REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN

Advisory Committee DRAFT – November 20TH, 2013

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- George Holme, Electoral Area 'E' Director
- Julian Fell, Electoral Area 'F' Director
- Joe Stanhope, Electoral Area 'G' Director
- Bill Veenhof, Electoral Area 'H' Director
- Councillor Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation
- Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) Representatives: Robert Rogers (Electoral Area E), Barbara Smith (Electoral Area F), Brian Coath (Electoral Area G), Dagmar Seydel (Electoral Area H).

Consultants provided useful studies and detailed information that informed the development of the plan.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

As Electoral Areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) develop, there is a need to continue creating a community parks and trails system that provides access to parks and recreational opportunity for the local community.

The overall goal of the Community Parks & Trails Strategy (CPTS) for Electoral Areas E, F, G, and H is to provide a systematic approach to parks and trails planning and development at the community level. This document is not intended to be a detailed guide for implementation of individual parks and trails; rather it provides a framework for identifying and evaluating opportunities.

This focus for this project is the 4 northern Electoral Areas:

- Electoral Area E: Nanoose Bay;
- Electoral Area F: Coombs, Hilliers, Errington;
- Electoral Area G: French Creek, San Pareil, Dashwood, Englishman River;
- Electoral Area H: Bowser, Qualicum Bay, Horne Lake, Spider Lake.

Planning Process

The Community Parks and Trails Strategy was completed over the course of 2013. A Staff Working Group comprised of the RDN Community Parks Planner, Parks and Trails Coordinator and Manager of Parks Services coordinated development of the strategy and an Advisory Committee was formed to support the process and review the document. Two Open Houses in each of the four Electoral Areas were held during the development of the CPTS, along with online surveys and review opportunities

Two related studies were developed concurrently with the CPTS:

- Aquilla Archaeology consultants provided specific services regarding culturally sensitive mapping and protocols.
- Stantec Consultants Ltd. developed the complementary Parks and Trails Design Guidelines (see Section 1.3.4 for more information).

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Community Parks & Trails Today

The amount of existing community parks and trails varies between the four Electoral Areas. The following table provides a summary of existing community and regional parks and trails in the RDN.

Table: Existing Parks and Trails Summary Table

Existing Parks & Trails	Electoral Area E	Electoral Area F	Electoral Area G	Electoral Area H
Electoral Area Population (2011)	5,674	7,422	7,158	3,509
Number of Existing Community Parks	31	16	32	40
Area of Existing Community Park (acres)	73.4	85.5	140.9	137.3
Community Parkland/1000 population (acres)	12.9	11.5	19.7	39.1
Number of Existing Regional Parks	2	1	2	1
Area of Existing Regional Park (acres)	87.5	108.7	511.5	269.3
Total Area of Community & Regional Parks (acres)	160.9	194.2	652.8	406.6
Number of potential Water Access sites (road ends)	60	TBD	32	49
Length of community trail (km)	0.72	3.05	2.03	1.30
Length of regional trail (km)	0	0	10.00	17.50

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Evolution of Community Parks & Trails

Since its beginning in the 1960s, the community parks and trails system has been growing at an accelerating pace. In Electoral Areas E, F, G and H community park area has grown from approximately 2 hectares of parkland in 1965 to almost 190 hectares in 2012.

When the community parks function began, the focus was largely on obtaining and preserving parkland and open space. In these early days, parkland was typically held in a natural undeveloped state with no amenities. Given the rural nature of the Electoral Areas, demand and capacity for more

urban-style parks was limited. During this time, staff and funding resources were very limited and did not support park development.

Between population increase, densification of communities and awareness around the value of access to park, public demand for improved parkland has been growing steadily. Over time, the community parks function has evolved from a mechanism for preserving open space to a function that supports strategic planning, design, development and operation of parkland.

Planning Framework for Community Parks & Trails

The CPTS is intended to provide a framework for decision-making for community parks and trails. The following goals are provided for acquisition and development of community parks:

- **Connect People and Places:** Develop an inter-connected system of parks and trails that supports active transportation (travel to destinations), recreation (exercise) and nature appreciation (spiritual) that is accessible to all community residents.
- **Provide Social and Recreation Opportunities:** Create a community where a variety of public spaces provide local opportunities for active living, social interaction and play.
- **Protect the Environment:** Safeguard the natural setting and character of the community and surrounding environmental functions.
- **Support Community Partnerships:** Encourage community spirit and energy when implementing the strategy.

Classification for Community Parks & Trails

There are five park classes proposed for the community park system:

1) Neighbourhood Park
2) Natural Park
3) Linear Park
4) Water Access
5) Surplus

There are three trail classes proposed for the RDN:

1) Type 1 – Hard/Compacted Surface Trail
2) Type 2 – Soft Surface Trail
3) Type 3 – Natural Surface Trail

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Community Parkland Acquisition Criteria

One of the challenges encountered when planning for community parks is evaluating whether new acquisitions fit the needs of the overall system. To support this evaluation, community parkland acquisition criteria are proposed. These criteria will:

- Support RDN Staff and POSAC members evaluate potential community park and trail acquisitions;
- Provide developer clients a set of clear criteria that will be considered to review in advance of proposing dedication;
- Increase consistency and objectivity in assessments over time.

The criteria are organized under 6 categories and are designed to align with the proposed parks classes**.** The 6 categories are described as follows:

- **General Demographics & Public Values** – These values typically apply to all types of community parks. Parks that score high in this category may be well suited for acquisition and addition to the community parks system.
- **Neighbourhood Park Values** – These values are desirable for establishing neighbourhood parks with amenities. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for neighbourhood parks.
- **Ecological Park Values** – These values include protection and enhancement of natural environments. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for ecological park development.
- **Linear Park Values** – These values include connectivity and trail potential. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for trail development.
- **Water Access Values** – These values pertain to water sites. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for water access development.
- **Affordability** – These values include costs for acquiring, developing and maintaining park properties and typically apply to all community parks. Parks that score high in this category will be more cost effective.

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Recommendations

The outcome of this plan is a set of recommendations that support the implementation of the vision, objectives and priorities generated through the CPTS process. These recommendations are provided for Board, staff and POSAC consideration within the context of annual community planning and budget considerations.

Two types of recommendations are provided for the CPTS:

1. Operational Recommendations:

These include ideas for planning initiatives, servicing and education and awareness planning. Operational recommendations include:

Planning Initiatives

1) **Complete Regular Updates of the CPTS:** Review and update the CPTS in 2018 and complete a new study including public consultation in 2023.
2) **Use Park Classifications & Criteria:** Encourage all RDN departments and committees to use the Community Park Classifications and Criteria for Community Parkland Evaluation identified in this document and the 2013 Parks & Trails Design Guidelines to evaluate and plan parkland that is proposed as part of development applications.
3) **Follow Archaeological Guidelines:** Follow guidelines developed in the Aquilla Report for considering cultural and heritage potential when planning or developing community parks and trails.
4) **Include Parks in OCP Updates:** Ensure park planning and development is included within OCP updates to review the vision and potential projects for specific Electoral Areas.
5) **Review POSAC Structure & Mandate:** Complete regular reviews of the POSAC Structure and Mandate to review efficiency, role and contribution in the evolving parks and trails system.
6) **Establish POSAC Chair Meetings:** Establish regular POSAC chair meetings to support collaboration, discussion and identification of issues and opportunities within the larger community park system.
7) **Create a Volunteer Policy & Guidelines:** Consider developing a clear volunteer policy and guidelines that provides more information about involvement with community parks and trails.
8) **Establish Partner Communications:** Seek to establish a system for ongoing Partnership Communications with other municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nations that provide community parks and trails services.
9) **Create Developer Information Package:** Develop a clear information package for developers that outlines expectations for community park and trail dedication. This information should be provided to all developer applicants at the beginning of their project.
10) **Support Community Projects:** Encourage and support community interest groups to enter into trail building and/or management agreements with the province for key recreational trails located on Crown land.

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11) **Prepare Active Transportation Plan:** Prepare an Active Transportation Plan that encourages inclusivity to all levels of mobility for the District 69 Electoral Areas based on work completed to date in the Regional Parks & Trails Plan, CPTS and Parks and Trails Guidelines.

12) **Consider DCC Policy**: Consider development of a Development Cost Charges (DCC) policy for each Electoral Area to support acquisition and development of select park amenities (as permitted by the Local Government Act).

13) **Develop Disposition Policy:** Develop a Community Parkland Disposition Policy for consideration by the RDN Board.

14) **Subdivision Application Process Review:** Review and update the RDN "Review of the Consideration of Parkland in Conjunction with the Subdivision Application Process" Policy (Updated 2006) to streamline the subdivision review process. Include the proposed Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist (see Appendix C).

Resources & Capacity

15) **Match Services Levels & Funding Allocations:** Match level of service expectations with funding allocations for community parks and trails.

16) **Create Park Maintenance Plans:** Develop a park maintenance plan as a component of all new park planning and development as per the Parks and Trails Design Guidelines. Update annual operating budgets for parks based on these plans.

Education & Awareness

17) **Increase Park Signage:** Increase community parks and trails signage in developed parks as budget allows.

2. Project Recommendations:

In addition to operational recommendations that span the entire CPTS, several project recommendations and ideas were gathered for each Electoral Area during this process. These recommendations should be considered as potential priority projects when planning and budgeting community park development.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of a Community Parks & Trails Strategy

Community parks and trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities for local community members.

As the Electoral Areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) develop, there is a need to continue creating a community parks and trails system that provides access to parks and recreational opportunity for the local community. To date, community parks and trails provision has often been *ad hoc* and reactive – acquiring and developing parks as opportunity, rather than systematically planned. As the RDN Electoral Area communities grow, the Community Parks & Trails Strategy (CPTS) is intended to guide informed decision-making about future park acquisition and development.

1.1.1 Why are we Creating a Strategy?

Since the first community park was established in 1959, the RDN's community parks and trails program has been growing and evolving. In the late 1960s the program managed about 8 ha of community parks and trails; today the system has grown to include almost 190 community parks in Electoral Areas A through H, totalling over 600 ha of land.

In addition to size of land base, the function of community parks has also been evolving. When established, park land was typically protected as undeveloped conservation area or open space. As population density increased in the Electoral Areas, a shift in demand from more natural parks to neighbourhood parks with amenities began to occur. This shift, along with the number of parks the RDN manages, makes it increasingly important to plan and prioritize improvements to the system.

1.1.2 How to Use the Strategy

The overall goal of the CPTS for Electoral Areas E, F, G, and H is to provide a systematic approach to parks and trails planning and development at the community level. The CPTS is intended to be used in harmony with key RDN planning documents to:

- Clarify the mandate of the community parks and trails function;
- Provide a community park classification system;
- Map existing and proposed community parks and trails;
- Support a consistent level understanding about community parks and trails functions and priorities between RDN Staff, Board Members, Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) Members, Developers and the Public;

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- Provide consistent evaluation criteria for reviewing and selecting potential community parks;
- Identify priorities for park acquisition and development;
- Position the RDN to respond to grant opportunities and negotiations during the land development process;
- Provide strategic directions and recommendations regarding land acquisition and disposition;
- Show a clear link between park development and funding requirements.

This document is not intended to be a detailed guide for implementation of individual parks and trails; rather it provides a framework for identifying and evaluating opportunities.

1.1.3 Electoral Areas Covered in the CPTS

The Regional District of Nanaimo encompasses approximately 208 ha of land on the central east coast of Vancouver Island. The region includes four municipalities – the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Village of Lantzville, along with a large rural land base which is divided into seven Electoral Areas.

This focus for this project is the 4 northern Electoral Areas (See *Figure 1: Study Area Map*):

- Electoral Area E: Nanoose Bay;
- Electoral Area F: Coombs, Hilliers, Errington;
- Electoral Area G: French Creek, San Pareil, Dashwood, Englishman River;
- Electoral Area H: Bowser, Qualicum Bay, Horne Lake, Spider Lake.

A future process may be completed to develop strategic recommendations for Electoral Areas A through C.

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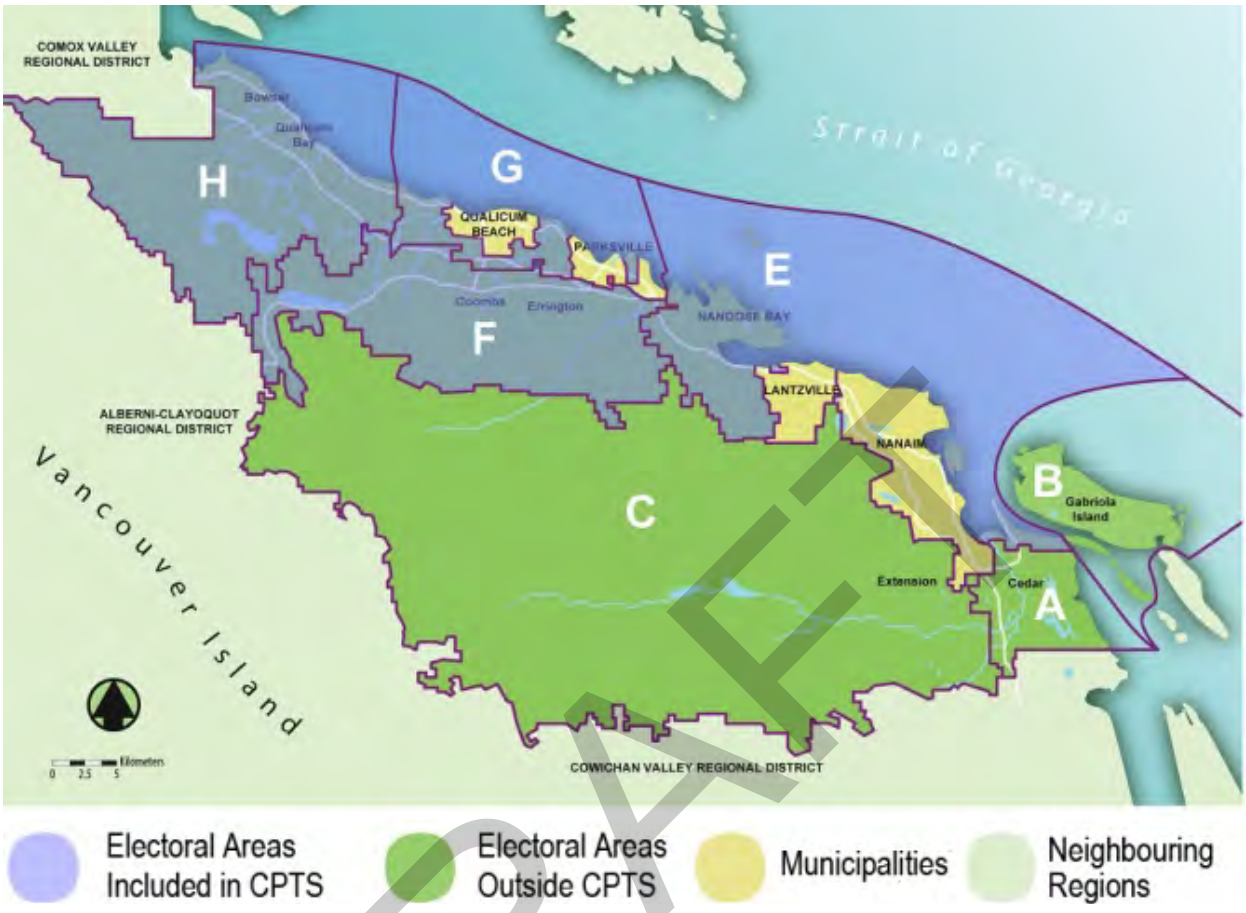

Figure 1: Study Area Map

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1.2 What are Community Parks & Trails?

1.2.1 Park Context

Community parks and trails form part of the larger parks and trails network in our Electoral Areas (*Figure 2: Parks Network Context*). While the CPTS focuses on community parks, it is intended to be complementary to the larger parks and greenways system and to consider connections and context with neighbouring electoral areas, municipalities and first nations.

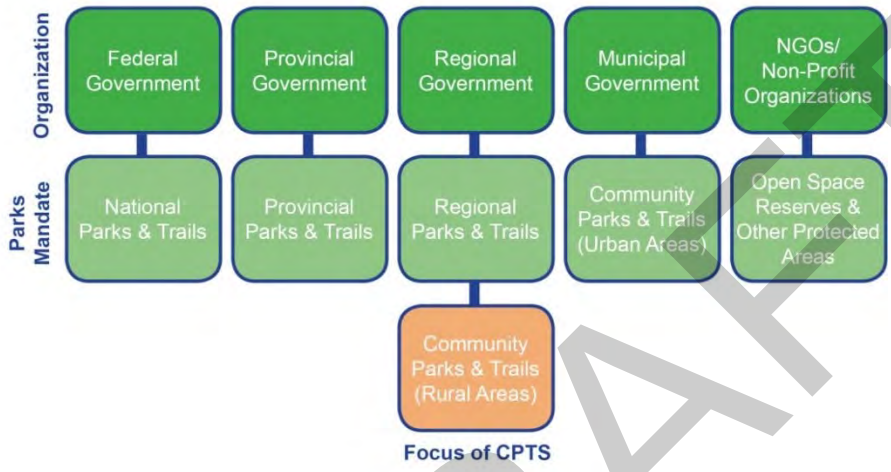

Figure 2: Parks Network Context

The RDN is responsible for two levels of parks – Regional Parks and Community Parks in the rural Electoral Areas. These mandates are administered under separate programs and provide different levels of service within the RDN. *Table 1* provides a brief summary of differences between Regional and Community Parks in the RDN.

Table 1: Overview of Differences between Regional & Community Parks

	Regional Parks	Community Parks
Key Mandate	Environmental protection and nature-based recreation	Provision of park amenities for local neighbourhoods
Target Population	All RDN constituents and tourists	Local Electoral Area constituents
Tax Base	All of RDN	Individual Electoral Areas
Typical Acquisition	Lease or Purchase	Parkland Dedication through Subdivision or Rezoning
Size	Large land areas	Smaller land areas

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As seen in *Figure 2* (previous page) community parks and trails also exist within urban centres; however, these are the responsibility of the municipal level of government. In the RDN, this means that community parks and trails within the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and Town of Qualicum Beach are administered by the respective municipal governments, not by the RDN. With their higher populations, urban areas typically have a significantly larger tax base than rural Electoral Areas, which allows a typically higher standard of parks service in urban communities.

1.2.2 Community Parks in the RDN Electoral Areas

Community Parks in the RDN are intended to provide for the needs of each of the local Electoral Area communities. These parks are usually smaller parks distributed throughout existing and developing residential neighbourhoods that are established to provide local, publicly accessible green spaces for residents. These park sites often provide a variety of uses, including sports or passive recreation, environmental protection, water access or preservation of unique natural or culturally significant features.

Community trails are becoming an increasingly important part of the local recreation network.

Community trails provide local connections for non-motorized access to destinations such as parks, schools, community facilities, beaches, commercial areas and points of interest. Today there are few existing community trails in the Electoral Areas due to past development patterns, land availability and funding limitations. As a result, local roads are often used for non-motorized travel.

As Electoral Area populations grow and density increases, the community parks and trails function becomes increasingly important. These spaces are a vital resource for people to have access to safe and convenient outdoor recreation spaces and non-motorized travel opportunities.

1.2.3 Acquisition, Development & Maintenance of Community Parks

Each Electoral Area has a separate tax base and funding system to acquire, develop and manage community parks and trails. Because these areas are locally funded, community parks and trails are developed to primarily benefit the residents that live in that Electoral Area.

Table 2 (next page) provides an overview of methods for acquiring community parks and trails.

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Table 2: Community Parks Acquisition Methods

Acquisition Method	Description
Land Dedication at time of Subdivision for Rezoning	Land dedication is the primary acquisition tool for community parks and trails. The BC Local Government Act permits municipal governments to require up to 5% land dedication for park at the time of property subdivision or rezoning. Regulatory documents including the OCP and Subdivision Bylaws govern dedication requirements.
Parkland Acquisition Reserve Fund	In some cases it may be deemed that the 5% land dedication does not have sufficient value to warrant its addition to the park system. In these occasions the RDN may require cash-in-lieu in an amount equivalent to the assessed value of the land dedication area. These monies are held in a Parkland Acquisition Reserve Fund and may only be used to purchase future parkland in the Electoral Area in which the cash-in-lieu was generated.
Donation	Land dedication from private land owners may provide additional land area to the system. These lands may carry a park land use stipulation or covenant.
Provincial Lease or License	Lands owned by the Province including Crown lands and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) lands can be developed under a permit for community park and trail use (see Section1.2.4).
Private Lease or License	Legal agreements can be formed with private land owners to use a portion of land for public park or trail. These types of agreements could include licensing of trails on private forestry lands.
Development Cost Charges (DCCs)	Regional Districts can collect DCCs from development projects for infrastructure improvements necessitated by community growth. The Local Government Act Sections 932 to 937 enable municipalities to collect DCCs for parkland acquisition and minor park land improvements. Currently, Electoral Areas in the RDN are not using DCCs.
Purchase through Borrowing	In some cases, it may be desirable to secure park land before funds can be made available. Often these types of circumstances occur when there is risk of opportunities being lost. In these cases, borrowing with repayment through Electoral Area operating budgets is an option.

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Table 3 provides an overview of methods for developing community parks.

Table 3: Community Park Development Methods

Acquisition Method	Description
Community Amenity Contribution through Rezoning or Subdivision	In some instances, in addition to land dedication at subdivision and rezoning, developers may also contribute to parkland development during rezoning or subdivision.
Electoral Area Parks Budget	Property taxes are collected in each Electoral Area for providing services to residents. These services include the development of community parks and trails. However, because taxes are relatively limited in rural areas, a limited amount of funding can be generated for park development.
Grants	Private or government grants are available to assist local and regional government at various stages of park planning and development. These grants often target elements like trail development, environmental stewardship and recreation and can be a significant source of funding for park development.
Donation & Fundraising	Donors may give money, materials or time for the purposes of enhancing community parks and trails. In cases where there is strong community support for park projects, fundraising may be undertaken.
Development Cost Charges (DCCs)	Park improvements that may be completed using DCCs include trails, fencing, landscaping, drainage, irrigation, playground equipment, playing field equipment and washrooms. Currently, Electoral Areas in the RDN are not using DCCs.

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1.2.4 Community Parks Budgets

Annual Electoral Area Budgets

Annual budgets provide funding for each Electoral Area and are financed through tax requisitions from the Electoral Area. The amount of funds allocated to community park improvements, studies and transfers is determined through the five year project planning process with the POSACs and through discussions with Electoral Area Directors. Expenses included in this budget include:

- Minor park improvements and upgrades;
- Major park improvements;
- Safety review and maintenance (e.g. hazard tree pruning, debris removal, park repairs, etc.);
- Routine maintenance (e.g. waste receptacles, grass cutting, weeding, painting, etc.) by contractors;
- Legal and professional fees (geotechnical studies, lot surveys, archeology reviews, design development, etc.);
- Staffing and overhead costs;
- Equipment maintenance and repairs;
- Transfers to operation reserve funds;
- Transfers to other organizations (e.g. community halls); and
- Transfers for other RDN Services (bylaw enforcement, mapping).

Reserve Funds

The Reserve Fund is a pool of money created by yearly transfers from the Community Parks Budget. The amount of money transferred varies between each Electoral area and changes annually. The amount transferred depends on upcoming projects, and the priorities of the Area Director and the POSAC. Reserve Funds can be used to fund large capital projects or to purchase parkland. Large projects can be funded solely through the reserve fund or in combination with the Community Parks Budget, Grant Funds and donations.

Parkland Acquisition Fund

This fund is created by the cash-in-lieu from subdivisions and can only be used to purchase parkland in the Electoral Area of the development that generated the cash-in-lieu contribution.

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Other Reserve Funds

In some cases developers, through subdivision or rezoning, will contribute funds for specific park upgrades. These funds are placed in separate reserve funds dedicated for the intended project.

1.2.5 Park Jurisdictions (Crown, Lease, MOTI)

Community parks include lands owned by the RDN, as well as lands that the RDN manages but does not own outright. In some cases, the Regional District enters into land use agreements with other agencies and landowners to manage non-RDN owned lands for community park functions.

Table 4 details a list of jurisdictional arrangements the RDN uses for community parks.

Table 4: Community Park Jurisdiction Arrangements

Jurisdiction	Description
RDN	Parkland that is owned and managed by the RDN. Most community parks are owned by the RDN.
Crown Parks	Parkland dedicated through subdivision that is parkland vested in the ownership of the Provincial crown. Under the Land Title Act, the RDN, as the local Regional District government, has authority to manage/develop these areas as local community parks. These parcels show as PARK in land titles, but the Crown remains owner of the properties.
Crown Lease/ License of Occupation	Crown lands can be leased or licensed to the RDN by the province for use as community park or trails. Nanoose park is an example of a lease and Malcolm park in Area F is an example of a licensed tenure.
Ministry of Transportation License	Lands owned by the MOTI can be used for community parks and trails. Permits to construct are commonly used in undeveloped road right of ways (ROWs) for park or trail corridor development and development of unused road ends that front the foreshore as water access sites.

In cases where parkland is leased or licensed, the land remains under the ownership of the province, but the RDN has rights to develop and manage the area as park. These arrangements may include some commitment from the RDN for liability, and while they are typically long-term arrangements, do not guarantee the land will remain park indefinitely.

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1.3 Policy Context

The following documents form the policy context for the Community Parks and Trails Strategy.

1.3.1 Regional Growth Strategy

The RDN's Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) encompasses the entire region and outlines broad goals and general direction for region-wide policies, planning and actions. The following policies from the RGS inform community parks and trails:

- Adopt Official Community Plans (OCPs) and zoning bylaws that support the development of places to live, work, learn, play, shop and access services within a walkable area and located in designated mixed-use centres inside Growth Containment Boundaries;
- Adopt OCPs and Parks Plans that include strategies and policies to protect and conserve Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs);
- Adopt OCPs that include strategies and policies that will identify and protect important historic and cultural resources and cultural sites; and
- Create complementary uses that are located in rural areas including rural residential, parks, open space, environmental protection and recreation.

1.3.2 Official Community Plans

The intent of Official Community Plans (OCPs) is to guide land use and development decisions and to provide detailed planning direction with respect to community development. Each Electoral Area has an OCP. These plans outline the goals and objectives the community has for the Electoral Area. Relevant OCPs that inform the CPTS include:

- Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan Bylaw # 1400 (2005)
- Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Bylaw #1152 (1999)
- Electoral Area G Official Community Plan Bylaw #1540 (2008)
- Electoral Area H Official Community Plan Bylaw #1335 (2003)

The current OCPs do not address community park and trail types or park provision standards. Two of the four OCPs do include general park acquisition criteria for new community parks. The CPTS complements the OCPs by providing land suitability criteria to improve clarity and promote consistency across Electoral Areas for community park dedication and development. The CPTS also provides a greater level of detail on potential priority projects. As OCP updates are completed, opportunities to further develop the community parks and trails mandate should occur.

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1.3.3 Regional Parks & Trails Plan (2005)

The Regional Parks and Trails Plan 2005-2015, completed in March 2005, provides direction for the establishment and acquisition of Regional Parks and Trails including classification systems, service standards and implementation strategies. While the plan does not specifically address community parks and trails, it provides context on which to build the community parks and trails function. The Regional Parks & Trails Plan and the CPTS are intended to be complementary and integrated documents.

1.3.4 Parks & Trails Design Guidelines (2013)

The guidelines provide direction for planning and design of community and regional parks and trails, staging areas and amenities. The document includes a proposed planning process, trails classifications system, staging area classification system, signage hierarchy and maintenance processes. The document also provides general guidelines for park and trail design, such as accessibility, hazards, environmental protection, structures and furnishings. The CPTS refers to the trail types described in the guidelines and the guidelines should be referenced when planning and developing community parks, trails and staging areas.

1.3.5 Other Documents

Various other RDN documents are related to the CPTS including:

- A Parks and Open Space Plan for Nanoose Bay (2001)
- Access to Water Sites, Inventory and Site Descriptions for Electoral Area H (2000)
- Electoral Area A Community Trails Study (2002)
- Community Active Transportation Plan, Electoral area A (2009)
- Lakes District Neighbourhood Plan, Nanoose Bay (2011)
- Schooner Cove Neighbourhood Plan, Nanoose Bay (2011)

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1.4 CPTS Planning Process Summary

The Community Parks and Trails Strategy was completed over the course of 2013 (See Figure 3: Schedule and Process Diagram). A Staff Working Group comprised of the RDN Community Parks Planner, Parks and Trails Coordinator and Manager of Parks Services coordinated development of the strategy. Other RDN staff resources including GIS Mapping, Parks Operations staff and Long-Range Planning staff provided technical support and information review.

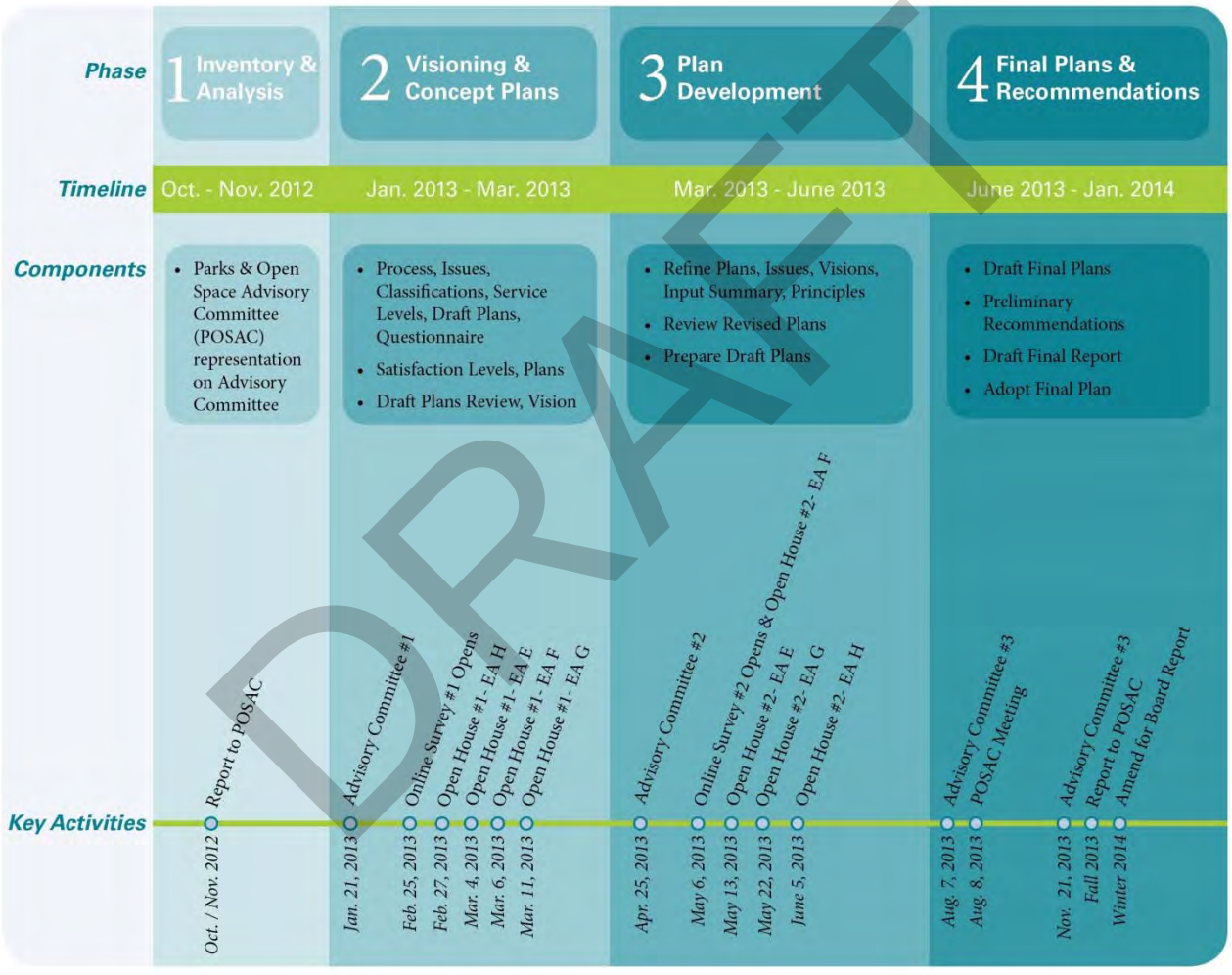

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Figure 3: Schedule and Process Diagram

1.4.1 Project Team

The development of the CPTS was completed by the RDN and key consulting resources. To support the process, a Community Parks & Trails Strategy Advisory Committee was created to provide:

- Input on materials for public review including: vision, goals and objectives, summaries from public input, park classifications, parkland provision guidelines, land suitability criteria and implementation.
- Review of and comment on the draft plan prior to presentation to the Regional Board.

Advisory Committee Composition:

The terms of reference for the project invited a number of groups to participate in the Advisory Committee, including:

- Each POSAC for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H'
- Qualicum First Nation
- Nanoose First Nation
- K'omoks First Nation
- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Sliammon First Nation

Those that participated in the Advisory Committee included:

- 2 representatives from each POSAC for Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H'
- 1 representative from Qualicum First Nation

Related Studies:

Two related studies were developed concurrently to the CPTS:

- Aquilla Archaeology consultants provided specific services regarding culturally sensitive mapping and protocols.
- Stantec Consultants Ltd. developed the complementary Parks and Trails Design Guidelines (see Section 1.3.4 for more information).

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1.4.2 Public Consultation

The CPTS included public consultation through:

- Open Houses;
- Online Surveys;
- Project Webpage;
- Facebook and Twitter social media; and
- Email and telephone correspondence.

Public Events & Input Opportunities

Two Open Houses in each of the four Electoral Areas were held during the development of the CPTS, along with online surveys and review opportunities. *Table 5* provides a summary of public input opportunities.

Table 5: Public Input Opportunity Summary

Open House #1 Summary	
Timing	February 27th to March 6th, 2013
Location	Each of the 4 Electoral Areas
Survey	Online and Hardcopy surveys open for 2 weeks
Purpose	▪ Locate sites the public identified for consideration for future parks ▪ Suggest improvements for existing community parks and trails ▪ Increase public knowledge about the extents of formal parkland, including the difference between RDN park and informal trails on Crown land or private forest land
Displays	▪ Planning process ▪ Goals and objectives ▪ Purpose of the CPTS ▪ Proposed park types ▪ Maps showing existing parks and trails in relation to land ownership in the Electoral Areas

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Open House #2 Summary	
Timing	May 6th to June 5th, 2013
Location	Each of the 4 Electoral Areas
Survey	Online and Hardcopy surveys open for 2 weeks

The public open houses were an opportunity to meet with community residents and discuss their vision and ideas for the future.

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Open House #2 Summary	
Purpose	▪ Review of mapping showing a proposed community trail network ▪ Gaps in the distribution of neighbourhood parkland ▪ Priority directions for implementation
Displays	▪ Engagement summaries from OH#1 ▪ Revised plans showing a proposed trail network and distribution of community parkland

Final Concept Plan Review	
Timing	August 10th to August 30th, 2013
Location	Online
Survey	Online for 2 weeks
Purpose	▪ Public viewing and comment on the final concept maps

Public Input Themes

There were several reoccurring themes identified during the public engagement process:

- Demand for more community trails for recreation, nature appreciation and commuting to local destinations;
- Desire for increased access to the oceanfront using undeveloped Road Rights of Way (ROWs);
- Continued and improved access to trails on Crown land;
- Belief that the Electoral Areas are reasonably well served by Neighbourhood parkland and that taking cash-in-lieu is generally supported except in areas where there are gaps in service provision;
- Support for more park amenities including signage as the first priority, followed by benches and picnic tables;
- General feeling of safety using parks and trails, but concerns about using road shoulders for non-motorized travel; and
- Identification of typical use of park, the most common being exercise, nature appreciation and dog walking.

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1.4.3 Archaeology Review

Concurrent with the CPTS development, Aquilla Archaeology was retained by the RDN to complete a Cultural Mapping Project to describe known and potential cultural and heritage resources in the four Electoral Areas included in the CPTS. The objective of this work was to identify potential issues and opportunities in relation to cultural and heritage values in new and existing community parks and water access sites. The study provides an overview analysis of information from heritage sites compiled from community based archives, the provincial Heritage Conservation Act (HCA), archaeological site registry, and available grey literature. First Nations, whose territories overlap with the four Electoral Areas, were also consulted. The assessment is an overview that flags potential sensitivities, not a detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA). The information developed in the study was entered into an internal database and mapping for analysis and reference. Archaeological sites are not made publicly accessible due to risk of vandalism associated with these sites.

The Aquilla Archaeology report recommends that cultural data and mapping information be integrated with community park planning and operations. A review process is outlined in the Aquilla Archaeology Report. There are various protocols recommended in the report, depending on whether a site is registered, what the potential may be, possible strategies such as avoidance or alteration and regulatory channels.

The archaeological review is intended to support the RDN in applying due diligence when planning or constructing in areas that have potential archaeological sensitivity, helping to proactively protect cultural and heritage resources and reduce risk and potential costs associated with unintentional impacts.

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2.0 COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS TODAY

2.1 Overview of the Existing System

Each Electoral Area has unique landscape, character, demographics, growth rates and socio-economics. This means that these areas will have their own requirements and priorities for community parks and trails.

2.1.1 Overview of Electoral Areas E, F, G, H

Table 6 provides a summary of population and land use statistics for Electoral Areas E, F, G and H.

Table 6: Electoral Area Summary Table

Statistics (2011 Census)	Electoral Area E	Electoral Area F	Electoral Area G	Electoral Area H
Total Area (sq. km.)	75	264	50	277
Total Population (2011)	5,674	7,422	7,158	3,509
Population Density (per sq. km.)	75.5	28	145	12.6
Public Land (includes Provincial, Federal, RDN) (acres)	2,785 (15%)	8,810 (13%)	1,760 (14%)	15,269 (22%)
First Nation (acres)	77 (0.4%)	74 (0.1%)	408 (3.3%)	15 (0.2%)
Private Land (acres)	7,781 (42%)	22,477 (34%)	7,173 (58%)	14,493 (21%)
Private Forestry Land (acres)	7,277 (40%)	35,000 (53%)	2,355 (19%)	39,500 (58%)

Settlement Patterns

Electoral Areas E and G have smaller land bases than Electoral Areas F and H, but have relatively high population densities. These Electoral Areas have more suburban settlement patterns than Areas F and H, which remain more rural. The RDN Regional Growth Strategy includes the policy to direct a greater proportion of growth within Growth Containment Boundaries around existing urban and village centres. This suggests that Electoral Areas F and H will continue to remain more rural in character.

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The amount of publicly owned land is proportionately similar among all the Electoral Areas with Area H having the highest proportion at 22% public land base and Area F having the lowest at 13%.

Crown & Forest Lands

Crown lands can provide increased access to trails and recreation in some of rural areas; however these routes are unsanctioned and long-term protection is not guaranteed. The RDN does not have the resources to consider managing informal trail systems on Crown lands but could play a supporting role for community groups that may want to formalize some trail activities.

A large area of the RDN is designated as private forestry land. Private forestry lands are not considered publicly accessible; however, historic use of logging roads and trails for recreation in these areas is common. These informal trails provide recreational value, but since the tenure is private there is no guarantee for ongoing protection. Area H, in particular has large areas of private forest lands which are popular for recreation.

Crown lands are popular destinations for back country recreation. Often it is not clear that while public Crown lands are typically accessible for public use, they are not part of the community parks and trails system.

Transportation

The transportation network in the Electoral Areas includes:

- Highway 19, the Oceanside Highway that connects the urban centers.
- Highway 19A, the Inland Island Highway that provides an alternate upland services corridor.
- Residential and rural roads.
- E&N Rail Corridor that bisects each of the Electoral Areas.

At the community recreation level, the highways are used by some pedestrians and cyclists for commuting; however the traffic volume, speed and air quality are a limitation. The residential and rural roads are more typically used for trail routes, but are commonly characterized by narrow shoulders, which can contribute to potential conflicts between vehicles and non-motorized transportation.

In the RDN, residential and rural roads are often used for pedestrian and cycling

The E&N Rail Corridor can be a limitation for non-motorized transportation where rail crossings are required and developing safe crossings can be costly. However, the corridor also forms a significant piece of the proposed RDN Regional trail system with a proposed route alongside the rail line eventually linking between the RDN's municipalities and Electoral Areas and to neighbouring regional districts to then north, south and west. Community parks and trails planning must consider this future regional linkage when planning community parks and trails.

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2.1.2 Overview of Current Park & Trail Status

The amount of existing community parks and trails varies between the four Electoral Areas. *Table 7* provides a summary of existing community and regional parks and trails in the RDN.

Table 7: Existing Parks and Trails Summary Table

Existing Parks & Trails	Electoral Area E	Electoral Area F	Electoral Area G	Electoral Area H
Electoral Area Population (2011)	5,674	7,422	7,158	3,509
Number of Existing Community Parks	31	16	32	40
Area of Existing Community Park (acres)	73.4	85.5	140.9	137.3
Community Parkland/1000 population (acres)	12.9	11.5	19.7	39.1
Number of Existing Regional Parks	2	1	2	1
Area of Existing Regional Park (acres)	87.5	108.7	511.5	269.3
Total Area of Community & Regional Parks (acres)	160.9	194.2	652.8	406.6
Number of potential Water Access sites (road ends)	60	TBD	32	49
Length of community trail (km)	0.72	3.05	2.03	1.30
Length of regional trail (km)	0	0	10.00	17.50

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Summary

- Community parkland provision/population ranges between 11.5 acres/1000 population in Electoral Area F (low) to 39.1 acres/1000 population in Electoral Area H (high).
- Regional parkland provision ranges from 87.5 acres in Electoral Area E (low) to 511.5 acres in Electoral Area G (high).
- Electoral Area F is inland so it does not have water access sites to saltwater but there may be access to freshwater sites on the rivers and lakes. At the time of the study, the number of these potential accesses was not determined.

- Apart from Electoral Area H there are relatively few existing formal community and regional trails in the Electoral Areas.
- Roadside trails exist on both developed and undeveloped Road Rights of Way, but the lengths of these routes are not calculated at this time.

2.1.3 Detailed Summary of Electoral Areas

The composition of a community gives insight on planning for parks and trails to accommodate user groups, age ranges and predicted growth.

Electoral Area E

Table 8 provides an overview of relevant statistics for Electoral Area E.

Table 8: Electoral Area E Stats

Statistical Trends (2011 Census)	Area E	RDN
Population 2006	5,462	138,631
Population 2011	5,674	146,574
% change in population	3.9%	5.7%
Population density per sq. km	75.5	21.9
Median age	57.3	49.3
% of population under 15 years old and under	8.6%	13%
% families without children at home	75%	64%
Average # of children per family	0.5	0.8
Number of community parks	31	187
Area of community parks (acres)	73.4	1484.7
Community parks/1000 population (acres)	12.9	10.1

Key Trends

- Population growth over the last 5 years has been slightly above average.
- Population density is fairly high at 75.5 people/square km. This density suggests this Electoral Area has a more suburban character.
- A higher density makes it easier to fund and service the population with respect to community parks and trails.
- Population age is higher than the median age at 57.3 and there are lower than average number of families with children at home.
- Community parkland provision is slightly higher than the RDN average at 12.9 acres/1000 population.

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Electoral Area F

Table 9 provides an overview of relevant statistics for Electoral Area F.

Table 9: Electoral Area F Stats

Statistical Trends (2011 Census)	Area F	RDN
Population 2006	6,680	138,631
Population 2011	7,422	146,574
% change in population	11%	5.7%
Population density per sq. km	28	21.9
Median age	46	49.3
% of population under 15 years old and under	15.3%	13%
% families without children at home	53%	64%
Average # of children per family	0.9	0.8
Number of community parks	16	187
Area of community parks (acres)	85.5	1484.7
Community parks/1000 population (acres)	11.5	10.1

Key Trends

- Population growth over the last 5 years has been much higher than elsewhere in the RDN.
- Population density is low at 28 people/square km. This density suggests this Electoral Area has a rural character.
- The lower density presents a challenge in the provision of convenient access to open spaces for all residents. Low density results in more parks and trails serving a smaller population and a smaller tax base.
- Population age is lower than the median age at 46 and there is a higher than average number of families with children.
- Community parkland provision is close to the RDN average at 11.5 acres/1000 population – the lowest in the CPTS study area.

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Electoral Area G

Table 10 provides an overview of relevant statistics for Electoral Area G.

Table 10: Electoral Area G Stats

Statistical Trends (2011 Census)	Area G	RDN
Population 2006	7,023	138,631
Population 2011	7,158	146,574
% change in population	1.9%	5.7%
Population density per sq. km	145	21.9
Median age	56.2	49.3
% of population under 15 years old and under	9.8%	13%
% families without children at home	72%	64%
Average # of children per family	0.6	0.8
Number of community parks	32	187
Area of community parks (acres)	140.9	1484.7
Community parks/1000 population (acres)	19.7	10.1

Key Trends

- Population growth over the last 5 years has been flat.
- Population density is very high at 145 people/square km. This density suggests this Electoral Area has a mostly suburban character.
- A higher density makes it easier to fund and service the population with respect to community parks and trails.
- Population age is higher than the median age at 56.2 and there are lower than average number of families with children at home.
- Community parkland provision is higher than the RDN average at 19.7 acres/1000 population.
- Electoral Area G has a challenging geography, with some small isolated pockets within a large geographic area.
- Electoral Area G is situated around the municipal boundaries with Parksville and Qualicum Beach, providing nearby access to community parks in these municipalities.

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Electoral Area H

Table 11 provides an overview of relevant statistics for Electoral Area H.

Table 11: Electoral Area H Stats

Statistical Trends (2011 Census)	Area H	RDN
Population 2006	3,474	138,631
Population 2011	3,509	146,574
% change in population	1%	5.7%
Population density per sq. km	12.6	21.9
Median age	56.2	49.3
% of population under 15 years old and under	10%	13%
% families without children at home	77%	64%
Average # of children per family	0.5	0.8
Number of community parks	40	187
Area of community parks (acres)	137.3	1484.7
Community parks/1000 population (acres)	39.1	10.1

Key Trends

- Population growth over the last 5 years has been flat.
- Population density is very low at 12.6 people/square km. This density suggests this Electoral Area has a mostly rural character.
- The lower density presents a challenge in the provision of convenient access to open spaces for all residents. Low density results in more parks and trails serving a smaller population and a smaller tax base.
- Population age is higher than the median age at 56.2 and there are lower than average number of families with children at home.
- Community parkland provision is much higher than the RDN average at 39.1 acres/1000 population, the highest within the CPTS study area.

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2.2 Community Park Administration

A number of groups are involved in planning, developing and operating community parks. *Table 12* briefly summarizes the roles and responsibilities of the various parties.

Table 12: Community Parks Roles and Responsibilities

Group	Responsibility
RDN Parks Planners	▪ Plan, design, research and engage with the public on community parks and trails ▪ Review development applications related to parks dedication ▪ Administer POSACs in each Electoral Area ▪ Develop grant applications ▪ Identify budgeting for park priorities ▪ Support and organize volunteer efforts
RDN Operations Staff	▪ Operate and maintain community parks in each Electoral Area ▪ Install park amenities
RDN Board Members	▪ Review and approve parks plans and budgets
Parks and Open Space Advisory Committees (POSACs)	▪ Represent public opinion ▪ Advise on community parks and trails matters ▪ Review potential park acquisition sites with the park planner ▪ Support volunteer efforts
Public	▪ Provide input and ideas for community parks and trails ▪ Participate in volunteer activities and programs

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2.2.1 RDN Staff

The Community Parks and Trails function for all Electoral Areas is currently supported by:

- 1 Community Parks Planner
- 2 Park Operations Staff
- 1 Parks and Trails Coordinator (splits time between Community & Regional Park and Trail functions and is tasked with integrating parks and trails at both scales)
- 1 Manager of Parks Services (splits time between Community & Regional Park functions)
- 1 General Manager of Recreation and Parks Services (splits time between Community & Regional Park and recreation facilities and service functions)

2.2.2 RDN Board & POSACs

The Regional District of Nanaimo Board is responsible for review and approval of acquisition, development and budgets for community parks and trails.

Parks and Open Space Advisory Committees are made up of appointed representatives from an Electoral Area to advise the Regional Board on matters that pertain to Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area Community Parks and Trails.

Currently each Electoral Area has a POSAC comprised of 7 members, including the Electoral Area Board Director and supported by the Community Parks Planner.

2.2.3 Partnerships/Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities can be a valuable resource for Community Parks and Trails; however, these programs require time and resources to develop.

Currently there are two formal volunteer opportunities typical to the RDN:

- Participation on the POSACs
- Regional Park Warden Program

These programs are administered by RDN staff and require time and resources to plan and execute. In addition, informal volunteer opportunities such as trail management and building that are organized by alternate agencies are supported by the RDN.

Moving forward, the RDN may wish to expand and further define additional volunteering opportunities related to community parks and trails. If this occurs, there will be need to allocate staff time to developing and administering these programs.

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2.2.4 Comparison to Other Community Park Programs

Looking at other community park programs is a useful way of identifying different approaches and levels for parks services. Sharing ideas between other local and regional government staff is a great way to build partnerships, share resources and ideas and reduce duplication of effort.

Table 13 provides a brief overview of services for the RDN and other surrounding communities including:

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) community parks program
- The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) community parks program
- The City of Nanaimo (CoN) community parks program

Table 13: Community Park Program Overview Summary

Statistical Trends (2011 Census)	RDN EAs	CRD EAs	CVRD	CoN
Population 2011	37,550	19,453	31,454	83,810
Number of Electoral Areas	7	3	9	n/a
Area of Community Park (ha)	600.9	Unknown	950	810
Community Parks Planning Staff	1.5	2	4	2
Community Parks Operations Staff (Permanent)	2	0	2	29
Community Parks Operations Staff (Seasonal)	0	0	1	20
Advisory Committee	7 Committees (POSACs)	6 Commissions	10 Commissions	1 Committee (PRC)

Capital Regional District

The CRD has 3 Electoral Areas within its boundaries – Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. Key information about the CRD's community parks program includes:

- Many CRD communities are urban, incorporated municipalities that provide municipal community parks services.
- In Electoral Areas, the community parks function is typically administered by Parks Commissions comprised of volunteers and an Elected Official. Parks Commissions are delegated the responsibility for administering community park and recreation services.
- The CRD has 6 Parks Commissions:
  - The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is the CRD's largest area Electoral Area, encompassing all unincorporated areas within the CVRD on Vancouver Island. The Commission administers 23 community

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parks, along with Foreshore Accesses. There is 1 dedicated parks staff for community parks.

- The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is an eight member, locally appointed advisory commission. The local CRD Director also sits on the Commission. The Commission administers 62 community parks and 22 trail corridors on the island. There is 1 decided parks and recreation manager for the community
- The Galiano Parks Commission administers 6 community parks and 15 shore accesses on Galiano Island (2007) with plans to improve another 32 of these access points.
- The Pender Islands Parks Commission is composed of 8 volunteer Commissioners and the Electoral Area Director for the Southern Gulf Islands, and is delegated administrative powers with respect to the development, maintenance, and operation of community parks. Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission manages 80 community parks, beach accesses and trails for the use by residents of North and South Pender Islands.
- The Mayne Island Parks & Recreation Commission is composed of 8 volunteer Commissioners and the Electoral Area Director for the Southern Gulf Islands, and is delegated administrative powers with respect to the development, maintenance, and operation of community parks and trails on Mayne Island.
- The Saturna Island Commission administrates services that provide community parks and recreation for Saturna Island. The commission operates its services with volunteers.

Cowichan Valley Regional District

The CVRD is comprised of nine Electoral Areas and four incorporated municipalities. With a large area of rural land base, the CVRD and RDN have distinct similarities in community composition, although the CVRD has more 'village' type developments within their urban areas.

- Since 2005, the parks and trails system has been growing rapidly, adding about 10-15 community parks each year
- Leases and licenses are significant tools in securing community park space. The CVRD maintains multiple agreements with MOTI, Crown, Private Forest companies, NGOs and in some cases private landowners (although the preference is to obtain land outright from private owners)
- While the communities continue to place a high value on natural areas, demand for more urban-type parks is increasing.

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- The CVRD has 7 full-time planning staff and 1 administrative staff that split their time between community and regional parks.
- The CVRD completes all their operations and maintenance through contract. They maintain a seasonal operations assistant, carpenter and part-time carpenter's assistant for minor improvements.
- Like the RDN, each Electoral Area in the CVRD funds the community parks function separately.
- There are 10 parks commissions – 1 for each electoral area plus the sub-regional South Cowichan Parks Commission which includes four electoral areas. The commissions provide feedback and guidance on budgets, priorities and parks and trails planning. Each fall the commission completes a planning exercise to set priorities for the following year. Typically this exercise looks beyond the current year to plan for a long-term future.
- The Commission Chairs from each Electoral Area meet three to four times each year to evaluate priorities, discuss commonalities and plan for the future. The benefit to these meetings is an increased awareness and opportunity for cooperation amongst the commissions.
- The parks planner prepares an annual report that documents directions and achievements for the parks system (regional and community) and is distributed to Board Directors and Commissions as well as posted online for public review.
- General trends have suggested a desire to increase walkability and cycling through trail linkages and corridors. In rural areas, MOTI is the road authority, providing challenges for securing pathways.
- Long-term planning is well-supported by the community. Two of the nine Electoral Areas have community parks and trails plan in place – two additional Electoral Areas are currently completing plans. These tools are providing to be valuable for staff and commissions to envision a long-term future and implement steps to achieving this vision
- It is becoming increasingly common for developers to provide neighbourhood park amenities for their 5% parkland dedications.
- Funding requisitions for community parks and trails has been increasing in concert with the number of parks to support development and operation.

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City of Nanaimo

The City of Nanaimo is an urban municipality, which means it has a greater population base and density for funding community parks and trails. Key information about the CoN's community parks program includes:

- A substantial area of parkland (approximately 193 ha or 24%) has been added since 2009, supporting the trend of significant increases in park land.
- The City considers 85% of their community parkland to be natural in character.
- While the City has only two dedicated parks planning staff – 1 parks planner and one outdoor programmer, they have almost 30 full-time operational staff dedicated to developing and maintaining community parks, boulevards and public spaces, along with about 20 seasonal staff. They also have several parks custodians and civic property custodians.
- The City has 1 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission which services as an advisory board. Positions on the commission include:
  - 3 City Councillors
  - 3 RDN Representatives
  - 6 Members at Large
  - Senior staff attend commission meetings
- There are several sub-committees of the PRC Commission. The mandate of the commission is to represent the public for key decisions. Some key tasks they complete include grant approvals, review and approval of staff recommendations for political decisions, review and comment on annual budgets and input on other key decisions.
- The City runs an extensive **Volunteers in Parks** program that includes opportunities for Neighbourhood Playground Development, Invasive Plant Removal, Youth Opportunities, Park Wardens, Public Art, Gatekeepers, Park Naturalists, Community Gardens, Beautifications and Boulevard Tree Planting opportunities.

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2.3 Evolution of Community Parks & Trails

2.3.1 Parkland Growth & Development

Since its beginning in the 1960s, the community parks and trails system has been growing at an accelerating pace. In Electoral Areas E, F, G and H community park area has grown from approximately 2 hectares of parkland in 1965 to almost 190 hectares in 2012.

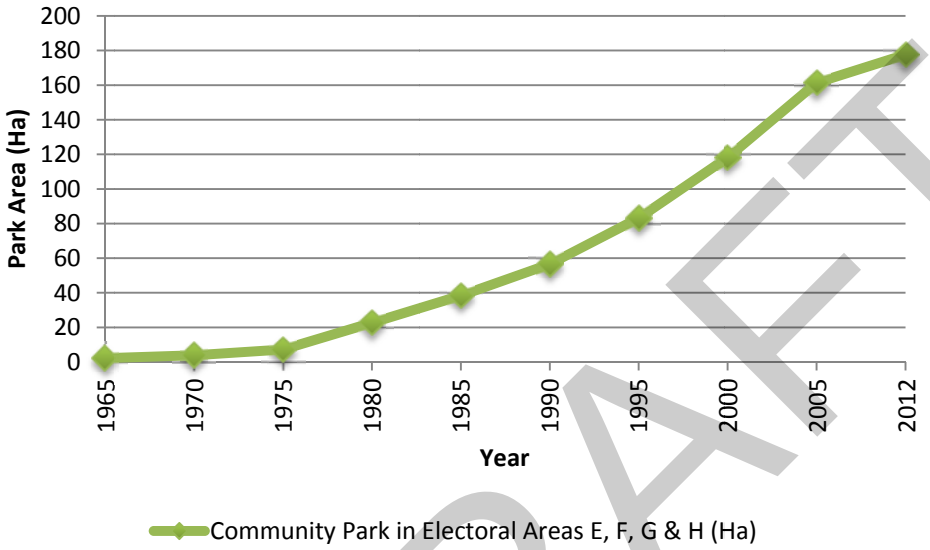

Figure 4: Community Park Land Growth in Electoral Areas E, F, G, H 1965-2012

Table 14 compares provides a snapshot comparison of how the growth of community parkland in Electoral Areas E, F, G and H has related to population growth in the RDN over the past 20 years.

Table 14: Parkland vs. Population Growth 1991 - 2011

	Population Growth	Parkland Growth
1991	Total RDN Population 102,411	Community Park 57 ha
2011	Total RDN Population 146,574	Community Park 180ha
% Change over 20 years	43%	216%
Average Annual Growth Rate	2.2%/year	10.8%/year

While this is a general snapshot in time, the trend shows that Community parkland growth in Electoral Areas E, F, G and H has accelerated at a greater speed than population growth during this timeframe.

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2.3.2 Evolution of Parkland Type

Natural and undeveloped parkland have very few requirements for maintenance and operations.

When parkland is developed with amenities, maintenance requirements including safety inspections, mowing and repairs increase substantially.

Public input during this process indicated that in many areas the public is generally satisfied with the amount of community parkland that is available. However, input indicates that there is a desire for more parkland that is developed to a neighbourhood standard – with amenities such as playgrounds, structures, signage, trails and manicured areas.

When the community parks function began, the focus was largely on obtaining and preserving parkland and open space. In these early days, parkland was typically held in a natural undeveloped state with no amenities. Given the rural nature of the Electoral Areas, demand and capacity for more urban-style parks was limited. During this time, staff and funding resources were very limited and did not support park development.

Between population increase, densification of communities and awareness around the value of access to park, public demand for improved parkland has been growing steadily. Over time, the community parks function has evolved from a mechanism for preserving open space to a function that supports strategic planning, design, development and operation of parkland.

Undeveloped parks, including nature parks and potential neighbourhood parks that are held in reserve for future development, receive little to no maintenance, which means operational costs for these sites are minimal. When parkland is developed, even to a small degree, maintenance requirements increase as well. Developed parks invite public use, which increases maintenance requirements, at minimum, for safety. Practices including safety inspections and tree and amenity maintenance are required.

Table 15 provides an initial overview of tasks, and where available, estimates that are typically associated with developed parks. These estimates are intended to provide an overview of the level of effort required to maintain a developed park. Actual costs should be tracked and refined as parkland is developed to maintain an understanding of current operational requirements.

Table 15: Preliminary Estimates for Maintenance Requirements

Task	Budget Estimate
Mowing	$65/acre
Garbage Receptacle	First Can at Site = $600/year Additional Cans at Site = $350/year
Porta Potty	$1600/year
Weeding	$35/hour
Tree Maintenance	Varies
Structure Repairs	Varies
Trail Maintenance	Varies

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2.3.3 Evolution of Parks Servicing

Staffing for parks services has evolved over the past two decades. *Table 16* summarizes the records and anecdotal information available about the program.

Table 16: Evolution of Parks Services Summary

Date	Staff Description
Pre-1997	**1 Staff** Parks planning is completed under the Planning Department and was staffed by one parks planner who was responsible for reviewing parkland dedication through subdivision. At this time there is no development or maintenance for the system.
1997	**2 Staff** First full-time parks coordinator is hired to complete planning, development and maintenance tasks for parks.
2000	**3 Staff** Parks and Trails Coordinator and Parks Technician are brought on full-time.
2006	**4 Staff** Parks Manager role is created. Summer and temporary staff are added.
2008	**6 Staff** Staff grows to include two planning staff (parks and trails coordinator, parks planner), and 3 operations staff (Parks Operations Coordinator, 2 techs) and 1 Manager. Summer and temp positions are eliminated to create full time positions.
2009	**8 Staff** Community and regional park functions are split recognizing the growth of both systems and a planner and an operations coordinator are added. Total staff includes 3 planning staff, 4 operations staff and 1 manager.

Key trends that have contributed to demand for staffing include:

- Overall growth of the community and regional parks systems.
- A shift from more natural parks to parks with a greater level of development and amenities (e.g. garbage cans, porta-potties, benches, play equipment, manicured grass, etc.) which increases requirements for maintenance and operations.
- Increased regulations and permit requirements for parks development including:
  - External processes (e.g. Riparian Area Regulation, Section 9 Water Act Notification, Archaeological Assessment); and

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  - Internal processes (e.g. Building Permits, Development Permits, Contract Requirements).
- Increased risk management demand, including liability management. For example, in the past volunteers were able to build structures like beach access stairs. Today, increased liability insurance requirements necessitate engineering design and professional construction for large structures.
- Lease requirements with other agencies such as MOTI include higher standards for development.
- Increased design development process for parks including concept development, community consultation, detailed design and construction documentation.
- Technology improvements including website, GIS mapping and social media have increased demand for readily accessible and accurate details.
- Community consultation and participation requirements have increased over time and the number of POSACs has increased from one in 1998 to seven today.

2.3.4 Park System Development

Dedicated parks staff came online in 1997 as demand for community parks projects grew. A review of parks projects in the past 15 years provides an overview of the evolution of parks projects and services. *Table 17* provides an overview of key capital and planning projects completed between 1997 and 2013[1].

Table 17: Community Park Projects 1997-2013

Date	Staff Description
1997	▪ Morden Colliery Bridge and Trail Construction (community park at the time) ▪ San Pareil Boardwalk Install
1998	▪ Miraloma Park Development
1999	▪ Boultbee Park Development ▪ Nanoose Playground Install ▪ Dunsmuir Park Development
2000	▪ Area B Beach Access Study ▪ Area H Beach Access Study

[1] Note: The project list is based on historical records and anecdotal information and should not be considered a comprehensive list of all past projects. The list includes planning and capital projects only – engineering, environmental and other technical studies are not included.

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Date	Staff Description
2001	▪ Nanoose Bay Parks Plan
2002	▪ Area A Trails Study
2003	▪ Area E Beach Access Study
2004	▪ Area F Trails Plan
2005	▪ Cox Community Park- Trail and Bridge Install
2006	▪ Cedar Heritage Centre Playground Install ▪ El Verano Beach Access Parking Lot
2007	▪ Mudge Island Park Shore Restoration ▪ Nelson Boat Ramp Improvements ▪ Joyce Lockwood Stairs Install
2008	▪ Thelma Griffiths Park Redevelopment Planning and Install ▪ Local Motion and Active Communities Grant Application for Meadow Drive Park
2009	▪ Meadow Drive Park Development Planning and Install ▪ Deep Bay Boardwalk ▪ 707 Management Plan ▪ Cedar Skateboard Park Planning ▪ Extension Miners Park Planning and Install ▪ Dashwood Playground Install
2010	▪ Meadow Drive Completion ▪ Cedar Plaza Design Development and Install ▪ Andres Dorit Design ▪ 707 Management Plan (completion) ▪ Decourcy Stairs Install ▪ Fairwinds Neighbourhood Plan
2011	▪ Henry Morgan Design Process ▪ Cedar Plaza Construction ▪ Meadowood Way Park Planning Process ▪ Cedar Skateboard Park Construction Drawings ▪ 3 Grant applications for Henry Morgan, Meadowood Way and Cedar Skateboard park ▪ 707 Signage Plan ▪ Fairwinds Neighbourhood Plan

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Henry Morgan Park, completed in 2013.

Date	Staff Description
2012	▪ Meadowood Way Park Planning Process ▪ Quenelle Lake Boat Launch Planning and Install ▪ Miller Road Bank Armoring ▪ Community Parks and Trails Strategy ▪ 707 Signage Install ▪ South Road Stairs ▪ ACT Trails – Act I development
2013	▪ Henry Morgan Install ▪ Andres Dorit Open House ▪ Blue Back Park Planning ▪ Mudge Island Park Planning ▪ Huxley Planning Process ▪ Skatepark Install ▪ Community Parks and Trails Strategy ▪ Parks & Trails Guidelines & Standards Document ▪ 707 Bank Stabilization ▪ ACT Trails – Act II

2.4 Trends Affecting Community Parks & Trails

2.4.1 Population Growth

Population growth for the RDN over the past 5 years was 5.7% resulting in an additional 8,000 people. While the rate varies considerably between Electoral Areas, the net effect is increasing community pressures on existing staff and resources. In most cases, development accompanies population growth which provides opportunities to acquire or obtain cash-in-lieu funding for community parks. However, acquisition funds are only suitable for obtaining parkland, and costs associated for development, operations and maintenance of parklands may require deeper investment from the RDN.

2.4.2 Aging & Community Expectations

The Baby Boom generation accounts for one-third of the Canadian population and has a profound effect on parks and leisure services. This population cohort is often interested in low-impact activities such as walking, biking and is focused on improved health. The development of greenways, bikeways and pathway systems is a key priority for community open spaces systems.

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In addition to walking and biking for recreation there is also a trend towards active transportation and a desire to move through communities without reliance on motorized transportation. The CPTS engagement process reflected this trend identifying a strong emphasis on providing roadside trails. The results from the online surveys in the CPTS showed dissatisfaction with regards to trail access for all of the Electoral Areas. It is anticipated that this will be a focus for community parks and trails in the coming years.

The Baby Boom generation, which accounts for a large portion of our population, is becoming an increasingly active population that demands access to active transportation and low-impact recreation.

2.4.3 Downloading

Downloading from senior levels of government to the Regional and Municipal governments has been occurring in recent years, and this trend can be expected to continue. With growing health care and education costs, the province is becoming increasingly less involved in providing parks services at the provincial level. This trend means that local governments, including the RDN, are required to provide an augmented role in park and trail provision. These trends and the results from the public engagement process suggest that the RDN parks staffing levels will need to expand to meet the community needs and expectations – in particular, additional resources aimed at trail planning and construction.

2.4.4 Benefits of Community Parks & Trails

The benefits of parks and trails have been well researched and documented over the past decade. There is a growing awareness that access to nature and quality open spaces is fundamental to health, social function and economic prosperity.

Economic Benefits

Economic value can be measured through property value, profits generated from increase in tourism and savings on infrastructure to manage water. Several studies have been conducted to help better understand the dollar value that parks and trail systems bring to neighbourhoods.

Access to outdoor recreation opportunities is becoming an increasingly important part of the amenity value that people are seeking when selecting places to live.

Parks and trail systems typically have a positive impact on property values in both urban and rural areas; in more densely populated areas the impact is greater, raising land values. A study prepared in a rural county near Austin, Texas shows that parks had no significant negative impact on the property prices (Nicholls and Crompton, 2005). In recent years, buyers are showing increasing interest in the amenity value of their neighbourhoods – often highly valuing proximity to parkland when selecting a home. This phenomenon is call “hedonic value”. The main factor that affects property values near amenity open spaces is the distance. A recent study conducted in Miamiville, Ohio concludes that a home in the Hamilton County will devalue by $USD 8,960 as it moves away from Little’s Miami Scenic

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trailhead by 300 meters (vom Hofe and Parent). Residential properties close to the Minuteman Bikeway and Nashua River Rail Trail in Massachusetts sold closer to their list price compared to those more distant from the trails. Furthermore, properties closest to the trails sold nearly twice as fast than those that were not (State of Florida, 2006).

Parks and trail systems have also a positive impact on tourism. A large trail system can be a recreation and a destination and thus attracts visitors in the area. The Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), a multi-use trail between Pennsylvania and Maryland, has generated over $USD 40 million in direct annual spending and $USD 7.5 million in wages in 2008. Business owners along the GAP attribute 25% of their revenues to their proximity to the trail (The Great Allengheny Passage Economic Impact Study, 2008).

Finally, parks and trail systems can help reduce the infrastructure costs through presentation of natural watersheds. Surface drainage strategies reduce construction and maintenance costs from conventional underground drainage infrastructure. In a subdivision development in the USA, a developer saved $800 per lot with the use of an open drainage system, conveying the stormwater run-off through swales to irrigate agricultural areas, rather than of installing a closed drainage system with storm sewers (Rocky Mountain Institute, 2008).

Health Benefits

Participation in physical activity and recreation is a key determinant of health status and is known to:

- Reduce risk of heart disease and stroke, the leading cause of death in Canada.
- Help prevent certain types of cancers including colon, breast and lung.
- Help combat type 2 diabetes, the fourth greatest cause of death in Canada.
- Reduce occurrence of youth obesity, which often translates to adult obesity.
- Reduce the occurrence of adult obesity, a key contributor to chronic health conditions.
- Help reduce incidence of fall-related injuries and chronic conditions in older adults.
- Foster social opportunities and contribute to mental health by reducing stress, combatting depression and building emotional well-being.

“United States health authorities have identified increasing physical activity as a key factor in controlling health care costs in that country, through the prevention of unnecessary illness, disability and premature death, and the

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maintenance of an improved quality of life into old age" (Colman & Walker, 2004).

"Just over 1,400 British Columbians die prematurely each year due to physical inactivity, accounting for 5.0% of all premature deaths" (Katzmarzyk, et.al, 2000). Chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes are sometimes known as lifestyle diseases due to their strong correlation to personal behaviour choices. Twenty percent or more of the cases of type 2 diabetes, stroke, coronary heart disease and colon cancer result from a sedentary lifestyle; being obese more than doubles an individual's risk of dying early – or losing an average of seven years of life (BCHLA, 2005). Statistics Canada (2004) reports that in 2004, 26% of youth between the ages of 2 and 17 were overweight or obese. This is over 2-1/2 times higher than the prevalence of youth obesity 25 years ago.

Physical inactivity is identified as a major contributor to chronic diseases. In BC, approximately 1.2 million people, or 36% of adults suffer from some type of chronic condition (BCHLA, 2005). Chronic diseases are long-lasting conditions that are rarely cured completely. For people suffering from chronic diseases, the effect is felt physically, emotionally and mentally. It is often a challenge to maintain normal routines and relationships. Studies show that chronic diseases cost BC's economy around $3.8 billion annually (BCHLA, 2005). The good news is that a large proportion of the chronic disease incidences in BC could be prevented through increased physical activity.

Regular, life-long physical activity can help increase overall wellness and reduce illnesses. Over the long term, it can postpone disability and allow for longer independent living in elderly individuals. According to Torjman (2004), older adults who are physically active show characteristics of being physiologically one to two decades younger than their sedentary counterparts.

Physical activity does not have to be overly strenuous or prolonged – moderate levels of physical activity can have significant health benefits. Many experts believe that building physical activity into daily routines through accessible recreation opportunities and active transportation is one of the most effective ways to improve community fitness.

Active transportation is becoming increasingly popular as people realize the benefits of regular activity. Trail development helps support active transportation.

More than just improving physical health, recreation has been linked to mental health. It is connected to improved self-esteem, decreased stress and anxiety and overall well-being.

Generally, physical activity makes people feel better about themselves and helps reduce physiological reactions to stress and anxiety. It is also known to help sleep and improve mood. "Physical activity can be considered both for its therapeutic effects on mental illness, and also for its impact on mental health in the general population" (Britain's Department of Health, Physical

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Activity, Health Improvement and Prevention, 2004). Overall, physically active people feel happier and more satisfied with life, regardless of socioeconomic or health status.

Connections with the community and a supportive environment can both prevent and mitigate the impact of mental health disorders in some people and encourage overall well-being. Recreation facilities, parks and trails can be places for safe physical activity and mental solace.

Community Benefits

Parks have a key role in building social cohesion and civic pride.

Recreation engages our people and builds social cohesion resulting in communities with civic pride and participation. People feel an emotional connection to the places that bring them enjoyment, making recreation nodes truly a heart within our communities.

As the single largest citizen participation mechanism in BC, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities enable hundreds of thousands of British Columbians to participate in leisure activities. Park, recreation and cultural facilities offer places and programs for us to meet and build relationships. The resulting social capital – relationships and norms that are created when people come together out of a shared purpose – creates communities where people feel connected, children have positive role models and celebrations occur (Bloom et.al, 2005).

In communities that offer a wide variety of facilities and recreation options, there are opportunities for all residents to participate regardless of economic or cultural background. Sport, culture and other recreational pursuits can encourage mutual respect, inclusion, tolerance and understanding.

Every citizen is a potential participant and can be involved according to their needs, preferences, abilities and goals. Participation can act to address and promote social change by incorporating safety, gender equity, equitable access and violence prevention.

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3.0 PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS

3.1 Goals & Objectives of the CPTS

Goals

The CPTS is intended to provide a framework for decision-making for community parks and trails. Acquisition and development of community parks should follow the following goals:

Connect People and Places

Develop an inter-connected system of parks and trails that supports active transportation (travel to destinations), recreation (exercise) and nature appreciation (spiritual) that is accessible to all community residents.

Provide Social and Recreation Opportunities

Create a community where a variety of public spaces provide local opportunities for active living, social interaction and play.

Protect the Environment

Safeguard the natural setting and character of the community and surrounding environmental functions.

Support Community Partnerships

Encourage community spirit and energy when implementing the strategy.

Objectives

A related objective is to provide outdoor venues that bring together members of the community both physically and socially, while improving the overall livability of the community. This will be accomplished through:

- Developing a community trails system that provides residents with alternatives to motorized travel and recreational connections linking key destinations;
- Providing local recreational opportunities and public gathering spaces for community residents that are generally within a 1 km radius;
- Providing information that lets people know about the system available to them; and
- Protecting environmentally and culturally sensitive features and functions.

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Electoral Area Vision Statements

Through public consultation a Vision Statement was created for each Electoral Area. While the visions share common components, each shows a unique variation in emphasis and priority for community parks and trails.

The process used to develop a vision statement that reflects the community values involved the Advisory Committee, respondents to the online surveys, and Open House participants. A draft list of key relevant words or phrases that have been used in similar projects was provided in Survey #1 and at the Open House and residents chose from the list. These words were crafted into a draft vision statement that was tested for validity during the second Open House and online survey and suggestions were incorporated into the final vision statement for each Electoral Area.

Electoral Area E

"A vibrant community where residents can easily access community parks and beaches through a system of inter-connected trails that provides for recreation, social interaction and nature appreciation."

Electoral Area F

"A vibrant community where all residents can easily access community trails for recreation and nature appreciation and local parks for play and social interaction."

Electoral Area G

"A vibrant community where residents can easily access community parks and other destinations using a system of inter-connected trails that provides for recreation, social interaction and nature appreciation."

Electoral Area H

"A vibrant community where residents can easily access community Parks, beaches, services, and destinations using a system of inter-connected trails for recreation, social interaction and nature appreciation."

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3.2 Community Parks Classification

Classifying community parks according to their primary function provides a basis for understanding the composition and distribution of parkland in the region. This classification enables the RDN to:

- Plan for present and future population needs;
- Prioritize classes of park development that may be under represented in some areas;
- Evaluate ideas for acquisition and improvement against criteria to ensure land base is suited for intended purpose; and
- Better understand operational budget requirements.

3.2.1 Proposed Community Park Classes

There are five park classes proposed for the community park system:

1) Neighbourhood Park
2) Natural Park
3) Linear Park
4) Water Access
5) Surplus

The following tables summarize typical characteristics of each of the five park classes.

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1. Neighbourhood Park

Table 18: Neighbourhood Park Characteristics

Function		
Primary Function	▪ Provide active recreation amenities	
Secondary Function(s)	▪ Protection of natural areas ▪ Provision of trails ▪ Protection of cultural or heritage features	
Criteria		
Usable Space	▪ Min. 0.5 acres of usable area	
Max. Slope	▪ <20% slope for 90% of site	
Shape	▪ Equilateral rectangle preferred ▪ Good road frontage exposure (corner lot preferred) ▪ No panhandle lots ▪ Minimal number of residential backyards along the park edges	
Encumbrances	▪ Absent or minimal encumbrances such as geotechnical, floodplain, environmental and underground utilities (encumbrances are permissible over and above the 5% dedication)	
Location	▪ Closer/within population centres; not in lower density rural areas	
Other	▪ Water service connection where possible	
Typical Development		
Amenities	▪ Playground ▪ Trails ▪ Sport Field ▪ Sport Court ▪ Washroom ▪ Picnic Facilities	▪ Benches ▪ Signage ▪ Bike Facilities ▪ Parking ▪ Art ▪ Water Service

Neighbourhood parks often include amenities like playgrounds and open space..

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2. Natural Park

The primary objective of natural parks is protection of environmental features.

Table 19: Natural Park Characteristics

Function		
Primary Function	▪ Protection of a significant environmental features or functions	
Secondary Function(s)	▪ Protection of cultural or heritage features ▪ Provision of trails ▪ Providing local 'green space' for aesthetics and nature appreciation	
Criteria		
Usable Space	▪ Sufficient to protect environmental feature	
Max. Slope	▪ No max. slope ▪ Not to include high risk, geotechnically-sensitive lands that require significant engineering works	
Shape	▪ No constraints	
Encumbrances	▪ Absent or minimal encumbrances that may impact environmental protection	
Location	▪ No location constraints	
Typical Development		
Amenities	▪ Trail segments ▪ Benches ▪ Fencing	▪ Interpretive Signage ▪ Habitat Restoration ▪ Wildlife Boxes

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3. Linear Park

Table 20: Linear Park Characteristics

Function		
Primary Function	▪ Connectivity to community destinations through active transportation	
Secondary Function(s)	▪ Access to natural areas ▪ Emergency access/egress	
Criteria		
Usable Space	▪ Minimum 4m on cleared sites ▪ Minimum 10m where significant trees are present	
Max. Slope	▪ 2% preferred trail slope for accessible trails ▪ 5% max. slope over long distances for accessible trails ▪ Where slopes exceed 5%, landings required for accessible trails ▪ Slopes may be steeper in backcountry trails ▪ Switchbacks or steps on steep lands	
Shape	▪ Linear	
Encumbrances	▪ Ability to build hard surface pathway without encumbering access to underground utilities ▪ Not obstructed by utility boxes, hydro, mailbox, hydrants, etc.	
Location	▪ Connecting key destinations	
Typical Development		
Amenities	▪ Trail ▪ Signage ▪ Fencing	▪ Bollards ▪ Benches

Linear parks provide trail connections.

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4. Water Access

Water accesses provide opportunities view and interact with oceans and rivers.

Table 21: Water Access Characteristics

Function		
Primary Function	▪ Access to ocean or river frontage	
Secondary Function(s)	▪ Natural area protection ▪ Viewing opportunities	
Criteria		
Usable Space	▪ No required size ▪ Unstable slopes to be avoided	
Max. Slope	▪ No max. slope ▪ Low bank sites with easier access are preferred ▪ Slopes >50% may require stairs and have higher costs	
Shape	▪ Linear	
Encumbrances	▪ Access achieved with minimal tree or vegetation removal	
Location	▪ Use of public, undeveloped road rights of way is preferred ▪ No encroachment onto adjacent properties ▪ Adequate buffer to adjacent private properties	
Typical Development		
Amenities	▪ Parking ▪ Benches ▪ Washroom	▪ Signage ▪ Stairs ▪ Trail

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5. Surplus Park

Table 22: Surplus Park Characteristics

Function		
Primary Function	▪ Lands acquired in past without environmental protection or active park value or potential ▪ The cost/benefit analysis suggests disposition may be desirable	
Secondary Function(s)	▪ n/a	
Criteria		
Usable Space	▪ n/a	
Max. Slope	▪ n/a	
Shape	▪ n/a	
Encumbrances	▪ n/a	
Location	▪ Varies	
Typical Development		
Amenities	▪ None	▪

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3.2.2 Summary of Existing Park Types

Table 23 provides a summary of the total number parks by type in each of the four Electoral Areas.

Table 23: Existing Park Classification Summary

Park Classification	Electoral Area E	Electoral Area F	Electoral Area G	Electoral Area H
Neighbourhood Park	9	3	10	7
Natural Park	8	7	7	7
Water Access	0	0	3	10
Linear Park	14	4	13	9
Surplus	0	3	5	2
TOTAL	**31**	**17**	**38**	**35**

Summary Observations

- Areas E and G, the most suburban communities have the greatest number of neighbourhood parks. Area F, with its rural nature has fewer neighbourhood parks.
- All areas have approximately even numbers of natural parks.
- Area H has the greatest number of secured water access parks. Area E does not have any existing water access parks even though it does have oceanfront.
- Areas E and G, the most suburban communities also have the greatest number of linear parks.
- Area G has the greatest number of parks deemed to be potentially surplus.

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3.3 Community Trails Classifications

Concurrent with the CPTS, the RDN is developing a set of Parks and Trails Design Guidelines. The guidelines have been developed for creating and maintaining parks and trails. The document provides descriptions, examples and guidelines for three different classes of trails. Classifying trails types helps to:

- Plan and develop trails to a consistent standard;
- Better understand operations budget requirements.

Type 1 trails are proposed to have hard or compacted surfaces that are accessible for a wide range of transportation options.

3.3.1 Proposed Trail Classes

There are three trail classes proposed for the RDN:

1) Type 1 – Hard/Compacted Surface Trail
2) Type 2 – Soft Surface Trail
3) Type 3 – Natural Surface Trail

The following table summarizes typical characteristics of each of the three trail classes.

Table 24: Summary of Trail Classes

Trail Class	Typical Characteristics
Type 1: Hard /Compacted Surface Trail (Highest level of development)	▪ Urban or rural areas ▪ Target Uses: Active transportation, tourism, recreation ▪ Target user groups: Local residents, commuters, tourists ▪ Level of Amenities: High ▪ Surface: Paved/compacted gravel ▪ Maintenance Level: High ▪ Construction and Maintenance Costs: High
Type 2: Soft Surface Trail (Medium development)	▪ Urban or rural areas ▪ Target uses: Recreation ▪ Target user groups: Local residents ▪ Level of Amenities: Low ▪ Surface: Crushed gravel or natural surface ▪ Maintenance Level: Moderate ▪ Construction and Maintenance Costs: Moderate

Type 2 trails will have a soft surface and will be suitable for local connections.

Type 3 trails will have a natural surface and will be suitable backcountry and rural recreation.

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Type 3: Natural Surface (Minimum development)	▪ Rural or backcountry areas ▪ Target uses: Recreation ▪ Target user groups: Local residents, tourists ▪ Level of Amenities: Low to none ▪ Surface: Natural, gravel where needed ▪ Maintenance Level: Low ▪ Construction and Maintenance Costs: Low

At the time of the CPTS development, existing community trails have not been classified in the RDN. As new trails are developed, mapping and documentation should reflect the trail classes identified in the Parks and Trails Design Guidelines.

3.4 Parkland Provision

Different approaches can be used for determining how much community parkland should be provided in Electoral Areas:

- **Traditional Standards-Based Approach:** This traditional methodology applies a numerical standard to evaluating parkland provision. A typical standard for community parks is 10-15 acres/1000 population. There are challenges applying this approach evenly between urban and rural communities as it cannot factor in the different demographic profiles of communities or the class of parkland being provided. The existing community parkland provision for the Electoral Areas in the CPTS ranges from 11.5 to 39.5 acres per 1000 population.
- **Distance Standard Approach:** 500m is a common standard for measuring walking distance to community parks. This length has been identified as the distance most people are willing to walk to a park. This standard is most relevant in urban and suburban population densities where private open space is limited. In rural areas, private lots are typically larger and access to rural open space is more prevalent, reducing the need for dedicated park within walking distance. Due to the more rural nature of the Electoral Areas in the RDN, it is recommended that a 1 km radius walking distance be used as a distance standard for neighbourhood parks in suburban and urban areas. Greater distances apply in rural areas.
- **Community-Based Approach:** A community-based approach combines quantitative data and qualitative information such as demographics, population growth and densities, distance to other park types (Regional parks, provincial parks, Crown lands, etc.), active and passive parkland types and user input to identify priorities for community parks decisions. This is the recommended approach for developing community parks and trails in the RDN.

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3.4.1 Process for Determining Parkland Provision

The following steps are proposed for determining need and location of additional parkland using a community-based approach:

1. Review existing parkland classes to understand how much of each park type exists in the local area.
2. Review the existing community parkland acreage per 1000 population as a general indication of parkland provision.
3. Review mapping showing 1 km radius circles around existing parkland to show if the area is generally served by existing parkland.
4. Consider the following key statistics to understand the general demographic profile and sense of need for the Electoral Area being considered:
   - Percent change in population over the past 5 years;
   - Population density per sq. km;
   - Median age of population;
   - Percent of population under 15 years old and under;
   - Percent population without children at home
5. Consider priorities identified in this plan through public consultation (See Section 4.2), as well as other input received through the parks department.
6. Map results of analysis onto the Community Parks and Trails Mapping for the Electoral Area and review.

This analysis will be useful to determine strategic analysis of needs, value of park dedication versus cash-in-lieu and a general indication of the class of park that is best suited to the location and demographic profile.

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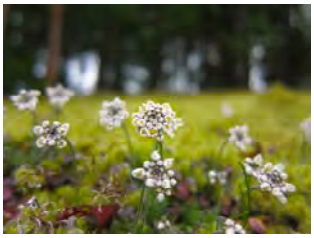
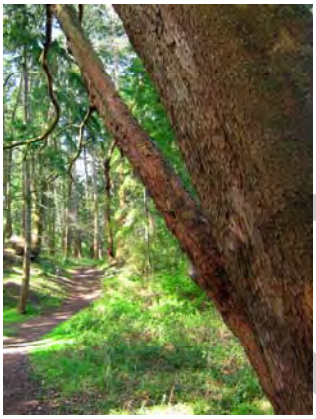
3.5 Community Parkland Acquisition Criteria

Neighbourhood park values



Ecological park values



Linear park values

Water access values

One of the challenges encountered when planning for community parks is evaluating whether new acquisitions fit the needs of the overall system. To support this evaluation, community parkland acquisition criteria are proposed. These criteria will:

- Support RDN Staff and POSAC members evaluate potential community park and trail acquisitions;
- Provide developer clients a set of clear criteria that will be considered to review in advance of proposing dedication;
- Increase consistency and objectivity in assessments over time.

Table 25 summarizes a set of proposed criteria and value questions to be asked when evaluating potential community parkland acquisitions. **Appendix C: Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist** provides a tool for working through these questions during evaluation.

The checklist is organized under 6 categories and is designed to align with the proposed parks classes (See **Section 3.2.1: Proposed Community Park Classes).** The 6 categories are described as follows:

- **General Demographics & Public Values** –These values typically apply to all types of community parks. Parks that score high in this category may be well suited for acquisition and addition to the community parks system.
- **Neighbourhood Park Values** – These values are desirable for establishing neighbourhood parks with amenities. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for neighbourhood parks.
- **Ecological Park Values** – These values include protection and enhancement of natural environments. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for ecological park development.
- **Linear Park Values** – These values include connectivity and trail potential. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for trail development.
- **Water Access Values** – These values pertain to water sites. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for water access development.
- **Affordability** – These values include costs for acquiring, developing and maintaining park properties and typically apply to all community parks. Parks that score high in this category will be more cost effective.

Where review identifies potential parkland to be low in all or most of the above categories, alternatives to acquisition (e.g. cash-in-lieu) should be considered.

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Table 25: Proposed Criteria for Community Parkland Evaluation

Proposed Criteria	Value Question
General Demographic & Public Values	
1) Population Density	Is the site located in an area with substantial existing or anticipated residential density where there will be a high demand for community park?
2) Existing Park Access	Will the acquisition provide parkland to a neighbourhood that is currently underserved by parks and recreation opportunities?
3) Level of Public Interest	Is there a known community interest for park development in the area?
4) Neighbouring Property Impacts	Could park development in this area have a significant negative impact on existing properties in terms of property value, privacy, noise or other undesirable impacts?
5) Encumbrances	Is the site reasonably free of encumbrances that would impact part development such as such as geotechnical, floodplain, environmental and underground utilities?
Neighbourhood Park Values	
6) Usable Space	Does the site provide at least 0.5 acres of usable park area?
7) Slope	Are there gentle slopes for most of the site that would support a variety of active recreation opportunities?
8) Location	Is there a significant residential population within walking distance (1km) to the park location?
9) Recreation Potential	Is the site suitable to provide recreational amenities that appeal to the surrounding community?
10) Accessibility	Is the site easily accessible to surrounding population, e.g. is it connected to public roads, trails and access routes?
11) Cultural, Historic or Heritage Values	Does that site contain any valuable cultural, historical or heritage features that warrant protection?
12) Education or Interpretive Values	Does the site provide features with educational or interpretive value and would support interpretive development?

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Proposed Criteria	Value Question
Ecological Park Values	
13) Sensitive Ecosystem Protection	Does the site include significant sensitive ecosystems that warrant protection?
14) Unique Landscape Features	Are there unique or representative landscape features such as significant trees, rock formations, water features or other features that warrant protection?
15) Endangered/ Protected Species	Are there known blue- or red-listed species occurring on the site or within the surrounding area?
16) Potential Habitat or Wildlife Corridor	Does the site have potential to maintain or form a wildlife corridor that connects natural features?
Linear Park Values	
17) Trail Route Connection	Does the site form a potential connection to the regional or community park trail system?
18) Community Amenity Connection	Does the proposed site link community amenities or facilities to a neighbourhood (e.g. provides access to schools, retail areas, parks or other destinations?
19) Max. Slope	Does the route provide gentle grades for accessible trail?
Water Values	
20) Shoreline or Riparian Protection	Is the site near a water body or river corridor and is capable of providing shoreline protection or enhancement?
21) Accessibility	Is the site reasonably accessible with minimum need for stair or ramp construction?
22) Small Development Footprint	Can the park be developed to provide water access with no or minimal tree or vegetation removal?
Affordability	
23) Acquisition Costs	Can the site be acquired with little or no cost?

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Proposed Criteria	Value Question
24) Development Costs	Is the public investment required to develop the park to a suitable standard reasonable? Are there any unusual or extensive anticipated costs?
25) Maintenance Costs	Is the public investment required to maintain the park to a suitable standard reasonable?

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4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The outcome of this plan is a set of recommendations that support the implementation of the vision, objectives and priorities generated through the CPTS process. These recommendations are provided for Board, staff and POSAC consideration within the context of annual community planning and budget considerations. It is important that an adaptive management approach is taken when implementing the plan, so that when new opportunities or circumstances arise, Board members and staff are able to make informed decisions and appropriate adjustments.

Two types of recommendations are provided for the CPTS:

- **Operational Recommendations:** Ideas for policy development, planning initiatives, management strategies and information distribution.
- **Project Recommendations:** In addition to operational recommendations that span the entire CPTS, several project recommendations and ideas were gathered for each Electoral Area during this process. These recommendations should be considered as potential priority projects when planning and budgeting community park development.

Section 5.0: Implementation Summary provides an overview of the recommendations. Each year, staff should review the recommendations and prepare detailed strategies for funding and implementation of priority projects for consideration.

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4.1 Operational Recommendations

4.1.1 Planning

Recommendation #1: Complete Regular Updates of the CPTS	
Review and update the CPTS in 2018 and complete a new study including public consultation in 2023.	
Rationale:	This plan provides a long-term planning horizon. While it is anticipated that projects identified during this process will continue to be important, it should also be expected that new priorities and opportunities will emerge. In 5 years, staff should review accomplishments of the CPTS Plan to date and re-evaluate priorities for the next 5 years. In 10 years, a full update of the plan is recommended.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2018 Review 2023 Complete Update

Recommendation #2: Use Classifications & Criteria	
Encourage all RDN departments and committees to use the Community Park Classifications and Criteria for Community Parkland Evaluation identified in this document and the 2013 Parks & Trails Design Guidelines to evaluate and plan parkland that is proposed as part of development applications.	
Rationale:	Planning acquisition using the Parks Classifications and Criteria supports selection and development of new parks and trails based on their contribution to the overall system and electoral area. Use of consistent criteria will help provide clarity for staff, POSACs and the development community during the development process. This also permits land to be evaluated in context of the larger parks and trails network.
Resources:	Low Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	Immediately and Ongoing

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Recommendation #3: Follow Archaeological Guidelines	
Follow guidelines developed in the Aquilla Report for considering cultural and heritage potential when planning or developing community parks and trails.	
Rationale:	It is the legal responsibility of land managers to ensure activities and operations do not impact sites protected under the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA), whether these sites are known (registered) or not. The database and mapping by Aquilla Archaeology developed during this process 'flags' areas of sensitivity or potential sensitivity. This information should be reviewed as part of planning for parks acquisition or development.
Resources:	Low Staff Time for Initial Evaluation
Recommended Timing:	Immediately and Ongoing

Recommendation #4: Include Parks in OCP Updates	
Ensure park planning and development is included within OCP updates to review the vision and potential projects for specific Electoral Areas.	
Rationale:	OCPs are subject to ongoing review and renewal. In the past, parks and trails have not been extensively addressed in Electoral Area OCP documents. The OCP review process is an opportunity to review parks and trails within the broader community vision and review and redefine the vision and priorities for the future.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	During all OCP updates

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Recommendation #5: Review POSAC Structure & Mandate	
Complete regular reviews of the POSAC Structure and Mandate to review efficiency, role and contribution in the evolving parks and trails system.	
Rationale:	POSACs were created several years ago to play an important role in supporting community parks and trails planning and development. As the community parks and trails system evolves, it is important to revisit the mandate and services of these groups to ensure they remain efficient and applicable to the present structure of the parks system. It is recommended that the structure be internally reviewed every 5 years to: ▪ Review mandate ▪ Set expectations and work focus ▪ Update policies and documentation ▪ Review staff time allocations
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2014 2019

Recommendation #6: Establish POSAC Chair Meetings	
Consider establishing regular POSAC chair meetings to support collaboration, discussion and identification of issues and opportunities within the larger community park system.	
Rationale:	Each Electoral Area has a POSAC that participates in community park planning and development. The CVRD has established regular meetings between the chairs of their commissions to encourage discussion, collaboration and understanding. The RDN may wish to consider a similar type of meeting to encourage collaborative planning for community parks throughout the RDN.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	Annually or Bi-annually

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Recommendation #7: Create a Volunteer Policy & Guidelines

Consider developing a clear volunteer policy and guidelines that provides more information about involvement with community parks and trails.

Rationale:	Volunteer programs are a good opportunity for people to contribute to community park and trail development. By providing clear policy and guidelines for involvement, it becomes easier to manage volunteer services and expectations.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2015

Recommendation #8: Establish Partner Communications

Seek to establish a system for ongoing Partnership Communications with other municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nations that provide community parks and trails services.

Rationale:	Community parks and trails services are provided by other Regional Districts, RDN municipalities and First Nations. Consultation during this process indicated a desire to increase communication lines between staff to: ▪ Share funding and development opportunities that are mutually beneficial to local residents (e.g. municipal and regional district staff may have collaboration opportunities for parks and trails that are near or crossing boundaries) ▪ Share resources, programs and policies to avoid duplication of effort and gain value from understanding other systems ▪ Discuss annual projects to identify opportunities for collaboration, shared funding and design considerations ▪ Discuss trends, benefits and shared knowledge
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	Bi-Annual or Quarterly Meetings

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Recommendation #9: Create Developer Information Package	
Develop a clear information package for developers that outlines expectations for community park and trail dedication. This information should be provided to all developer applicants at the beginning of their project.	
Rationale:	Clarifying objectives and expectations for parks and trails at the beginning of the development process reduces potential for time delays during the review process. Creating an easy-to-use developer information package for each Electoral Area that provides the vision and priorities for community parks and trails, along with the Park Classification and Criteria for Community Parkland Evaluation will help improve clarity.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2014

Recommendation #10: Support Community Projects	
Encourage and support community interest groups to enter into trail building and/or management agreements with the province for key recreational trails located on Crown land.	
Rationale:	Community groups often have capacity and interest for trail development and protection. The RDN's resources do not support active involvement for securing all Crown land trails; however, there is capacity to support community groups in establishing agreements (e.g. Section 57) that permit management and development. An example is the equestrian trail by the Silver Spur Riding Club in which the RDN provided information and support to the Club as they navigated the permitting process with the province.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	Ongoing

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Recommendation #11: Prepare Active Transportation Plan

Prepare an Active Transportation Plan that encourages inclusivity to all levels of mobility for the District 69 Electoral Areas based on work completed to date in the Regional Parks & Trails Plan, CPTS and Parks and Trails Guidelines.

Rationale:	Active Transportation plans identify options that promote physical activity through alternate forms of transportation. Benefits of having an Active Transportation Plan include: ▪ Potential to access active transportation grants; ▪ Identification of opportunities for partnership; and ▪ Generation of interest from the local community for volunteer programs and fundraising. It is recommended that RDN staff prepare active transportation map and report based on work done to date through the CPTS and related processes.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2015

Recommendation #12: Consider DCC Policy

Consider development of a Development Cost Charges (DCC) policy for each Electoral Area to support acquisition and development of select park amenities (as permitted by the Local Government Act).

Rationale:	The *Local Government Act* Sections 932 to 937 enable regional districts to collect DCCs for infrastructure improvements necessitated by community growth. There is potential to collect DCCs for parkland acquisition and minor improvements, including trails, fencing, landscaping, drainage, and washrooms. Currently the RDN is not using DCCs for parkland dedication or development. Given the funding limitations for community parks and trails, DCCs may support the higher level of development being requested for community parks.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time Potential Consulting for Legal Review
Recommended Timing:	2017

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Recommendation #13: Develop Disposition Policy	
Develop a Community Parkland Disposition Policy for consideration by the RDN Board.	
Rationale:	The CPTS process identified some community parkland that shows relatively low value for the community parks and trails system. The RDN is responsible for liability and maintenance costs for these lands while receiving very little in terms of recreational or environmental value so it may be advantageous to dispose of the lands. The Local Government Act permits disposition of parkland through a bylaw process and adopted with electorate approval through referendum or Alternate Approval Process (AAP). The process should only be completed where potential benefit offsets the costs and efforts of completing an AAP process.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time Potential Consulting for Survey and Legal Review
Recommended Timing:	2016

Recommendation #14: Subdivision Application Process Review	
Review and update the RDN "Review of the Consideration of Parkland in Conjunction with the Subdivision Application Process" Policy (Updated 2006) to streamline the subdivision review process. Include the proposed Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist (see Appendix C).	
Rationale:	The review period for subdivision proposals that include community parkland dedication takes four to five times longer than those that do not. While parkland dedication is a key part of the process, efforts to streamline the steps should be completed.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2016

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4.1.2 Resources & Capacity

Recommendation #15: Match Services Levels & Funding Allocations

Match level of service expectations with funding allocations for community parks and trails.

Rationale:	Population growth, community expectations for developed park, densification and downloading all increase pressure on park funding allocations. It is important to match the level of service expectations with funding that is available for parks and trails. ▪ If community parks and trails continue to be added to the system and move from more natural parks to more developed parks, increased resources will be required. ▪ If resource allocations cannot be increased, service levels and community expectations need to be set and communicated.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	Annually

Recommendation #16: Create Park Maintenance Plans

Develop a park maintenance plan as a component of all new park planning and development as per the Parks and Trails Design Guidelines. Update annual operating budgets for parks based on these plans.

Rationale:	Park planning and development typically increases park operations requirements – especially the addition of developed neighbourhood parks. It is important that the operational requirements for new parks are considered and planned to ensure parks remain at a high standard. Creating a maintenance plan that is clearly associated with budget requirements is an important step in allocating staff time and efforts.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2014 – Initial review of existing park operations Ongoing during all improvement projects

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4.1.3 Education & Awareness

Recommendation #17: Increase Park Signage	
Increase community parks and trails signage in developed parks as budget allows.	
Rationale:	The most requested park improvement feature by the public for existing community parks was signage. The types of signs that are needed are: ▪ Park Identification signage including site diagrams showing Park boundaries; ▪ Park directional signage within the parks; ▪ Regulatory signage; and Interpretive Signage. The Trails Classification and Construction Standards document includes signage standards for the design and construction of the various signs.
Resources:	Moderate Staff Time
Recommended Timing:	2015 and Ongoing

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4.2 Project Recommendations

In addition to operational recommendations that span the entire CPTS, several project recommendations and ideas were gathered for each Electoral Area during this process. These recommendations should be considered as potential priority projects when planning and budgeting community park development.

4.2.1 Electoral Area E

- Investigate potential Neighbourhood Parkland expansion in Beachcomber area
- Prepare park design plans for Rowland, Northwest Bay/Stone Lake, Collins Crescent Community parks
- Prepare a Community Trail plan for Davenham road to Sea Ridge Community Park
- Support the Regional Trails initiative in the preparation of a Trails Plan for the area south of Moorecroft and East to Fairwinds.
- Investigate the feasibility of a new trail from Northwest Bay to Schirra Drive along the undeveloped Nanoose Road Right of Way
- Develop Phase 1 Blueback Community park improvements from the park design process
- Upgrade Wall Estate Community park trailhead and trails (clearing, brushing, map for Park boundary)
- Install directional signage at Dolphin Lake and Marsh
- Implement Fairwinds Community Parks development program per the Phased Development Agreement and Neighbourhood Plan for the Lakes District Area

4.2.2 Electoral Area F

- Work with Parks and Trails Coordinator for connections/integration with the E&N Parksville-Alberni spur
- Continue working with the community on the Act 2,3,4 trails
- Undertake a Park design process for Romaine Community Park including a potential bike skills park
- Consider securing tenure of French Creek School site if the opportunity arises.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing the undeveloped Road Allowance, in private forest lands, from Longmoor Rd to Chadsworth Rd
- Investigate the feasibility of developing a bridge connection from Errington to the Englishman River area either along the Fairdowne

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Road or Leffler Road alignments for pedestrian/bicycle use and as a vehicle route for emergency access

- Consider moving forward with the disposition of the three Surplus parks identified in the Park Classifications
- Complete Phase 1 and 2 development for Meadowood Community Park
- Investigate playground and other park improvements for Errington Community Park
- Improve trailhead at Malcolm Community Park
- Install park signage at Malcolm Community Park

4.2.3 Electoral Area G

- Undertake a Water Access Site Inventory and Evaluation Study to determine opportunities and priorities for public access and RDN management
- Consider preparing an Active Transportation Plan and a Bicycle Network Plan to further refine the Conceptual Trail Network Plan
- Prepare the Rivers Edge Community Park and trail Plan
- Support the development of a Community Trail from Columbia Drive to French Creek marina as noted in the Official Community Plan
- Investigate the feasibility of developing a Community pedestrian/bicycle trail from Ganske Rd to Waters Rd
- Consider park improvements to existing parks and playground infrastructure and equipment at Dashwood, Maple Lane, and Boultbee Community parks
- Trail Improvements between Miller Rd north and south Community parks
- Consider improvements and management by RDN for the Kinkade water access site
- Signage water access sites; Miller Rd south park entrance via the ROW through the residential development
- Consider an Adopt a Beach program to allow/encourage community groups to steward water access sites as part of the Water Access Study

4.2.4 Electoral Area H

- Conduct a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) of the existing and proposed Water Access sites in order to assess any opportunities or constraints with regards to heritage or cultural sensitivities. This was not included in any previous studies

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- Consider applying for additional Water Access sites outlined in the POSAC water access report, based on the results of the PFR
- Negotiate a License of Occupation with the province that includes all the trails in Oakdowne Park
- Investigate the feasibility of the proposed Community trail section from Deep Bay to Wildwood Park including the rail crossing at Jamieson Rd
- Prepare a Park Design plan for Dunsmuir Community park
- Consider moving forward on the disposition of the two Surplus parklands
- Undertake minor improvements on existing RDN managed water access sites outlined in the POSAC water access report and based on the results of the PFR
- Complete Henry Morgan Community Park Phase 2
- Install Park identification signage at Pearl Community Park and water access sites and trail signage at Oakdowne and Wildwood Parks
- Consider an Adopt a Beach program to allow/encourage community groups to steward water access sites

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5.0 IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

5.1 Summary Table

The following section summarizes the operational recommendations outlined for the CPTS. Each operational goal and list of actions is associated with a recommended timeframe and an assigned priority responsibility and/or additional parties involved in completing the actions.

Recommendation	Description	Recommended Timeframe	Parties Involved
1) Complete Regular Updates of the CPTS	Review and update the CPTS in 2018 and complete a new study including public consultation in 2023.	2018 Review 2023 Complete Update	Parks Planning
2) Use Park Classifications & Criteria	Encourage all RDN departments and committees to use the Community Park Classifications and Criteria for Community Parkland Evaluation identified in this document and the 2013 Parks & Trails Design Guidelines to evaluate and plan parkland that is proposed as part of development applications.	Immediately Ongoing	Parks Planning Planning
3) Follow Archaeological Guidelines	Follow guidelines developed in the Aquilla Report for considering cultural and heritage potential when planning or developing community parks and trails.	Immediately Ongoing	Parks Planning Planning Archaeology Consulting
4) Include Parks in OCP Updates	Ensure park planning and development is included within OCP updates to review the vision and potential projects for specific Electoral Areas.	During all OCP updates	Parks Planning Planning RDN Board
5) Review POSAC Structure & Mandate	Complete regular reviews of the POSAC Structure and Mandate to review efficiency, role and contribution in the evolving parks and trails system.	2014 2019	Parks Planning POSAC RDN Board
6) Establish POSAC Chair Meetings	Establish regular POSAC chair meetings to support collaboration, discussion and identification of issues and opportunities within the larger community park system.	Annually or Bi-annually starting in 2014	Parks Planning POSAC

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Recommendation	Description	Recommended Timeframe	Parties Involved
7) Create a Volunteer Policy & Guidelines	Consider developing a clear volunteer policy and guidelines that provides more information about involvement with community parks and trails.	2015	Parks Planning POSAC
8) Establish Partner Communications	Seek to establish a system for ongoing Partnership Communications with other municipalities, Regional Districts and First Nations that provide community parks and trails services.	Bi-Annual or Quarterly Meetings starting in 2014	Parks Planning
9) Create Developer Information Package	Develop a clear information package for developers that outlines expectations for community park and trail dedication. This information should be provided to all developer applicants at the beginning of their project.	2014	Parks Planning Planning
10) Support Community Projects	Encourage and support community interest groups to enter into trail building and/or management agreements with the province for key recreational trails located on Crown land.	Ongoing	Parks Planning
11) Prepare Active Transportation Plan	Prepare an Active Transportation Plan that encourages inclusivity to all levels of mobility for the District 69 Electoral Areas based on work completed to date in the Regional Parks & Trails Plan, CPTS and Parks and Trails Guidelines.	2015	Parks Planning
12) Consider DCC Policy	Consider development of a Development Cost Charges (DCC) policy for each Electoral Area to support acquisition and development of select park amenities (as permitted by the Local Government Act).	2017	Parks Planning
13) Develop Disposition Policy	Develop a Community Parkland Disposition Policy for consideration by the RDN Board.	2016	Parks Planning

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Recommendation	Description	Recommended Timeframe	Parties Involved
14) Subdivision Application Process Review	Review and update the RDN "Review of the Consideration of Parkland in Conjunction with the Subdivision Application Process" Policy (Updated 2006) to streamline the subdivision review process. Include the proposed Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist (see Appendix C).	2016	Parks Planning Planning POSAC RDN Board
15) Match Services Levels & Funding Allocations	Match level of service expectations with funding allocations for community parks and trails.	Annually	Parks Planning RDN Board
16) Create Park Maintenance Plans	Develop a park maintenance plan as a component of all new park planning and development as per the Parks and Trails Design Guidelines. Update annual operating budgets for parks based on these plans.	2014 – Initial review of existing park operations Ongoing for all improvements	Parks Planning Parks Operations RDN Board
17) Increase Park Signage	Increase community parks and trails signage in developed parks as budget allows.	Annually	Parks Planning POSAC

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Public Consultation Detailed Summary

Consultation summaries are based on the survey results, input received at the Open Houses, staff insight and discussion with the Advisory Committee and the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee in the Electoral Areas.

Electoral Area E

There was a high level of agreement that the supply of parkland for active recreation was adequate at this time except for a gap in the provision of neighbourhood Park in the Beachcomber area.

A number of survey and open house respondents expressed a desire for more water access paths and signage that clearly shows where public access is allowed. Improvements to the specific water access site in the survey in Nanoose Harbour received strong support.

The proposed community trail network was well supported; however, trail connections to Red Gap from Fairwinds, Kicking Horse and Madrona were also seen as highly desirable. Pedestrian safety along existing roads with narrow shoulders, such as Dolphin Drive and Powder Point, was a major concern in the survey and Open House sessions.

Short term priorities identified focused on expanding trails and water access sites either through the land development process and/or in partnership with the province. Some residents are prepared to play an active role in implementation by adopting a water access site or by initiating a playground in the Beachcomber area.

Electoral Area F

The majority of respondents (60%) agreed that the number and distribution of neighbourhood park land is somewhat adequate; however, adding to the supply of parkland going into the future is desirable provided it is done strategically.

A 25km network of existing and proposed community trails throughout the Electoral Area was illustrated on the revised plans developed for the open house and online survey. Seventy seven percent (77%) of respondents were completely or somewhat satisfied that this proposed community trail network was complete; however, a number of suggestions were provided resulting in an additional 7km of potential trail. Some residents are looking for roadside

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trail connections for direct access while others are looking for more natural trail experiences.

The top priority in the short- term is to continue developing additional trails followed by the park improvements at Meadowood Park.

According to the survey there is also a strong desire to acquire more natural parkland and to develop recreation facilities at other existing community parks. There is also strong interest in the RDN playing a greater role in the provincial land at Little Mountain.

Electoral Area G

With regards to the supply and distribution of Neighbourhood parkland, only a small majority of survey respondents agreed it is somewhat adequate. This sentiment is also reflected in the spatial analysis on the concept plan showing gaps in several localized areas. This is largely due to the size and shape of the land area in Electoral Area G that makes it particularly challenging to have an even distribution of community parks and trails.

With regards to water access, given the small response rate and the high level of community interest, it is recommended that a focused study and public survey of the potential water access sites should be undertaken including an inventory, development opportunities and priorities.

Support for the proposed community trail system was split with half the respondents requesting additional community trail connections. Expanding trails as opportunities arise during the development process is well supported.

The short-term priority identified during the process was improvements to existing Neighbourhood parks including Dashwood, Columbia Beach, Rivers Edge and San Pareil. Other priorities include expanding Water Access opportunities and acquiring land or rights of way for expansion of the trail system as opportunities arise.

Electoral Area H

With regards to the supply and distribution of Neighbourhood parkland, the spatial analysis identified a gap in service in the area between Oakdowne and the Big Qualicum River. This area is fairly rural with a relatively low population so there is no immediate need for acquiring additional parkland unless an opportunity arises in this area over the next ten years.

Water access is a high priority for Electoral Area H residents. At present the RDN manages ten water access sites through permitting with the province. The 2000 RDN inventory and description of water access sites was updated

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by the POSAC this year. This analysis suggests there is another eight sites that are worthy of consideration and another four sites that need further analysis. Many of these potential sites only require minor improvements such as signage and benches and three sites could potentially be upgraded for car top boat launching.

Developing new community trails that connect pedestrians and bicycle users with community destinations is also a high priority. The proposed community trails network shown on the Concept Plan provides a blueprint for achieving this. This will take time and can only be achieved incrementally so it is important to view the final Concept Plan as a working document and that it be integrated into the Official Community Plan.

Electoral Area H residents have access to many existing informal trails mostly located on forested Crown land. The RDN can play a role either by entering into new management agreements with the province or by educating and supporting community interest groups, who can also enter into agreements with the province. Community-based trail management has been successful in other Electoral Areas in the RDN.

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Appendix B: Community Park Land Evaluation Criteria Checklist (DRAFT)

The Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist summarizes a set of proposed criteria and value questions to be asked when evaluating potential community parkland acquisitions. The CPTS recommends that this checklist be incorporated with Policy C1.5: *Review of the Consideration of Park Land in Conjunction with the Subdivision Application Process* and also used during the Rezoning Review process.

The following Draft checklist is provided for consideration and adaptation and is formatted based on the existing Park Land Dedication Review Referral Form for the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.

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PARK LAND EVALUATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST
Referral Form
Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

The following questions are provided for consideration when reviewing and evaluating potential park land dedications. The checklist is organized under 6 categories and aligns with the community parks classes. Completion of this form will support decisions about:

- Whether proposed parkland should be added to the system or if cash-in-lieu should be considered
- The class(es) of Community Park are most suitable for this dedication

Evaluators review the criteria and decide if they feel the subject site provides:

- High Value if the site would be a significant asset or fully fulfill the evaluation criteria
- Moderate Value if the site would be a good or moderate asset or partially fulfill the evaluation criteria
- Low Value if the site would be a low or negative asset or does not fill the evaluation criteria

Category 1: General Demographic & Public Values

Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		Strong	Moderate	Weak
1) Population Density	Is the site located in an area with substantial existing or anticipated residential density where there will be a high demand for community park?			
2) Existing Park Access	Will the acquisition provide parkland to a neighbourhood that is currently underserved by parks and recreation opportunities?			
3) Level of Public Interest	Is there a known community interest for park development in the area?			
4) Neighbouring Property Impacts	Could park development in this area have a significant negative impact on existing properties in terms of property value, privacy, noise or other undesirable impacts?			
5) Encumbrances	Is the site reasonably free of encumbrances that would impact part development such as such as geotechnical, floodplain, environmental and underground utilities?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 1 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 1 are valuable potential properties for the community parks system overall, as they fill gaps and/or provide parks services that are in demand. These properties should be considered for community park acquisition.

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Category 2: Neighbourhood Park Values

Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		Strong	Moderate	Weak
6) Usable Space	Does the site provide at least 0.5 acres of usable park area?			
7) Slope	Are there gentle slopes for most of the site that would support a variety of active recreation opportunities?			
8) Location	Is there a significant residential population within walking distance (1km) to the park location?			
9) Recreation Potential	Is the site suitable to provide recreational amenities that appeal to the surrounding community?			
10) Accessibility	Is the site easily accessible to surrounding population, e.g. is it connected to public roads, trails and access routes?			
11) Cultural, Historic or Heritage Values	Does that site contain any valuable cultural, historical or heritage features that warrant protection?			
12) Education or Interpretive Values	Does the site provide features with educational or interpretive value and would support interpretive development?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 2 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 2 are potential properties for classification as neighbourhood parks as they fill gaps and provide opportunity for amenities. These properties should be considered for neighbourhood park designation.

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Category 3: Ecological Park Values				
Proposed Criteria	**Evaluation Criteria**	**Assigned Value/Quality (check column)**		
		Strong	**Moderate**	**Weak**
13) Sensitive Ecosystem Protection	Does the site include significant sensitive ecosystems that warrant protection?			
14) Unique Landscape Features	Are there unique or representative landscape features such as significant trees, rock formations, water features or other features that warrant protection?			
15) Endangered/ Protected Species	Are there known blue- or red-listed species occurring on the site or within the surrounding area?			
16) Potential Habitat or Wildlife Corridor	Does the site have potential to maintain or form a wildlife corridor that connects natural features?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 3 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 3 are potential properties for classification as nature parks as they protect unique or sensitive features. These properties may warrant consideration for natural park designation or protection through other means.

Category 4: Linear Park Values				
Proposed Criteria	**Evaluation Criteria**	**Assigned Value/Quality (check column)**		
		Strong	**Moderate**	**Weak**
17) Trail Route Connection	Does the site form a potential connection to the regional or community park trail system?			
18) Community Amenity Connection	Does the proposed site link community amenities or facilities to a neighbourhood (e.g. provides access to schools, retail areas, parks or other destinations?			
19) Max. Slope	Does the route provide gentle grades for accessible trail?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 4 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 4 are potential properties for classification as linear parks as they provide potential trail connections. These properties may warrant consideration for linear park designation.

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Category 5: Water Access Values

Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		Strong	Moderate	Weak
20) Shoreline or Riparian Protection	Is the site near a water body or river corridor and is capable of providing shoreline protection or enhancement?			
21) Accessibility	Is the site reasonably accessible with minimum need for stair or ramp construction?			
22) Small Development Footprint	Can the park be developed to provide water access with no or minimal tree or vegetation removal?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 5 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 5 are potential properties for classification as water access sites as they provide access points to water bodies – including the ocean, lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams. These properties may warrant consideration for water access designation.

Category 6: Affordability

Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		Strong	Moderate	Weak
23) Acquisition Costs	Can the site be acquired with little or no cost?			
24) Development Costs	Is the public investment required to develop the park to a suitable standard reasonable? Are there any unusual or extensive anticipated costs?			
25) Maintenance Costs	Are the amount staff time and financial resources required to maintain the park high or low?			
Overall Rating (high, medium, low) for Category 6 =				

Parks with a high rating for Category 6 are may be considered acquisitions. Where parks score low in this category, considerations for off-setting costs or taking cash-in-lieu may be warranted.

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Appendix C: Mapping

The CPTS included a significant mapping component to document and analyze the existing network of community parks and trails and record proposed future directions.

Mapping for the project include the creation of two series of maps:

- **Neighbourhood Park Spatial Analysis Series:** These plans were generated to analyze the existing distribution of neighbourhood community parks. This map shows a 1 km radius circles for existing neighbourhood parks and helps identify potential 'gaps' in service. This map provides a visual planning tool when considering development applications in the future and deciding whether it is preferable to take 5% parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu.

  For the spatial analysis maps, the study area was divided into 4 mapping areas including:

  - Map 1: Electoral Area E
  - Map 2: Electoral Area F
  - Map 3: Electoral Area G
  - Map 4: Electoral Area H

- **Final Concept Plan Series:** These plans illustrate the long term vision for each Electoral Area Community Parks and Trails including the proposed community trail network and the project recommendations for each Electoral Area.

  For the concept plans, the study area was divided into 7 mapping areas including:

  - Map 1: Electoral Area E
  - Map 2: Electoral Area F East
  - Map 3; Electoral Area F West
  - Map 4: Electoral Area G East
  - Map 5: Electoral Area G West
  - Map 6: Electoral Area H East
  - Map 7: Electoral Area H West

11x17 maps are included within the CPTS document and larger versions are available within the RDN files. Parks mapping should be updated regularly to record and analyze change in the community parks and trails system.

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November 2013
Report **No.** 13-1444-0019

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Map 1: ELECTORAL AREA E

Legend

Neighbourhood Park 1Km Service Area

Proposed Community Trail System

Scale 1 : 35 000

0 500 1,000 Meters

N W E S

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

ELECTORAL AREA G

ELECTORAL AREA E

ELECTORAL AREA F

DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE

Craig Bay

GERALD ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

MOORECROFT REGIONAL PARK

ISLAND HIGHWAY 19

Nanoose Crk

Bonnel Crk

Nanoose Harbour

ARBUTUS GROVE PROVINCIAL PARK

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Map 2: ELECTORAL AREA F

Legend

Neighbourhood Park 1Km Service Area

Proposed Community Trail System

Scale 1 : 60 000

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

N W E S

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ELECTORAL AREA H

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

ELECTORAL AREA G

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

ELECTORAL AREA G

ELECTORAL AREA G

ELECTORAL AREA F

Little Qualicum River

French Creek Harbour

INLAND ISLAND HIGHWAY 19

LITTLE QUALICUM RIVER REGIONAL PARK

LITTLE QUALICUM RIVER FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

ALBERNI HWY 4

ALBERNI HWY 4A

French Crk

Morison Crk

Englishman River

ENGLISHMAN RIVER REGIONAL PARK

ENGLISHMAN RIVER FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Map 3: ELECTORAL AREA G

Legend

Neighbourhood Park 1Km Service Area

Proposed Community Trail System

Scale 1 : 60 000

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

N W E S

ELECTORAL AREA H

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

ELECTORAL AREA G

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

ELECTORAL AREA F

ELECTORAL AREA E

Little Qualicum River

French Creek Harbour

ISLAND HIGHWAY 19A

INLAND ISLAND HIGHWAY 19

French Crk

ALBERNI HWY 4

ALBERNI HWY 4A

RATHTREVOR BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

ENGLISHMAN RIVER REGIONAL PARK

Morison Crk

Englishman River

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COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Map 4: ELECTORAL AREA H

Legend

Neighbourhood Park 1Km Service Area

Proposed Community Trail System

Scale 1 : 60 000

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

N W E S

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

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COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

ELECTORAL AREA H

ELECTORAL AREA G

ELECTORAL AREA F

Deep Bay

Qualicum Bay

BOWSER

ISLAND HIGHWAY 19A

INLAND ISLAND HIGHWAY 19

Thames Crk

Nile Crk

Qualicum River

Little Qualicum River

Spider Lake

SPIDER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

Horne Lake

HORNE LAKE CAVES PROVINCIAL PARK

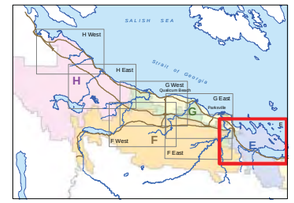
HORNE LAKE CAVES REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 1: ELECTORAL AREA E



Scale 1 : 12 000

0 100 200 300 400 500 1,000 Meters

N W E S

See inset: THE LAKES DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Schedule A2: PARK AND ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK PLAN

Strategy Features

- Major Destinations

Community Trails

- Existing
- Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails

- Existing
- Potential

Community Parks

- Neighbourhood
- Linear
- Natural
- Water Access
- Surplus

Regional Parks

Provincial Parks

Property Reference

- Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy
- CrownLand
- First Nation
- Federal Hatchery Land
- Private Forest
- GCB Village Areas

Map Features

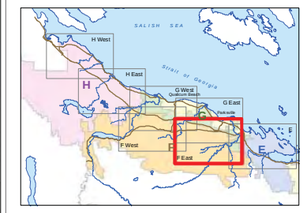
- Eagle Nest
- RDN Facility (Ice Arena)
- Recreation Centre
- Community Centre
- Police Station
- Fire Hall
- School
- Church
- Civic Centre
- Community Hall
- Airport
- Library
- Municipal Hall
- Wetland (Source: SEI data)

DRAFT November 14, 2013

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 2: ELECTORAL AREA F EAST



Scale 1 : 12 000

0 100 200 300 400 500 1,000 Meters

N W E S

Strategy Features

- Major Destinations

Community Trails

- Existing
- Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails

- Existing
- Potential

Community Parks

- Neighbourhood
- Linear
- Natural
- Water Access
- Surplus

Regional Parks

Provincial Parks

Property Reference

- Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy
- CrownLand
- First Nation
- Federal Hatchery Land
- Private Forest
- GCB Village Areas

Map Features

- Eagle Nest
- RDN Facility (Ice Arena)
- Recreation Centre
- Community Centre
- Police Station
- Fire Hall
- Entry / Exit
- School
- Church
- Civic Centre
- Community Hall
- Airport
- Library
- Municipal Hall
- Wetland (Source: SEI data)

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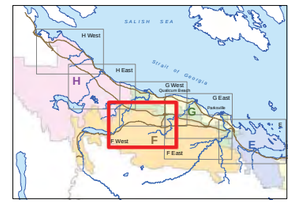
November 14, 2013

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 3: ELECTORAL AREA F WEST

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS



Scale 1 : 12 000

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N W E S

PRIVATE FOREST

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

Qualicum Beach Community Park

Little Qualicum River

Whiskey Crk

Meadowood Comm. Park

Meadowood Community Park development.

Consider disposition of Dolly Varden Community Park.

Dolly Varden Comm. Park

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Little Qualicum Falls Comm. Park

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

Harris Comm. Park

Brooklin Comm. Park

Hillers Comm. Park

MALCOLM COMM. PARK

Malcolm Community Park signage and trailhead improvements

Well used informal trails

FRENCH CREEK COMM. SCHOOL
Playground (EA contributed funds)

ARROWSMITH HALL
Community Hall
Rodeo Campgrounds

Consider acquiring French Creek School site if opportunity arises.

Additional Parkland or Community Funds for Facilities

AGRICULTURAL HALL
EA contributed funds

Old Alberni Hwy Comm. Park

Consider disposition of Old Alberni Highway Community Park.

Melon Comm. Park

Wild Comm. Park

French Creek

Kerr Comm. Park

Coombs Station Comm. Park

Cameron Lake

Day Use Area

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail

Investigate feasibility of developing the undeveloped road allowance through private forest lands, from Longmoor Rd to Chatsworth Rd.

Dudley Marsh
The Nature Trust of BC

Strategy Features

- Major Destinations
- Potential Community Park

Community Trails

- Existing
- Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails

Community Parks

- Neighbourhood
- Linear
- Natural
- Water Access
- Surplus
- **Regional Parks**
- **Provincial Parks**

Property Reference

- Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy
- CrownLand
- First Nation
- Federal Hatchery Land
- Private Forest
- GCB Village Areas

Map Features

- Eagle Nest
- RDN Facility (Ice Arena)
- Recreation Centre
- Community Centre
- Police Station
- Fire Hall
- Entry / Exit
- School
- Church
- Civic Centre
- Community Hall
- Airport
- Library
- Municipal Hall
- Wetland (Source: SEI data)

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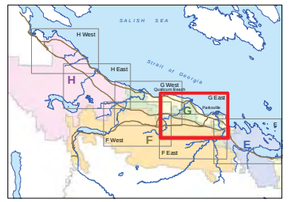
November 14, 2013

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 4: ELECTORAL AREA G EAST

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS



Scale 1 : 12 000

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N W E S

INSET MAP OF RIVERS EDGE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Add signage at four Water Access sites.

Support the development of a Community Trail from Columbia Drive to French Creek Marina as noted in the official Community Plan.

Undertake a Water Access site inventory and evaluation study to determine opportunities and priorities for public access and RDN management.

Park development plan.

Park improvements to Boultbee Community Park.

Trail improvements between Miller Rd North and Miller Road South Community Parks.

Signage - water access site

Consider improvements to water access and management by RDN

Park Improvement Plan.

Trail Development.

Prepare the Rivers Edge Community Park and Trail Plan.

Top Bridge Regional Trail

TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

CITY OF PARKSVILLE

PRIVATE FOREST

Strait of Georgia

Parksville Bay

French Creek

Englishman River

Craig Creek

Milner Gardens

HERITAGE FOREST
Trails

ARROWVIEW ELEM. SCHOOL
Playground
Sports Court

BOULTBEE COMM. PARK

DALMATIAN COMM. PK
Open Grass

Columbia Comm. Park

BMX Bike Park

French Creek Harbour

French Creek PCC

Water Access

Sumar Ln Comm. Park

Hawthorne Rise Comm. Park

Barclay Comm. Park

Lee 2 Comm. Park

Lee 3 Comm. Park

Lee 4 Comm. Park

Lee 1 Comm. Park

Bridge

Hatchery

Tara Comm. Park

Miller North Comm. Park

Miller South Comm. Park

OCEANSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Playground
Sports Field

Sanika Close Comm. Park

Riley Comm. Park

NEDEN WAY COMM. PARK
Playground
Picnic Tables

Windridge Comm. Park

Wembley Comm. Park

OCEANSIDE PLACE
Arena

PARKSVILLE COMM. PARK
Playground
Skateboard Park
Waterfront Boardwalk
Playing Fields
Lacrosse Box
Fitness Park
Beach Volleyball

WINCHELSEA ELEM. SCHOOL
Playground

BALLENAS SECONDARY SCHOOL
Track & Field
Tennis

SPRINGWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tennis Courts
Baseball
Sports Fields
Playground

PARKSVILLE ELEM. SCHOOL
Playground
Playing Fields
Basketball

FRENCH CREEK COMM. SCHOOL
Playground (EA contributed funds)

AGRICULTURAL HALL
EA contributed funds

BRADLEY CENTRE
Community Hall

Gravel Pit

Romain Comm. Park

Allsbrook Comm. Park

Kerr Comm. Park

Coombs Station Comm. Park

Dudley Marsh
The Nature Trust of BC

Wildlife Recovery Centre

View Point

LITTLE MOUNTAIN

Errington War Memorial Hall

ERRINGTON COMM. PARK
Farmers Market
Trails

David Lundine Memorial Trail

Errington School Trail ACT 1

ERRINGTON ELEM. SCHOOL
Playground

Englishman River Estuary
The Nature Trust of BC
(Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area)

San Malo Comm. Park

MAPLE LANE COMM. PARK
Open Grass Area

RATHTREVOR BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK
Playground
Trails
Bike Pumptrack

TOP BRIDGE COMM. PARK
Trails

TOP BRIDGE PARK

ENGLISHMAN RIVER REGIONAL PARK
Trails
Fish Hatchery
Picnic Area

Englishman River Conservation Corridor
The Nature Trust of BC

Rivers Edge Comm. Park

Parksville Mountain Bike Park

See Inset Map

Strategy Features

Major Destinations

Water Access

RDN Improved Site

Future Priority

Community Trails

Existing

Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails

Existing

Potential

Community Parks

Neighbourhood

Linear

Natural

Water Access

Surplus

Regional Parks

Provincial Parks

Property Reference

Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy

CrownLand

First Nation

Federal Hatchery Land

Private Forest

GCB Village Areas

Map Features

Eagle Nest

RDN Facility (Ice Arena)

Recreation Centre

Community Centre

Police Station

Fire Hall

School

Church

Civic Centre

Community Hall

Airport

Library

Municipal Hall

Wetland (Source: SEI data)

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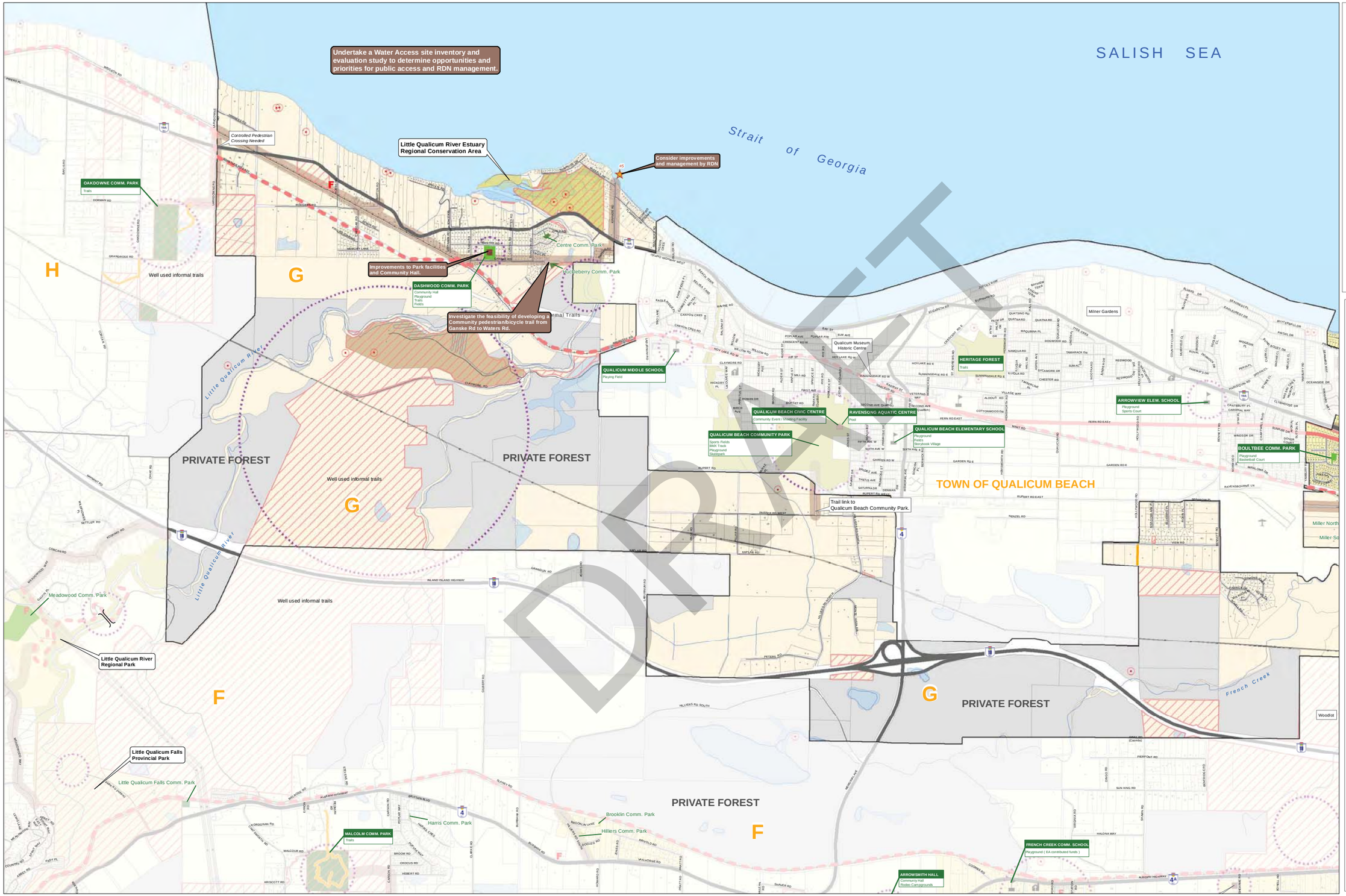
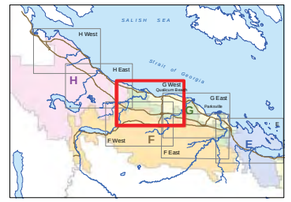


REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 5: ELECTORAL AREA G WEST



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N W E S

Strategy Features

Major Destinations

Water Access

RDN Improved Site

Future Priority

Community Trails

Existing

Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails

Existing

Potential

Community Parks

Neighbourhood

Linear

Natural

Water Access

Surplus

Regional Parks

Provincial Parks

Property Reference

Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy

CrownLand

First Nation

Federal Hatchery Land

Private Forest

GCB Village Areas

Map Features

Eagle Nest

RDN Facility (Ice Arena)

Recreation Centre

Community Centre

Police Station

Fire Hall

School

Church

Civic Centre

Community Hall

Airport

Library

Municipal Hall

Wetland (Source: SEI data)

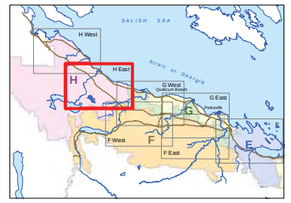
DRAFT November 15, 2013

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN

Map 6: ELECTORAL AREA H EAST



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N W E S

0 100 200 300 400 500 1,000 Meters

Strategy Features
- Major Destinations

Water Access
- RDN Improved Site
- Future Priority

Community Trails
- Existing
- Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails
- Existing
- Potential

Community Parks
- Neighbourhood
- Linear
- Natural
- Water Access
- Surplus
- Regional Parks
- Provincial Parks

Property Reference
- Municipal & Electoral Area Bdy
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Map Features
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- Church
- Civic Centre
- Community Hall
- Airport
- Library
- Municipal Hall
- Wetland (Source: SEI data)

DRAFT November 15, 2013

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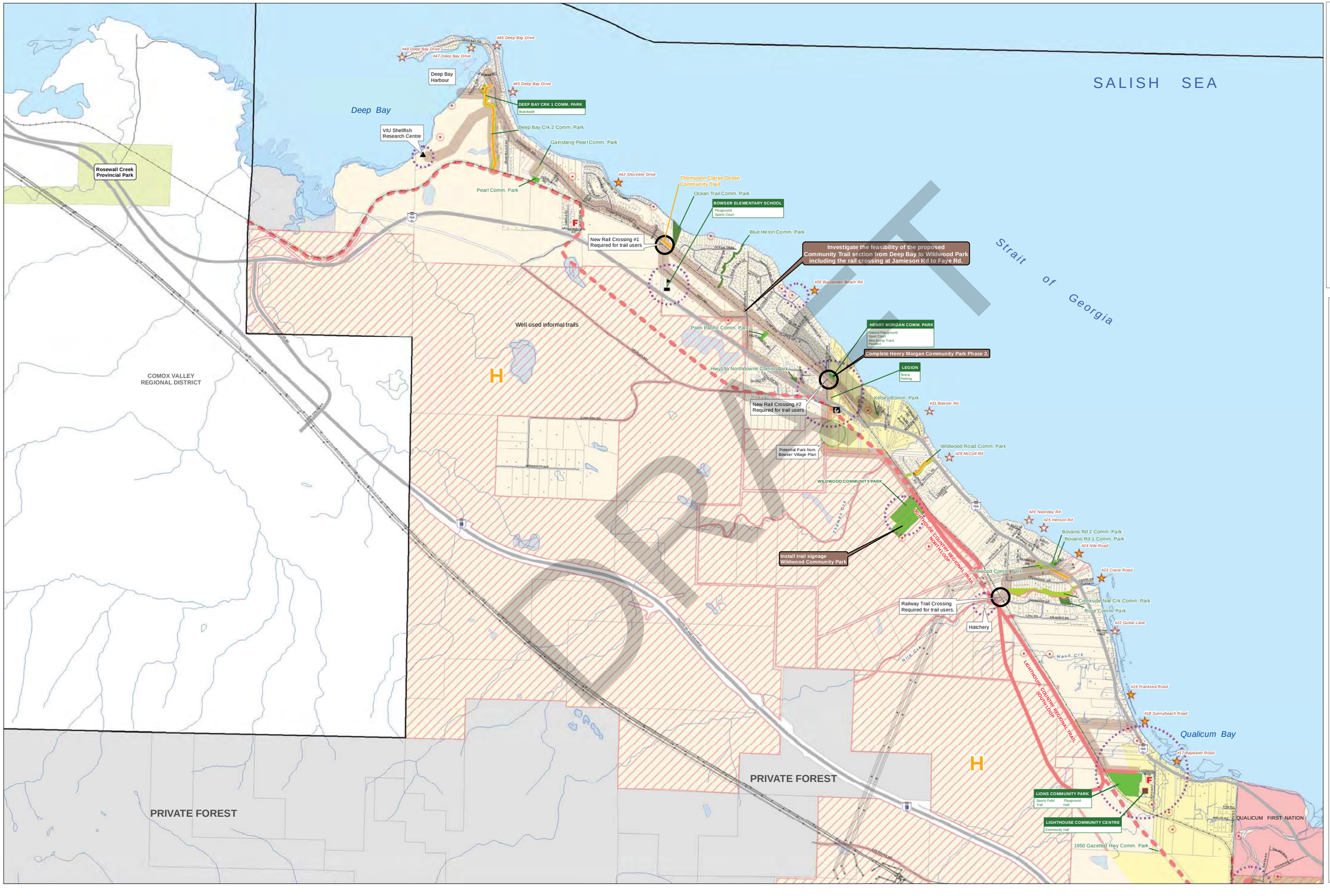
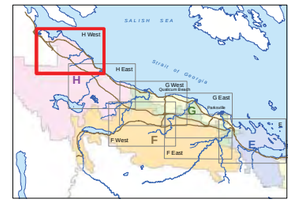


REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY
DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT PLAN
Map 7: ELECTORAL AREA H WEST



Scale 1 : 12 000

N W E S

0 100 200 300 400 500 1,000 Meters

Strategy Features
- Major Destinations
- Potential Community Park

Water Access
- RDN Improved Site
- Future Priority

Community Trails
- Existing
- Proposed Community Trail System

Regional Trails
- Existing
- Potential

Community Parks
- Neighbourhood
- Linear
- Natural
- Water Access
- Surplus
- Regional Parks
- Provincial Parks

Property Reference
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- CrownLand
- First Nation
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- Private_Forest
- GCB Village Areas

Map Features
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- Fire Hall
- School
- Church
- Civic Centre
- Community Hall
- Airport
- Library
- Municipal Hall
- Wetland (Source: SEI data)

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Appendix D: References

The following is a preliminary list of reference documents:

Official Community Plans

- Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan Bylaw 3 1400, 2005
- Electoral Area H Official Community Plan Bylaw #1335, 2003
- Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Bylaw #1152, 1999
- Electoral Area G Official Community Plan Bylaw #1540, 2008

Other Documents

- A Parks and Open Space Plan for Nanoose Bay 2001
- Regional Parks and Trails Plan 2005-2015
- Access to Water Sites, inventory and site descriptions for Electoral Area H, 2000
- Electoral Area A Community Trails Study, 2002
- Community Active Transportation Plan, Electoral area A, 2009
- Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan, District of Lantzville 2008
- A guide to using and Developing Trails in Farm and Ranch Areas 2005, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Access to Water Sites for Electoral Area H, October 2000
- RDN Parks System plan, 1995
- E&N railway, ICF Agreement
- District of Sooke parks and trails master plan 2009
- A Natural Selection Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan 2011
- Saltspring Island Parks System Master Plan 2011
- Parks Trails and Recreation Plan for District of Lantzville 2008
- Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan 2010
- City of Coquitlam Trail Master Plan 2008

RDN policies

- C1.5 Parkland dedication in the Subdivision process
- RDN Public Consultation Policy No.A1.23

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