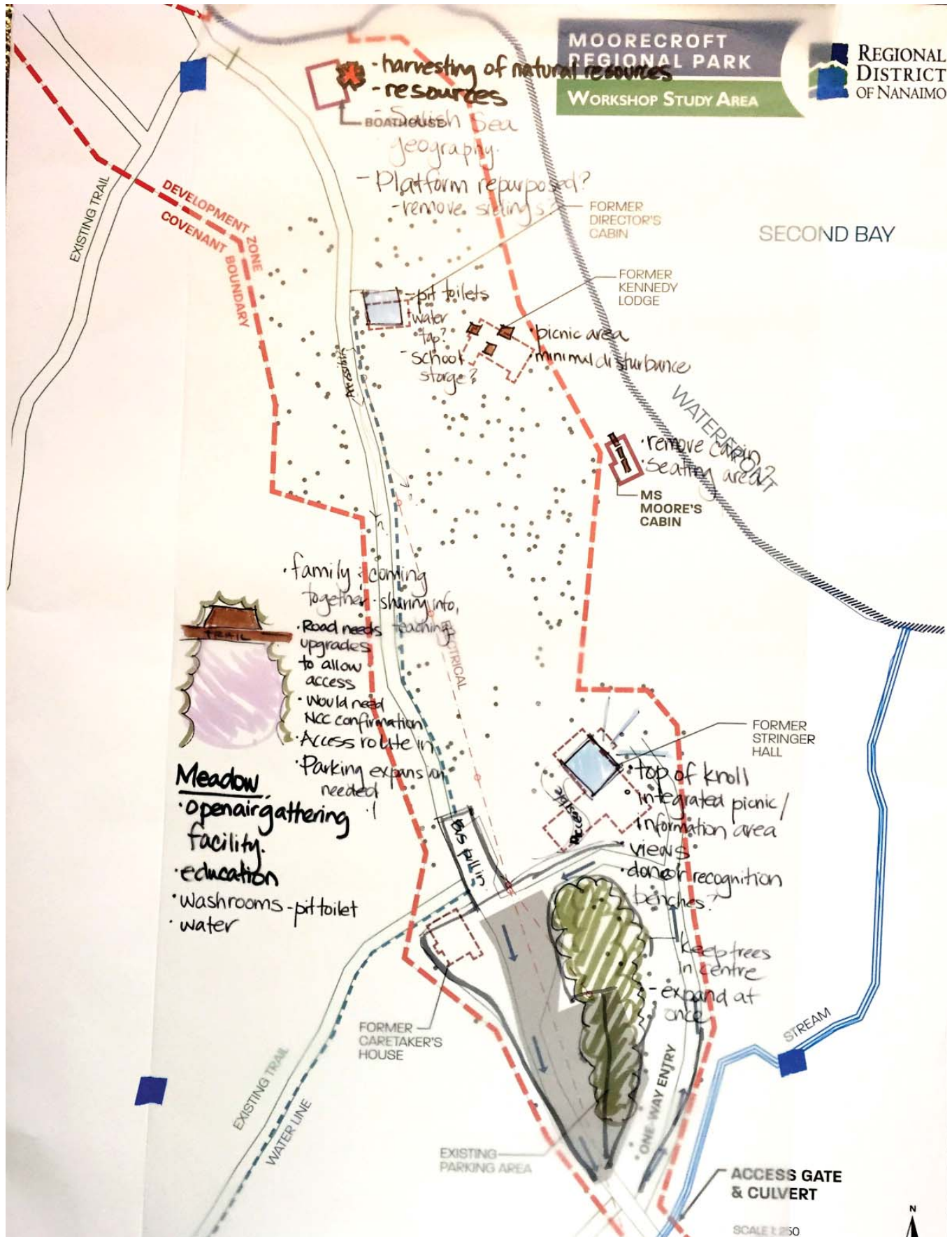
Group A | Concept Plan Sketch



Group B | Concept Development Summary Points

| KEY TOPICS | IDEAS |
|---|---|
| Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Need to accommodate more people■ Complete upgrades all at once (not phased)■ Retain treed area in centre■ Expand towards former Caretaker's house, and with bus pull-in area |
| Meadow Cultural Centre & Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sensitive ecosystems■ Open air gathering facility with washrooms (vault toilet) and water■ For education uses, family gatherings, large community gatherings■ Road needs upgrade for vehicle access■ Parking expansion needed to support it |
| Top of Knoll | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Welcome spot for park■ Shelter structure with integrated picnic area, information area, donor recognition, and benches■ Views out to water■ Accessible path route up to top of knoll |
| Toilets | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Vault toilet (no need for daily closure)■ Two locations: Meadow, and down by former Director's cabin site■ For the toilet in the main park area, consider including a water tap, and a small school storage area |
| Seating | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Waterfront – more picnic tables■ Skipsey Marsh■ Ms. Moore's Cabin site |
| Ms. Moore's Cabin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Remove cabin■ Replace with seating area with waterfront views |
| Open Picnic Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Open picnic area with tables by the former Kennedy Lodge site■ Minimal disturbance in this area due to archaeological potential |
| Natural Play Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Likely not needed■ Dedicated play zones could help manage damage to natural areas |
| Boathouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Opportunity for access and education about waterfront, Salish Sea, local geography, harvesting of natural resources■ Re-purpose platform and roof, remove siding, covered shelter at waterfront■ Requires feasibility review of structure |

Group B | Concept Plan Sketch



SESSION C:

Preferred Concept Plan Development

| KEY TOPICS | DESCRIPTION |
|--|---|
| Park Entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Remove toilets and enhance area to be welcoming■ Include park sign and map kiosk that is easily visible from parking lot■ Designate and sign bus drop-off zone (not for parking)■ Include donor recognition area■ Route entry pathway to park through the welcome area adjacent to the gate and bus drop-off area |
| Toilets | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Vault toilets, non-gender specific■ Multiple locations:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Central Development Area (double stall, uphill from former Director's Cabin, Integrate storage for school and program use.)2. Meadow Gathering Place (double stall)3. Waterfront Development Area (single stall)■ Consider ground conditions to determine final locations |
| Meadow Area & Large Gathering Place | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Gathering place – larger groups■ Focus development to edges and one end (maintain open area in centre)■ Provide vault toilets■ Provide controlled tap access■ Provide controlled vehicle access■ Changes and upgrades to road and waterline to site will be required |
| Smaller Scale Picnic Shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide mid-size open air shelter and picnic tables■ Proximity to washroom and controlled water tap■ Views to water■ Sensitive to First Nations History on site |
| Grass Knoll Open Picnic Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Picnic tables and seating scattered and open to sun■ Accessible pathway between picnic area and parking■ Pathway connection to entry area |

| KEY TOPICS | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expansion needed ■ Consider whether to phase or do in stages ■ Managing tree removals/impacts for parking expansion ■ Layout to maximize use while minimizing disturbance ■ Consider gravel versus paving (winter maintenance and snow removal consideration for asphalt) |
| Interpretive Signage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Disperse signs and interpretive features throughout park ■ Include interactive elements that are interesting for children and play ■ Integrate First Nation's language and stories |
| Play Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Designate an area central in the development area as "Play Zone" and communicate this on maps and signs so that wear/impacts are focused in one area ■ No formal or built 'natural playground' |
| Ms. Moore's Cabin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Remove cabin structure, but carry forward with storytelling ■ Look for opportunities for material re-use from cabin (e.g. benches) ■ Include interpretative signs and features at site (e.g. building footprint) ■ Provide seating with views (build within already 'disturbed' site area) |
| Boathouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Look into feasibility of removing siding and using roof and structure as waterfront shelter ■ Site for Salish Sea and First Nation education |

PREFERRED CONCEPT PRIORITIES:

1. **Build Vault Toilet Central within Development Area (integrate storage).**
2. **Build Vault Toilet in Meadow (road and water line work required).**
3. **Remove Ms. Moore's Cabin (retain select materials for re-use).**
4. **Install Park Entry Sign and Map, and Improve Entry Area.**
5. **Construct Smaller Scale Picnic Shelter (by former Kennedy Lodge).**
6. **Design Parking Lot Layout to Improve Capacity and Circulation.**

PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN SKETCH

