

Regional Trails Management Plan

Galloping Goose, Lochside, E&N Rail Trail-Humpback Connector

Summer 2014

CRD



The CRD is preparing a management plan for the regional trails system and we need your input. The management plan will guide decision-making, priority setting, and budget planning for the next 10 years.

Purpose of a Management Plan

The purpose of the management plan is to provide:

- ◇ strategic policies to guide regional trail management generally (e.g., a vision for regional trails, management principles/values, policies to address overarching needs);
- ◇ policies and actions to guide development and management of each of the three regional trails (Galloping Goose Regional Trail, Lochside Regional Trail, E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector); and
- ◇ direction for annual budget and capital planning related to the trails.

The Regional Trails System

The CRD regional trails system is made up of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, the Lochside Regional Trail and the E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector. It is a multi-use trail system that comprises nearly 100 km of non-motorized recreation and transportation opportunities. The trails receive nearly three million visits annually.

Galloping Goose Regional Trail

The 55 km Galloping Goose Regional Trail was established in 1987 along a former railway corridor. The majority of the route is owned by the Province and leased to the Capital Regional District for a regional trail within a linear park. A portion of the route, south of the Selkirk Trestle, is owned and managed by the City of Victoria.

Starting in the City of Victoria and ending at Kapoor Regional Park, the Galloping Goose has both urban and rural sections (approximately 22 km urban/33 km rural). Horse-riding, cycling and pedestrian uses are permitted in the rural section; cycling and pedestrian uses are permitted in the urban sections. The trail sees nearly 2 million visits per year.

Lochside Regional Trail

The 29 km Lochside Regional Trail was established in 2001, mainly along a former railway corridor. The corridor is owned by various municipalities and the Province and agreements allow the CRD to use the corridor for a regional trail.

Starting at the “Switch Bridge” on the Galloping Goose in Saanich and ending at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal in North Saanich, the Lochside trail travels through both urban and rural areas. Approximately 17 km of the trail are on-road and 12 km are off-road. This trail sees approximately 1 million visits per year.

E&N Rail Trail-Humpback Connector

Construction of the 17 km E&N Rail Trail – Humpback Connector was initiated in 2009 and the trail is being developed in phases. Phase 1 is nearing completion and construction of Phase 2 is beginning later in 2014. Three additional phases will be undertaken as resources permit. The E&N trail will be an urban trail.

In the interim, completed sections will be linked by bike lanes and sidewalks in the municipalities. Once completed, the trail will run from Johnson Street bridge in Victoria to Humpback Road in Langford. The intention is to extend the trail to Humpback Reservoir in Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve.



Photo Cindy Andire

Galloping Goose Regional Trail in Victoria



Photo John Luton

Lochside Regional Trail near Sidney



E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector in Langford

Capital Regional District

Regional Trails



- Galloping Goose Regional Trail
- Lochside Regional Trail
- E&N Rail Trail - Completed
- E&N Rail Trail - Future Phase
- Route to be Determined
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Municipal / Electoral Area Boundary
- Regional District Boundary
- River / Stream
- Regional Park
- Other Park
- Drinking Water Supply Area (No Public Access)
- First Nation Reserve
- Department of National Defence
- Lake / Reservoir

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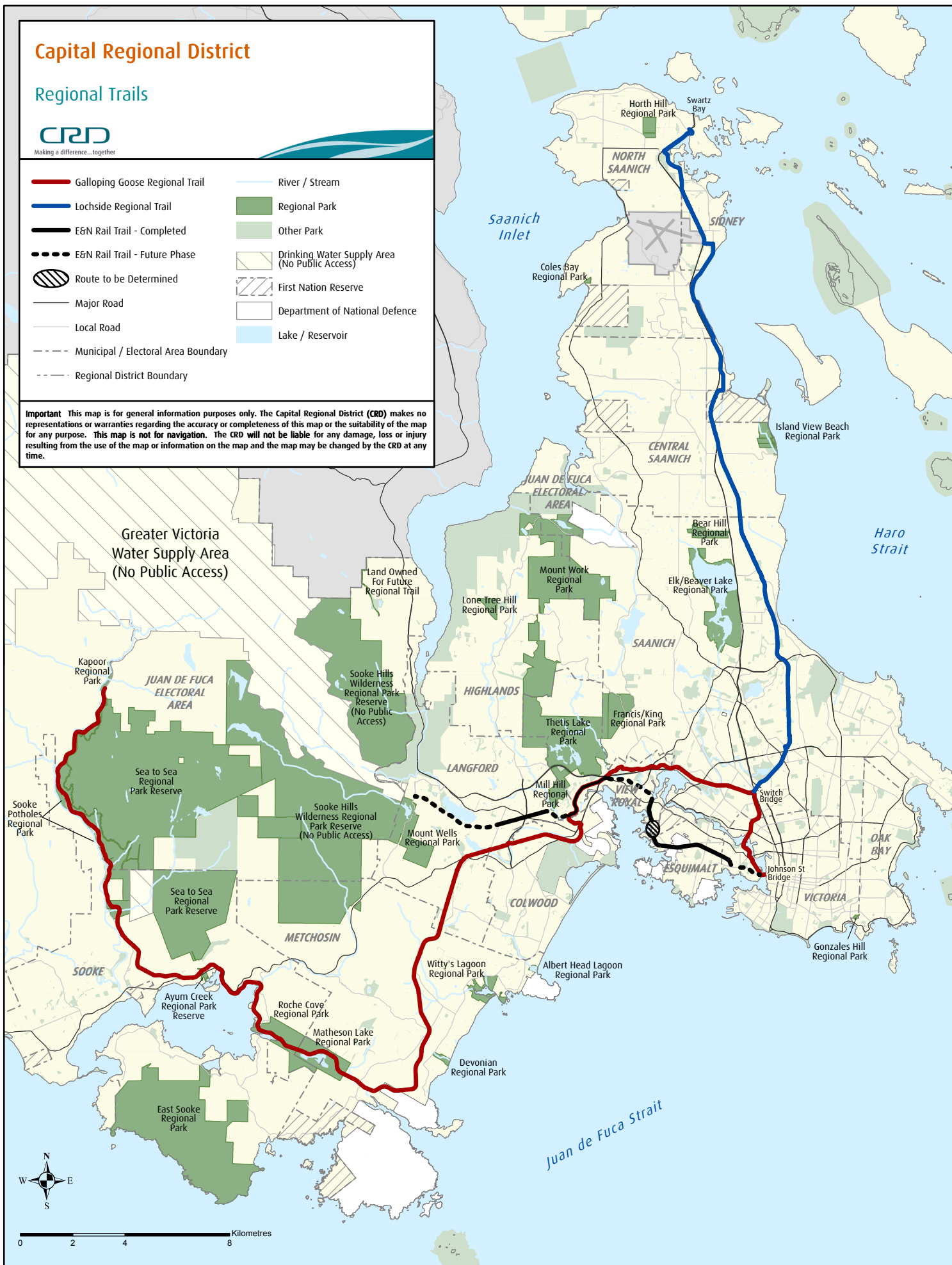




Photo John Luton

The Planning Process

To assist in preparing the management plan the following work is being done:

- ◇ Background information is gathered to provide a starting point for management planning.
- ◇ A CRD/Municipal/Provincial Working Group works collaboratively to identify management needs.
- ◇ First Nations with lands adjacent to a regional trail are invited to provide input regarding their interests and to provide ideas and comments on the plan as it is being developed.
- ◇ Public consultation sessions are held to seek ideas and input from the public and interest groups on specific topics that will be part of the management plan.
- ◇ Following consideration of all of the input received, a draft management plan is prepared and presented to the CRD Regional Parks Committee and CRD Board for consideration, and released for public comment.
- ◇ The CRD Board approves the final Regional Trails Management Plan.

Key Questions

We would like your ideas on these questions:

- ◇ What's your vision for regional trails?
- ◇ What management principles/core values are important?
- ◇ What are the highest priority issues to address?
- ◇ What would contribute most to each of the three trails over the next ten years (for good management and/or the best user experience)?

Your Input Is Valued

Everyone's suggestions are valued and will be considered through the planning process. There are opportunities for input from municipalities/electoral areas, agencies that own land on which the trails are located, First Nations with lands adjacent to the trails, key interest groups, and the public.

Join us for a public engagement session to provide your input directly or submit your feedback online.
Find the details at crd.bc.ca/parks.

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks

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