

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SELECT COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

12:00 P.M.

Committee Room

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - 3.1 **Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee Meeting - October 17, 2017** 3
That the minutes of the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee meeting held October 17, 2017, be adopted.
4. CORRESPONDENCE
 - 4.1 **R Morris, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, re: All Licensee Gate Letter** 6
 - 4.2 **T. Osborne, RDN to D. Podetz, RDN Resident, re: Moorcroft Park Meadows** 7
 - 4.3 **N. Donnelly, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, re: Crown Guidance for Use of Foreshore** 14
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
6. REPORTS
 - 6.1 **Parks Update Report – Fall 2017** 16
That the Parks Update for Fall 2017 be received for information.
 - 6.2 **Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan** 29
That the Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan 2018 – 2028 be approved.
7. NEW BUSINESS

8. IN CAMERA

That pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) and (h) of the Community Charter the Committee proceed to an In Camera meeting to consider items related to land and legal issues.

9. ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

12:00 P.M.

Committee Room

In Attendance:	Director H. Houle	Electoral Area 'B'
	Director M. Young	Electoral Area 'C'
	Director B. Rogers	Electoral Area 'E'
	Director J. Fell	Electoral Area 'F'
	Director B. Veenhof	Electoral Area 'H'
	Director G. Fuller	City of Nanaimo
	Director I. Thorpe	City of Nanaimo
	Director M. Lefebvre	City of Parksville
	Director T. Westbroek	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Director B. Colclough	District of Lantzville
	Alternate	
Director K. Wilson	Electoral Area 'A'	
Regrets:	Director A. McPherson	Electoral Area 'A'
	Director J. Hong	City of Nanaimo
	Director B. Yoachim	City of Nanaimo
Also in Attendance:	P. Carlyle	Chief Administrative Officer
	T. Osborne	General Manager of Recreation & Park Services
	W. Marshall	Manager of Park Services
	A. Harvey	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee Meeting - May 19, 2017

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee meeting held May 19, 2017, be adopted.

eSCRIBE Minutes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

Ceri Peacey, Chairperson, Friends of French Creek Conservation Society, Hamilton Marsh Committee, re Hamilton Marsh – Video and Presentation

Ms. Peacey presented a video highlighting the area resident's desire to preserve the entire 360 hectares of the Hamilton Marsh.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Osborne provided some background and additional information regarding each correspondence.

It was moved and seconded that the following correspondence be received:

R. O'Donnell, Benson View Rd Resident, re Mount Benson Regional Park - Gate Installation

S. Hobson, Access Oceanside Association, re Lighthouse Trail

D. Podetz, President of Strata VIS 5826, re La Selva Place Trail

J. Wood, Nature Conservancy of Canada, re Conservation Covenant Agreement

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Parks Update Report - Spring and Summer 2017

Ms. Marshall provided some updates to items in the report.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Update Report - Spring and Summer 2017 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moorecroft Regional Park - Site Planning for New Amenities

It was moved and seconded that \$72,500 be considered for inclusion in the 2018 Regional Parks Operations Budget for the construction of a double vault toilet, removal of Ms. Moore's cabin and installation of seating on the site at Moorecroft Regional Park

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was moved and seconded that funding of the remaining improvements identified at the planning workshop for Moorecroft Regional Park be considered for allocation in the five year Financial Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

This item was forwarded to be discussed In Camera.

NEW BUSINESS

Beachcomber Regional Management Park Open House

Ms. Marshall told the Committee about the community's issues and concerns that were brought forward at the open house held October 4, 2017.

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded that pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) of the *Community Charter* the Committee proceed to an In Camera Committee meeting to consider items related to land issues.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TIME: 12:42 PM

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TIME: 1:20 PM

CHAIR



File: 11250-01/Gate

October 12, 2017

All Forest Licensees:

This letter is a follow-up to my June 14th, 2016 letter to all forest licensees regarding gates on Forest Service Roads (FSR) and Road Permit Roads (RPR) on Crown land within South Island Natural Resource District (the District).

Since receiving my June 14th letter, some licensees have requested and received temporary authorizations to restrict access to a FSR or a RPR. Others have expressed that they believe they already have authorization to restrict access and point to previous historic arrangements including outdated District Standard Operating Procedures and written or verbal agreements that have varying levels of detail and specificity.


As you know, providing public access to forested crown land is an important cornerstone of our forest tenure system. The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), Section 22.2 (1), specifies that a FSR or RPR may be used by any person without charge.

Previous historic arrangements between a licensee and the District to restrict access to a FSR or RPR do not diminish the right granted by section 22.2 (1) to any person wanting to use a road. It is the responsibility of the gate owner to allow any person wanting to use a road section beyond a gate location, the ability to do so.

Unless use of a road would likely cause significant damage to the road, cause significant sediment delivery, or endanger property, public health or public safety, all gates are to be left in an open position. As a licensee, you can apply to me for approval to temporarily restrict access to a FSR or a RPR, if these situations are likely to occur. As part of your application, please provide your reasons consistent with FRPA section 22.2 as to why you are seeking to restrict public access, as well as the location of the existing or proposed gate, and the dates and duration of the proposed restriction.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Kleywegt, District Engineering Officer at 250-731-3021.

Yours truly,


Digitally signed by Rhonda (Morris) Coleman
DN: cn=Rhonda (Morris) Coleman, o=Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, ou=South Island Natural Resource District, email=Rhonda.morris@gov.bc.ca, c=CA
Date: 2017.10.12 14:26:04 -0700

Rhonda Morris, RPF
District Manager
South Island Natural Resource District

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

South Island
Natural Resource District

4885 Cherry Creek Road
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 8E9

Tel: 250-731-3000
Fax: 250-731-3010



From: Osborne, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 10:15 AM
To: 'Doug Podetz'
Cc: Bob Rogers; Cramer, Kelsey; Marshall, Wendy; Houle, Howard
Subject: RE: Moorecroft Park meadows

Mr. Podetz,

As noted in my December 22, 2017 e-mail, RDN staff are working to Plans that have been approved by the Regional Board that have taken into consideration public feedback (which includes survey information) in addition to park uses and needs that have been identified. At the time the proposed shelter project moves forward, it will be advanced through the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee for consideration. As Moorecroft Regional Park is funded by the full Region, this is the Committee that provides recommendations on such capital projects.

As noted by Director Rogers below in his December 19th e-mail to you, at this time the funding for the proposed shelter is allocated in the Five Year Financial Plan in the year 2022. The RDN will continue to inform the public of the project at various stages closer to 2022 (or any other year the project may be moved to based on Board budget decisions).

In regard to your comments about the road that leads to the meadow, the proposal is to upgrade the service road to the meadow and would not be intended for regular public use. The Plan notes this approach would need to be investigated further.

As to the issuing of permits and your concerns about commercialization of the Park, the RDN has a permit application process for any special uses on RDN Parkland. When issuing a permit, consideration of the overall parkland site, the Park's Management Plan and adherence to the RDN Park Use Regulation Bylaw 1399 are factored into the permit approval process.

As a resident that is directly adjacent to Moorecroft Regional Park your concerns and comments on development of park and trail infrastructure at Moorecroft Regional Park have been noted. Staff will forward your feedback to the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee.

Should you wish to address the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee at one of their scheduled meetings, this can be arranged.

Regards,

Tom Osborne

Tom Osborne
General Manager, RDN Recreation and Parks Services

From: Doug Podetz [<mailto:dpodetz@dpodetz.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2018 9:33 PM
To: Osborne, Tom
Cc: Bob Rogers; Cramer, Kelsey; Marshall, Wendy; Howard Houle
Subject: Moorecroft Park meadows

Hi Tom,

I'm sending you a revised email. Unfortunately my last email reply on December 31st was sent before I had an opportunity to edit.

Doug

Good evening Tom,

Thank you for the updated information on Moorecroft Regional Park and the information on the anticipated use of the meadows within Moorecroft Regional Park. Providing the accurate facts on what is planned for the meadows is important. I certainly appreciate your information.

I've have read the Workshop Summary Report which was completed in May 2017. The report outlines that 13 individuals from various groups by invitation only participated in a day long workshop to re-visit the 2013 Moorecroft Management Plan and develop a Park Improvement Concept Plan. After completing the Park Improvement Concept Plan I would think the next step prior to acquiring fiscal approval on the construction of a pavilion would be to seek public approval on a pavilion and its intended use. A design of a pavilion and the intended use of the pavilion must go through a public approval process within Electoral E region. Is this not the proper process before seeking fiscal approval?

I appreciate the RDN process of going through a public consultation process to develop the 2013 Moorecroft Management Plan but the Workshop Summary Report does not reflex the public feedback noted in the management plan on the intended use of a pavilion. The management plan as noted below indicates a pavilion for use of sheltering picnic tables only. As well, noted from the information below the management plan does not indicate overwhelming support for a pavilion in the meadows - 51% like, 38% do not like and 11% had no opinion. Yet somehow the RDN has now concluded as you stated in you email - **"The intended use of the proposed structure would be for nature based education programming done by both the RDN and School District 69 and is also envisioned to be used for cultural education programming by Snaw Naw As First Nation. Being an open air shelter the facility can also be used for picnics and other social gatherings."**



The Workshop Summary Report has two critical issues that effect the neighbourhood as well as individuals who are opposed to the park becoming commercialized. The management plan clearly outlines public support for the park's biodiversity, ecosystem, ecosystem processes and to have the scenic qualities protected but not to have the park commercialized. In my opinion constructing a large gathering place in the meadows for education purposes is fine but to use the pavilion for planned social events is leading to commercializing the park. Having the pavilion used for social events does not reflex what the intended management plan indicated.

I appreciate the RDN using a community group to re-visit the 2013 Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan and develop a Park Improvement Concept Plan. Since there is a major shift in what the intended use of the pavilion would be used for the RDN needs to a go through a public approval process to determine whether the public wishes to support having a pavilion in the meadows and having a pavilion used for social events.

Also in the Workshop Summary Report there was a mention of constructing a formal road from the parking lot to the meadows. Again I believe the public would not support having road construction occur in and around the park pond area.

A couple of key questions still remain as the RDN plans out the use of the park meadows which I would appreciate answers on.

1. Will the RDN organize a public forum in the Electoral E region to review the pavilion design, the intended use of the pavilion and the planned formalization of a service road from the park lot to the meadows prior to acquiring

RDN fiscal approval?

2. There is a mention of having the pavilion used for social events. Will there be restricted RDN regulations on social events? If there are restrictions what are those restrictions? For example, is the RDN's intending to have groups who use the pavilion for social events go through a RDN application process and will the RDN require a usage fee, etc.?

Thanks,
Doug

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Osborne, Tom** <TOsborne@rdn.bc.ca>
Date: Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 9:53 AM
Subject: RE: Moorecroft Park information update
To: Doug Podetz <dpodetz@dpodetz.com>
Cc: Howard Houle <howardhoule@yahoo.ca>, Bob Rogers <bobrogers4areae@telus.net>, "Cramer, Kelsey" <KCramer@rdn.bc.ca>, "Marshall, Wendy" <WMarshall@rdn.bc.ca>

Mr. Podetz,

In response to your comments and questions I can provide the following information and would also like to clarify some items.

In order to provide a better understanding of the Regional Park System, which differs from the Community Park System, I have provided below an overview of both systems that should assist further in understanding the management of Moorecroft Regional Park.

Regional Parks

The Regional Parks and Trails system comprises 2,129 hectares of land and more than 70 kilometres of trails. Since 2005, the Regional Parks and Trails Plan has guided the acquisition and operation of regional park lands. Regional Parks are funded by all jurisdictions within the RDN (Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G and H, City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, City of Parkville and Town of Qualicum Beach).

The Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee, which is comprised of RDN Board of Directors, advises the Regional Board on matters pertaining to Regional Parks. The guiding documents in decision making on Regional Parks are the Regional Parks and Trails Plan and individual Management Plans that are developed for each of the 12 Regional Parks. Moorecroft is one of the 12 Regional Parks. I have provided a link below for more information on this system.

Regional Parks Link: <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-parks-and-trails>

Community Parks

There are eight separate Community Parks & Trails Services, one in each of Electoral Areas A, B, E, F, G and H, and two in Electoral Area C.

At present there are 202 community parks (often referred to as neighbourhood parks) totaling in excess of 611 hectares of land across the Regional District. Of the 202 community parks, Electoral Area E (Nanoose Bay) has 35.

With advice and guidance from local Parks and Open Space Advisory Committees (POSACs), which are comprised of local residents appointed by the RDN Board and the local Electoral Area Director, the RDN undertakes a full range of functions under each Community Parks & Trails Service. POSACs advise the Regional Board on a variety of Community Park items including park planning, land acquisition, parks and trails development, and ongoing

operation and maintenance of community parks and trails.

Each of the eight Community Parks & Trails Services in the RDN has its own service area and budget. Most of the costs incurred to provide each service are determined by taxpayers in the specific, local service area, through the service's local advisory committee and the Electoral Area Director. Local examples in Nanoose Bay of Community Parks include Blue Back Community Park, Brickyard Community Park and the recently added Es-hw Sme~nts Community Park.

The Regional District primarily obtains Electoral Area Community Parks parkland through dedications during the subdivision approval process but it may also accept cash in lieu and purchase land that is desirable to the community. Parkland acquisition efforts are guided by parks and trails related policies in each electoral area's *Official Community Plan*, and by other considerations. In the District 69 Electoral Areas, the 2014 *Community Parks & Trails Strategic Plan (Electoral Areas E, F, G & H)* is also used as guiding document on long term planning and operations of Community Parks.

For more information on Community Parks please see the link below.

Community Parks Link: <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/community-parks-and-trails>

Development of the Management Plan for Moorecroft Regional Park and Related Infrastructure Planning

As noted under Regional Parks above, each of the Regional Parks are guided by a Management Plan that has been approved by the Regional Board. In the development of the Management Plan for Moorecroft Regional Park, extensive public consultation and engagement took place.

In addition to stakeholder interviews, project meetings and RDN Board Meetings, three Open Houses were held during the development of the Management Plan. There were 278 recorded attendees at the open houses and 156 surveys completed. Input from these engagement events assisted in guiding the development the Management Plan and related infrastructure.

As directed by the Plan, many of the facilities and buildings that once served the United Church Camp (in the range of 26 structures) were removed. In your e-mail below you noted the public was surveyed on the use of the amphitheatre. When the Park was acquired there was an open air church / amphitheater below a structure that was called Stringer Hall near the waterfront. This is what was being surveyed in that question, not an amphitheatre in the meadow. The amphitheatre was then removed along with Stringer Hall and other buildings in the area.

In regards to the Meadow Area, the Management Plan provides the following direction which was identified in the development of the Management Plan and presented to the public during the Open Houses:

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.

Since the Plan has been developed, the RDN has revisited the park's needs. A building called Kennedy Hall that was envisioned to be used as a public gathering and programming space was removed due to the high costs to make it publically accessible along with site challenges. The RDN has also been in discussions with Snaw Naw As First Nation about the Plan's proposed Long House. Through these discussions and in consultation with other stakeholders, a revised concept pan was presented to the Board in 2017. The link to that document is below. As you will note upon review, the need for a Long House is no longer being considered at this time and the proposed

development of an open air shelter / pavilion is being maintained. The intended use of the proposed structure would be for nature based education programming done by both the RDN and School District 69 and is also envisioned to be used for cultural education programming by Snaw Naw As First Nation. Being an open air shelter the facility can also be used for picnics and other social gatherings.

[Link to 2017 Updates http://www.rdn.bc.ca/changes-in-the-park](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/changes-in-the-park)

As Director Rogers has noted, the annual budget for the Regional Parks System is reviewed annually by all members of RDN Board as all jurisdictions are full participants in the Regional Parks System. This annual budget review includes capital and operating costs for Moorecroft Regional Park.

I hope you can appreciate the effort the RDN has taken to ensure the development of the Moorecroft Regional Park is in keeping with the approved Management Plan that was extensively reviewed by the public.

If you require further clarification on the information provided above, please let me know.

Have a good Christmas and we will continue to be in touch in the New Year.

Regards,

Tom Osborne

Tom Osborne

General Manager, RDN Recreation and Parks Services

From: Doug Podetz [mailto:dpodetz@dpodetz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 12:23 PM
To: Bob Rogers
Cc: Osborne, Tom; Howard Houle
Subject: Re: Moorecroft Park information update

Hi Bob,

Thanks for sharing this information. Greatly appreciated.

I'm pleased to hear the RDN has not engaging in accessing funds to design and construct an Amphitheatre in the Moorecroft Park's Meadow within the next fiscal budget year.

The value of Moorecroft Park to the residents of Nanoose Bay is for the RDN to maintain the park's natural setting. People enjoy the opportunity of walking in the park and observing nature in its current environmental setting. You will note below through the public survey in the Moorecroft Park Plan that respondents clearly support having the RDN maintain the natural attributes of the park. You will note I have provided a quote from the Moorecroft Park Plan - Volume Two - Appendix emphasizing the importance of RDN continuing to focus on engaging in maintaining the natural settings within the park.



There is a general sense that the park is a vital element to connecting people with nature and to sharing memorable experiences with others. This human-natural environment connection contributes to the health and well-being of regional residents, facilitates public support for preservation of ecological values, and provides an important opportunity for visitors of the park to learn about the environmental systems at work on the site and across Vancouver Island. This human-nature connection needs to be strengthened in the park.

People appreciate the park for its scenic forested and waterfront views and serene setting. Some respondents noted a strong spiritual or sacred connection to the site, based on the natural environment that remains intact and the associated memories for those who had

attended or worked at the Moorecroft Camp or visited the site before it was established as a park.

Also the survey results from the respondents who participated in the survey did not provide a clear direction on support for the RDN to engage in the thought of designing and planning to construct an Amphitheatre within the Park's Meadow. In fact 71% of the respondents indicated N/A in the survey results.

Amphitheatre (previously, Open Air Church)	6	6	3	1	39
	11%	11%	5%	2%	71%

I believe if you were to ask residents within Nanoose Bay whether they would support having an Amphitheatre in the Park's Meadow you would find a very large majority would not support such a project.

My understanding of your email is that if this project were to proceed the next step for the RDN would be to determine whether there is public support for an Amphitheatre in the Park's Meadow. However it's important that I state that at no time should the RDN be investing in this project unless it has engaged in public feedback and if public consensus clearly indicates support for this project. If this project is going to advance I would expect the next step for the RDN would be to engage in public consultation to determine whether there is Electoral Regional E and Nanoose Bay resident support for such a project. Until this public consultation is completed and supported the RDN should not be trying to acquire approval through any RDN funds through regional or district financial planning processes to design and construct an Amphitheatre in the Park's Meadow.

Based on the above information please let me know whether the RDN will be going through a public consultation process before trying to acquire funds for this project? Would you also include what public consultation processes will be used to seek feedback from the public and when would the RDN consider organizing a venue of public consultation processes for this project?

Thanks,
Doug

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 9:40 PM, Bob Rogers <bobrogers4areae@telus.net> wrote:
Doug,

As noted earlier there is currently no active work being done on this at this time. Within the current 5 year 2018 – 2022 RDN Financial Plan there is a place-holder in 2022 for this item of a pavilion or gathering place in the meadow. You will note from the Phasing Recommendations within the 2012-2022 Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan that you reference Table 15 from, that the “pavilion” in the meadow is identified as an optional capital expenditure to be assessed yearly based on operational needs.

Moorecroft is a Regional Park and the needs and priorities for capital projects within all the RDN Regional Parks and Trails are assessed annually by the RDN Board's Regional Parks and Trails Committee on a Regional priority need, cost and availability of funds basis. Much of that “needs assessment” is based on input from the RDN's residents and public park and trail users. RDN funds to support regional parks and trails capital acquisition and development costs are currently raised through Board approved parcel taxes on all properties within the Regional District. You will note that the meadow pavilion was included in the 2012 Moorecroft Management Plan as an optional project in year 7 or beyond. Park management plans are reviewed periodically as RDN priorities evolve and resources permit.

Again, although a 2022 “place-holder” figure has been included in the RDN financial plan, at this time there has been no other

external, partnership or RDN funding identified for design or construction of a gathering place structure in the “meadow” area of the park. As development concepts evolve in the development areas of the park, outside the restricted “conservancy” areas, there will be opportunities for further public input. The RDN will continue to engage with stakeholder groups and community members in various ways while progress is made on fulfilling the evolving goals of the 2012 Moorecroft Regional Park Management Plan within the overall priorities of the RDN’s Regional Parks and Trails services. At all times members of the public are able to make a request to appear as a delegation to the Regional Parks and Trails Committee and/or to the RDN Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Tom Osborne, General Manager, RDN Parks and Recreation if you have further questions on this matter. I have copied Mr. Osborne on this email.

Regards,

Bob

Bob Rogers
RDN Director
Area E, Nanoose Bay

Telephone: [250-468-9986](tel:250-468-9986)

+++++

From: Doug Podetz [mailto:dpodetz@dpodetz.com]
Sent: December 12, 2017 2:50 PM
To: Bob Rogers <bobrogers4areaE@telus.net>
Subject: Moorecroft Park information update

Hi Bob,

I was reviewing Table 15 - The Phasing Recommendation of the Moorecroft Park Management Plan. I’m specific interested in the following item.

Design and construct pavilion in meadow	Outdoor recreation, active living + learning	7	\$140,000	RDN + Contractor
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Would you provide information on where the RDN is at on acquiring approved funds for constructing a pavilion in the Moorecroft meadows?

I would assume that the RDN will be involved in a public forum before requesting an approved budget to design and construct a pavilion in the meadows. Would you provide an update for me on whether the RDN will be hosting a public forum to see if the RDN has support on this project?

Thanks,
Doug



Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks
Regional District of Nanaimo
Tosborne@rdn.bc.ca

January 20, 2018

Dear Mr. Osborne,

Thank you for taking the time to meet last week, along with other members of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). As discussed, a number of concerns have been raised over the regulation of use of public beaches (Crown foreshore) and access points in the RDN, particularly in regards to commercial operations. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's (FLNRORD) stance on the use of foreshore and other areas of Crown land for commercial purposes.

Regarding recreation activities common to the RDN, such as sea kayaking and diving, the guidance for the use of Crown land for these purposes can be found in the Adventure Tourism Land Use Operational Policy, which you can find at the following link:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/adventure_tourism.pdf

Of particular relevance in this policy is *Appendix 1: Incidental Use for AT Guiding Purposes*, which outlines a number of conditions that are to be met by a "tourism operator". These conditions speak to issues of safety, liability, and compatibility with other activities.

Generally speaking, low-impact commercial activities with no associated improvements, such as kayaking or diving, may be considered to be incidental use under this policy and would not require a formal tenure. Additional conditions for education and training activities are included in the policy, and these activities may be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that Crown land policies and tenure conditions apply only to Crown land, and other federal, provincial, and municipal laws and regulations may apply.

It is also important to recognize two of the principles which guide decisions of Crown land management:

1. Crown land values are managed for the benefit of the public, which includes British Columbian residents, businesses, organizations, local governments and First Nations.

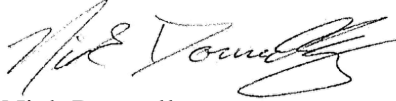
Page 1 of 2

2. Economic, environmental and social needs and opportunities are identified and supported.

In light of these principles, recreation and tourism businesses are not precluded from benefiting from the use of public land, and the support of these opportunities falls in line with the Crown's management goals.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at nick.donnelly@gov.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 751-7239.

Sincerely,



Nick Donnelly
Sr. Authorizations Officer
Crown Land Authorizations

cc:

Bob Rogers, Director Area 'E', RDN (bobrogers4areaE@telus.net)

Wendy Marshall, Manager of Parks Services, RDN (wmarshall@rdn.bc.ca)

TO: Parks Committees and Commissions **MEETING:** January 30, 2018

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

SUBJECT: Parks Update Report – Fall 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update for Fall 2017 be received as information.

SUMMARY

Parks' staff continued to work on projects identified in the 2017 Parks Work Plan and the RDN 2017 – 2021 Operational Plan Report.

Planning and Capital Projects – Key Highlights

E & N Finishing and Opening Event (R+P-100A-2014)

Trail etiquette signs were erected and way marker posts installed. Kiosk signage was developed and installed. The official opening of the trail was held mid-October in conjunction with a celebration of the RDN's 50th anniversary. Numerous community and user groups participated in the event. Trail counters have been ordered and will be installed in the New Year; trail benches are being planned. The project engineer has completed the one-year warranty inspection of the trail and a small number of items will be forwarded to the trail contractor for action. Since the trail reopened for equestrian use last year no issues have been reported.

Mount Benson Parking Facilities (R+P-40-2016)

On October 3, 2017, the RDN Board approved the purchase of 2761 Benson View Road for the purpose of developing a parking lot and trailhead amenities for Mount Benson Regional Park. On January 5, 2018 the RDN took ownership of the land. Parks staff are now working through the next stages of the project which include meeting with stakeholders, refining the site design with project engineers and beginning site preparation for the project. The goal is to have the parking lot constructed by the end of 2018. On-going updates will be provided to the area residents and will be posted on the RDN website as they become available.

Driftwood Beach Access Stairs

An information and community feedback session was held onsite at the Driftwood Road beach access site on November 4th with neighbours in the immediate area and surrounding roads. Park staff are following up on some of the questions received and will be providing a summary to the next Electoral Area 'A' Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting. Feedback from the neighbourhood was mixed with just over half of seventeen respondents wanting to see the stairs developed as proposed and just under half not wanting the RDN to become involved at this site.

Beachcomber Management Plan

An Open House was held on October 4, 2017 at Beachcomber Regional Park with 25 residents in attendance. A final Management Plan document is underway and is scheduled to be presented to the Regional Board in February 2018. The plan will reflect the input gathered from the public consultation process including open houses and online survey.

Huxley Park Projects (R+P-34-2016)

Playground

The construction of the playground is complete. The project was funded in part through grants from the Nanaimo Foundation, the Gabriola Lions Club as well as Community Works Funds. The works included site clearing and re-grading, the installation of two new play structures, a bench and seating wall, a cedar porta potty surround, as well as improvements to an existing park path.

Sports Courts

The improvements to the existing tennis courts and sports court are complete. The project was funded in part through a Canada 150 Infrastructure grant, Community Works funds as well as a donation from the Gabriola Ball Hockey Association. The works included tennis court resurfacing and the installation of a new sports court dasher board system which involved the removal of the existing boards, construction of new perimeter footings and drainage upgrades.

Skatepark

Concept drawings and cost estimates for the Gabriola Skatepark are complete. The draft concept plan was presented at a community workshop on September 13th and the input received was considered and modifications to the plans were made before the final plan was posted on the RDN website on October 19th.

Regional Trail from Horne Lake and Heritage Designation (R+P-31-2016)

An RFP was issued for the review and assessment of the Mount Mark rock fall area for trail purposes. The successful proponent, Thurber Engineering (Victoria), studied the rock fall area on the north side of Horne Lake, undertook field reconnaissance, liaised with the Horne Lake Strata, consulted other jurisdictions with trail involving hazardous terrain, and produced a report including recommendations for trail route and risk mitigation. No reasons for avoiding trail development were identified and the report concluded that the level of risk for trail users should be comparable with that experienced on other steep terrain trails in BC. A final report on the project was duly submitted to the Rural Dividends Program, which funded half the cost of the \$20K geological engineering study.

Preparatory survey work on locating the 1911 Horne Lake Road west of Horne Lake Regional Park to the ACRD border was completed, and the basis for an RFP to create and post an updated plan and undertake a marked centre-line traverse of the undeveloped road was identified. The RFP will be issued in 2018.

Benson Creek Falls Facilities (R+P-33-2017)

Following the renewal of the 30-year lease with the Province of BC for the management of Benson Creek Falls Regional Park, a design team was retained to undertake the conceptual design of a creek crossing and an improved descent to Ammonite Falls within the park. Conceptual design options were received at the end of December and public information and feedback is expected to occur early in 2018 before moving on to detailed design.

A conceptual layout for a 40-stall parking lot off Weigles Road has also been developed to improve access to the park from the north. Following permits/approvals from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Province of BC, the project will move into detailed design.

Es-hw Sme~nts Community Park Development (R+P-100A-2014)

In early October, a park dedication and opening took place for Es-hw Sme~nts (*Eshk-Sments*) Community Park, including prayers and song by Nanoose First Nations elder and youth. Aside from the addition of a welcome sign, some interpretive signs and a picnic table, work at this park is complete.

Stanhope Trail (R+P-100A-2014)

The construction of the soft surface trail was completed in December. Split rail fencing will be installed as weather permits throughout January; the revegetation of the side of the trail will occur in April 2018.

Meadowood Way Community Park – Community Centre Development (R+P-43-2017)

The site plan for the community centre and park area directly adjacent the future building is underway. A traffic impact assessment (MOTI requirement for permit) will be conducted in January 2018 to establish a location for the vehicular access road off Galvin Place.

Park Registry and Mapping

Working with GIS Services, an acquisition registration system was developed and registry numbers assigned to all park properties. Park acquisition maps and legal data tables were completed for Electoral Area A, with work on the other areas underway. A revised electoral area planning map format was developed and map produced for Area A. Work continues on the creation of individual park operations maps as well as maps that show all recreational resources, RDN and non-RDN, available to residents and visitors in an electoral area.

Service Calls

The fall of 2017 has been a busy time for staff responding to tree related work and following up on service requests from the public. Hazard tree removals were completed in Beachcomber Regional Park and Brickyard Community Park. Invasive species removal, primarily Broom, was removed from a large section on the Westside of Nanaimo River Regional Park. Common service requests this fall include reports of trees down, acts of vandalism, clean-up of illegal dumping, seasonal trail clean-ups, domestic and wild animal complaints, and illegal camping.

Parks Programming

The Request for Proposals for Outdoor Programs 2018-2020 was completed and the contract was awarded to RLC Park Services. Working with RLC Park Services and our other instructors, programs for Spring and Summer 2018 are planned and work on the Spring and Summer 2018 Active Living Guide is underway. Programs will include both new additions such as Night Hikes/Walks at Englishman River Regional Park and past successful programs such as the GO Wild Outdoor Children's Camps at Moorecroft Regional Park and hiking programs at various parks and trails.

Park Use Permits

Area A – A permit for the Cedar Skate Park was issued to the Nanaimo Skateboard Association for their annual fundraiser on September 10, 2017.

Area C – A permit for a running event held on September 23, 2017 was issued to the International Widows and Orphans Fund for access to Mt. Benson Regional Park and Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail.

Area E – A permit was issued to Nanoose Bay Elementary School for their outdoor “classroom” and outdoor field trips to Moorecroft Regional Park from September 2017-June 2018.

Area F – A permit for groundwater monitoring was issued to Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MVIHES) at Englishman River Regional Park. They were also issued a permit for a course “Study of Aquatic Insects” at Englishman River Regional Park held September 9 and 10, 2017. The RDN Watersmart Team and School District 68 & 69 were issued permits for field trips into Englishman River Regional Park to study the watershed. The field trips took place on September 20, 28 and October 12, 2017. A permit was issued to Corcan-Meadowood Residents Association for the 7th Annual Halloween Event at Meadowood Community Park.

Area G – A permit was issued for vehicular access to a private property to construct a carriage house from Boulton Community Park to Stryker Contracting.

Area H – A permit was issued for a wedding at Horne Lake Regional Park held September 23, 2017.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Parks Update Report for Fall 2017 be received as information.
2. That the report not be received as information and alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Electoral Area projects identified in this report are funded through the applicable Community Parks Budget and in some cases are supplemented by Community Works Funds or grant funding. Regional Parks projects are funded through Regional Parks Budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Projects in this report support the RDN's strategic priorities for Service and Organizational Excellence and Focus on the Environment:

- Delivering efficient, effective and economically viable services that meet the needs of the Region;
- We will fund infrastructure in support of our core services employing an asset management focus;
- As we invest in regional services we look at both costs and benefits — the RDN will be effective and efficient;
- We recognize community mobility and recreational amenities as core services; and
- We will have a strong focus on protecting and enhancing our environment in all decisions.



Wendy Marshall
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January 17, 2018

Reviewed by:

- T. Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Parks Work Plan – December 2017

Parks Work Plan December 2017 Update

Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
A	16-785	2017-002	Beach Accesses	Driftwood Beach Access stair consultation and design	2017	2017 Q2	Underway	Meeting held with neighbours in November. Comments being reviewed by staff.
A		2018-001	Beach Accesses	Driftwood Beach Access stairs construction	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
A	17-153	NEW 2017-053	Cedar Plaza	Review Possible Alternatives to allow water	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Application to NCID underway for future connection.
A	15-568	2016-001	Cedar Plaza	Tipple construction	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Construction has started but is delayed due to weather. Project now complete.
A	Staff	2017-003	Skatepark	Concrete headwalls	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Project complete. Oct 2nd 2017
A	15-568	2017-001	Cedar Plaza	Sign boards for the Tipple Structure	2017	2017 Q1	Completed	Completed
A	17-516	NEW 2018-023	Skatepark	Review options for a viewing platform	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
B	15-369	2016-003	Huxley	Skate Park concept design	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	RFP has been awarded; first public workshop completed; concept and costing to 90% complete.
B	16-346	2016-007	McCollum Road Cash in Lieu	Work with Developer for processing the Cash in Lieu	2016	TBD	Underway	Waiting for developer to received his PLA and final approval.
B	16-677	2016-008	Development	Density transfer/subdivision review and comment	2016	2017 Q2	Completed	Early referral report done for board and response sent to Islands Trust (IT). Received additional IT referral March 10, 2017. Report to go to POSAC and Board spring 2017. Staff examining referral and report underway for July POSAC.
B	Grant	2017-004	Huxley	Playground design and install	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Construction complete. Submit final grant report 28Feb2018.
B	15-438	2017-005	Huxley	Sport Court upgrades	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Site prep complete; board install/project complete 31Dec. Submit final grant report 28Feb2018.
B	16-348	2017-006	707	Signs review and update	2017	TBD	Delayed	November 20, 2017 POSAC motion to defer project until the 707 property addition. Project to include new park addition.
B	15-089	2017-007	Rollo	Dog Park design - work with community group	2017	TBD	Delayed	November 20, 2017 POSAC motion to defer project until the Cox CP property addition. Project feasibility to include new park addition.
B	17-112	NEW 2017-054	Rollo	Determine Feasibility of Lion's Storage Shed			Completed	Determined that unfeasible due to Island Trust zoning restrictions.
B	Staff	2017-008	Bluewhale and Queequeg	Rebuild Beach Access stairs	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Planned for the summer of 2017
B	Staff	2017-009	Joyce Lockwood Stairs	Rebuild Beach Access stairs	2017	2018 Q2	Underway	Geotech assessment of Site Complete, Replacment Design to start 2018.
B	15-565	2016-005	Cox	Entry sign installation	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Sign is ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks. Project now completed.
B	15-565	2016-006	Cox	Bench installation	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Benches to be installed in next few weeks. Project now completed.
B	Posac	2016-007	Whalebone	Various upgrades	2016	2017 Q3	Completed	Work to continue throughout 2017.
B	Staff	2017-010	Malspina Galleries	Trail work/garbage can install	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Planned for the summer of 2017. Garbage recepticle ordered. Project now complete.
B		NEW 2017-074	Huxley	Phase 2 Playground purchase and install	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Equipment purchase and install to take place this fall. Board approval received Sept 12. PO to be issued. Completed
B	17-474	NEW 2017-070	New parklands	Include planning and development of new lands in POSAC planning and long term financial plan	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	Funds included in the 2018 five-year plan.

**Parks Work Plan
December 2017 Update**

Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
B-CWrks	Board	2015-001	Village Way Path	Design/MOTI approval	2015	2017 Q1	On Hold	Following direction from new government, MoTI now willing to look at non-vehicular infrastructure in ROW. In 2018, MoTI consultant will develop general guidelines. RDN promoting Village Way (original design) as an early pilot project.
B-CWrks		2017-011	Village Way Path	Construction	2017	2017 Q4	Suspended	To be determined once costing is obtained and direction provided by Area Director.
C EW/PV	Posac	2018-003	Anders Dorrit	Information sign design and install	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
C EW/PV	Posac	2018-004	Anders Dorrit	Detailed design	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
C Ext	Staff	2016-017	Park Improvements	General	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	Not started	Work to begin in 2018.
C Ext - CWrks		2018-002	Extension School	Agreement/Reno	2018		Suspended	No agreement with SD 68 at this time. Planned for 2018
E	Posac	2018-005	Trail Project	TBD	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
E	17-156	NEW 2017-056	Open Space Plan	Recind plan and use CPTS	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	Plan has been removed from the website. Completed.
E	17-410	NEW 2017-062	Es-hw Sme~nts	Park be named Es-hw Sme~nts Community Park	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Signs with name have been ordered and will be installed this September.
E	17-409	NEW 2017-065	Nanoose Road Community Park	Contact crown to expand use under the lease	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Letter was sent to Crown, awaiting response.
E	17-408	NEW 2017-066	Natural Playground	Examine parks suitable for a natural playground and report back	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Staff summary report prepared for POSAC consideration.
E		NEW 2017-067	Park Opening	Opening Ceremony for Es-hw Sme~nts	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Opening scheduled for October 4.
E	17-155	NEW 2017-055	Nanoose Road Community Park	Remove Playground Structure and determine alternative use	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Playground Removed. Discussions for alternation use to be undertaken with POSAC. Playground now removed.
E	16-197	2016-009	Claudet	Utilities lot transfer	2016	TBD	Underway	Information was provided to Water Services. Work to continue in 2018.
E	17-517	NEW 2018-024	Stone Lake Drive	Natural Playground	2018		Not started	
E-CWrks	Board	2015-002	Blueback	Construction	2015	2017 Q2	Completed	Construction complete; landscape planting will take place in the fall.
E-CWrks	16-564	2016-010	Es-hw Sme~nts	Development as per plan	2016	2017 Q1	Underway	Phase 1 complete, benches recently installed. Phase 2 - fencing, interpretive signs and final landscaping under for fall 2017 completion.
E-CWrks	17-154	NEW 2017-057	Jack Bagley	Agreement for CW funds for SD69	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	Agreement to be circulated shortly. Agreement concluded and money transferred.
F	Posac	2017-012	ACT Trails	Land Agreement for trail development	2017	2017 Q1	Changed to 2017-050	Route changed, land agreement no longer needed. See project number 2017-050.
F	17-311	2017-050	ACT Trails	Braddock-Leffler Rd trail development	2017	2017 Q1	Complete	MOTI permit received; construction complete.
F	Staff	2018-007	Errington	Operator Agreement	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
F	Staff	2017-013	Meadowood	Parking lot improvements	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Planned for Fall of 2017
F	17-310	2018-009	ACT Trails	Surface David Lundine trail	2017	2017 Q4	Not started	Work assessed and planned for 2018

Parks Work Plan December 2017 Update

Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
F	Posac	2018-006	Errington	Playground design	2017 Q4	2018 Q4	Underway	Public engagement has started. Stakeholder meetings with Hall Board (already held), Heartwood Home Schooling, and Errington School are underway. Open House is planned for late February, early March 2018. Completed Master Plan ready for presentation to the Board in July 2018. Detailed design of bike skills park and playground to start in Fall 2018.
F	17-312	NEW 2017-064	Errington	Bike Skills Park to be included in development plans for the park	2017 Q4	2018 Q4	Underway	Bike skills park is included in the plans for the park.
F-CWrks	Posac	2019-001	Errington Playground	Construction	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019
G	Staff	2017-015	Boulton	Replace playground borders	2017	2017 Q3	Delayed	Delayed until 2018
G	16-619, 17-157	2017-014	Stanhope Trail	Planning, construction	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	The soft surface trail is to be complete by the end of December 2018. Planting to take place in Spring.
G	Posac	2018-010	River's Edge Plan	Playground design	2018 Q3	2019	Not started	Planned for 2018.
G-CWrks	16-059	2016-012	Little Qualicum Hall	Assessment and report on condition of the building	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Report being prepared for the March Area G POSAC meeting. Report sent to March meeting.
G-CWrks	17-158	2018-011	Little Qualicum Hall	Close and remove building	2018	2017 Q3	Delayed	Communications regarding closure underway with stakeholders/residents. Project now included in #2017-063
G-CWrks	17-405	NEW 2017-063	Little Qualicum Hall	Postpone demolition and undertake a new review and community consultation	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	After the June POSAC meeting, staff were directed not to close the building but to work with residents on other options. A new engineering assessment is underway.
G-CWrks	Posac	2019-002	French Creek Paths/Trails	TBD	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019
H	Other	2016-014	Roadside Trails	OPC planning - work with Planning Department on their process	2016	2017 Q1	Complete	Response provided on the drafts of the Active Transportation plan and OCP.
H	16-281	2016-017	Beach Accesses	Assess sites and install signs at sites identified by the POSAC	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Planning work completed. New sign-posts and signs installed.
H	17-020	2017-016	Dunsmuir	Detail design	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	Design consultant retained. Start-up meeting complete. Staff design review #1 Jan 8, 2018. POSAC / Director request to review 80% construction drawings at Feb 19, 2018 POSAC meeting.
H		2018-012	Dunsmuir	Phase I construction	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
H	Posac	2018-013	Wildwood	Kiosk development and install - split with Regional	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
H	Posac	2019-003	Oakdowne	Licence on other crown parcels surrounding the park	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019
H	17-407	NEW 2017-062	Beach Accesses	Contact MOTI regarding the encroachment at McColl Road	2017	2017 Q3	Complete	MOTI contacted. Follow up required to determine next steps.
H	Staff	2016-013	Lions Park	Operator Agreement	2016	2017 Q1	Underway	Draft licence to cover the hall and MoU to address minor grounds operations sent to the Lions Club in early December 2017. Meeting with the Lions expected by end of January 2018.
H	Other	2016-015	Trails Initiative	Community Trails - GIS work and signs	2016	TBD	Underway	Signs installed at Hatchery. GIS captured trail data. Signs to be installed.

**Parks Work Plan
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Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
H	Staff	2017-017	Thompson-clark	Stair repair	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Completed Fall 2017
H	17-021	NEW 2017-058	Dunsmuir	Clear view corridor into park	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Staff to review on-site works in March. Site work identified and Staff awaiting contractor quotes.
H	Board	2014-582	Grant - Lighthouse Community Centre Society	Blding upgrades as identified by the LCCS -Installment 4	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	Report for 2016 spending received. Funds for 2017 will be released once budget is approved and funding requests received from the LCCS. Agreement signing underway. Cheque to be released April 1.
H-CWrks	Other	2020-001	Area H Roadside Trails	Work with MOTI on any development of trails along the road.	2020		Not started	Timing will depend on the Active Transportation Plan currently under development.
Other - Comm	Other	2018-014	Bike Network Plan	Develop plans	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
Other - Comm	Operational		Development	Subdivision/parkland - review, comments and POSAC input			On Going	Ongoing as required through planning
Other - Comm	16-616	2016-018	Park Signage	Remove old and install simple signage	2016	2019	Underway	Majority of signs removed and replaced with park name signs. New sign designs underway.
REG	Operational	2017-073	Horne Lake	Operator RFP	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	Planned for winter 2017. RFP close Dec 21, 2017. Contract to start Feb 1, 2018.
REG	Operational	2017-028	Descanso	Operator Agreement	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	RFP submissions received and new operator selected.
REG	16-649	2017-038	Coats Marsh	Bat study	2017	2017 Q1	Complete	Consultant selected and study to take place in June. Report recieved October 11, 2017.
REG	Operational	2017-071	Witchcraft Lake RT	5 year licence expires 30 November 2017	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	City staff contacted in Spring; existing agreement contains a five year renewal clause.
REG	Staff	2017-020	TCT	Timberlands Road trail head development	2016	2017 Q4	Underway	Rural Dividends Program \$30K development grant awarded 3 March. First meeting with landowner Island Timberlands held 16 March; request still under review by IsT. Request for extension to end of 2018 submitted to Rural Dividend Program. Meeting with Real Estate Director scheduled for January 2018.
REG	17-383	NEW 2017-061	CPR Trail	Renew the trail licence	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Board report written and board approval received. Paperwork sent back to Island Timberlands and fee paid.
REG	16-766	2017-023	Horne Lake Regional Trail	Planning	2016	2018 Q2	Underway	Rural Dividends Program \$10K planning grant awarded 21 February 2017. RFP for geological engineering review and assessment issued and awarded to Thurber Engineering. Meeting held with Strata, Port Alberni and ACRD to review potential trail route. A surveyor hired to clarify issues related to 2005 posting plan of part of 1911 Rd. Thurber and surveyor contracts concluded.
REG	16-767	2017-024	Horne Lake Heritage Trail	Historic designation	2017	2020	Underway	Work initiated to determine which FNs might be involved. Discussed heritage trail concept at meeting with ACRD and Port Alberni staff.
REG	Other	2019-004	Top Bridge	Reroute trail and parking lot in City of Parksville	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019. Timing depends on the City of Parksville.
REG		2020-003	Horne Lake Regional Trail	Construction	2019	2020	Not started	Construction planned to begin in 2019 and finish in 2020.
REG		2017-069	E&N -- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	Opening Event	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Official opening and trail event held in mid-October in conjunction with RDN 50th.
REG	17-227	NEW 2017-060	E&N -- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	Horse Parking - Wood lot	2017		On hold	Being pursued in conjunction with a pending Area F amenity contribution from industrial land rezoning.

**Parks Work Plan
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Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
REG	16-126	2016-024	Mount Benson	Race Event - work with event holders	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	Second running event planned for Sept. 23. Group has meet with RDN and NALT to confirm route through park and has applied for Parks Use Permit.
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2016-025	Moorecroft	Agreement - La Selva entry	2016	2017 Q1	Underway	Agreement required with a second landowner. Staff in communication with residents in the area.
REG	Staff	NEW 2017-052	Moorecroft	Planning Development Zone	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Stakeholder planning workshop was held in May 2017 to review and establish a path forward for improvement in the park. A report is going to fall RPTSC.
REG	16-480	2016-026	Moorecroft	Planning with First Nations	2016	2017 Q4	Underway	Will continue discussions with FN regarding building in the park.
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2017-021	La Selva	Construction	2017	2017 Q2	Delayed	Will begin once agreement is signed by all parties.
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2017-033	Naniamo River	Interpretive signs design and install	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Completed.
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2017-034	Naniamo River	Install benches	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	To be installed once received from supplier.
REG	16-666	2017-036	Mount Benson	Parking solution	2017	TBD	Completed	Staff investigating parking improvements for Board Consideration. Land purchased.
REG	Operational	2017-070	Mount Benson	Volunteer Agreement	2017	2018 Q2	Underway	Volunteer Agreement for trail improvement work by Island Mtn. Ramblers.
REG	16-669	2017-048	Benson Creek Falls	Parking feasibility study and design - Weigles entrance	2017	TBD	Underway	Survey and concept design underway this fall.
REG	16-668	2017-049	Benson Creek Falls	Parking - monitor and communicate with residents	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Staff met with residents in mid-March to ensure open communication moving forward.
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2018-019	Benson Creek Falls	Kiosk	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
REG	Staff	2018-020	Arboretum	Kiosk upgrade -design new sign with volunteers and install	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018
REG	Mngmnt Plan	2018-021	Moorecroft	Picnic shelter design/tender	2019		Not started	Report is going to fall RPTSC to prioritize project - proposed for 2019.
REG	Mngmnt Plan		Moorecroft	Toilets and Water line upgrade	2018		Not started	Report is going to fall RPTSC to prioritize project - proposed for 2018.
REG	Other		Fairwinds	Development - PDA		TBD	Completed	PDA amendments approved by Board.
REG	Board	2015-003	Benson Creek Falls	Licence renewal	2015	2017 Q1	Completed	Completed
REG	Operational	2016-028	Beachcomber	Management Plan development	2016	2017 Q2	Underway	First round public consultation completed. Draft plan being written. Waiting for consultant work conclude before finalizing document. Draft plan written and out for public feedback.
REG	Staff	2017-027	Descanso	Tractor purchase	2017	TBD	Suspended	Purchase decision of replacement tractor under review.
REG	Staff	2017-019	Ammonite Falls Trail	Bridge studies	2017	2017 Q4	Not started	Moved to 2018.
REG	Staff	2017-029	Englishman River	Geo technical study of the bank above the road	2017	2018 -Q2	Not started	Move to 2018. Due to Consultant availability.
REG	Staff	2017-040	Moorecroft	Vault toilet install	2017	TBD	Not started	Location and type of toilet to be determined through planning for the development zone.

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Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
REG	Staff	2018-018	Descanso	Septic field studies	2018		Underway	Existing system pumped and inspected by Environmental Health Officer. Awaiting Report.
REG	Staff	2017-025	Horne Lake	Park upgrades	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Work planned for the summer of 2017.
REG	Staff	2017-026	Horne Lake	Accessible toilets install	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Work planned for the summer of 2017.
REG	Staff	2017-030	Englishman River	Repair road to Top Bridge	2017	2017 Q3	Completed	Work delayed due to weather. Work is anticipated to get underway at the beginning of May & complete by May 24.
REG	Posac	2018-017	Wildwood/LHRT	Kiosk development and installation - split with H	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	Not started	Start design in March 2018.
REG	17-563	NEW 2017-073	Moorecroft	Include funding of improvements in 5-year plan	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	
REG	17-562	NEW 2018-025	Moorecroft	Construction of double vault toilet	2018	2018 Q2	Not started	
REG	17-562	NEW 2018-026	Moorecroft	Removal of Miss Moore's cabin and installation of seating area.	2018	2018 Q2	Not started	
REG	17-511	NEW 2017-075	Mount Benson	Consult Benson View residents on parking lot design	2017	2018 Q2	Underway	Meeting held with Neighbours in October. Ongoing communication continues.
REG	17-510	NEW 2017-075	Mount Benson	Include funds for design and construction in the 2018 budget	2017	2018 Q1	Completed	Funds included in the 2018 budget
REG CAP	Board	2014-001	Morden Colliery	Lease upgrade	2014	TBD	Delayed	Waiting on Province.
REG CAP	Board	2016-022	E&N -- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	Construction	2016	2017 Q2	Completed	The trail opened for use in December 2017. Deficiencies completed in spring 2018. Beacons and parking controls completed in August. One-year inspection completed in December with some items to be addressed by contractor.
REG CAP	Board	2017-022	E&N -- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	Amenities and signs install	2017	2017 Q3	Underway	Garbage cans and regulatory signs installed in the spring. Waymarker signs installed in September. Kiosk signage developed and installed in October. Traffic counters ordered. Outstanding: benches.
REG CAP	17-229	NEW 2017-059	E&N -- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	Closure of trail to horses for 2 months	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	Closure ended once compaction of trail was complete.
REG CAP	16-124,14-755,14-754	2017-047	Morden Colliery	Bridge and trail design and tender	2017	2018 Q2	Delayed	Project delayed because of ALC development application process.
REG CAP	16-670	2017-031	Benson Creek Falls	Stair design, bridge design	2017	TBD	Underway	Consulting team in place, project kick-off meeting complete. Draft concept received.
REG CAP	16-670	2017-032	Benson Creek Falls	Geo technical study of the slope for stair and bridge development	2017	TBD	Underway	Consulting team in place, project kick-off meeting complete.
REG CAP	15-201 17-384	2017-035	Little Qualicum	Bridge upgrades	2017	2017 Q4	Suspended	Consulting team in place, design kick-off meeting complete. Surveying underway, Environmental Permit applications underway.
REG CAP	17-385	NEW 2017-078	Little Qualicum	Removal of the bridge.	2017	2018 Q3	Completed	Completion planned for September. Project Complete.
REG CAP	Mngmnt Plan	2017-041	Moorecroft	Washroom -detailed design and construction	2017	TBD	Not started	Type of washroom and location to be determined through planning process for the development zone.
REG CAP	17-386	NEW 2017-068	Little Qualicum	Design and Construction of a new bridge be included for consideration in the 5-year plan	2017	2017 Q4	Not started	Funding and timing will be included in the 2018 budgeting process.

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December 2017 Update**

Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
REG - Other	Other	2016-019	Amazing Places: Top Bridge	Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (VIU)	2016	2017 Q4	Completed	Top Bridge made the list as top ten. Launch event held March 30 in Parksville. Amazing Places signage for Top Bridge installed at Top Bridge Crossing kiosk. Amazing Places brand now available for RDN use in promotion. Short video of Top Bridge now posted on MABR web site.
REG - Other	16-654, 16-678, 17-019	2016-020	(Salish Sea Marine Trail) BC Marine Trail Network Association	Partnership agreement	2016	2017 Q4	Underway	Met with BC Marine Trail Association executive in March, partnership agreement drafted and agreement reached. Board Report prepared for EASC in January 2018.
REG - Other	Staff	2017-018	Brochure	Reprint	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Reprint ordered in March. See project number 2017-051.
REG - Other	Operational	2017-042	RPT Plan	Develop RFP. Work with consultant on plan development	2017	2018 Q4	Delayed	RFP to be prepared during summer for Board report in the fall of 2018.
REG - Other	Operational	2018-015	Trail Counters	Expand program	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018.
REG - Other	Other	2018-016	Park Zoning	With Planning Department	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018.
REG - Other	Operational	2020-002	Parks Warden Program	Redesign the program. Work with existing volunteers	TBD		On Hold	On hold until staff time is available.
REG - Other	Operational		Operator agreements	Monitor			Ongoing	Ongoing
REG - Other	Operational		Partnerships	Meetings and on-going communication with partners			Ongoing	Ongoing
Other	Operational	2016-032	SharePoint system	Create and upload old files	2016	2020	Underway	Staff continue to move files from the old files to the new system
Other	Operational		GIS and Mapping	Ongoing mapping			On going	Ongoing
Other	Staff	2019-005	Donation Program	Create program	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019
Other	Staff	2019-006	Bylaw 1399	Update existing bylaw	2019		Not started	Planned for 2019
Other	Operational		Park Statistics	Acquisition registry, park records, mapping, statistics			On Going	Working with GIS, acquisition registration system developed and numbers assigned to all park properties. Park names updated. Park acquisition maps and legal data tables completed for EA A. Revised EA planning map developed for Area A. Work underway on Area B.
Other	Operational	2016-030	Maintenance Contracts	A, Ext, EW, E, F, H, E&N, VW	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	RFP Issued, Mandatory Site Meeting complete, Addendums (2) Issued. RFP Closed March 30th and 4 responses received. RFP evaluations underway. Strain Landscaping selected and contract is underway.
Other	Operational	2017-043	Worksafe BC	Update program	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Work will continue throughout 2017.
Other	Operational	2017-044	Risk Management	Update Inspection Program	2017	2017 Q4	Underway	Work will continue throughout 2017.
Other	Operational	2017-045	Call and Work Tracking	Install system and train staff	2017	2017 Q2	Underway	Software ordered, Training dates set for April, IT working on wireless in-office capability. Staff now inputting data into the software.
Other	Operational	2017-046	Park Maintenance Plans	Create plans for parks	2017	2017 Q4	Completed	Co-inciding with RFP for developed C.P's. Completed.
Other	Operational	2018-022	Purchasing System	Create system for purchase	2018		Not started	Planned for 2018

**Parks Work Plan
December 2017 Update**

Service Area	Origin	Project #	Park	Description	Start Date	Completion	Progress	Comment
Other			Acquisitions	Assessment and report			Underway	Several properties under consideration.
Other	Operational	2016-031	2017 Budget	Create	2016	2017 Q1	Completed	The preliminary 2017 budget is completed. During January, the budget will be amended based on the actual surplus and any changes requested by the Area Directors. 2017 budget approved.
Other	Operational	2017-058	2018 Budget and Workplan	Create and forward for approvals	2017	2018 Q1	Underway	Planning for workplan to start in June. Budgeting underway.
Other	Operational	2017-039	Staffing	Hire new Parks Planner	2017	2017 Q2	Completed	Position to be posted and interviews to take place early April. Position filled.
Other	Operational		Budget and Workplans	Ongoing monitoring			On Going	Ongoing
REG-Other	Other		Tourism Vancouver Island Vancouver Island Trails Strategy	Phase 3 Exceptional Hiking Experiences Network (Vancouver Island Tourism)	2017		Underway	TVI trying to put its Phase 2 Master Plan for Hiking Experiences on VI/Sunshine Coast into play. In December, TVI staff sought feedback on idea to develop a handbook and identify and promote one exceptional trail per region.
REG-Other	Staff	2017-051	Brochure	Design New Brochure/Print	2017	2018 Q2	Underway	Proposals were received by 3 consultant firms to design the new Regional Parks and Trails Guide. The successful proponent was Awarewolf Creative from Nanaimo.
		2017-072	Horne Lake RT	Land use agreement with Strata	2017	2018 Q4	Underway	Familiarization with Strata lands, interests and concerns underway. Over Q1 Q2, conclude general agreement on basic route, use of ORVs, and have draft licence for Strata to take to their June AGM.

TO: Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee **MEETING:** January 30, 2018
FROM: Renée Lussier **FILE:** 6150-20
Parks Planner
SUBJECT: Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That the Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan 2018 – 2028 be approved.

SUMMARY

The Draft Beachcomber Regional Park Management is ready for RDN Board consideration. The plan guides the park management over the next 10 years.

BACKGROUND

The development of the Draft Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan was completed in December 2017 following a public vetting of the draft plan available on the project website (rdn.bc.ca/Beachcomber) along with an online survey from August 14 to October 31, 2017. This is the first ten-year management plan for Beachcomber Regional Park (an oceanfront park located on Marina Way in Nanoose – Electoral Area E). The park has been managed by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) since 1988 after the Beachcomber Park Association gifted it to the RDN as an established park.

The purpose of the plan is to guide park management over the next 10 years in accordance with the actions included in the plan. Steps to create the plan included a review of issues and concerns in terms of visitor safety and enjoyment, ecological protection, and annual maintenance costs and the development of strategies to mitigate these issues. Plan development provided an opportunity for park staff to check in with the community regarding current management of the park, to answer questions, and to receive ideas on future park management.

The plan was developed between October 2016 to December 2017 and included stakeholder and public consultation (two Open Houses, a draft plan review, and two public surveys), and several professional site assessments: a Biophysical Assessment (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc., July 2017); a Hazard Tree Assessment (Strategic Natural Resource Consultants, March 2017); and an Archaeological Assessment (Ursus Heritage Consulting, July 2017). The site assessments are included in the management plan as Appendix B, C, and D respectively.

Beachcomber Regional Park is a one-hectare, sparsely developed park intended to provide safe, low-impact public access to the sensitive coastal ecosystems within the park. Existing park amenities include roadside parking, information kiosk, entrance sign, regulation signage, recreational trails, stairs, toilet,

garbage can and benches. The majority of Open House attendees and survey respondents requested that no changes or additions be made to the park; however, several participants did request a more accessible main park entrance from the parking area on Marina Way to the beach (with stairs and a railing). Concerns relating to increased use and campfires were also raised by residents, specifically regarding jurisdiction and emergency contact.

Recommended Management Actions and Associated Costs

Through public consultation and studies (Biophysical, Hazard Tree, and Archaeological), the following management actions were identified and are proposed in the Management Plan for Beachcomber Regional Park from 2018-2028:

ISSUE	ACTION	TIMELINE	ESTIMATED COST
Trail accessibility	Construction of one main accessible trail along north entrance from parking area to beach with stairs and handrail that is natural and in keeping with the landscape	2018	\$15,000
	Post signage at the south end trail directing visitors to the main accessible trail at the north end	2018	\$200 + 4 hrs. staff time
Fire/Emergency	Work with RDN Bylaw and Fire Coordinator on a response protocol	2018	n/a
	Post signage in park with response protocol to follow	2018	\$200 + 4 hrs. staff time
Park use	Monitor park use and parking issues	2018-2028 (ongoing)	n/a
Signs	Update and consolidate signs	2019-2022 (2-5 years)	\$200 + 10 hrs. staff time annually
	Update kiosk signage (graphics + map)	2020	\$1,800 + 3 days staff time
Invasive plant species	Initial mechanical removal of Himalayan blackberry and spurge laurel; replanting with native plants	2018	\$1,000 – \$2,000 (landscape contractor)
	Ongoing maintenance to prevent recolonization: touch ups in spring during flowering season, before fruiting	2018-2028 (ongoing)	variable (landscape contractor)

Eagle nest tree	Ongoing monitoring of eagle nest tree to prevent disturbance; mitigative design and implementation if future trail construction or park development is required	2018-2028 (ongoing)	n/a
High risk hazard trees	Urgent removal of five trees as per Hazard Tree Assessment; topping / wildlife tree creation of one tree	2017	completed
Moderate or low risk hazard trees	Future monitoring and possible removal / pruning of 11 identified trees with compromised structure and potential for hazard to trail users	2019-2022 (2-5 years)	\$1,200 + 1 day staff time annually
Madrone canker	Detailed assessment by an ISA Certified Arborist of the Madrone canker epidemic within park	2018	\$1,700
	Potential future pruning / removal of nine infected Arbutus trees (following detailed assessment)	2018-2028	\$1,000 – \$2,500 + variable staff time annually
Areas of archaeological sensitivity	Completion of detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment before any future park development / site disturbance	2018-2028 (as required)	\$7,500 (accounts for 1 AIA)
	Site protection through avoidance by project design	2018-2028 (as required)	n/a

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan be approved.
2. That an alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current annual park maintenance cost for Beachcomber Regional Park, which includes items such as incidental repairs, vegetation management and contractor services, is approximately \$3,000.

As identified through project public consultation and site assessments, the draft Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan outlines projects and maintenance tasks for the period 2018-2028 that are additional to regular annual maintenance. High-priority or required tasks, which include construction of a main, accessible staircase from the north park entrance to the beach and the removal of high-risk hazard trees, are estimated at \$19,550-\$20,550. Low-priority or potential tasks, which include the monitoring and future removal of low-risk hazard trees and the completion of future archaeological assessments, are estimated at \$8,500-\$10,000.

\$15,000.00 has been included in the 2018 Budget to complete the stairs. High priority trees were removed under the 2017 Budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Beachcomber Regional Park has been managed by the RDN since 1988 for environmental protection and low-impact recreational use (as per RDN Park Use Bylaw, RDN Parks and Trails Guidelines, and the RDN Regional Parks and Trails Plan). The 2018-2028 Management Plan for the Regional Park supports ongoing conservation efforts, such as tree care, native plant restoration and archeological protection, and recommends only one site modification: an upgrade to the existing main entrance to improve accessibility for senior visitors and others with mobility problems. This park improvement was requested by park residents and visitors and reflects the needs of an aging demographic in the Regional District. As such, the Management Plan supports the strategic plan's vision for the Regional District to be "resilient and adaptable to change" and "environmentally, socially, and economically healthy."



Renée Lussier
rlussier@rdn.bc.ca
January 22, 2018

Reviewed by:

- W. Marshall, Manager, Parks
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan, 2018-2028

2018 - 2028

Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan



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Appendix A: Public Consultation

Appendix B: Biophysical Assessment

Appendix C: Hazard Tree Assessment

Appendix D: Archaeological Assessment (excerpt)

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1. Introduction

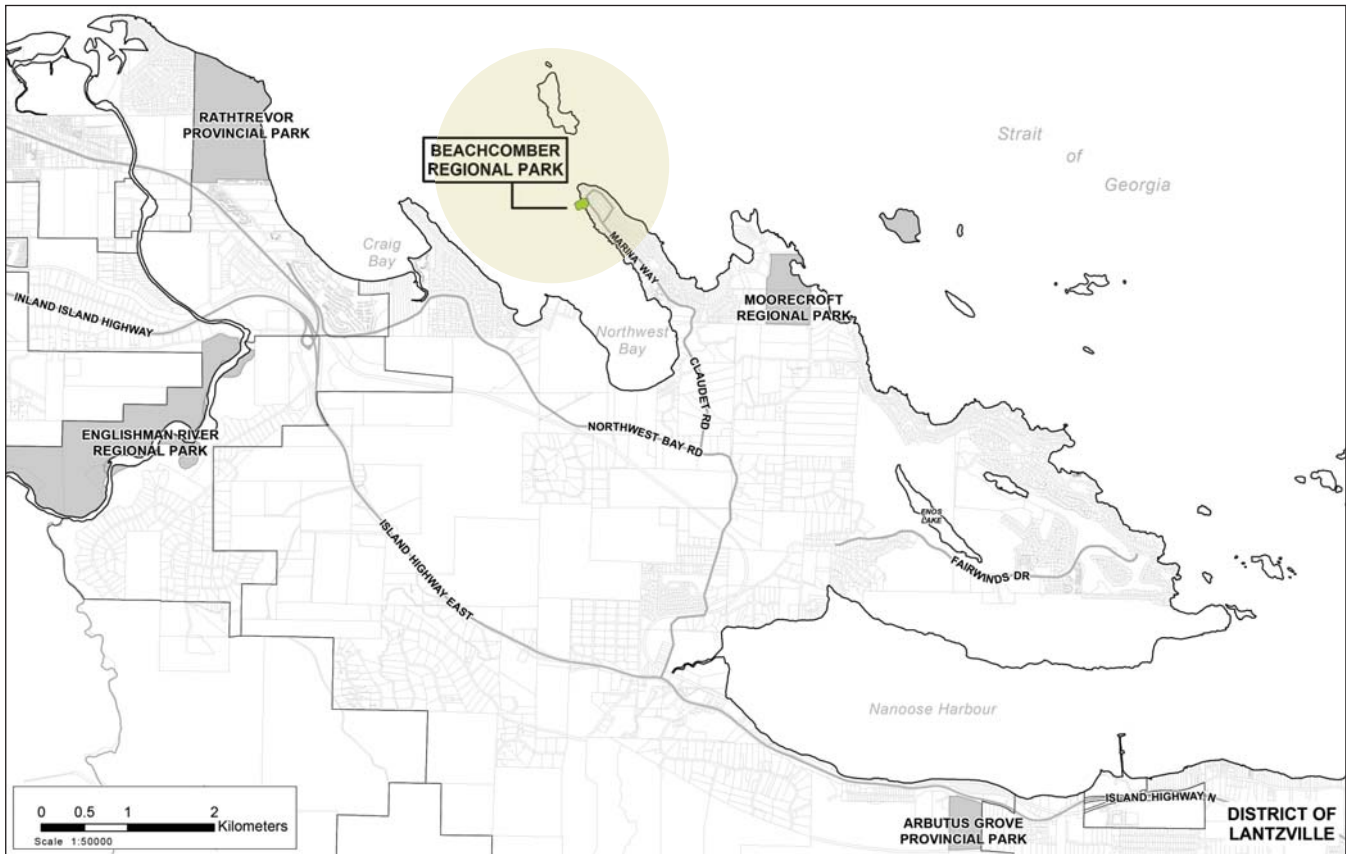


Rocky cliffs, Garry oak and Arbutus at Beachcomber RP

1.1 Project Purpose and Process

This is the first 10-year Management Plan for Beachcomber Regional Park. The purpose of the plan is to identify future park needs in terms of visitor safety and enjoyment, ecological protection, and annual maintenance costs. The plan development was also an opportunity for park staff to check in with the community about the current management of the park, to answer questions, and to receive ideas on future park management.

Management Plan development began in the fall of 2016 with public consultation (Open House and Survey) and included ecological and archaeological assessments and consultation with local stakeholders. The project was completed in December 2017 following a public review of a draft plan and a final Open House, pending final plan approval by the Regional Board.



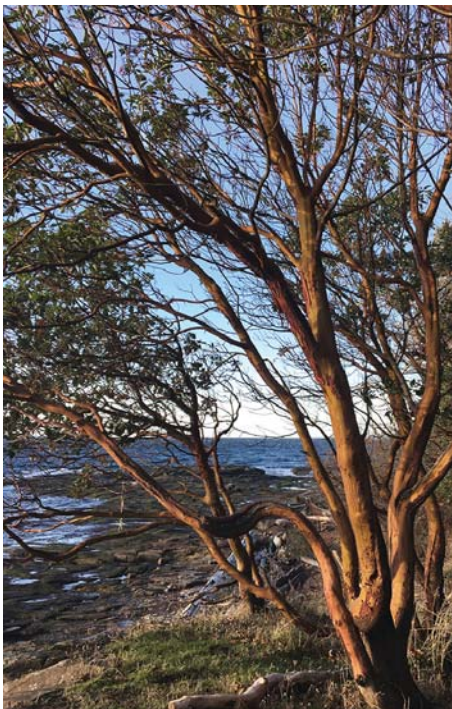
Location of Beachcomber Regional Park in Nanoose, BC.

1.2 Park Description

Located on Marina Way at the end of the Beachcomber Peninsula in Nanoose, Beachcomber Regional Park is a one-hectare oceanfront property that is cherished by neighborhood residents and visitors from throughout the RDN for its woodland trails, bluffs and rocky outcrops, tidal pools, views across Northwest Bay to Mount Arrowsmith, and views across the Strait of Georgia to the mainland coastal mountains.

1.3 Park History

Established in 1964 by the Beachcomber Park Association, Beachcomber Regional Park was gifted to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) by the residents’ group in 1988, thereby becoming the RDN’s first regional park. The park is located within the traditional territory of the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Communities from the north—K’omoks, Qualicum, We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum First Nations—likely utilized resources seasonally in this area as well. Site modifications and features, as identified and assessed by the project archaeological field crew (consisting of team members from Ursus Heritage Consulting and Snaw-naw-as First Nation), confirm traditional use of the park site by First Nations prior to European settlement.



Beachcomber shoreline with Arbutus

2. Site Overview



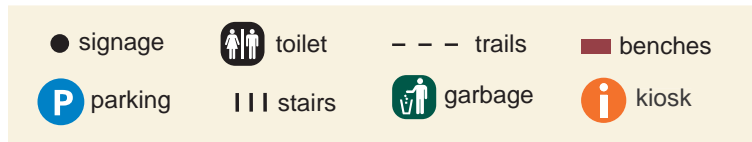
Benches overlooking the shoreline

2.1 Existing Park Amenities

Beachcomber Regional Park is a sparsely developed park intended to provide safe, low-impact public access to the sensitive coastal ecosystems. Existing park amenities include roadside parking, information kiosk, entrance sign, regulation signage, recreational trails, stairs, toilet, garbage can and benches.



Beachcomber Regional Park Site Plan



Hikers in Beachcomber RP.

2.2 Current Park Uses

Beachcomber Regional Park is a passive park intended for low-impact nature recreation. Based on site observations by park staff and feedback received during the project public consultation process, the park is popular with both neighbourhood residents and visitors from throughout the Regional District of Nanaimo. Current park activities include walking, birdwatching, tidal pool exploration, diving, swimming, relaxing, enjoying views, dog walking and picnicking.

2.3 Plant Communities

Beachcomber Regional Park is within the Coastal Douglas Fir moist maritime (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic zone (BGC). This CDFmm is limited to lower elevations (below 150m elevation) along the southeast coast of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and a narrow strip along the Sunshine Coast. Forests in this zone are dominated by Douglas fir, grand fir, and western red cedar. The typical understory in undisturbed areas such as Beachcomber Regional Park is salal, dull Oregon-grape and oceanspray. Garry oak, arbutus and several species of the lily family occur in dry areas of the park along the rocky shoreline.

A background review completed by EDI Environmental identified a total of 13 at-risk ecological communities that have the potential to occur within the park; however, a site assessment completed in June 2017 confirmed that site conditions do not meet the criteria for listed ecological communities because they are not in a climax state. These ecological communities could develop on site if human disturbance and invasive plant species are effectively controlled.

A total of 48 plant species were observed during field visits by project biologists. There were no SARA Schedule 1, Provincially-listed, or COSEWIC-listed plant species identified. Invasive plants, including Scotch broom, spurge laurel, hawkweed, Himalayan blackberry, thistle and English ivy were noted in several locations throughout the park. No noxious weeds were observed. A detailed assessment is included in **Appendix B - Biophysical Assessment**.



Stonecrop (*Sedum spathilifolium*)



Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)



Arbutus (*Arbutus menzesii*)

2.4 Park Wildlife

A preliminary background review completed by EDI Environmental identified a total of 16 at-risk wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the park, including Great Blue Heron, Olive-side Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Western Screech-Owl and Townsend's Big-eared Bat. However, during a site visit in October 2016, no species at risk were confirmed. The project biologist did observe 29 bird species, an Eagle nest tree, and two mammal species (Red Squirrel and Black-Tailed Deer). A complete inventory is included in **Appendix B - Biophysical Assessment**.



Yellow-rumped warbler



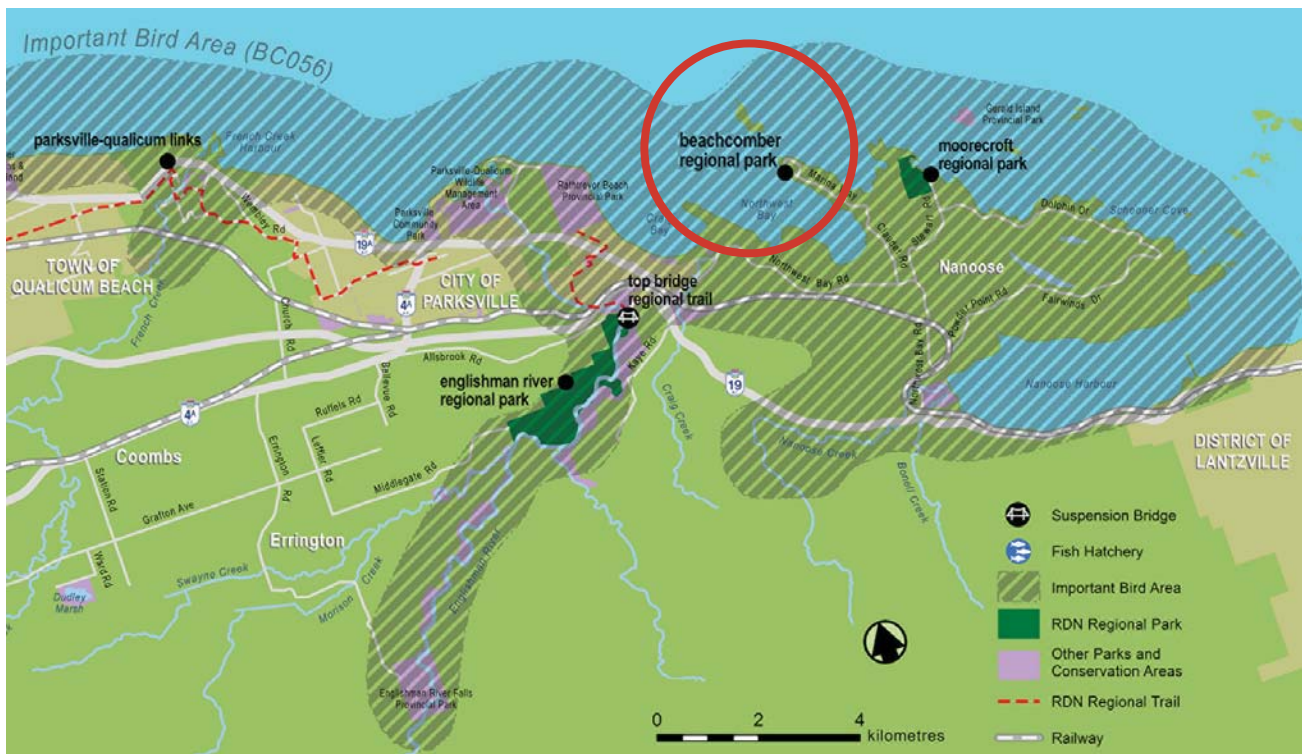
Harlequin Duck



Bald Eagle

2.4.1 Important Bird Area

Beachcomber is located within an internationally recognized Important Bird Area (IBA). The area between Little Qualicum Estuary and Nanoose Bay (shown on the map below) has been identified as one of 11,000 IBAs worldwide. Amongst the 250 species known to occur in the IBA, there are several marine and land birds commonly seen in Beachcomber including Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Harlequin Ducks.



Eastern portion of Important Bird Area BC056 (location of Beachcomber Regional Park shown with red circle)

3. Current Management and Issues



Kiosk and stairs at entrance to Beachcomber RP.

3.1 Current Park Management

Management of Beachcomber Regional Park follows standard park guidelines and practices as outlined in the RDN Park Use Bylaw 1399 (2004), the RDN Parks and Trails Guidelines (2013), and the RDN Regional Parks and Trails Plan (2005-2015). The annual park maintenance cost for Beachcomber Regional Park, which includes items such as incidental repairs, vegetation management and contractor services, is approximately \$3000. Park operational costs are funded by all seven electoral areas and all four municipalities within the Regional District of Nanaimo through the Regional Parks and Trails Function.

3.2 Current Management Issues

Beachcomber Regional Park has very few incidents of park use violations or vandalism. The following five management issues have been identified by either park neighbours or park staff:



Steep descent at south entrance



Criss-crossed trail network



Hazard tree

TRAIL ACCESS: An unmaintained park access involving a scramble down a rock cliff is located at the south end of the park. The closure of the south entrance, along with several secondary, informal trails throughout the park, is under consideration for reasons of public safety and ecological protection. The construction of stairs with handrails along the north park entrance is also under consideration for increased park accessibility.

TREE CARE: Because the park is surrounded on three sides by water, the mature stands of arbutus, Garry oak and Douglas-fir are exposed and vulnerable to breakage from wind, severe rains and snow. Extensive tree pruning and removal has been required in recent years and is anticipated as an ongoing safety and maintenance concern.

INVASIVE PLANTS: Several invasive plant species have been identified by staff and inventoried by the project biologist. The park's small size and location within a residential area makes invasive plant management an ongoing challenge.

CAMPFIRES: Although campfires are prohibited in Beachcomber by Park Bylaw 1399, incidents of beach fires during summer months are becoming a growing concern for neighbouring residents. Because the beach fires are within the foreshore and outside the park boundary, enforcement falls outside the jurisdiction of the RDN. Local residents require further information on who to call and who will respond when a campfire occurs.

INCREASED USE: With increased park use there have been parking issues along Marina Way. The small lot at the kiosk location does not always satisfy the need for parking at the park resulting in overcrowding or haphazard parking along the side of the road. It is challenging for residents adjacent the park as their driveways often become unwanted parking areas or turnarounds at peak times.

4. Future Park Management (2018-2028)



The purpose of this plan is to outline future park needs in terms of visitor safety and enjoyment, ecological protection, and annual maintenance costs. Future needs were identified through public and stakeholder consultation and site assessments.

4.1 Public and Stakeholder Consultation Results

The public consultation process for the Management Plan involved two Open House events and two on-line surveys. Public consultation findings are summarized below and provided in detail as **Appendix A - Public Consultation**.

Key stakeholders, including neighbouring First Nations, Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department, Nanoose Naturalists and the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT), were invited to participate in plan development and draft plan review. Any input received has been incorporated and referenced within the final document.

4.1.1 Open House and First Public Survey

On December 7, 2016 an Open House event was held at the Nanoose Place Community Centre to share information and answer questions about the park management plan. A public survey was available at the Open House as well as online between December 7, 2016 and January 7, 2017. During that time, 33 surveys were completed. Key survey findings, which address current park uses and future needs, are summarized below:

ISSUE	COMMUNITY RESPONSE
General Satisfaction	32/33 respondents (97%) were generally happy with existing park amenities and the current level of maintenance services
Improvements or Additions	21/30 respondents (70%) felt that no new park amenities or services should be considered in the future
	9/30 respondents (30%) felt that some future additions would benefit the park, these include invasive plant removal, larger parking area, picnic tables, a small play area for children, and accessible paths and stairs (requested by 6 of the 9 respondents)
Secondary Trail Closure	19/33 respondents (58%) supported the closure of secondary trails for reasons of public safety and ecological protection; several of these respondents reiterated the need for an accessible primary trail/stairway to the beach, preferably on the north side of the park
	14/33 respondents (42%) did not support closure of secondary trails because visitors enjoy the trails and closure would only encourage the development of new paths

Nineteen additional comments were submitted by respondents (all of which are included in **Appendix A - Public Consultation**). The majority of comments reiterate satisfaction with current park amenities and services and request that no changes be made to the park. A few comments address the need for a more accessible trail to the beach. These comments reinforce requests received directly by park staff during the Open House event for the construction of a primary trail / stairway with handrails on the north side of the park to accommodate senior residents and others with mobility issues.

4.1.2 Draft Plan Review, Final Open House and Second Public Survey

A draft of the Beachcomber Regional Park Management Plan was available in hard copy and online on August 14, 2017 and was available to October 31, 2017. On October 4, 2017 a final Open House event was held at the park entrance to share information and answer questions about the park management plan. The second public survey gauged the public's support for the Draft Management Plan. The following is a summary of the input received:





ISSUE	COMMUNITY RESPONSE
Support Level	23/34 respondents (68%) supported strongly and very strongly the recommended management actions outlined in Section 4.2 (page 11)

Thirty additional comments were submitted by respondents (all of which are included in **Appendix A - Public Consultation**). As in the first public survey, many of the comments were in support of the park to remaining the same, to be natural, and any maintenance completed would be to enhance the natural beauty of the park. Nine of the 30 comments requested a railing at the north end trail as a good addition to the park for accessibility while few respondents felt new stairs should be built. The south end trail had mixed reviews on whether it should be kept as an access point to the waterfront, with 4 out of 30 in favour and 6 out of 30 opposed. Four out of 30 felt strongly enough about a playground not being a park amenity to include it in their comments. Maintenance in the form of hazardous tree removal and invasive plant removal was an important item for 7 out of the 30 respondents. Discussion relating to fire safety and emergency contacts occurred at the Open House event and is reflected in some of the comments provided by the survey respondents. Concerned residents are looking for direction from the RDN on who to contact should an incident arise (fire, overnight camping, etc) whether within the park boundary or not as there has been no response by the authorities when called.

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4.2 Summary of Future Management Actions and Costs

The following table summarizes all recommended park improvements and actions as identified through public consultation and project site assessments in support of keeping the park as is. Detailed information can be found in the following appendices:

-  **Appendix A: Public Consultation**
-  **Appendix B: Biophysical Assessment**
-  **Appendix C: Hazard Tree Assessment**
-  **Appendix D: Archaeological Assessment**

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ISSUE	ACTION	TIMELINE	ESTIMATED COST
Trail accessibility	Construction of one main accessible trail along north entrance from parking area to beach with stairs and handrail that is natural and in keeping with the landscape	2018	\$15,000
	Post signage at the south end trail directing visitors to the main accessible trail at the north end	2018	\$200
Fire/Emergency	Work with RDN Bylaw and Fire Coordinator on a response protocol	2018	n/a
	Post signage in park with response protocol to follow	2018	\$200
Park use	Monitor park use and parking issues	2018-2028 (ongoing)	n/a
Signs	Update and consolidate signs	2019-2022 (2-5 years)	\$1000
Invasive plant species	Initial mechanical removal of Himalayan blackberry and spurge laurel; replanting with native plants	2018	\$1000 – \$2000 (landscape contractor)
	Ongoing maintenance to prevent recolonization: touch ups in spring during flowering season, before fruiting	2018-2028 (ongoing)	variable (landscape contractor)
Eagle nest tree	Ongoing monitoring of eagle nest tree to prevent disturbance; mitigative design and implementation if future trail construction or park development is required	2018-2028 (ongoing)	n/a
High risk hazard trees	Urgent removal of five trees as per Hazard Tree Assessment; topping / wildlife tree creation of one tree	2017	completed
Moderate or low risk hazard trees	Future monitoring and possible removal / pruning of 11 identified trees with compromised structure and potential for hazard to trail users	2019-2022 (2-5 years)	\$1200
Madrone canker	Detailed assessment by an ISA Certified Arborist of the Madrone canker epidemic within park	2018	\$1,700
	Potential future pruning / removal of nine infected Arbutus trees (following detailed assessment)	2018-2028	\$1000 – \$2500
Areas of archaeological sensitivity	Completion of detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment before any future park development / site disturbance	2018-2028 (as required)	\$7500
	Site protection through avoidance by project design	2018-2028 (as required)	n/a