

# Island View Beach Regional Park

## Report on Results

### Step 1: Public Participation Process

Capital Regional District | March 2015



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks  
490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8  
T: 250.478.3344 | [www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)



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## Executive Summary

A Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park was approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks Committee in May 2014 (see Appendix 1). The focus of Step 1 was to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback. The results of Step 1 will inform Steps 2-4 of the park management planning process.

Step 1 was completed during January and February 2015. Regional Parks met with the District of Central Saanich staff and Council, CRD Regional Planning and Environmental Services staff, members of the academic community with active research interests in the park, and park neighbors. Some of the stakeholders indicated to Regional Parks that they preferred to wait to participate until Steps 2-4 of the process. They did, however, provide feedback on the scientific information through the associated response form that was available online or by paper copy, or by written submission.

Two public meetings were organized—one in Victoria and one on the Saanich Peninsula. Approximately 32 people attended the Victoria public meeting, and approximately 80 people attended the Saanichton public meeting. Regional Parks talked with the Tsawout First Nation about Step 1, but were unable to meet with them. Regional Parks will engage with the Tsawout First Nation during Steps 2-4 of the process.

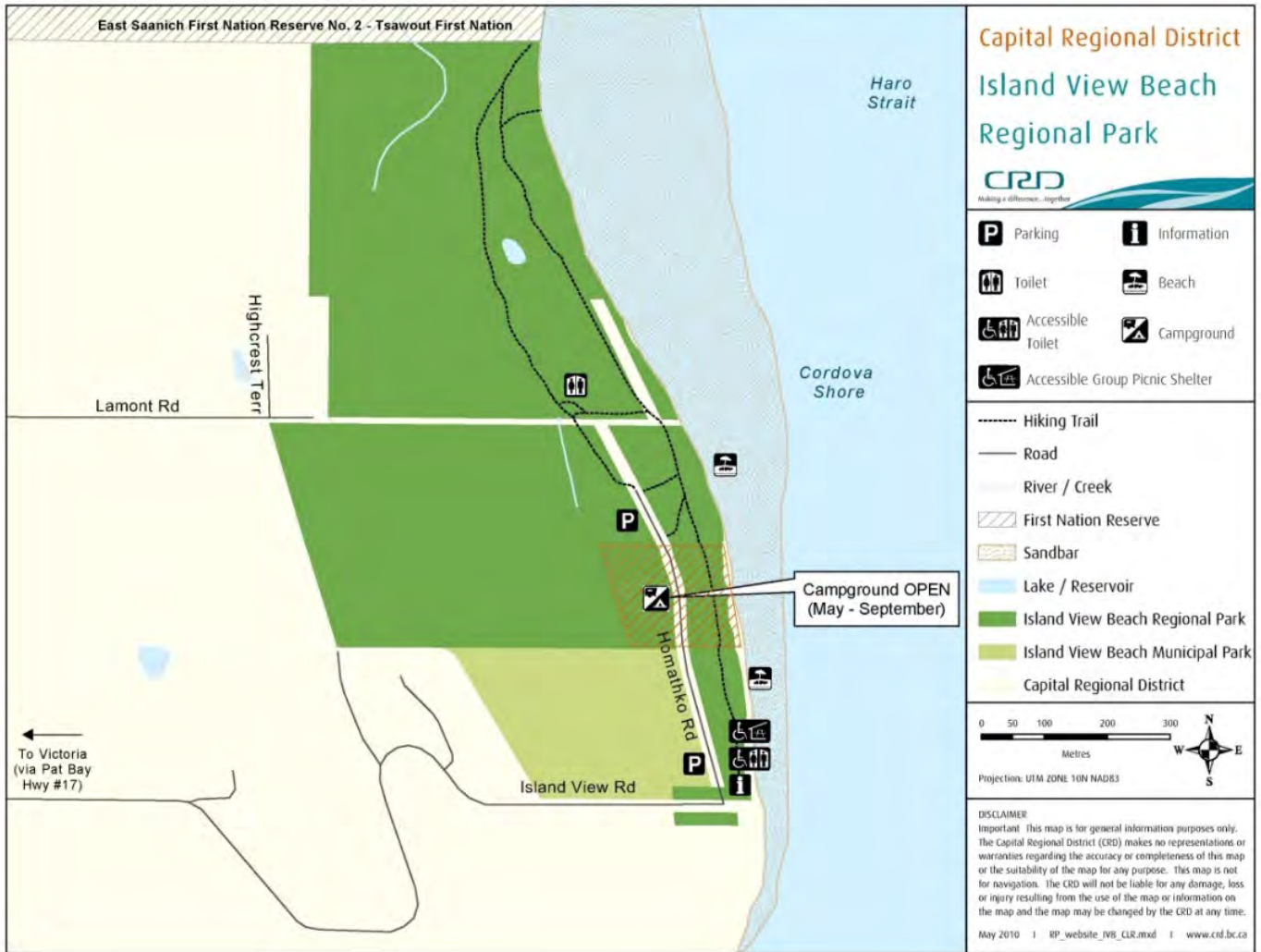
An online and paper copy response form was available between January 12 and February 15, 2015 (see Appendix 2). The CRD received 41 completed response forms with 118 comments, eight emails from the public, and several submissions from the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) during the comment period. The verbatim comments are contained in Appendix 3. As a result of feedback received during Step 1, changes were made to the scientific presentation to reflect the new information (see Table 1).

The results of the feedback cannot be considered statistically valid because respondents “self-selected” to participate. However, readers are encouraged to review the comments contained in Appendix 3. The comments indicate the range of possible public opinions.

Targeted advertising and communications materials were developed to support Step 1 and to generate interest in the public meetings and in completing the response form (see Appendix 4). Five media stories, one editorial, and two letters to the editor were published in the Peninsula News Review (see Appendix 5) during Step 1.

A high-level analysis of the feedback received indicates the following general themes:

- An overall general belief that the presentation was clear, helpful, thorough, accurate, and informative, although a counter view was expressed by a few people that some of the information was misleading, incorrect or invalid—especially regarding species at risk, and that there is a need to clarify this information;
- A concern about the effects of climate change and sea-level rise on the park environment, and the lack of information about this in the presentation;
- A focus on the dynamic nature of the park environment and how unknown and/or changing conditions may affect the park and its management;
- An emphasis on the impacts (both positive and negative) of the system of ditches and the berm on the natural environment and the visitor experience, and how this should be addressed;
- Awareness of the impact of people and dogs on the natural environment and species at risk, but a diversity of opinions on how to address these impacts;
- A recognition that the park is also influenced by human activities, including First Nations use of the area for thousands of years, settler and agricultural history, residential development, and recreational use—and a need to acknowledge that natural and cultural histories are intertwined; and
- A strong attachment to the park and its wise stewardship, but differing opinions on what this means from a park management perspective.



Map 1. Island View Beach Regional Park

## 1.0 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to document activities undertaken by CRD Regional Parks to present information to the public about the natural environment of Island View Beach Regional Park, and to document the feedback received about that information. Presentation of this natural environment information was the focus of Step 1 of a Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. Step 1 activities were completed in January and February 2015. Detailed supporting information for Step 1 is contained in five appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Four-Step Public Participation Process;
- Appendix 2 – Step 1 - Response Form;
- Appendix 3 – Public Feedback;
- Appendix 4 – Advertising and Communications Materials; and
- Appendix 5 – Media Coverage.

## 2.0 Public Participation

### 2.1 Purpose of Public Participation

Public participation in the CRD is guided by the Capital Regional District Public Participation Framework. The Framework sets out the CRD's commitment to public participation, identifies a spectrum of public participation, and provides guiding principles and roles for public participation.

CRD Regional Parks is undertaking a public participation process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The purpose of this public participation process is to:

- Keep the public informed about the planning process;
- Work with the public to exchange information, ideas and concerns;
- Provide objective information written in plain language to assist the public in understanding the park management planning situation, issues and management direction;
- Provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on the information used for park planning and the draft park management plan; and provide feedback to the public on how their input was considered and influenced decisions in preparing the management plan.

This public participation framework respects that the final decision for approval of a park management plan rests with the CRD Board.

## 2.2 Public Participation Process

A four-step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park was approved by the CRD Regional Parks Committee in May 2014. A copy of the Public Participation Process is included as Appendix 1. In brief, the four steps to prepare the park management plan are:

- Step 1 – Present information about the park’s natural environment and seek feedback;
- Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests;
- Step 3 – Hold Community dialogues;
- Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan.

Step 1 of the public participation process gave direction to CRD Regional Parks to present scientific information about the park’s natural environment and ecology. The purpose of Step 1 was to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback. Step 1 was undertaken in January-February, 2015.

The public participation process for Step 1 consisted of meetings with stakeholder groups, District of Central Saanich Council and staff, and the public to review the scientific information about the park’s natural environment and to seek feedback. Regional Parks’ staff discussed the scientific information with the Tsawout First Nation but did not meet with them during Step 1. Staff will continue to engage with the Tsawout First Nation during Steps 2-4 of the public participation process.

### 2.2.1 Advertising

Step 1 public meetings were advertised through a media release, ads placed in the Peninsula News Review and the Times Colonist, the CRD website, and through CRD Facebook and Twitter (see Appendix 4). Posters advertising the two public meetings were posted at Island View Beach Regional Park, and the meetings were also advertised through the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) list serve.

### 2.2.2 Media Coverage

The only print media that covered Step 1 was the Peninsula News Review. During January and February 2015, the Peninsula News Review published five articles, one editorial, and two letters to the editor (see Appendix 5). The articles primarily focused on the public meetings, the park management planning process, and the number of species at risk in the park.

### 2.2.3 Internet Coverage

The number of public comments received via the internet during January and February 2015 was:

- Response forms completed – 41
- Facebook response – 1
- Facebook shares – 3 (sharing notice of meetings)
- Twitter – retweets – 9; favorites (sharing notice of meetings)

The number of hits to the website with links to the scientific presentation was:

- Island View Beach Management Plan webpage – 991 page views
- Executive Summary – 162
- Introduction and Management Planning Process – 81
- Natural History – 127
- Coastal Processes – 108
- Ecosystems and Habitats – 107
- Species of Interest and their Habitats - 132

### 2.2.4 Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held for Step 1. The purpose of the meetings was to present the scientific information on the park's natural environment and to gather feedback. The two meetings were:

January 29, 2015 – 6-9 p.m.  
Leonardo da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria

February 5, 2015 – 6-9 p.m.  
Saanich Fairgrounds—Main Hall, 528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton

Approximately 32 people attended the meeting at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre, and approximately 80 people attended the meeting at the Saanich Fairgrounds. The two public meetings had the following format:

- 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Greetings, light refreshments
- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Scientific presentation, questions and discussions
- 8:30 – 9:00 p.m. Time to complete response form



## 2.2.5 Stakeholder Meetings

CRD staff met with the following individuals and groups during Step 1:

- **District of Central Saanich staff – December 19, 2014**
  - Presented the scientific information and discussed the planning process with three senior staff.
- **CRD Regional Planning and Environmental Protection staff – January 23, 2015**
  - Presented the scientific information and received feedback from five senior staff.
- **District of Central Saanich Parks and Recreation Committee – January 26, 2015**
  - Provided an overview of the management planning process and answered questions from the Committee and the public. The Parks and Recreation Committee passed a motion to provide references for the scientific information (see March 4, 2015 Regional Parks Committee staff report with references attached in Appendix 4).
- **Members of the academic community – January 28, 2015**
  - Presented the scientific information to 11 faculty and students from Camosun College and the University of Victoria who have an active research interest at Island View Beach.
- **Public meeting in Victoria – January 29, 2015**
  - Presented the scientific information to approximately 32 people and received feedback about the presentation and the park management planning process.
- **Park neighbors – February 3, 2015**
  - Held a meeting with 13 park neighbors at the Heritage Acres Historical Park (Central Saanich). An invitation was extended to approximately 80 property owners adjacent to Island View Beach Regional Park to hear the presentation and provide feedback.
- **Public meeting in Central Saanich – February 5, 2015**
  - Presented the scientific information to approximately 80 people and received feedback about the presentation and the park management planning process.

Regional Parks' staff engaged in informal discussions with the following individuals or groups as part of the Step 1 process:

- Provincial and federal government staff
- Friends of Island View Beach
- Environmental groups
- Recreation and accessibility interests
- Royal BC Museum staff
- Citizen Canine

Some of these stakeholders indicated that they did not need to meet about Step 1 and stated they would access the scientific information online or by attending a public meeting. All stakeholders who were contacted expressed an interest in participating in Steps 2-4 of the public participation process. Regional Parks' staff will work to engage with all stakeholders during these steps.

### **2.2.6 Response Form**

An online and paper copy response form was available during Step 1 from January 12 to February 15, 2015. A total of 41 completed response forms were received, which included 118 comments. Additionally, several emails and submissions from the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) were received. The verbatim comments from the response form, emails, and submissions are in Appendix 3

The response form was divided into five sections. The first four sections were directly related to the content of the scientific presentation. The last section asked for additional comments. The five sections and the response rate for each section are:

- Section 1 – Natural Environment – 22 comments received = 54% response rate
- Section 2 – Coastal Processes – 18 comments received = 44% response rate
- Section 3 – Ecosystems and Habitats – 18 comments received = 44% response rate
- Section 4 – Species of Interest and their Habitats – 24 comments received = 59% response rate
- Section 5 – Other comments – 36 comments received = 88% response rate

Not all respondents answered all of the questions; therefore the results are presented as percentages of those that responded within each question.

The results are not statistically valid because the respondents "self-selected" as opposed to being randomly selected under a mail-out or phone survey. The results provide an indication of the range of opinions held by the public about Island View Beach Regional Park.

The same question asked for Sections 1-4 was:

**"Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the park's [natural environment/coastal processes/ecosystems and habitats/species of interest and their habitats]."**

The question asked for Section 5 was:

**"Please provide any other information about the natural environment that should be highlighted or is of concern."**

Appendix 3 documents the public comments received through the response form, emails, and FOIVB submissions. Readers are encouraged to review and consider the comments contained in Appendix 3.

## 2.3 Public Feedback Themes

A high-level analysis of the public feedback received indicates the following general themes:

- An overall general belief that the presentation was clear, helpful, thorough, accurate, and informative, although a counter view was expressed by a few people that some of the information was misleading, incorrect or invalid—especially regarding species at risk, and that there is a need to clarify this information;
- A concern about the effects of climate change and sea-level rise on the park environment, and the lack of information about this in the presentation;
- A focus on the dynamic nature of the park environment and how unknown and/or changing conditions may affect the park and its management;
- An emphasis on the impacts (both positive and negative) of the system of ditches and the berm on the natural environment and the visitor experience, and how this should be addressed;
- Awareness of the impact of people and dogs on the natural environment and species at risk, but a diversity of opinions on how to address these impacts;
- A recognition that the park is also influenced by human activities, including First Nations use of the area for thousands of years, settler and agricultural history, residential development, and recreational use—and a need to acknowledge that natural and cultural histories are intertwined; and
- A strong attachment to the park and its wise stewardship, but differing opinions on what this means from a park management perspective.

## 2.4 How the Public Feedback will make a Difference

This report is a full record of Step 1 and will be presented to the CRD Regional Parks Committee and Board. The public input received will inform Steps 2 and 3 of the public participation process, and contribute to the development of a park management plan during Step 4. A copy of this report will be posted on the Regional Parks website and paper copies will be made available to all participants in Steps 2 and 3.

## 3.0 Changes to the Scientific Presentation as a Result of Public Feedback

As information was submitted to the CRD about the natural environment during Step 1, modifications to the scientific presentation were made to accommodate new, valid information. The box below highlights the changes made to the scientific presentation and why those changes were made.

**Table1. Changes to the Scientific Presentation**

Section Number	Revision	Why the Revision was Made
<b>Section 1. Natural Environment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slide added to illustrate recent global sea level rise.</li> <li>Slide added to present “drowned forest” in intertidal zone.</li> <li>Moved archival photographs to Section 2.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge that current and predicted sea level rise will affect the area.</li> <li>Helps to illustrate the dynamic nature of sea level and shoreline dynamics.</li> <li>The images and description fit better in Section 2.</li> </ol>
<b>Section 2. Coastal Processes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added archival photographs from Section 1 and clarified the archive photo date (1937) vs. the date (1936) of works on Island View Beach.</li> <li>Simplified the drainage ditch table.</li> <li>Added two slides to illustrate the methodology in calculating ditch length and width.</li> <li>Added some emphasis on artificial shoreline features like roads, berms and other hardened surfaces that affect natural coastal processes and habitats.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was confusion around dates and captions on the slides.</li> <li>Redundant information was removed.</li> <li>There was some confusion around the actual ditch dimensions.</li> <li>There was some criticism that these features were not highlighted as significant factors in the management of ecological function in the park.</li> </ol>
<b>Section 3. Ecosystems and Habitats</b>	No significant changes were made to this section.	N/A
<b>Section 4. Species of Interest and their Habitats</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added more contextual information to explain the connectivity between the park and larger ecosystem for many species that occur in the area, and the environmental richness of Island View Beach Regional Park and adjacent land.</li> <li>Added more contextual information</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been confusion and disagreement around what species are being considered within the context of park management.</li> <li>There are a range of activities by mobile species (like birds)</li> </ol>

Section Number	Revision	Why the Revision was Made
	<p>specific to bird species in and around the park that are influenced by park management and activities occurring in the park to reflect an ecosystem management approach.</p> <p>3. Added more contextual information to explain the number of species at risk in the park and around the park. Including contextual information about the relationship between species and habitats and the acknowledgement that neither recognizes administrative boundaries.</p> <p>4. Added a published critical habitat map for the Sand Verbena Moth (Species at Risk Act of Canada).</p> <p>5. Added a closing summary comment highlighting that there are 33 species at risk in or immediately adjacent to the park, and nine are confirmed residents in the park. Provided a statement about the role of regional park management in an ecosystem context and that the other 24 species at risk which are not confirmed residents of the regional park are birds that either still use the park environment or reside in the adjacent marine environment and are influenced by park management actions and park users.</p>	<p>that use the park at different times for nesting, feeding, resting and cover.</p> <p>3. Administrative boundaries are artificial and do not recognize the ecological connections between Island View Beach Regional Park and adjacent land and water. Respondents are very interested in the number of species at risk that may be affected by park management.</p> <p>4. This was new information that was not available originally – it helps to explain the relationship between species and their habitats.</p> <p>5. This continues to be of great concern to some respondents although the ecological relationships of species and their habitats require that CRD Parks consider the effects of our management actions inside and outside the park boundaries.</p>

## 4.0 Summary

During January and February 2015, CRD Regional Parks completed Step 1 of the approved Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The purpose of Step 1 was to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback. As feedback was received during Step 1, some changes were made to the scientific presentation to reflect the new information as reflected in Table 1.

Regional Parks' staff met with the District of Central Saanich staff and Council, CRD Regional Planning and Environmental Protection staff, members of the academic community with active research interests in the park, and park neighbors during Step 1. Some of the stakeholders indicated to Regional Parks that they preferred to wait to participate until Steps 2-4 of the process. They did, however, provide feedback on the scientific information through the response form or by written submission. Regional Parks discussed Step 1 with the Tsawout First Nation, but were unable to meet with them. Regional Parks will continue to engage with the Tsawout First Nation during Steps 2-4 of the process.

Two public meetings (in Victoria and Saanichton) were held to present the scientific information and receive feedback. Approximately 32 people attended the Victoria meeting and approximately 80 attended the Saanichton meeting. Forty-one online and hard copy response forms were received during Step 1 with 118 comments. Eight emails from the public were also received, and several submissions from the FOIVB. The Island View Beach Regional Park website received 991 page views, and five media articles, one editorial, and two letters to the editor were printed in the Peninsula News Review.

A high level analysis of the public comments revealed general themes around the veracity of the information presented (both supportive and critical) and the need to clarify some of the information; a concern about the effects of climate change and sea-level rise on the park environment; acknowledgement about the dynamic nature of the park environment and what this means in the future; awareness of influence of the ditch system and the berm, and the impact of dogs and people, on the natural environment and the visitor experience; a belief that the park is influenced by human activities and that natural and cultural histories are intertwined; and an attachment to the park and its wise stewardship. Many different opinions were offered on how these issues should be addressed.

The results of Step 1 will inform Steps 2-4 of the park management planning process.



# Appendix 1 Four-Step Public Participation Process

Regional Parks Committee Meeting May 21, 2014

## WORK PLAN ISLAND VIEW BEACH REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### Guideline for Public Participation

Based on the CRD's Public Participation Framework and the spectrum for public participation identified in this Framework, Regional Parks will work with the public throughout the planning process to ensure that issues and associated interests are acknowledged, understood, documented and considered in preparing the park management plan. The public is defined as park visitors, adjacent landowners, interest groups and residents of the region. This level and type of public participation in the planning process will also apply to Regional Parks engagement with the federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation.

Regional Parks' commitment to the public is that it will:

- keep the public informed about the planning process
- work with the public to exchange information, ideas and concerns
- provide objective information written in plain language to assist the public in understanding the park management planning situation, issues and management direction
- provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on the information used for park planning and the draft park management plan; and
- Provide feedback to the public on how their input was considered and influenced decisions in preparing the management plan.

This public participation process respects that the final decision for approval of a park management plan rests with the CRD Board.

Action	Objective	Form of Public Consultation	Timeline
<b>STEP 1 – Provide Information and Seek Feedback</b>			
Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.	To assist in developing an understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park and the how this information will be considered in park management planning.	Regional Parks staff will meet with federal and provincial government staff, District of Central Saanich Council and staff, Tsawout First Nation Land Use Committee and staff and the public to review natural environment information and seek feedback.	September 2014 through January 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional geographic setting</li> <li>• Natural features of the Park</li> <li>- Ecosystems</li> <li>- Terrain, hydrology</li> <li>- Species at risk (flora &amp; fauna)</li> </ul>	To add to the information base on the natural environment through feedback.	Report to Regional Parks Committee on the feedback from the above involvement.	
<b>STEP 2 – Identify Issues and Interests</b>			

<p>Gather information about issues and interests.</p>	<p>To ensure there is an understanding by Regional Parks and the Regional Parks Committee of the issues and interests.</p> <p>To accurately define the issues that need to be addressed and to identify the interests associated with each issue. Interests are why people care about an issue, what motivates them, and what they deem important.</p>	<p>Regional Parks staff will meet and interview adjacent landowners and interest groups and staff with federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation.</p> <p>Regional Parks staff will report to Regional Parks Committee on the results of this work.</p> <p>A copy of the report on the results of this work will be provided to all participants.</p>	<p>February through March 2015.</p>
<p><b>STEP 3 – Community Dialogue</b></p> <p>Hold round table dialogue sessions.</p> <p>To provide a forum for those people who have an interest in the management of Island View Beach Regional Park to come together to jointly identify and discuss the ecological, cultural and visitor values of the park and share their ideas and work together to identify and discuss how the park should be managed.</p>			
<p><b>STEP 4 – Present Draft Plan, Seek Feedback and Prepare Final Plan</b></p> <p>Regional Parks staff prepare draft management plan.</p>	<p>To submit a draft management plan for review and feedback and to complete a final management plan for the Regional Parks Committee's review and subsequent recommendation to the CRD Board for approval.</p>	<p>Report to Regional Parks Committee on the results of the round table dialogue sessions.</p> <p>Provide the results of Steps 1 and 2 to all participants in the round table.</p> <p>Hold round table dialogue sessions and invite the federal and provincial government, District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation and the public to participate.</p> <p>Report to Regional Parks Committee on the results of the round table dialogue sessions.</p> <p>Meet with adjacent landowners and interest groups involved in Steps 1, 2 and 3 to review the draft plan and hear and record their feedback. Report to Regional Parks Committee on results of these meetings.</p> <p>Forward draft Management Plan to the federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich Council and the Tsawout First Nation for review and comment.</p> <p>Submit draft plan to Regional Parks Committee</p> <p>Hold public town hall meetings at two locations within the CRD.</p> <p>Report to Regional Parks Committee on the outcome of the above work.</p> <p>Submit final park management plan to Regional Parks Committee for recommendation to CRD Board for approval.</p>	<p>April 2015</p> <p>Summer 2015</p>



# Island View Beach Regional Park

## Step 1 to Update the Management Plan



# RESPONSE FORM

Capital Regional District | Parks & Environmental Services

In May 2014, the CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a four-step public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. We are currently in Step 1 of the public participation process. The purpose of Step 1 is to present scientific information available about the park's natural environment in order to develop a common understanding of the current knowledge of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park; and add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback.

CRD Regional Parks would like to hear from you on the natural environment information presented about the park. The results of Step 1 will help in Steps 2-4 of the public participation process during 2015.

- Step 1 – Information about the park's natural environment;
- Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests;
- Step 3 – Hold community dialogues;
- Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan

**Please provide comments by Sunday, February 15, 2015.** Mail to 490 Atkins Ave., Victoria V9B 2Z8 | Email [lwilson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:lwilson@crd.bc.ca) | Fax 250.478.5416 | You can also fill out the form online at [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).

### 1. Natural History

The following key points are presented about the natural history of Island View Beach Regional Park:

- Island View Beach is a dynamic system dating back at least 15,000 years.
- The land at Island View Beach is composed primarily of silts, sands and gravels.
- Modification to the land for agricultural purposes and adjacent residential infrastructure have resulted in changes to local hydrology, and vegetation patterns.

Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the park's natural history.

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**2. Coastal Processes**

The following key points are presented about the coastal processes at Island View Beach Regional Park:

- Island View Beach Regional Park is part of a beach/dune/spit complex. Coastal wetlands play a role in the ecology of the park.
- Island View Beach is at or near current sea level and there is a complex interplay between freshwater and saltwater.
- Human activities have influenced foreshore and backshore areas.

Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the park's coastal processes.

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**3. Ecosystems and Habitats**

The following key points are presented about the ecosystems and habitats at the park:

- Eight broad habitat types have been derived from Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping:
  1. Beach
  2. Herbaceous Dune
  3. Shrubby Dune
  4. Salt Marsh
  5. Brackish Meadow
  6. Brackish Woodland
  7. Forest
  8. Agricultural Field
- Terrestrial ecosystems of Island View Beach reflect the dynamic processes of a coastal landscape.
- Island View Beach's cultural history (human interactions) has played a role in how the park's ecosystems and habitat types appear and function today.

Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the park's ecosystems and habitats.

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**4. Species of Interest and their Habitats**

The following key points are presented about species of interest and their habitats at the park:

- There are 33 confirmed species at risk that use the park or immediate foreshore. The park may support other species at risk that are undetected or that may use the park intermittently.
- Current legislation and policy require that land stewards provide effective protection for species at risk and their critical habitat.
- The park supports a complex of habitats that are limited in supply across the coastal region. These habitats are important for a wide range of resident and migratory species.
- Many of the conservation threats to these species are linked to modification of habitat and direct disturbance by human activities.

Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the park’s species of interest and their habitats.

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**5. Other Comments**

Please provide any other information about the natural environment that should be highlighted or is of concern.

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**Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your contribution.**

Freedom of Information: Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Local Government Act and is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The personal information will be used for purposes directly associated with this survey. Inquiries about the collection or use of information in this form can be directed to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy contact: Capital Regional District, Senior Coordinator, FOIPPA 250.360.3000

## Appendix 3 Public Feedback

### Response Form

Forty-one online and hard copy response forms were received with a total of 118 individual comments. The response form (see Appendix 2- Response Form) contained five questions related to the Step 1 Scientific Presentation. The Step 1 Scientific Presentation was delivered by staff at the public and stakeholder meetings and was available to download on the Island View Beach Regional Park website (see Appendix 4- Advertising and Communications Materials)

### Section 1: Natural History

The following key points are presented about the natural history of Island View Beach Regional Park:

- **Island View Beach is a dynamic system dating back at least 15,000 years.**
  - **The land at Island View Beach is composed primarily of silts, sands and gravels.**
  - **Modification to the land for agricultural purposes and adjacent residential infrastructure have resulted in changes to local hydrology, and vegetation patterns.**
- Too little is made of the historic demands and arrangements for agricultural, recreation, dogs, against mosquitoes and other non-habitat protective uses. If there is to be a useful new park management plan it should be comprehensive and open-minded. Past decisions need to be recognized and not brought forward as burdens to be assumed by a new plan. The stage could be more clearly set for such an objective over-riding approach.
  - The 'modification to the land for agricultural purposes' suggests that the area was altered to either graze cattle or harvest planted crops. The 'harvest planted crops' is ALMOST true. The ditches were dug to 'drain the swamp' as the mosquitoes it was producing made it almost impossible for the farmers to tend & harvest their crops in the surrounding area. We have annual warnings given by VIHA & most municipalities about getting rid of any standing water so mosquitoes can't breed.
  - I found this background very informative and helpful in understanding the issues affecting the park.
  - I suspect that the land was a saltwater swamp/estuary before humans started to alter it. I would like to see revert back to the original state.
  - I assume the scientific presentation was as accurate as the presenter could manage.
  - I was expecting to learn more about the mosquito issue--mosquitoes are part of the park's natural history and I believe a management issue. What species live in the park? Are they indigenous or introduced? What actions in the past have influenced their populations? What wildlife depends on them, etc.?

- The submerged forest floor to the south of the park is very easy to see at many tides. An interpretation of this feature which would encourage visitors to think of the implications of sea level change would be a great way of introducing the recent geology of the area. What would be best of all would be to acquire this land for inclusion in the park.
- This is interesting to note but I feel little significance to what the concerns of today are. There are many reasons why change has occurred to the area and it cannot all be blamed on agriculture and residential infrastructure.
- The park is adjacent to a first nation's area.
- Thorough presentation.
- Considering the dynamic system of this park and how it is influenced by areas outside of the park, i.e. control of erosion. The classifying this park as a conservation area is highly suspect in my mind, since you do not control the whole ecosystem.
- Vegetation patterns have shifted due to introduced high marsh species (e.g. velvet grass) which are increasing due to drainage from ditches and creating a high marsh habitat. Invasive quack grass is also found on the south side agricultural fields along with red top.
- Yes, the connection and implications to the preservation of native species and recreational uses. If modification is an issue, what will you modify to bring things "back"?
- Discussion on the natural landscape and anthropogenic changes was well rounded; however I'd like to see some information on the Aolian dunes and their migration. Is succession influencing the stabilization of these dynamic features? If so, this makes for a strong argument against the status quo, considering the sand verbena moth relies on those shifting habitats for its continued survival.
- As much as I enjoy free reign, I realize it's important to reserve areas where plants and wildlife can exist unmolested. Please keep loop trails to the people/pet areas and make trails in the natural areas a dead end. Viewing platforms/towers can provide excellent wildlife viewing with minimal disturbance. I know there is concern about the salt marsh mosquito; does it even still exist in the park?
- I'm not knowledgeable about Natural History, but it was very interesting.
- I would have liked to hear more discussion of the berm and of CRDs role in maintaining the infrastructure that has been so damaging to ecological processes. The original park management plan specifically discusses the importance of maintaining the berm and ditches to stabilize the sand ecosystems. So, this isn't a problem that CRD Parks inherited, rather CRD Parks is an active player in destroying this ecosystem, and has reinforced these destructive elements as recently as 2006.
- I am pleased to learn that CRD is developing a new park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The park is clearly in terrible need of one. I am concerned for both the common

and rare native species as well as overall ecosystem processes being negatively affected by park use and the mistreatment of the site via dykes and ditches. I have been at the last two meetings concerning the park's natural environment. It is clear that CRD Regional Parks is keen on a public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan. I think that public consultation concerning matters that require expertise is unreasonable. There are some things that require expertise. Would you consult the public on engineering a bridge? You might look to the public for what color they might want you to paint it, but the important stuff you would leave to experts. Asking the public how to manage ecosystems and species is irrational and irresponsible. You cannot always simultaneously please the public and do the right thing. Comment forms and what the general public thinks shouldn't really matter that much. Please look to the best available scientific information to help guide you in the management of the park so that it can be a healthy functioning ecosystem into the future. The other organisms matter as much as the people. The Friends of Island View Beach are crazy. We all know it, including the CRD, but I know you have to be polite. They were behaving like juvenile bullies at the last meeting and it frightens me that people like that could potentially impact the future of the site. The lack of knowledge of The Friends of Island View Beach is striking. Is the name supposed to be an oxymoron? I was shocked to hear their claims about Sand Verbena Moth and Common Night Hawk. Please do not take theirs, or any other non-experts, advice on how to address complex ecological issues. No matter what you do people are going to be angry, so just do the right thing.

- Natural and cultural history is intertwined. Were there any cultural practices for cultivating plants or harvesting wildlife in the area by First Nations that may have influenced the land and ocean processes?
- Have always been concerned how the sewage treatment plant at the north shore may be affecting the local species in decline.
- I attended the meeting at Historical Artifacts. The key points presented provided information to people not familiar with the park and area. The key to the park is the word "dynamic." Park management, or lack thereof, since the early 80s has also impacted the current state of the parkland with the proliferation of invasive plants, the development of paths, the vegetation that has decimated open grassland and the species of wildlife that hunt or used the grasslands for nesting.
- The presentation was very good. I enjoyed hearing about the history of the park. What was missed however was the recent impacts and changes that have occurred due to 1. Climate change: How will the warmer wetter weather influence the park and how will the rising sea level affect the park and land use policy and protection? 2. Erosion and damage to the sea wall as a result of man-made causes: The natural berm was destroyed at the north end by heavy storm and high tides a few years back and this was not entirely a natural process. Logs (man-made logging product) acted as battering rams to wipe out the berm and cause extensive flooding of the land. This was never repaired. I believe this is the number one issue facing the

park in terms of preserving its current land use including people, vegetation and species habitat. Everything changes drastically if saltwater floods through here again. These points may well belong in step two, but I would like them included in the discussion. Thank you.

## Section 2: Coastal Processes

The following key points are presented about the coastal processes at Island View Beach Regional Park:

- **Island View Beach Regional Park is part of a beach/dune/spit complex. Coastal wetlands play a role in the ecology of the park.**
  - **Island View Beach is at or near current sea level and there is a complex interplay between freshwater and saltwater.**
  - **Human activities have influenced foreshore and backshore areas.**
- The map/plan at page 6/7 is misleading as it gives the impression that sand and silt roll along the beach and that the main current deposits that material at Cordova Spit. Dune development is dynamic and on-going. The forces of wind, current and tide push the sand up the beach and inland along the full length of the beach. This creates the dune and rejuvenates that habitat. The natural process is impeded by logs, the berm, the boat ramp and the drainage outfall.
  - The 'interplay' is that the freshwater runoff is trying to get to the ocean. At high tide this is not possible. The ditches need one way flow gates to allow for drainage. If the global warming people are correct this might not be an issue for much longer as it will all be salt water as the highest high water rises. The only human activity I have seen influencing the park are:- Toilets - installed by CRD- BBQ shelter replaced by CRD it should have been cedar - ask our First Nation neighbours )- Pathways along dyke & inland through the wetland installed by CRD- run down house at head of boat launch - who owns THAT?
  - Helpful information. I found the migration of soils from the bluffs north through the park and beyond most enlightening. The interaction of hydrology seems most complex.
  - Is the agricultural field at the south end of the park sustaining, or interfering with, any natural (non-agricultural) coastal processes?
  - Plans to maintain keeping the Park ABOVE sea level (rising sea height was discussed) were not considered.
  - What are the projections for net sea-level rise in the next 50 years?
  - Yes, that the CRD had not been maintaining the drainage ditches as they should.
  - The critical role of the non-functioning flapper gate is I think well explained in your materials. Allowing Re-establishment of the natural salt marsh would be very desirable by removing the gate altogether.

- This sounds like you may only be considering human influence and this would be wrong to do.
- Will rising sea level and increasing storm activity affect the current dynamic of erosion and deposition of sand or will it remain in some equilibrium, or will sediment be deposited in different areas.
- Storm dominated system. Winter storms can produce depositional events. Little change may occur for many years and then a large change may occur. Take Home Message: processes outside the park may affect features in the park and processes in the park may affect features outside the park.
- Again the classification, this park is a conservation area is ironic as just outside of the park the material that have been used to build a dike are not natural, i.e. car bodies, cement and brick.
- Do you intend to close off trails to remove human activity? Do you intend to remove the concrete boat ramp and if so what will you put in its place so people can still have boat launch access to the water? A pier?
- We know the southern berm is holding back the hydrological processes that would make the argument over the ditches a moot point. Will the management plan address the berm, either its continuation or perhaps diminishment?
- Please restrict dog use at the water's edge. Dogs (and people) chase resting birds and mammals, driving them out of the area. We need some wildlife only areas in the estuary/foreshore.
- Though it may be highly controversial, it would have been very helpful to have images of projected sea level rise in 30/60/100 years illustrating the possible effects on the backshore if nothing is done to accommodate rising sea levels.
- The coastal area will always be changing. Recent concerns with global warming and sea level changes, and an impending major earthquake, causing Tsunamis will result in the area ever changing. The boat launch may be affecting shifting sands to the dune development.
- Coastal processes will occur. HAT presented a workshop on eelgrass beds a few years ago at Island View Beach. I attended and learned the sand from the bluffs was smothering the eelgrass beds. That is a natural process. Will the recovery and replanting program stop the natural process of coastal erosion?

### Section 3: Ecosystems and Habitats

The following key points are presented about the ecosystems and habitats at the park:

- Eight broad habitat types have been derived from Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping.
- Terrestrial ecosystems of Island View Beach reflect the dynamic processes of a coastal landscape.



➤ **Island View Beach's cultural history (human interactions) has played a role in how the park's ecosystems and habitat types appear and function today.**

- Cultural history - see above. Not sure about the 'agricultural Field. What is grown there? Better still where is it? Been going there since 1965 & never seen a tractor haying or anyone harvesting anything. Did I miss it?
- Well presented, helpful.
- Is the agricultural field at the south end of the park sustaining, or interfering with, any natural (non-agricultural) habitats?
- Once again a thorough history & assessment was presented.
- I found your presentation material very clear. Thank you for taking the effort to make it so easy to follow. I do not live on Vancouver Island but spend three or more months per year visiting the area. Visits to Island View Beach are a regular feature of our life in the Victoria area. Will I be able to participate in the next steps in the process?
- Instead of fencing off the evasive species of plants why not burn them out remove required amount of soil and open up this area within the camping facility.
- Habitat changes are happening fast. This rate of change is critical in developing a new plan. Plants and animals including birds are threatened more by changes in habitat than anything else. The changes are being driven by the interruption of tidal flooding by the sea defenses.
- If drainage ditches are increasingly being full of water at high tide is it still practical to maintain them as they become breeding areas for mosquitos. Should they be filled in and is there an alternate method of pest control.
- Ecosystem mapping should identify the parking lot, roadway and trailer areas as these should not be expanded. By identifying how, ensures continued but not expanded use. Tidal zone should be included.
- Since the park has been established it has been used as a recreational area and all there ecosystems still exist so why change the park plan?
- Disturbed path (footpath) edge community. Ditch and side community - sides are often raised and have unique invasive species on them.
- This sounds like foreshadowing - intent to reduce human interactions? Honorable, do you intend to apply the same principles to sensitive areas like Thetis Lake Park?
- Discussion on eelgrass and forage meadows could be expanded on. I'm interested in knowing more about the mowed site, it seems like an insignificant parcel, however it acts like a reservoir for invasives and will be crucial to any restoration efforts.
- Please protect natural areas from human and dog use by fencing, dead-end trails, and specific viewing areas with interpretive signage.

- Too much emphasis was placed on wetland as opposed to open sand habitats. The ditches may have been put there to drain the land, but they probably haven't done much in that regard. I would argue that the role of the berm in stopping the movement of sand has had a greater effect on the park's ecosystems. The constant deposition and movement of sand prior to berm construction would have been a major force in maintaining the open character of the vegetation. Open sand habitat has probably declined much more than wetland habitat.
- How would the foreshore and backshore habitats and species using them with rising sea levels? Not enough covered on projections into the future of these habitats. Same with species at risk. As was pointed out, this is a highly dynamic environment and just a snapshot was described during a time of very dynamic change.
- Over the past ten years, additional fresh water has been introduced to the park in many ways-with the Municipally-approved housing development above the park, the 6 hydrants that flush twice a year directly into the park, and the municipal water service provided to the homes which goes through septic fields. Yes I definitely agree the vegetation has changed over the 42 years this family has lived on Highcrest terrace. With so many years of the ditches being unmanaged, they gradually filled in with silt and retained moisture providing a rich rooting medium for the overgrowth of many invasives. When the EW ditch was cleared in the late 80's, the silt was gently spread about 2 meters back from the edge of the ditch - Canadian Thistle self-seeded and grew to magnificent heights with no park maintenance to remove seed heads. When the ditch was cleared most recently the silt was piled beside the ditch forming a ridge which created a lake with no way for the water to enter the ditch. There was a ditch at the bottom of Puckle Farm on Park Property. This ditch had not been cleaned or cleared and developed a substantial rush bed. The ditch has been completely flattened with silt at the S corner. We used to have long flat pieces of driftwood to cross these TWO ditches. The vegetation and hard surface in the campground are not what one would expect at a beach meadow campground. In a previous letter to CRD I mentioned my concern with the planting of a thorny red bush that is a scientifically proven habitat of ticks.

#### Section 4: Species of Interest and their Habitats

The following key points are presented about species of interest and their habitats at the park:

- There are 33 confirmed species at risk that use the park or immediate foreshore. The park may support other species at risk that are undetected or that may use the park intermittently.
- Current legislation and policy require that land stewards provide effective protection for species at risk and their critical habitat.
- The park supports a complex of habitats that are limited in supply across the coastal region. These habitats are important for a wide range of resident and migratory species.

➤ **Many of the conservation threats to these species are linked to modification of habitat and direct disturbance by human activities.**

- That IVBRP is not an isolated conservation and restoration area cannot be stressed enough. Conservation and restoration need to be undertaken across the entire area of private residential and farm lands, First Nations lands, municipal parks and infrastructure and IVBRP in the form of a comprehensive plan. The graphic at pages 26/27 gives the impression that the critical habitat for Contorted-Pea Evening-Primrose ends at the park boundary, a ridiculous notion. Similarly, trails and ditching systems do not logically fit the landscape based on jurisdictional boundaries. CRD, with its regional scope, needs to take the lead by providing a plan that encompasses all jurisdictions. CRD should then be the catalyst for amending and implementing such a comprehensive plan. The Species at Risk Act, related Recovery Plans and Provincial regulations all provide specific conservation and restoration requirements that could or should support the well-being of endangered species of birds, animals, plants and the habitat. It would be useful to know what regulations apply to IVBRP and adjoining areas, what Recovery Plans have been filed and are being implemented, are pending and are deficient.
- If there is a species at risk on the FORESHORE isn't that an issue for the 'Crown/Provincial government? Park boundary stops at Normal High Water. Since this is a park it is for the use and enjoyment of the general public. Like Goldstream, 'disturbance by human activities' can be mitigated without draconian measures.
- It seems the evaluations of species at risk, as presented, is subject to question. Whether all the species identified as "at risk" are actually resident in the park seemed to be difficult to confirm. Given the natural dynamics involved and the proximity of the park to human density it may only be practical to provide protections for a limited number of species at risk. A focused approach to protecting a few species may be more successful than trying to protect all the species that may be at risk in the park.
- I would like less dogs disturbing the environment, birds and animals and visitors.
- Is the agricultural field at the south end of the park sustaining, or interfering with, the habitats of any species at risk?
- Somehow 33 'species at risk' has been pared back to 9, yet 33 keeps being mentioned.
- Is this number really 33 or is it 9? What about the people that use the park daily, weekly, monthly and yearly that enjoy the animals - birds, frogs, bugs, and dogs?
- I believe that we need to manage the park not just for species at risk but for many other species of interest. For example the Killdeer is not at risk but is a wonderful feature of the park and surrounding area. The Brant are of extreme interest. Dogs cannot seem to resist chasing them. These birds migrate at least from Southern California to the high Arctic stopping to refuel around the St of Georgia. Energy lost by dog chasing is intolerable.

- There are NOT 33 species at risk. This is misleading. But again it cannot all be blamed on human activity.
- As invasive species, i.e., ivy, broom weren't mentioned I assume they are not a problem as in other parks? If they are, are there any plans for removal such as volunteer work.
- Tidal zone not included or described. Key to beach use and interest.
- I don't believe your count of 33 species at risk is accurate.
- I want my parks "natural" and do not want seawalls, dykes, ditches.
- If you want to protect these species you have to provide a good alternative for the present recreation users i.e. dog-walkers. If you don't do this you will have a real problem accomplishing what you are trying to do.
- Nothing about invasive species and implications for both natural environment and public use. "Effective Protection"? Prevent off leash dogs. Nesting birds/eggs from natural predators, raccoons. Are the First Nations obligated to also protect critical habitat for the sand verbena moth? How do we protect plan species that are being choked out by invasive plant species?
- I think this part is the most relatable to the general public. There is no love for Red Fescue, but everyone loves the dopey marbled murrelet. Has the sand verbena moth been confirmed in the park, or is it just that the critical habitat exists?
- Human and companion use is having serious effect on many of these species. We need to preserve and enhance habitat to protect these species and aid their recovery.
- I have firsthand knowledge of the birds at risk using the park. I even found a Snowy Owl there once. I have also observed the disturbance caused by dogs off leash.
- Any flora/fauna or tidal zones unique to this area? More info on 33 species useful.
- The protection of these rare species is a critical responsibility of CRD Parks. This will show whether CRD Parks can be trusted as a land manager and whether the tax for parkland acquisition is worth the money. This park has a very high concentration of rare species today, but mismanagement and the loss of open habitats have already resulted in endangered species being lost from the park. It is time for CRD Parks to live up to its claims that conservation and science drive park management.
- Create islands higher than mean highest tides for species at risk?
- This may be the single most important aspect of concern in regards to the Island View Beach area. As stewards, we have the obligation, and commitment to protect vanishing species. Every single part of human activity that plays against the natural life cycles of all wild species in this area need to be reviewed, and rules and guidelines changed and updated. This area needs to be a protected to assure that species thrive and flourish. This area should become a rehabilitation, and educational facility utilized by schools, colleges, and universities, as well as interest groups.

A perfect place to establish a nature reserve, and eco tourist area. Boardwalks and areas off limits to people, for species during breeding times need to be established. There also needs to be designated, and out of bound pet areas.

- I see no mention of the horned skylark and Garry oak meadow system which seemed to generate concern last year. Has the skylark been recognized as extirpated? Shooting continues in the park. Yes, I know the neighbours have a right to hunt from the blinds on the reserve, and the farmers can shoot anything that eats crops. But who is shooting in front of our house at dawn and in the early evening. Sometimes during the day when I am working at the pond or in the flat area bordering the park and I am afraid to move!!
- I think it is great to have legislation protecting species at risk and I support this. There should also be legislation protecting humans and their property, should it be threatened. The fact that for over 100 years humans have lived on and still work on and enjoy this land should entitle them to assurances that the land will be maintained in its current condition. Ditches maintained properly, berm repaired and maintained to prevent future flooding.

### Section 5: Other Comments

**Respondents were asked to provide any other information about the natural environment that should be highlighted or is of concern.**

- As a guiding principle, evoke the need for all in the CRD community to be good stewards of our land heritage. We are only one of the species to inherit this unique part of coastal BC and the world. Even the mosquitoes have a purpose which needs to be respected, though that purpose is not clear and they are, at times, a pesky nuisance.
- There is an area which has been fenced in the campsite which is said to be invasive. Why is this area fenced and not burnt or destroyed rather than be allowed to thrive in a fenced area?
- Please leave the park alone. It is doing just fine. I wonder why the need to micro manage this public space is necessary? Also your map contains several errors.
- Keep the park, and its uses, as it is. Fix the gates through the dyke to allow the water to drain to the ocean at low tide. Maintain the ditches in the marsh area to allow for that drainage. If we don't, we are adding another breeding ground for WEST NILE virus. It's a great natural park with some amenities. Maybe this 4 part plan should have been done BEFORE the installation of the RV site?
- I attended the 3 Feb session at the Heritage Museum. I own a property adjacent to the park. I love the park for its natural beauty and that it is enjoyed by so many people. I am however, concerned about the actions of irresponsible dog owners that let their dogs "hunt" in the shrubby dune and brackish meadow areas. I'm fine with the dogs running off-leash on the berms and

below the high tide line. I agree with the process for developing the park management plan. I look forward to further participation.

- I support your efforts.
- The agricultural field may present opportunities for park use that would relieve pressure on more sensitive areas of the park. Focusing the non-beach human activity to the south end of the park may promote the acceptance of some sensitive areas being protected by barriers. Possibilities for the agricultural field include: additional parking space, an enclosed off-leash area for dogs.
- In lieu of attending your information meeting on Feb 5, I have read the Executive Summary on your www site and as above. I am a frequent user of the park, with pursuits such as wading through the tidal pools with our grandchildren - and walking my dog along the back trails. I also have a seasonal residence on the wetlands of the Englishman's River in Parksville, so am somewhat familiar with the habitat issues. I hope Island View Beach/the CRD will keep in mind all users of the park in making their ongoing decisions.
- Dogs need to be controlled on the beach, as they disturb migrating and overwintering birds. Good idea to allow drainage ditches to fill with brackish water, and allow for original natural habitat to regrow.
- While it was interesting to hear what has gone on since the last ice age I just want to walk my Dogs & go kite surfing. Oh & 34 endangered species is: 1 bird, 6 plants, a spider & a moth. (<http://www.xerces.org/sand-verbena-moth/>) that MAY have vacation plans visiting the Park mid-May to July. I can't help but think that HUMANS are the endangered species @ Island View. Please excuse my inaccuracy as I couldn't hear very well during the presentation despite the CRD's best efforts.
- I found your presentation material very clear. Thank you for taking the effort to make it so easy to follow. I do not live on Vancouver Island but spend three or more months per year visiting the area. Visits to Island View Beach are a regular feature of our life in the Victoria area. Will I be able to participate in the next steps in the process?
- Wouldn't money be better spent on fixing the potholes that have grown in numbers over the years in the parking lot and just let the bird people, wind surfers, boaters, kayakers, joggers, walkers, dog walkers, sun bathers, animals, bugs etc. be and it all seems to be working just fine the way it is. Spend money maintaining the ditches, put in more garbage cans (or at least bring back the ones that used to be there) and add dog poop bag dispensers.
- Because the park is a part of an ecosystem that includes the cliffs to the south and the spit to the north (at a minimum) either the park needs to be managed in cooperation with neighboring owners or it needs to be expanded through land acquisition. Good luck!
- Island View Beach is a natural environment park and should be managed as such. It is important that any management regimes stress the importance of the rare dune ecosystem and coastal wetlands. The outline above addresses all the key points now it is essential that the park be

managed to ensure the ecosystem elements described in Sections 1 to 4 are allowed to function, and not be interfered with by artificially maintaining the berms, dikes and controlling mosquitoes. As a priority CRD must factor in ecosystem processes into their management decisions, not be forced to artificially manage the park for a few neighbours rather than the CRD as a whole.

- I feel this whole questionnaire is poorly worded for accurate response of the public. You make statements in each section about the park and end with a statement regarding human activities. You are neglecting to mention there are other aspects out of human control that effect the park.
- Regarding your public process, "Regional Parks' staff will meet and interview adjacent landowners and interest groups and staff with federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation." This means you'll likely meet dog owner advocacy groups, but not from individuals with other viewpoints. I think your process should be more inclusive. In this park, dog walking is very popular, therefore impacts on people and ecosystems from dog activities are going to be higher. The CRD needs to address this, but from the process description, it's not going to be addressed fairly.
- Trutch Survey (1858).
- Formalize access into the brackish habitat. Map exotic infestations and create an identification and control plan.
- It was incredibly hard to understand the speaker. It was a mumble at the back of the room, poor microphone. Bad acoustics.
- At the end of the day, my husband and I (who are IV road residents and home owners) do not have any confidence that the CRD will put a plan in place that protects the environment of the residents, the livelihood of our farmers farming there or the users of the park for recreation and enjoyment. This is based on our experience living here for the past 22 years. We are astounded by the waste of taxpayer money, the presentation of material that is misleading or incorrect, directed towards the general public. As far as we can tell your only agenda is to return the park to a state it was prior to people residing there and possibly before farmers. If I am incorrect, then please increase your dialogue with the Friends of IVB. We live there; we care for the area and help to preserve it for all people who choose to frequent the park.
- I am writing a comment as a local dog owner. I frequent IVB to walk our dog. I walk my dog along the sand and on the path that has been provided through the park. My concern is that I will no longer be able to do this, due to the CRD's species at risk plan. I'm not in favor of losing this opportunity, so I would appreciate that you consider this when putting up fences to block access.
- Considering the high use of this park and the clarification as a conservation area is a problem. This park should be recreational. You should work on identifying time periods where uses of the

park should be limited but allow recreation at other times. Conservation should be concentrated on the islands off shore where use can be much more controlled.

- Mosquito breeding habitat (larva seen) is non-tidal. No larva was seen in FN influenced ditches or pans, brackish stagnant pane (near bluffs) had larva. Abandoned ditches (shallow) on south side had larva. Standing water near Puckle Farm fence has larva.
- There is nothing about recreational use of the park. What are you planning to remove? Camping? Will you keep the valuable "dark sky" aspect for star gazers?
- Thanks; be bold! Any great progress does so in the face of strong opposition.
- Thanks for the wonderful information. It's so important to ensure that public land management isn't all about human "use". We also need public lands to be conserved as a "natural areas" bank. My tax dollar count too!
- I just wish to congratulate the CRD Parks system for the wonderful parks in the district. Since September I have been to many of them from Sooke, Devonian, Witty's Beach, Thetis, GGRT, and Francis/King. I have enjoyed Island View for over 30 years; it is disappointing to read of the negative discontent of a few. Keep up the good work.
- The fact that the park continues on into the reserve is important. The larger the area of habitat, the better.
- Agree with Councilor Cormier (PN Review Jan.30/15) final meeting should be in the fall to facilitate public input. The meeting on Feb. 5th for Central Saanich conflicted with Reforming Democracy in BC presented by Gary Holman, MLA, Saanich & North Islands. Also: A forum open to the public should be part of the process for Step. 2 & 3. I want to hear all sides of the topic. Results of round table dialogue sessions should be available online to the public for information and to educate the public. I question just having reports. EDUCATION is the key to understanding what is happening at Island View Beach. Thank you.
- CRD Parks has produced a lot of documents that claim that conservation is a top priority and that management is based on science. This process is the test of those claims. The science at Island View Beach could not be clearer. You have infrastructure that was installed for the express purpose of stabilizing (i.e. destroying) open sand ecosystems. CRD Parks has been an active player in the development and maintenance of these destructive features. The result is a dramatic and progressive loss of open sand habitats and the species that depend upon them. The correct course of action is obvious.
- It might have been useful to emphasize the ecosystem services the land and waters provide so discussions would not follow the traditional people vs. natural environment. I would wish that we encourage the re-creation of the wetland to accommodate sea level rise and climate change and figure out ways folks can still recreate without scaring the migratory and resident bird populations off shore. If present legislation is in the way, change it. Otherwise a very interesting presentation! Thank you.



- It is very disturbing to witness the following human interactions on and around the beach area and back marsh areas. (Ongoing)-Big logs and sand removal from the beach and loaded into pick-up trucks for personal home use- summer evenings with beach fires dotting the full length of the beach. (I have drowned burning coals the next day, as fires have not been out) -Evening fireworks throughout the year. (casings left behind as litter) -Garbage, and bottles left behind. - Duck and rabbit hunting from October -March, behind the Tsawout beach conducted by people donning army fatigues and face masks. I find 12 gauge bullet casings often in the dunes. - Pet owners allowing their dogs to chase and kill wildlife (constant) -Dog and horse feces in ALL areas of the park, beach, marsh-land areas. -Horses in all areas are trampling vegetation.
- Park users love the natural environment as it is, even if it has been adulterated. The issue to park users is can bird watchers still watch birds and dog walkers still walk dogs? If the verbena moth is at risk we would all agree to fencing off verbena plants to protect them, but humans want to still have access to this relatively un-spoilt part of the CRD.
- (Adding additional comments from previous survey submitted earlier on today)- Since the filming and release of the TV series Gracepoint last fall, there has been a noticeable increase of victors to the Island View Beach area.- Have constantly been harassed by unleashed pet dogs, and have been attacked 2 times. Was attacked by 2 dogs last year, at the same time, without a dog owner anywhere to be found.
- We have written many letters about drainage and other park concerns over the years. We have attended many meetings and have alerted the public to these events, provided feedback forms to everyone interested. We have found this time round, people who completed previous feedback forms are saying "they know what we want, they heard from us before". There are 14 great blue heron that rest and preen in trees on or near our property almost every day. They are very sensitive to disturbance. There are also birds that nest and rest under the grass mounds in the west side of the park (in front of Puckle Farm property) I would strongly discourage any plan to build a trail to disturb the only " safe place" for them. Sound carries from the beach up the hill. Some days conversations can be clearly heard.
- Can Island View Beach be extended along the beach to the south? If the landowners above the cliffs are paying taxes on their land now in mid-air because of erosion, they may all be willing to donate the foreshore to Parks to both get a tax write-off and /or pay less in taxes. This is what the late Jeff Mitchell did in Metchosin (plus a pathway along the bluff) – Sea Bluff Farms.

## E-mail Comments Received by the CRD

The following eight emails were received during Step 1 of the Public Participation Process. Personal information for each email has been removed to maintain privacy. Emails are presented in the date order received. A separate section contains the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) submissions.

1. **Email dated 1/27/15:** I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the proposed alterations being considered to Island View Park. I go there often and have never witnessed any abuse or behaviors that would disturb even a fraction of the wildlife listed in your list of 'at risk' species. If any alterations are deemed necessary I would be all in favor of fencing off some sensitive areas to hikers but continuing to allow access on the perimeter of these areas. Closing any areas or making the park smaller will only lead to noncompliance and an inability to enforce.
2. **Email dated 1/31/15:** [We] spoke with you briefly before the January 29/15 CRD Island View Beach Management Planning session at the Da Vinci Centre.

[We] have been reflecting on our experience that night and spurred by a dog walking session we had with our 2 Golden retrievers at Island View Beach today we have two concerns which we feel you are in a position on behalf of the CRD to address.

The first concern is that the CRD has an agenda behind "Updating the Management Plan" for this regional park and is not yet sharing this agenda with the public. This concern is prompted by our experience as Esquimalt residents with the CRD's mishandling of the sewage issue over the past several years. It took a David-like stand led by Barb Desjardins supported by Esquimalt citizens to defeat the Goliath-like position of the CRD.

We vividly recall participating in very early community meetings attended by CRD officials and opponents to its ultimate plan over the sewage issue and then further meetings conducted solely by CRD officials. In both cases the CRD did not persuade Esquimalt residents, ourselves included, of the rationale and need for its intended management plan regarding the sewage issue. In the end there were too many secret meetings and poor decision making by CRD staff and its serving municipal representatives to satisfy thousands of citizens in the communities served by the CRD that the plan was the best. The lack of transparency itself became a huge PR issue that dogged (pardon the canine analogy) the sewage issue.

So can you assure us now as to the exact agenda behind the CRD's management plan for Island View Regional Park and Island View Beach?

Our second concern is that included in the eventual plan is a goal to restrict access to the park and in particular the beach to dogs. Is this dog restriction goal part of the intended CRD management plan for Island View Park and Beach?

3. **Email dated 2/2/15:** Has something changed recently to necessitate a “four-step public participation process” about the park at Island View Beach? Why is there a presentation of ‘Scientific Information’? Why is the public asked to “add to that information base?” That does not sound very ‘scientific’ rather more like opinion being asked for.

I have used the park since 1965 and can see no serious problems except the doggie doo bins are too small. By the way, I like the new BBQ shelter and the upgrades to the toilets. Had the last shelter been built out of cedar rather than steel, it might have better withstood the wind and salt spray.

4. **Email dated 2/2/15:** I've had enough of the 'Friends' negative and irresponsible approach. It's a disgrace. Maybe time for one of the politicians to say - 'enough is enough; there are serious conservation issues that must, and will be, dealt with'. If I were in your shoes, as well as those of your planning managers, I would be very upset at the lack of support from the politicians. They gave you the assignment and should make it clear that they support the process. I assume they can see through the smokescreen and know what is going on even if they have not yet been willing to say so.
5. **Email dated 2/9/15:** Please see the notes below as I also wish to re-iterate the points that I have made on two previous occasions about the importance of managing Island View Beach for conservation.

- Island View Beach needs to be managed primarily for conservation values and ecosystem integrity; with a vision where the park is managed in a manner that is consistent with conserving the rare dune ecosystem and coastal wetlands. This is what makes the park special in our region, and it is what we should be striving to protect and enhance. This park should not be sacrificed for a local few people or to support recreational activities that are in contradiction to the management goals.
- Island View Beach Regional Park should be a place where environmental stewardship guides park management; where actions are taken to restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem, protect ecosystems and species at risk, and to carry out research to better understand the natural environment and the implications of management actions. In addition, the park’s rich cultural and paleontological heritage needs to be well-protected and celebrated. Island View Beach is a special place where people from throughout the region can come to visit to experience this regionally rare ecosystem and feel connected with nature. All of this is done in collaboration with the District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation, park neighbors, visitors, and interest groups.
- Drainage ditch, berm management and mosquito control is extremely harmful to the natural environment that CRD Parks is charged with protecting. There would be much less of a problem if the ecosystem was allowed to reach an ecological balance. If there is control you must use larvicide that does not kill aquatic diptera (flies) - completely

disrupting food webs and creating a biological chaos. Aquatic diptera inhabit variable niches- many are predators, others are critical food for other organisms.

- The drainage ditches were created to move water out of the area quickly for farming. CRD Parks are not managing Island View Beach as farmland, and the maintenance of these ditches is not in keeping with the conservation goals. This area should be allowed to revert to coastal wetlands that support native vegetation. The current management via drainage ditches supports invasive introduced plants – essentially a weed field.
- The berm and drainage ditches were constructed for farming and are causing enormous harm to the dune ecosystem and coastal wetlands that belong in the area. These habitats are what make this regional park special, and these habitats support rare and endangered plants and animals that cannot survive without them. Farming is not part of the CRD Parks mandate and the berm should be removed. The savings from not maintaining the berm will be enormous over the long term, and the natural ecosystems that belong at Island View will ameliorate flooding in the area by providing a natural buffer. The berm is working against natural processes and will be a constant source of problems and a chronic maintenance expense.
- Coastal sand dunes form a natural barrier against wind and waves, protecting inland areas from damage due to storms. They also provide habitat for plants and animals, including rare and endangered species. The structure of sand dunes depends largely on stabilizing vegetation such as Native Dune Grass (*Elymus mollis*). Without it, the sand would simply blow away, as it does in areas that have been degraded by trampling and invasive species. Coastal sand dune systems are highly vulnerable to disturbance by trampling. Pedestrians and motor vehicles can compact the sand and crush vegetation; for example, Native Dune Grass dies when its roots are crushed. Sand dunes can be destroyed when structures are built too close to the shoreline. As the coastline naturally erodes, these structures become threatened, and people often respond by building “protective” reinforcements such as seawalls. This can further degrade the beach habitat, and even distant seawalls can starve down drift beaches of sediment.
- Coastal wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. Coastal habitats provide spawning grounds, nurseries, shelter, and food for finfish, shellfish, birds, and other wildlife. The abundance and health of adult stocks of commercially harvested shrimp, crabs, oysters, and other species are directly related to the quality and quantity of wetlands.
- Dogs are allowed on Island View beaches at the exact worst time for wildlife- over the months when many species are migrating or overwintering. In the summer, when the impact would only be on humans, dogs are prohibited. This is counterintuitive to a mandate that is intended to preserve natural environments. When birds are constantly disturbed by pets they waste critical energy. Some of these species migrate thousands of kilometers and need places to rest and feed on their journey. Island View Beach

should NOT be an off-leash area unless it is restricted to the lawn area by the picnic shelter and there must be consequences for those that do not comply.

- Island View Beach is currently an example of a protected area not being protected. The feature that makes this park special is the dune habitat, but the berm has effectively halted dune formation and resulted in a complete disruption of ecosystem processes. Shrubs, particularly non-native species, are colonizing the now-immobilized dunes, and the drainage ditches behind the berm have resulted in a spray program to control for mosquitoes. Dogs and people are allowed access to all areas of the park, eliminating any “quiet zones” for wildlife and harming vegetation communities. Trampling, pesticide application, chronic disturbance, fouling through pet feces, disrupting natural ecosystem processes – nothing is missing from the toolbox of harmful activities occurring at Island View Beach.

6. **Email dated 2/14/15:** I am a daily user of Island View Park and Beach and I have been for the past 10 years. I would at this point just like to comment on a few different aspects of the Park. I will not speak "historically" as we can historically go back 15,000 years. What good is that going to do us? We can no longer live in the past. We must live in the present with an eye to the future. We have an increasing population and with that more visitors and users of our green spaces. Yes, we do have to consider the endangered species and regrowth.

On the North end of the Park there is presently an area fenced and designated for re growth. The fence design fits perfectly into the vision of the park and beach area. But it needs to be one or two rails higher, making it inconvenient to step over. Upkeep is important. The area closest to the beach needs to periodically have some of the sand moved, so as not to bury the fence, or possibly angle the fence in a Direction to keep it away from the major sand surges. There are two signs; one is almost covered by bush and only visible if approaching the area from the wider path. The other is almost buried in the sand. Neither of these signs is good enough if you are trying to educate the public. There should be a larger sign similar to the one at the camp site (informing people of the invasive species) Let the users of the trails know what growth is trying to be re-established. Let them know what species need protection. For example if this is the area of re growth for the yellow verbena let visitors understand that by protecting the plant the Verbena moth is also protected.

The ditches need to be maintained. The mosquito population needs to be controlled for the farmers but also needs to be available as a food source for some species of birds.

The tenting area at the park is a great place. The motor home area is nothing more than a glorified parking lot. There must be someone in park planning that has more vision than what is designated for the motor homes now.

The Gazebo has been re-built; the washrooms are adequate and are kept in good condition. There are garbage containers but there are a few areas that could use larger ones. The road is in desperate need of repair. I believe this may fall under the jurisdiction of Central Saanich

Our parks are to be enjoyed. I think you will find considering the number of people using the park for all its diverse activities there are very few complaints. The resident dog walkers know and obey the seasonal areas for off leash walking. The visiting dog owners may need to be told with better signage. All dog owners need to be reminded to pick up after their pets. I do not think the CRD needs to supply bags.

I suggest the upkeep of the Park and areas already designated should be the first step. I think it is not reasonable to think the park should be closed, or allowed to flood for 9 endangered species, and some of those are in even questionable. Give them a space, let the re growth begin and work from there.

7. **Email dated 2/18/15:** I am a regular user of the park, but due to a family tragedy recently, have been unable to participate in the consultation process. I am concerned about some of the discrepancies I saw in your analysis of the species at risk list and that of other organizations cited in your research. I am further concerned about the validity of some of the scientific findings in your report after reviewing the information on the “Friends of Island View Beach” website: [FriendsofIslandViewBeach.com](http://FriendsofIslandViewBeach.com). This organization identifies some of your findings as inaccurate.

I think it is important that the CRD further clarify and confirm their sources of scientific research because of these discrepancies, including how the existence of the species at risk were identified and how they were determined to be both at risk and resident beach species.

I realize you may not be able to consider my input, based on the deadline, but think the CRD would want to address these types of inconsistencies before proceeding with further discussion/ stages of consultation and to ensure that decisions are based on sound, accurate evidence.

I will follow the process with interest. Thank you for offering such a robust consultation process.

8. **Email dated 2/24/15:** Just a comment re Island View Beach - my wife and I have gone there twice in the last month because of the birds that frequent the area. It is totally overrun with loose dogs, the first time I had two dogs run up to me and start barking furiously, the person in charge of the dogs just looked on and when we suggested she get her dogs under

control we were told to relax.

This park is a pretty area where one cannot walk without being very careful about dog feces and loose dogs. My suggestion is a fenced area for leash free and a rule of ONE leashed dog per person on the trails. Parks are for everyone and this one has gone to the dogs I am afraid.

## Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) Submissions

*The following submissions do not include individual email communications between FOIVB and CRD staff.*

Email from FoIVB to the CRD dated January 14, 2015 [Note: Identifying information removed]

I've been looking over the links given at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>. This is what the CRD website shows:

Below are links to the presentation, which is displayed in sections for easy viewing.

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Introduction and Management Planning Process](#)
- [Natural History](#)
- [Coastal Processes](#)
- [Ecosystems and Habitats](#)
- [Species of Interest and their Habitats](#)

Is this the full amount or is there information elsewhere?

The May 21, 2014 Parks Committee meeting said the report would:

*"Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment **found in the park**.*

- *Regional Geographic setting*
- *Natural features **of the Park**:*
  - *Regional geographic setting*
  - *Terrain, hydrology*
  - *Species at risk (flora and fauna)"*

In going through the material I see the reference is mostly made to "Island View Beach" and not "Island View Beach Regional Park". When you refer to Island View Beach in the public report do you mean the park, or are you speaking of the greater area of Island View Beach? I found many areas where you were clearly speaking of areas outside the park when you spoke of "Island View Beach" and that will be misleading to the average reader who believes you are speaking of the park.

In the Natural History section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-naturalhistory?e=2590922/10796099> you have 2 photos from the Saanich Archives that you label as "***Island View Beach - 1936 ditch excavation***" and "***Island View Beach - 1936 sea wall***"



**construction"**. The Saanich Archives however at <http://www.saanich.ca/webapp/saanichArchives/searchresults.jsp?keyword=island+view&subject=All&localArea=All> describe both those photos as "**Cleaning Island View Beach, Saanich Municipal Public Works crew and vehicles 1937**".

Why did you change the titles and dates on these photos?

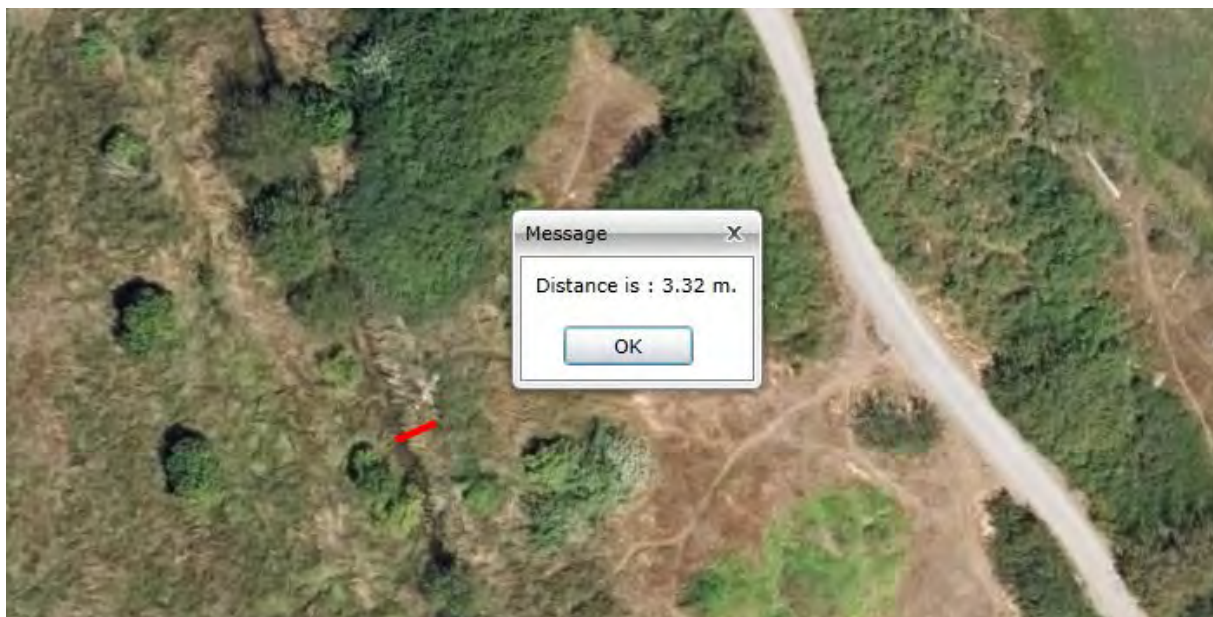
In the text that accompanied those photos, you said "*These archival photos illustrate the effort invested in ditching the area for drainage and constructing a large berm along the shoreline to hold back the tide.*" What "*large berm along the shoreline*" ?

In the Coastal Process section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-coastalprocess?e=2590922/10796152> you refer to unpublished data by Dr. Blunden [is his name not Blundon?] **Will you email me that please along with his reports.**

In the commentary and maps along with Dr. Blundon's data, why did you not mention that the lands shown in orange and red had been flooded on a daily basis for over 20 years with salt water from the failed flood gate on the north edge of the Tsawout lands? Of course that area will show high levels of salinity with all those years of salt water from a man-made cause.

Still in the Coastal Process under the heading "Drain Ditches" [sic] (I wish these pages had been numbered!), you say:

- "*Considerable effort has been made to drain the coastal marshes at Island View Beach since the early 20th century*". The ditches were dug in 1936. What has been the considerable effort since then?



- "*The ditches have an estimated width of 3.4m*". **Meters????** ... lol ... That is nonsensical. Don't you mean feet? Here is a screen capture from the CRD atlas showing the main north-south ditch, the biggest and widest ditch in the whole system. There I have used

the measuring tool to show in red what 3.32m is (I couldn't get it to 3.4m but 3.32 is close). The red line is 3.32m which shows how narrow the ditches are. Somewhere else you said the ditches had sloping sides, that is not correct either.

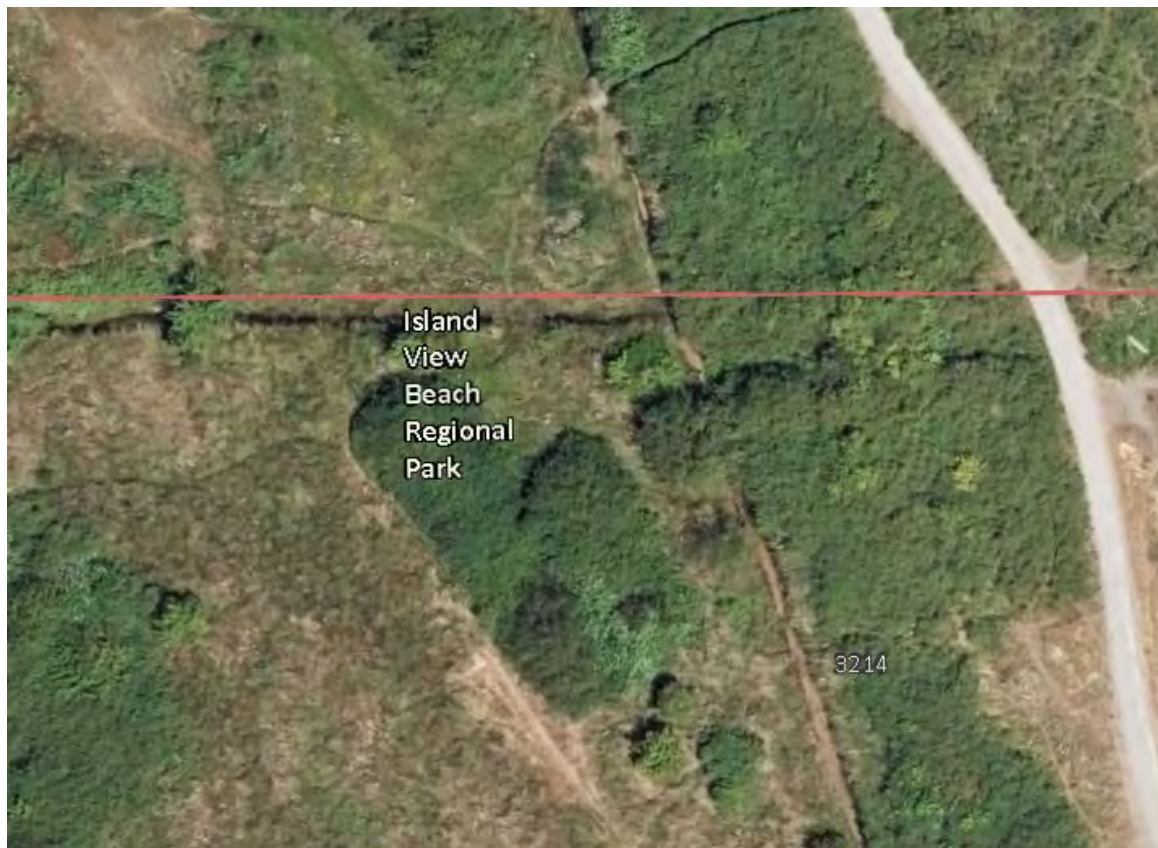
- You say there are "2.7 acres of relatively stagnant wetted area" in the ditches in the summer and "5 acres of wetted habitat" in these ditches during winter Will you give me the calculations please of these numbers. I think these will also be shown to be as far-fetched as saying the ditches are 3.4m wide.

You quote D.R. Regan but did you check that calculation with them?

- As you were discussing mosquitoes in relation to drainage, why did you not show how the amount of mosquito larvicide used on Puckle Farm dropped to almost nothing once the park ditches were cleaned in 2011? The report is unbalanced when only half a story is given like this.

8. In the ecosystems section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-ecovsystems?e=2590922/10796106> under "Coastal Wetlands" you say:

- "Groundwater is at or near the surface throughout the year forming a complex of habitats". What is the evidence for this statement? Are you aware that almost all the ditches in the park are dry in the summer? Here is a screen clip from the CRD atlas showing the main north south ditch and you can see for yourself there is no evidence of water in the ditches which there would be if ground water was "at or near the surface throughout the year".



The Coastal wetlands section speaks of Salt Marshes as if they are present in the park. Exactly where are they?

10. Still in the Ecosystems section, there is a page titled "Wetland ecosystems" showing a photo of what is said to be a salt marsh with the implication it is in the park. Where and when was that photo taken?

11. What was the purpose of including the section on "Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping"? It gives the impression of being scientific but actually conveys no information on the park to the reader, and the notes on the left alongside the photo are misleading because those statistics related to the mapping of Cordova Shore and not just the park area. And I notice you did not disclose the limitations of TEM the authors of that report themselves disclosed:

*"Ecosystem descriptions may be constrained by limited field sampling (insufficient plot data to adequately classify the typical plant assemblage and site conditions). The extensive nature of disturbance and introduced species throughout the study area may misconstrue ecosystem classification and interpretation."* Given that the TEM conveyed nothing I wonder why it was included in this report. If there was a good purpose to include it, then the limitation should also be disclosed.

12 I see the Terrestrial habitat map in this latest report is significantly different to the one contained in the 2013 draft plan. But I also see you are still showing the northwest corner of the park as salt marsh, even though surely by now you must accept that the salt water there is caused by the malfunctioning flapper gate on the Tsawout ditch. Here is the area from the CRD atlas that shows the area you still claim to be salt marsh. Everything is arid - including the so called "salt marsh" - but look at the salt water in the Tsawout ditch system. That is coming through the malfunctioning flapper gate and up the ditch system. Why do you keep calling this a salt marsh?



13. Still in Ecosystems, on the "Elevation Model" page, you say "*The sinuous meadow and marsh habitat boundary is reflected very closely by the low elevation areas that are subjected to high water table, seasonal flooding and high salinity.*" I have shown you the CRD aerial photo above that demonstrates there is no high water table during the summer, and in the Coastal Process section, the "Ground water" page it shows that the bulk of the park is actually fresh water or brackish at worst, but certainly there is no evidence of high salinity in the park. Why on this page do you speak of high salinity?

14. Species of interest and their habitats. I had looked forward to this section, thinking that at last we could get to the meat of the issue, and find out what species are at risk in the park and what and when do things need to be done to protect them. But after reading it many times I cannot find information that tells me anything useful in terms of what changes need to be made from the park plan as it is now to a new plan. There is nothing of substance that says this species lives here, and needs this protection, from these things, during this time. Surely that was the whole purpose of this exercise?

Will you get back to me as quickly as possible please?

***Friends of Island View Beach***

*[note: identifying information removed]*

Email from FOIVB to the CRD dated January 19, 2015 [*Note: Identifying information removed*]

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Attached is our letter to the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District expressing our concerns over the CRD's latest environmental presentation of Island View Beach Regional Park.

You can find more information at our web site at <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>

To the Board of Directors  
Capital Regional District

Please find attached our letter regarding Island View Beach Regional Park.

Respectfully submitted

***Friends of Island View Beach***

***The Friends of Island View Beach***

By email from  
FriendsOfIslandViewBeach@gmail.com  
January 19, 2015

**The Directors  
Capital Regional District  
Victoria, BC**

**Re: Island View Beach Regional Park**

We are writing to the full CRD Board instead of the Regional Parks Committee, because of the short time, and the seriousness of the issue.

For the last 4 years the CRD has been attempting to draft a new park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park to replace the existing park bylaw. This long period has been marred by a consistent pattern of misinformation within the CRD and to the public. We will be writing to you and the Minister about this later.

In 2011, at the only public meeting held about the future of the park, the public told the CRD to *leave the park alone*. The CRD ignored this.

In 2013 the CRD released a draft park plan that contained so many exaggerated and misleading claims that it had to be withdrawn. [You can see those here](#).

In May 2014 the Regional Parks Committee gave staff direction that a new environment study was to be done to:

*"Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.*

- *Regional Geographic setting*
- *Natural features **of the Park:***
  - *Regional geographic setting*
  - *Terrain, hydrology*
  - *Species at risk (flora and fauna)"*

Last week the CRD released their latest environmental study, and have scheduled public meetings for January 29 & February 5<sup>th</sup> based on this. You can see the report here – scroll down to the heading "[Presentation on the Park's Natural Environment](#)"

**The purpose of the environmental study is to determine if there is any species of plant or animal in the park that requires protection in the new park management plan. The Friends of Island View Beach support this, with the qualification that any proposal to exclude the public from the park on environmental grounds should only be made on factual, scientific data showing clear need.**

In the abandoned 2013 plan it was proposed, in the name of environmental protection, to reduce the area of the park for public recreation from the 17% it is now, down to 3%. (These numbers exclude the camp ground which is not open to the general public who are not camping.) As was subsequently found, those environmental claims were grossly exaggerated and the plan had to be dropped.

This 2015 environmental study by the CRD is also anything but factual, technical or scientific. We expressed our concerns to CRD staff on Wednesday and requested a response but they have not replied. We show in the supplemental material below some of the problems with it, but it has two fatal omissions that overshadow all else:

1. **It fails to show what species are resident in the park and need protection there.** Instead it speaks, misleadingly, about things found at "Island View Beach" not "Island View Beach Regional Park". "Island View Beach" is a much larger area than the park, and includes habitats and species not present in the park. Also, the report talks of things being on endangered lists, but overlooks that just because something is endangered across Canada, it is not necessarily endangered in the Park where it might be thriving. An example of an endangered species thriving in the park is the yellow verbena plant which has been increasing over the years, and evidently does not need protection.

2. **It fails to address climate change and rising sea level.** With rising sea levels and increased storm surges, in a short number of years the park will be under sea water unless something is done to protect it. So any talk about saving the environment at the park without a parallel plan to save the park itself, is a waste of CRD resources and taxpayer money. The 2015 CRD environmental report makes several references to the Stacey Filatow 2009 report, but chose not to quote this statement at page 17:

*"Sea level rise due to global warming may threaten the ecosystems .... It is important to integrate climate change into management considerations ..."*

The CRD has owned this park for 50 years and staff have been studying it for the last 9 years with a view to a new management plan. After all these years and expense, why is the CRD not capable of giving an unvarnished, factual report of what is in the park and what needs protecting? The public deserves better than this – a lot, lot better.

## **Conclusion**

Once again an environmental report by the CRD for Island View Beach Regional Park is misleading, and no reasonable person would be able make an informed decision based on it.

The public meetings scheduled for January 29 & February 5<sup>th</sup> should be postponed because there is no factual information about the park to put before them.

A new model is needed because the process is broken, and public trust has been long lost.

**We believe a Parks sub-committee should be formed of the three Peninsula Mayors to make inquiries, and present recommendations to the Regional Parks Committee on how to move forward.**

Respectfully submitted

***Friends of Island View Beach***

*[note: identifying information removed]*

## Supplementary material

### Notes on the CRD environmental report

- We found gross errors of fact. For example, claims that the average width of the ditches in the park is 3.4m (11 feet!). Director Hicks has been seen leaping over these ditches which either makes him Superman or this claim is a fabrication.
- There were off the wall, unsupported statements.
- What supporting references that were presented, came from unpublished papers with no link given to them, no page number, and no indication as to which part of the text that the paper supported, if it did at all. This makes the claims in the environmental impossible to verify.
- One paper that was referred to three times was not even a research paper by qualified professionals - it was a school project by Camosun students, and CRD staff had been told of the flaws in that paper.
- Despite the direction that the study was to be "of the Park", it spoke throughout of "Island View Beach", a much larger area containing environments and species not found in the park.
- Two photos were used from the Saanich archives, but the titles and dates were changed to something quite different
- A section of the report showed data that the Tsawout lands had a high saline content which would lead the reader to assume this was a natural occurrence. The CRD did not disclose however, that these lands have been flooded by salt water for over 20 years due to a malfunctioning flapper gate that allows sea water to come up a drainage ditch.

### Sea level rise

The CRD recognises the potential impact of sea level rise and is taking an active role in working with First Nations and Municipalities. The CAO, Mr. Lapham, sent a letter to all municipalities in the Capital Regional District on November 20, 2014 about the Province's BC Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines. [See here](#)

Below is the province's projected sea level rise contained in Mr. Lapham's letter.



Draft Amendment Sections 3.5 and 3.6 "Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines"

The scenario in Figure 1 is intended to be reviewed in 2015, or sooner if there is significant new scientific information.

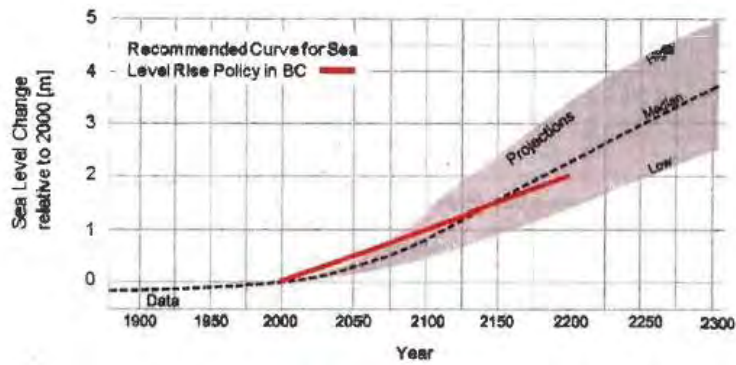
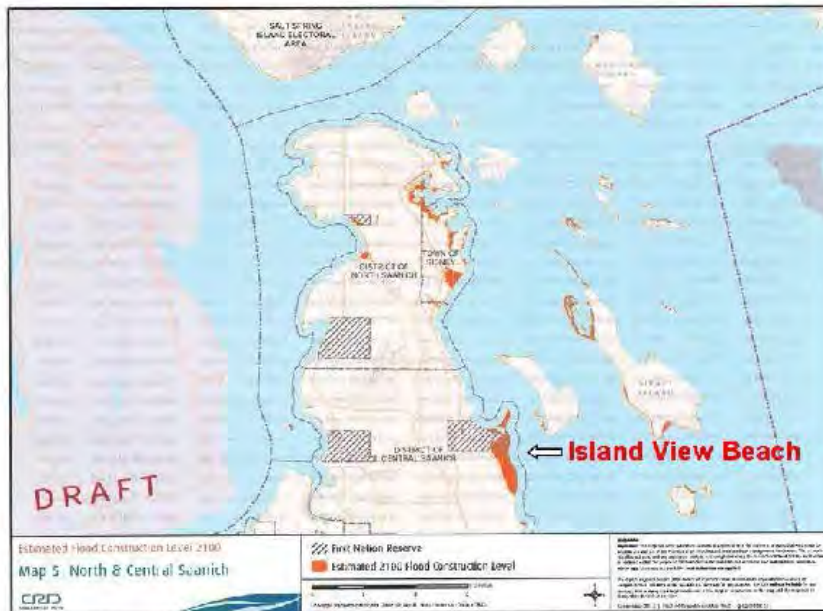


Figure 1. Recommended Global Sea Level Rise Curve for Planning and Design in BC

And here is the CRD projection showing Island View Beach being flooded:



## Do you want the park changed?

The CRD has produced an environmental presentation claiming to show 33 species at risk in Island View Beach Regional Park.

The list is on the back. **Are these species really in the park? And if they are, are they in need of protection?** This is important. If the list is incorrect it will lead to the public being restricted from areas of the park in the name of environmental conservation, when it is not necessary.

The environmental study has other mistakes, and it fails to take climate change and rising sea levels into account. We believe the CRD presentation is not factual, technical or scientific and should not be used to make decisions on. We called on the CRD to do a proper, independent environmental study and they have refused.

Come to the web site of **FriendsOfIslandViewBeach.com** and decide for yourself. If you agree the environmental study is wildly wrong then email the CRD Directors and tell them to STOP!

# What the CRD claims:

List of Species at Risk at Island View Beach

	Contorted-pod Evening-primrose ✓	Red	E	1
	Sand-verbena Moth ✓	Red	E	1
	Common Nighthawk ✓	Yellow	T	1
	Bank Swallow	Yellow	T	
	Barn Swallow	Blue	T	
M	Marbled Murrelet	Blue	T	1
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Blue	T	1
	Peregrine Falcon	Red	SC	1
M	Horned Grebe	Yellow	SC	
	Great Blue Heron	Blue	SC	1
	Short-eared Owl	Blue	SC	
	Long-billed Curlew	Blue	SC	1
M	Western Grebe	Red	SC	
M	Ancient Murrelet	Blue	SC	1
	Band-tailed Pigeon	Blue	SC	1
	Georgia Basin Bog Spider ✓	SNR	SC	
M	Common Murre	Red		
M	Brandt's Cormorant	Red		
M	Brant	Blue		
	Cackling Goose	Blue		
M	Long-tailed Duck	Blue		
	California Gull	Blue		
M	Surf Scoter	Blue		
	Red-necked Phalarope	Blue		
	Purple Martin	Blue		
	Yellow Sand-verbena ✓	Blue		
	Beach Bindweed ✓	Blue		
	American Glehnia ✓	Blue		
	Fleshy Jaumea ✓	Blue		
	Black Knotweed ✓	Blue		
M	Double-crested Cormorant	Blue	NAR	
	Snowy Owl	Blue	NAR	
M	Caspian Tern	Blue	NAR	

✓ Confirmed resident species

\*Provincial status

Red-list Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened

Blue-list Special Concern

Yellow-list Secure

SNR Species Not Ranked

\*COSEWIC Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

E Endangered: facing imminent extirpation or extinction

T Threatened: likely to become endangered if nothing is done

SC Special Concern: may become threatened or endangered

NAR Not at Risk

\*SARA Species at Risk Act

1 extirpated, endangered, threatened, or special concern

But are these really in the park?

For example:

**M** = marine birds that do not come into the park!

Hi everyone. Attached is a two page handout.

**The first page** gives our position on Island View Beach Regional Park. We have advocated for the last two years that there be an independent environmental survey of the park because we correctly anticipated the problems that would arise if the CRD did this themselves. The park is what it is, and its environment should not be exaggerated for the purpose of furthering an agenda. A factual environmental survey will guide the future of the park.

**The second page** gives our views on the public meetings the CRD has scheduled. We will elaborate more in these in other emails, but in essence our position is these should be postponed because the environmental presentation put forward by the CRD is so hopelessly flawed. **Remember those "33 confirmed species at risk" the CRD wanted you to believe were in the park? We challenged that, and the CRD now say there are only 9 species at risk in the park!** We will be writing more about this.

This is the third time in two years that the CRD has materially misrepresented the environmental condition of Island View Beach Regional park to the public. Only Central Saanich Council has acted. Where are the CRD Directors? Visit our web site at <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>.

## Friends of Island View Beach

Our position on Island View Beach Regional Park is:

### **Maintain the drainage ditches and mosquito control program**

We support the direction of the CRD Regional Parks Committee to CRD Parks staff, that the drainage ditches and mosquito control program must continue to be maintained in any new park plan, and that the park not be flooded. **CRD staff appear to be trying to circumvent that direction, with the goal of having the ditches filled in.**

### **Have an independent environmental study of the park**

We support an independent environmental study to identify which "*species at risk*" are present in the park, and, of those, which need protection, and what that protection might be. That environmental study should also take into account climate change and sea level rise. **The January 2015 CRD presentation about Island View Beach Regional Park is incomplete; ridden with mistakes, half truths and pure fabrication; and with what appears to be a deliberate intent to deceive the public as to the number of species at risk in the park.**

### **Full public disclosure by the CRD**

We advocate full and accurate public disclosure by the CRD in matters relating to Island View Beach Regional Park. **Three times over the last two years, the CRD materially misrepresented conditions at the park to the public - was this intentional?**

### **A factual environmental study will guide the future of the park**

A factual environmental study will guide any future park plan, and we are waiting for that study before considering or advocating any plans for the future. The park is what it is, and its environment should not be exaggerated for the purpose of furthering an agenda.

***Come to our web site where you will be able to speak up and email the CRD!***

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>

January 2015

..... **please turn over**

## Public meetings by the CRD in January & February 2015

We called for the CRD's public meetings to be postponed because their environmental presentation is incomplete; ridden with mistakes, half truths and pure fabrication. There appears to be a deliberate intent to deceive the public as to the number of species at risk in the park. Throughout the presentation they lead the reader to believe there are "33 confirmed species at risk" in the park. We challenged that number because many on the list were migratory marine birds that never set foot on Island View Beach. **The CRD have now acknowledged in writing to us, that there are only 9 species at risk in the park, but they have not corrected the CRD web site which still suggests 33.** Did the CRD intentionally mislead the public to believe there are 33 confirmed species at risk in the park? **The CRD directors have been told of these misrepresentations to the public – why have the Directors allowed them to continue?**

Apart from the geology section, the CRD environmental presentation is flawed throughout. Bizarre statements are made, such as the claim that the average width of the ditches in the park is 3.4m!! They included two old photos from Saanich Archives and then fudged the dates and descriptions on the photos. If this was a school project it would get a failing grade!

A major misrepresentation is regarding the mosquito drainage ditches installed in 1936. In the existing park bylaw, CRD parks staff are required to keep the ditches clean of debris but they did not do so and eventually in 2011 the CRD had to ask Central Saanich to clean them. At the first public meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, staff said the ditches didn't drain properly and they breed mosquitoes. The thrust of the CRD staff push is to have the public say in the response forms that the ditches should be filled in. **CRD staff did not tell the public that the ditches have been there for 80 years, and that the CRD Parks Committee have instructed them the ditches are to stay.**

Last Monday The Parks & Recreation Committee of **Central Saanich Council** heard a presentation by the CRD, and then by the Friends of Island View Beach that showed up the misleading claims by the CRD. Central Saanich passed this resolution calling on the CRD to prove their data: ***"Central Saanich Parks & Recreation Committee make a request of the CRD to provide references for the scientific data that they have provided in the current plan that is on their web site, and if they can not provide accurate references that it commission a study by an independent firm in order to provide validity on the facts."***

**The remaining CRD public meetings are at 6pm**

- for local residents      February 3<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Acres – School Meeting Room
- public                      February 5<sup>th</sup> Saanich Fairgrounds

Come on out to these meetings and challenge the CRD to prove their claims.

See us at <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>

## Email from FOIVB to CRD dated March 3, 2015

---

**From:** Fof IvBeach <[friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com)>

**Date:** 3 March, 2015 11:07:41 PM PST

**To:** (Note: Identifying information removed)

**Subject:** Are there none among you who will stand up and call for an inquiry into what is going on?

**The Directors  
Capital Regional District**

Copy to:  
**Mayor & Council  
District of Central Saanich**

**Re: Environmental presentation about Island View Beach Regional Park**

We write to the full CRD board because of the importance of the issue – and we say to all of you – are there none among you who will stand up and call for an inquiry into what is going on? The issue is critical – if the CRD cannot be trusted to produce accurate information, then how can the Board make informed decisions, and how can the public assess those decisions?

CFOX reported on February 18, 2015 that the CRD sewage committee refused to accept a staff report on treatment processes because the Directors questioned the accuracy of numbers provided by staff. <http://www.cfox1070.com/News/Top-Stories/CRD-sewage-committee-directors-question-accuracy-o>

In contrast, for 4 years now we have been calling attention to the misstatements being made about Island View Beach Regional Park and no inquiry has been made. You will see examples of these CRD misrepresentations at these links:

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/october-2-2011-letter-to-crd.html>

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/2013-january-public-session.html>

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/2013-01-14-public-information-session.html>

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/misleading-claims.html>

In May 2014 a multistep process was decided on, with the first step to be an environmental assessment of the park which was to be the foundation for any new park plan. We urged that due to the history of problems in obtaining unbiased, factual data, that the assessment be done by an independent professional. Our advice was not heeded and instead the Regional Parks Committee directed staff to:

*“Provide **factual technical and scientific information** about the natural environment **found in the park.***

*. Regional geographic setting*

*. Natural features of the Park:*

- *Ecosystems*
- *Terrain, hydrology*
- *Species at risk (flora & fauna)*"

This is the crux of the issue. The data was to be **factual, technical and scientific**, and it was to relate to **the environment found in the park**.

Eight months later, CRD staff released an environmental presentation they claimed was "scientific". The CRD web site has been changed but the elements can be seen here: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>

We wrote immediately to staff and two letters were sent to all the directors, calling attention to errors in this presentation and we urged that the public meetings be postponed until the presentation was checked. We also appeared before the Regional Parks Committee on January 21st 2015 where we told the Committee that many of the 33 species claimed by staff to be "confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach" were not in the park at all. We were challenged by the Committee as to what expertise we had to say that. Senior Parks staff were present and said nothing. On January 29th however, staff wrote to us saying the 33 species at risk were "*in and around the park*", and that there were only 9 species at risk actually in the park. This letter was written by the same staff who sat mute at the Parks Committee meeting where we were challenged by the Committee for saying there were not 33 species at risk in the park.

The claim that there were 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach, was a constant thread throughout the CRD presentation to the public, and was written in a way that was clearly intended to have the reader believe these 33 species at risk were in the park. We believed it, and so did the Parks Committee on January 21st. There was a "Fact Sheet" headed

**Species at Risk  
Island View Beach Regional Park**

And on the reverse it listed 33 species.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/sarfactsheetivb.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

The Executive Summary said at page 17: "*There are 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach and the park may support other species at risk that are undetected.*"

<http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-executivesummary?e=2590922/10799409>



The "Species at Risk and their Habitats" said at page 13 "*There are 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach ...*"

<http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-species?e=2590922/10796110>

All of these presentations concluded at the back with "*Thank you for taking the time to view the ... .. presentation on Island View Beach Regional Park's natural environment*".

And on the Response Form, was the statement "*There are 33 confirmed species at risk in the park and on the foreshore.*"

**The presentation was clearly intended by the CRD to have the public believe there were 33 species at risk within Island View Beach Regional Park, when all along CRD staff accepted that the number was only 9.**

#### **Central Saanich Council – call for references to support the CRD data**

On January 26 2015, CRD staff made a presentation to the Parks & Recreation Committee of Central Saanich, following which we gave a presentation showing errors in the CRD material. The Central Saanich councillors passed a resolution: "**Central Saanich Parks & Recreation Committee make a request of the CRD to provide references for the scientific data that they have provided in the current plan that is on their web site, and if they can not provide accurate references that it commission a study by an independent firm in order to provide validity on the facts.**"

In response, CRD staff posted a reference list at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/references-for-ivb-step-1.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Look at the references given there for Species and Habitats – the only references with links are to generic sites and give no evidence of species at risk resident in Island View Beach Regional Park. A number of papers are listed but no link is given to them, so what value are they as references?

The purpose of the Central Saanich resolution was for scientific data to confirm the claims on the CRD web site about species at risk in the park. None of the linked references given by the CRD gives this information, and therefore the request by Central Saanich for accurate references has not been met.

**We must advise you that of the 9 species at risk that CRD staff now claim are resident in the park, that we have seen evidence of only 5 as being in the park.** Despite frequent requests of CRD staff, no evidence has been made available to us to show that these 4 species are resident in the park:

Common Nighthawk,  
Fleshy Jaumea,

American Glehnia,  
Sand-Verbena moth

**Look for yourselves at the presentation on “Species at Risk”**

This is not rocket science, and we urge you to look for yourselves. Here is the link to the CRD Species at risk presentation: <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-species?e=2590922/10796110>

**Look through this and keep asking the question – “what factual, technical or scientific data is presented here to show the environment within Island View Beach Regional Park?”**

- the cover photo is of ducks at sea!
- there is no factual data on pages 2-3, 4-5 just a series of unsupported statements
- pages 6-7 shows a marine bird area that is completely outside the park
- page 8-9 is an e-bird report where people have identified themselves as being at “Island View Beach” which could be anywhere along the shoreline and not in the park, and in the most cases looking at marine birds out at sea
- page 10-11 has nothing
- page 12-13 is the game playing about there being 33 species at risk
- pages 14-15, 16-17, 18-19 are photos of a Common Nighthawk. Those photos were taken at James Island, not at Island View Beach Regional Park. No supporting data is given to show that the Common Nighthawk is resident in the park. We made repeated requests to CRD staff for evidence that the Common Nighthawk was resident in the park yet no data was given to us to show this.
- page 20-21 is the yellow sand-verbena plant. No references are given but it is known.
- page 22-23 is a photo of the Sand Verbena Moth. This photo was taken at Goose Spit, Comox. It was not taken at Island View Beach. No supporting data is given to show that the Sand Verbena Moth is resident in the park. We made repeated requests to CRD staff for evidence that the Sand Verbena Moth was resident in the park yet no data was given to us to show this.
- page 24-25 26-27 is the Contorted-pod Evening-Primrose. The map showing in yellow as the area occupied by the Contorted-pod Evening-Primrose is grossly exaggerated – the plant is present in only a small fraction of that area on the west side, as CRD staff knew from a July 2014 report by Matt Fairbarns. Compare the map in the CRD presentation to this map in Fairbarn’s report:

- pages 28-29 shows the foreshore which is provincial land and outside the park
- pages 30-31 is the sandpiper that does not enter the park.
- pages 32-33 is the summary.

**What you have just seen was the entire CRD presentation on the species at risk in Island View Beach Regional Park!** Did you see any factual or scientific data? Hard to believe isn't it, but that was meant to be the cornerstone of a new park plan to show the species at risk that might have to be protected.

What should have been in this environmental presentation was a listing of the species at risk that are actually in the park, and showing for each:

- a description of the species
- confirmation of their presence
- a map showing their location
- and an assessment of what, if any, special protection is needed for the species. This last is important because some of the species like the yellow sand verbena are thriving in the park and need no protection.

An excellent example of a factual, objective, scientific report is that of Matt Fairbairns of Aruncus Consulting, July 31 2014 on the Contorted-pod Evening-primrose

[http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/island\\_view\\_beach\\_camissonia\\_and\\_lathyrus\\_survey\\_2014.pdf](http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/island_view_beach_camissonia_and_lathyrus_survey_2014.pdf)

#### **Other**

We are preparing a detailed analysis of the CRD presentation for our website, but we can tell you now, that much was irrelevant, inaccurate, misleading or half truths. The crux of the presentation should have been the species at risk, and as you have seen there was nothing there.

A Response Form was handed out at the meetings and was available on-line. As you have already heard from Dr. Powell, that response form was fatally compromised by incorrect statements CRD staff had inserted beneath each comment box that would likely have influenced the person completing the Response Form.

#### **Conclusion**

### **Other**

We are preparing a detailed analysis of the CRD presentation for our website, but we can tell you now, that much was irrelevant, inaccurate, misleading or half-truths. The crux of the presentation should have been the species at risk, and as you have seen there was nothing there.

A Response Form was handed out at the meetings and was available on-line. As you have already heard from Dr. Powell, that response form was fatally compromised by incorrect statements CRD staff had inserted beneath each comment box that would likely have influenced the person completing the Response Form.

### **Conclusion**

Our position to you is that the environmental presentation made to the public in January & February 2015 did not come anywhere close to meeting the standard set by the Regional Parks Committee in May 2014 of being:

***factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.***

*. Regional geographic setting*

*. Natural features **of the Park:***

*- Ecosystems*

*- Terrain, hydrology*

*- Species at risk (flora & fauna)"*

After nine months and considerable public expense, no environmental foundation exists on which to build a new park plan. The process needs to be done again and this time properly.

We recommend the CRD engage an independent professional such as Mr. Matt Fairbairn of Aruncus Consulting to create this environmental assessment. Mr. Fairbairn has a long and close history with Island View Beach Regional Park, and we believe him to be objective.


for the Friends of Island View Beach

# Appendix 4 Advertising and Communications Materials

## WEBSITE


Agendas & Minutes | Bylaws | Maps | Careers | Media Room | Events | Data | Contact Us

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Capital Regional District

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### Island View Beach Management Plan

CRD Home > Projects & Initiatives > Island View Beach Management Plan

**Island View Beach Management Plan**

#### Updated Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park



Regional Parks is updating the existing 1989 Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The park is currently guided by the original 1989 park management plan. It is time to update the plan due to changes in and around the park.

#### Resources

- [References for Step 1 Natural Environment Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
- [2014-2015 Public participation process \(PDF\)](#)
- [Species at Risk Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Management Plan 1989 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Media Release \(PDF\)](#)

#### Contact

Lynn Wilson, Park Planner  
[Email](#)  
T: 250.360.3369

#### Public Participation Process

The CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a four-step public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

Step 1 – Information about the park’s natural environment;  
Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests;  
Step 3 – Hold community dialogues;  
Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan

- [Public Participation Process \(PDF\)](#)

#### Step 1: Natural Environment

In the first step of the four-step planning process permits CRD staff presented scientific information about the park’s natural environment and ecology. The purpose of step 1 is to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback.

#### Presentation on the Park's Natural Environment

CRD Regional Parks presented scientific information and sought public knowledge on the natural history, coastal processes, ecosystems and habitats, and species of interest found within the park. This will help ensure that as CRD Regional Parks moves forward with preparing the management plan, scientific information about the natural environment is being used to discuss how the regional park should be managed.

## FACEBOOK



**Capital Regional District**

February 2 · 🌐

Get involved in the public participation process for Island View Beach. Join us for a scientific presentation and discussion Thur, Feb 5, 6 – 9pm at Saanich Fairgrounds  
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/pro.../island-view-beach-management-plan>



### Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

Regional Parks is updating the existing 1989 Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The park is currently guided by the original 1989...

[WWW.CRD.BC.CA](http://WWW.CRD.BC.CA)

Like · Comment · Share · ➦ 3



**Capital Regional District**

February 15 at 12:05pm · 🌐

Did you see the presentation on the natural environment of Island View Beach? Today is the deadline for feedback. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/pro.../island-view-beach-management-plan>




### Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

Regional Parks is updating the existing 1989 Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The park is currently guided by the original 1989...

[WWW.CRD.BC.CA](http://WWW.CRD.BC.CA)

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**CRD**  
@crd\_bc

TWEETS 1,497 FOLLOWING 664 FOLLOWERS 2,115 FAVORITES 1

Follow

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 15**  
Did you see the presentation on the natural environment of Island View Beach? Today is the deadline for feedback [ht.ly/HgRU2](https://t.ly/HgRU2)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 14**  
**#yyj** What will our region look like in 2038? [ht.ly/GI87x](https://t.ly/GI87x)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 12**  
**#yyj** Weigh in on the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy until Feb 15. [ht.ly/GI83k](https://t.ly/GI83k)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 12**  
Join a CRD naturalist on a superb adult hike to Iron Mine Bay in East Sooke Regional Park on Sunday! [ht.ly/EXx8E](https://t.ly/EXx8E)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 11**  
RHTF grants totaling \$2,385,000 awarded to assist in the construction of new affordable rental housing. [ht.ly/IUsQQ](https://t.ly/IUsQQ)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 11**  
What are the animals up to in the forest? Bring your young ones on a forest adventure this Sun. at Mill Hill. [ht.ly/EXx8E](https://t.ly/EXx8E)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 10**  
**#yyj** Help shape the future of our region. Visit us at the Bay Centre today. [ht.ly/HNAfx](https://t.ly/HNAfx)

**CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 10**  
Join CRD parks artist-in-residence Joanne Thomson on Sat. to create a beautiful piece of art to take home. [ht.ly/EXx8E](https://t.ly/EXx8E)

**CRD**  
@crd\_bc

TWEETS 1,497 FOLLOWING 664 FOLLOWERS 2,115 FAVORITES 1

Follow

- CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 9  
Did you see the presentation on the natural environment of Island View Beach? The deadline for feedback is Feb 15 [ht.ly/HgRBI](https://t.ly/HgRBI)
- CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 9  
Register for the free High Ridge Trail hike with CRD on Friday. We'll encounter everything from marshes to meadows. [ht.ly/EXx8E](https://t.ly/EXx8E)
- CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 8  
**#yyj** Visit the CRD Info Booth at the Bay Centre Feb 10-11 to share your thoughts on your community's future! [ht.ly/GI7Vd](https://t.ly/GI7Vd)
- CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 8  
**#yyj** Come to our CRD info Booth at JDF library today at 12:30 to comment on our draft sustainability strategy. [ht.ly/HNBqg](https://t.ly/HNBqg)
- CRD @crd\_bc · Feb 5  
Join CRD for a scientific presentation and discussion on Island View Beach today, 6-9pm at Saanich Fairgrounds [crd.bc.ca/parks](https://crd.bc.ca/parks)





# Island View Beach Regional Park

## Executive Summary of the Natural History and Ecology



## Introduction



## Introduction

This is an Executive Summary of the scientific information presentation for Step 1 of the public participation process to prepare a park management plan.

It includes an outline of the management planning process and summarizes in four sections key points about the natural history and ecology found within the park.



## Park Management Planning



## Park Management Planning

The park operates under a [1989 park management plan](#) that is now 26 years old. It is time to update the plan due to changes in and around the park since 1989, including:

- A 261% increase in the size of the park;
- Increased knowledge of, and responsibility for protecting, the park's natural environment;
- An increase in visitation: 335,000 visitors in 2013;
- The park's status as the 3rd most visited park in the region;
- The addition of RV and tent camping in 2010;
- Increased public interest in the park and its management; and
- Greater recognition of related ecological systems with the Tsawout First Nation.



## Public Participation Process

The Parks Committee approved a [four-step public participation process](#) to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park:

- **Step 1** – Present information about the park’s natural environment (Winter 2015);
- **Step 2** – Identify park management issues and interests (Spring 2015);
- **Step 3** – Hold community dialogues (Spring 2015);
- **Step 4** – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan (Summer 2015).

The purpose of **Step 1** is to:

- Develop a common understanding of the current knowledge of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park; and
- Add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback.

## Step 1: Park's Natural Environment



Photo Mary Sanseverino

## Step 1: Park's Natural Environment

Step 1 is very important because it presents information on the park's natural environment, which will contribute to Steps 2-4 of the process. We are meeting with federal and provincial government staff, District of Central Saanich staff and Council, First Nations, park visitors, adjacent landowners, interest groups, and regional residents during this process. We will ensure public issues and interests are acknowledged, understood, documented, and considered in preparing the park management plan.

You can review the complete presentation on the park's natural environment online and/or attend a public meeting:

**January 29, 2015 | 6 – 9pm**

Leonardo De Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria, BC

**February 5, 2015 | 6 – 9pm**

Saanich Fairgrounds-Main Hall, 1528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton, BC

**Public Meeting Format:**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 6-6:30pm    | Greeting, light refreshments (cookies, fruit, coffee, tea, water) |
| 6:30-8:30pm | Scientific presentation, questions and discussion                 |
| 8:30-9pm    | Time to complete response form.                                   |

Your input will inform future steps of the public participation process for the park management plan. We appreciate your contribution.



## Natural History



### Natural History Summary

**The key points covered in the Natural History section of the Island View Beach Natural Environment presentation are:**

- Island View Beach has been evolving for at least 15,000 years, since the height of the Fraser Glaciation. It is a dynamic system that continues to change.
- The land at Island View Beach is composed primarily of silts, sands and gravels.
- Modification of the land for agricultural purposes has resulted in changes to local hydrology and vegetation patterns.





## Coastal Processes



### Coastal Processes Summary

**The key points covered in the Coastal Processes section of the Island View Beach Natural Environment presentation are:**

- Island View Beach is part of a regional beach/dune/spit ecosystem from Cowichan Head to Cordova Spit. These ecosystems have high conservation value.
- The bluffs of Cowichan Head provide shore material to the park through erosion and deposition of material on the beach, driven by wind, tide and wave energy.
- Dynamic coastal processes occurring on the landscape enable adaptation to changing environmental conditions.
- The park is at or near current sea level and there is a complex interplay between freshwater and saltwater.





## Ecosystems and Habitats

### Ecosystems and Habitats Summary

**The key points covered in the Ecosystems and Habitats section of the Island View Beach Natural Environment presentation are:**

- Island View Beach is dominated by dune, coastal marsh and old field habitats.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Mapping (TEM) is a standardized mapping approach representing physical and biological features.
- TEM interpretation is limited by scale and resolution.
- Terrestrial ecosystems of Island View Beach reflect the dynamic processes of a coastal landscape.
- Cultural history affects ecosystem expression and function.





## Species of Concern and their Habitats

### Species of Concern and their Habitats Summary

**The key points covered in the Species of Concern and their Habitats section of the Island View Beach Natural Environment presentation are:**

- Island View Beach supports a complex of habitats that are limited in supply across the region.
- There are 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach and the park may support other species at risk that are undetected.
- These habitats are important for a wide range of resident and migratory species.
- Many of the conservation risks to both rare and common species are linked to modification of habitat and direct disturbance by human activities.
- Current legislation and policy require that land stewards provide effective protection for species at risk and their critical habitat.

## Response Form

Thank you for taking the time to view the executive summary of the presentation on Island View Beach Regional Park's natural environment. Did we miss anything? Please provide feedback or additional comments on the [response form](#).

Please provide your comments by midnight, Sunday, February 15, 2015.

Your input will inform future steps of the public participation process for the park management plan. We appreciate your contribution.

A report of the responses will be available on the CRD [website](#). We are organizing Step 2 and Step 3 of the planning process and will post those details soon.

View other sections of the presentation:

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Park Management Planning Process](#)
- [Natural History](#)
- [Coastal Processes](#)
- [Ecosystems and Habitats](#)
- [Species of Interest and their Habitats](#)





Making a difference...together

625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

## Media Release

For Immediate Release

January 9, 2015

### Four-Step Public Participation Process Underway for Island View Beach Regional Park

**Victoria, BC-** The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking public input on updating the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan through public meetings in January and February. This first stage of a four-step planning process permits CRD staff to present and gather scientific information about the park's natural environment.

#### Public meetings

*Date:* January 29, 2015

*Location:* Leonardo De Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria, BC

*Time:* 6-9pm

*Date:* February 5, 2015

*Location:* Saanich Fairgrounds-Main Hall, 528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton, BC

*Time:* 6-9pm

#### Meeting format

6-6:30pm - Greeting, refreshments

6:30-8:30pm - Scientific presentation, questions and discussion


8:30-9pm - Complete response form

"The purpose of stage one is to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback," said Mike Walton, Senior Manager, Regional Parks.

CRD Regional Parks will present scientific information and seek public knowledge on the natural history, coastal processes, ecosystems and habitats, and species of interest found within the park. This will help ensure that as CRD Regional Parks moves forward with preparing the management plan, scientific information about the natural environment is being used to discuss how the regional park should be managed.

"CRD staff is following a process that has been approved by the Regional Parks Committee and public participation is an integral component of preparing the management plan," said Walton.

In future steps, the CRD will gather information about issues and interests from stakeholders, hold two community round table dialogue sessions, and present a draft Plan for feedback at public meetings.



# Scientific Presentation on the Natural Environment of Island View Beach

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is updating the [Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan](#). In this first step of a four-step public participation process, the CRD will present scientific information about the park to develop a common understanding of the natural environment and add to that information base through public feedback.

**January 29, 2015 | 6 – 9pm**

**Leonardo De Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria**

**February 5, 2015 | 6 – 9pm**

**Saanich Fairgrounds-Main Hall, 1528 Stellys Cross Rd, Saanichton**

## **Public Meeting Format**

6-6:30pm      Greeting, light refreshments

6:30-8:30pm      Scientific presentation, questions and discussion

8:30-9pm      Time to complete response form

Presentation and response form also online at [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).

**Deadline for feedback is Sunday, February 15.**



## Get Involved in the Public Participation Process for Island View Beach

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is updating the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan. In this first step of a four-step public participation process, the CRD will present scientific information about the park. The purpose of step 1 is to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found in the park, and add to that information base through public feedback.

Join us for this presentation and discussion.

**Date: January 29, 2015 | Time: 6 – 9pm**

Leonardo De Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria

**Date: February 5, 2015 | Time: 6 – 9pm**

Saanich Fairgrounds-Main Hall, 1528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton

**Meeting format:**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 6 - 6:30pm    | Greeting, refreshments                            |
| 6:30 - 8:30pm | Scientific presentation, questions and discussion |
| 8:30 - 9pm    | Time to complete response form                    |

The presentation and response form are also available online

**[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)**

[www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

CRD



Parks & Environmental Services T: 250.360.3078  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000 F: 250.360.3079  
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6 www.crd.bc.ca

January 27, 2015

File: 0620-20  
Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan  
6130-40  
Island View Beach

The Friends of Island View Beach  
c/o  
Sent by e-mail to: [FriendsOfIslandViewBeach@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfIslandViewBeach@gmail.com)

Dear

**RE: ISLAND VIEW BEACH**

Your letter of January 19, 2015 to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board has been referred to me by Board Chair Nils Jensen. I also understand you were recognized as a delegation at the regularly scheduled Regional Parks Committee meeting on January 21, 2015.

Your interest in the management planning process for Island View Beach is appreciated. The Regional Parks Committee approved the public participation process at its May 21, 2014 meeting. Subsequently, information was presented by staff at the January 21, 2015 Regional Parks Committee meeting that provided an overview of the public participation process. The Regional Parks Committee, in the context of your and Dr. Barbara Powell's presentation, confirmed its support of the public participation process as approved at the May 21, 2014 Regional Parks Committee meeting.

I am satisfied that the public engagement process as proposed should continue and that the Regional Parks Committee is the appropriate body to receive and make recommendations to the CRD Board regarding the management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

Please accept my thanks for your support for Regional Parks.

Yours truly,

Susan Brice  
Chair, Regional Parks Committee

MW:km

cc: Nils Jensen, Board Chair, Capital Regional District  
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services  
Mike Walton, Senior Manager, Regional Parks

1655107



January 29, 2015

File: 6130-30  
Island View Beach Regional Park  
Public Participation Process

Sent by email to:

*emailed Jan 29, 2015*

Thank you for your input and responses over the last few weeks in regard to Step One of the Island View Beach Regional Park Public Participation Process. You have written to me and my staff several times on this topic and I draft this response in regard to your concerns on behalf of myself and my staff.

Given the intent of the public meetings, I believe it is appropriate to continue with them as scheduled. We appreciate your feedback and expect contributions from other stakeholders during this information sharing phase. If you have any relevant scientific information to add to this process, we would very much appreciate if you could either provide it to us or direct us to the source(s) of the information.

"Island View Beach" and "Island View Beach Regional Park" are terms we use in our presentation materials. Much of the general information we present applies to both contexts. We understand that our management jurisdiction focusses our direct management within the Regional Park boundaries. Ecosystem processes though, require us to consider how our actions inside the park may affect plant and animal species and other values outside of the park and conversely, how actions outside the park may affect values or resources inside the park.

Regarding your concerns around species at risk (SAR), there are 33 known species at risk in and around the park. Nine species at risk are known to be resident or breeding in the park. This information, provided in our fact sheet, has been confirmed with the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre and other species experts.

Lastly, we anticipate emerging information on the subject of climate change and will manage Regional Parks with the benefit of this new information.

Our intention, through Step One of the process, is to ensure we have not missed any important information. Once again, I encourage you to share with us any new or missing scientific information that may be helpful to our planning efforts. My staff and I look forward to continued collaboration on this important initiative. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Mike Walton, Senior Manager  
Regional Parks



February 18, 2015

File: 6130-30  
Island View Beach – Management Plan

Mr. Bruce Greig, mcip, bcsla  
Director of Planning and Building Services  
District of Central Saanich  
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9

Dear Mr. Greig:

**RE: CENTRAL SAANICH MOTION TO PROVIDE REFERENCES FOR STEP 1  
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION – ISLAND VIEW BEACH REGIONAL PARK**

On January 26, 2015, Regional Parks made a presentation to the District of Central Saanich Parks & Recreation Committee on the Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

The Four Steps reviewed in the presentation to Council were:

- Step 1:** Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found within the park (winter 2015).
- Step 2:** Identify park management issues and interests (spring 2015).
- Step 3:** Hold community dialogue sessions (spring 2015).
- Step 4:** Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback and prepare a final plan (summer 2015).

During the subsequent discussion, Central Saanich passed the following motion:

"That the Parks & Recreation Committee recommend that Council suggest that the Capital Regional District (CRD) provide references on the CRD's website for scientific information on the current development of a new Island View Beach Park Plan and further, that if the CRD is unable to provide references for the data provided that they commission a study by an independent firm regarding the validity of the facts."

In response to the Central Saanich motion, Regional Parks is providing references for the Step 1 scientific information (see Attachment 1). This information has also been posted to the Island View Beach Regional Park website.



The scientific presentation is comprised of five modules covering information on the park's natural history, coastal processes, ecosystems and habitats, and species of concern and their habitats. A report on the results on Step 1 will be made available to Council later this spring.

We hope that the availability of references on the Step 1 scientific information will meet the needs of the District's motion. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information. I can be reached at [mwalton@crd.bc.ca](mailto:mwalton@crd.bc.ca) or 250-360-3340.

Yours truly,



**Mike Walton, Senior Manager**  
**Regional Parks**  
**Parks & Environmental Services**

LW:km

Attachment: 1

cc: Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager  
Lynn Wilson, Park Planner



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO THE REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015**

---

**SUBJECT**     **DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH MOTION REGARDING THE ISLAND VIEW  
BEACH REGIONAL PARK FOUR-STEP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**ISSUE**

To update the Regional Parks Committee on the District of Central Saanich's motion requesting that the Capital Regional District (CRD) provide references for the Island View Beach Regional Park Step 1 scientific information.

**BACKGROUND**

In May 2014, the CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a Four-Step Public Participation process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The four steps are:

- Step 1:** Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found within the park (winter 2015).
- Step 2:** Identify park management issues and interests (spring 2015).
- Step 3:** Hold community dialogue sessions (spring 2015).
- Step 4:** Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback and prepare a final plan (summer 2015).

Regional Parks undertook Step 1 of the public participation process during January and February 2015. The purpose of Step 1 is to present scientific information about the park's natural environment, in order to:

- develop a common understanding of the current knowledge of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park; and
- add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback.

On January 26, 2015, Regional Parks staff provided a summary of the Four-Step Public Participation Process to the District of Central Saanich Parks & Recreation Committee. During the subsequent discussion, Central Saanich passed the following motion:

*That the Parks & Recreation Committee recommend that Council suggest that the Capital Regional District (CRD) provide references on the CRD's website for scientific information on the current development of a new Island View Beach Park Plan and further, that if the CRD is unable to provide references for the data provided that they commission a study by an independent firm regarding the validity of the facts.*

In response to the Central Saanich motion, Regional Parks is providing references for the Step 1 scientific information (see Attachment 1). This information has also been posted to the Island View Beach Regional Park website.

The scientific presentation is comprised of five modules covering information on the park's natural history, coastal processes, ecosystems and habitats, and species of concern and their habitats. On-line and hard copy response forms were available for the public to provide comments on the information through February 15, 2015.

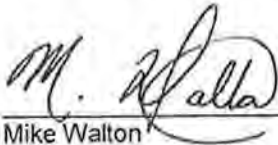
Regional Parks will update the Regional Parks Committee on the results of Step 1 in April. Step 1 included two public meetings and several stakeholder meetings. A meeting is being organized with the Tsawout First Nation to present the scientific information.

**CONCLUSION**

On January 26, 2015, Regional Parks staff provided a summary of the public participation process to the District of Central Saanich. The District passed a motion at that meeting requesting the CRD provide references for the Step 1 scientific information.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Regional Parks Committee receive this report for information:



Mike Walton  
Senior Manager  
Regional Parks



Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng.  
General Manager  
Parks & Environmental Services  
Concurrence

LW:km

Attachment: 1

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**Parks & Environmental Services**  
625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3078  
F: 250.360.3079  
www.crd.bc.ca

March 30, 2015

File: 0620-20  
Island View Beach Regional Park Mgmt Plan  
6130-40  
Island View Beach

Friends of Island View Beach

Sent by e-mail to: [friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com)

Dear Friends of Island View Beach:

**RE: ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATION ABOUT ISLAND VIEW BEACH REGIONAL PARK – STEP 1 OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Thank you for your e-mail dated March 3, 2015 about Island View Beach Regional Park. In your e-mail, you recommend that the Capital Regional District (CRD) engage an independent professional to complete an environmental assessment of the park. You also addressed a specific concern about species-at-risk information that was presented in January through February 2015 as part of Step 1 of the public participation process to prepare a management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

I believe that the environmental information that was presented by Regional Parks meets the objective of Step 1 in its focus, level of accuracy, and thoroughness, and that it provides a foundation for preparing a draft management plan. It was compiled by a Regional Parks staff member who is a registered professional biologist in the Province of BC after conducting careful research and consulting with experts in their fields. Given this, I do not believe that an independent environmental assessment is warranted.

I am aware that the Friends of Island View Beach have been in contact with Regional Parks staff through a number of separate requests querying the environmental information. I understand that the questions raised in each of the requests have been answered. If you have other environmental information that is counter to what Regional Parks staff have presented, please provide it to them. It would be helpful if this information is prepared or endorsed by a registered professional biologist in the Province of BC who has expertise in ecosystem and species protection and management. This will ensure that we have the best environmental information to prepare the management plan.

Regarding your concerns about the information on species-at-risk, Regional Parks has stated publicly that 9 species-at-risk reside or nest in the park and depend on habitat in the park. The other 24 species-at-risk that have been noted are of concern to Regional Parks because they are birds that either use the park habitat during various times of the year or reside in the adjacent terrestrial or marine environments and are potentially influenced by park management actions and park users. Regional Parks staff will be amending the environmental presentation materials on the CRD website based on public feedback received and will clarify the information about species-at-risk that I have noted above. I also need to stress that species-at-risk is only

1692388



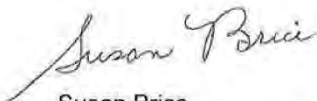


one environmental topic that Regional Parks needs to consider in preparing the management plan. This is evident from the information presented as part of Step 1.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns about the environmental information to the CRD Board of Directors. I encourage you to remain involved in the park management planning process as it unfolds during Steps 2-4. There will be opportunities to engage with staff, stakeholders, and the public to identify the critical issues facing the park, to provide input on options for addressing those issues, and to review the draft park management plan before it comes to the CRD Parks Committee and Board for approval.

If you require further information about the Island View Beach Regional Park management planning process, please contact Jeff Ward, Manager of Planning, Resource Management & Development at [jward@crd.bc.ca](mailto:jward@crd.bc.ca) or 250-360-3370.

Sincerely,



Susan Brice  
Chair, CRD Regional Parks Committee

cc: Nils Jensen, Board Chair, Capital Regional District  
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services  
Mike Walton, Senior Manager, Regional Parks  
Jeff Ward, Mgr of Planning, Resource Management & Development, Regional Parks

## Park plan returns to protest

Opponents of CRD's plans for Island View Beach still suspicious

Tim Collins  
*Contributor*

One might be forgiven if the whole story sounds all too familiar.

On the one side stands the Capital Regional District (CRD), trying to develop a new management plan for the Island View Beach Regional Park. The existing plan dates back to 1989 and the CRD maintains that substantial changes in the park boundaries and use patterns have necessitated the update. The new plan, according to the CRD, will present "the vision, goals, direction statements and management objectives and actions for environmental conservation, cultural heritage management, visitor experience and parks operations and development."

On the other side there is a small but dedicated and highly persistent group of area residents and other park users dubbed The Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB). Their stated goal is to ensure any new park plan takes into account the actual needs and wishes of park users.

The Friends are suspicious of the CRD, citing past failures to adequately maintain ditches (which at various times led to mosquito infestations) and pointing to what they call deliberate misstatements and serious flaws in the CRD's consultation processes.

It's a battle that last came to a head in 2013 when the CRD responded to critics and was moved to withdraw a draft management plan for the park and return for further study and public consultation.

Now the CRD is back with a new approach in 2015.

**PLEASE SEE:**

Park neighbours vow, page 7

# Park neighbours vow to stave off unwanted change

Continued from page 1

If their reception at the Jan. 26 meeting of Central Saanich's Parks and Recreation Committee is any indication, they have a tough time ahead. (See related story on this page)

That presentation was followed by a delegation from the Friends of Island View Beach, claiming there were serious misstatements within the CRD's presentation.

"They (the CRD) have known since January 14 that we had serious concerns about the material they had posted on their website," said Jason Austin, a spokesperson for FOIVB. "We sent two e-mails to staff on the 14th and another to CRD directors on January 19, begging them to check their facts before proceeding but they just ignored us."

The Friends also voiced their concerns at the Jan. 21 meeting of the CRD's Regional Parks Committee.

"We were allotted four minutes to state our case, but they basically ignored us ... questioning our expertise," said Austin.

According to Mike Walton, the CRD's Senior Manager for Regional Parks, there is no intent to provide false information and no hidden agenda driving the current process.

"I'm confident in the information that we have ... our intent at this point is to simply share the



Submitted photo  
Jim Laite and Dr. Barbara Powell, members of The Friends of Island View Park. Powell says she has little faith in the park's proposed management plans.

information on what the science is telling us," he said. "We have a four step process that is going to invite a lot of public input and we expect a robust conversation around these points."

When asked about demonstrably inaccurate information within the CRD presentation (for example they list the average width of the ditches in the park as three

times their actual width and have changed the dates on some archival photographs) Walton said that the public process would catch and correct any actual mistakes in the information.

"I'm not prepared to say that this is a mea culpa situation yet," said Walton. "If we've made mistakes, we'll own up to them after the public input is complete."

"It's all very frustrating," said Dr. Barbara Powell, another member of the Friends of Island View Beach.

"If you look at their so-called factual and scientific information, they list 33 species at risk within the park. But 11 of those are migratory marine birds that may stop off on the waters near the park but do not live or breed there. Several

other species that they list may be endangered in general, but are thriving within the park under the current conditions."

Powell said that she has little faith in the management plan process.

Central Saanich Mayor, Ryan Windsor, is a little more critical of the problems within the CRD's information.

"As long as this is an issue for our community's residents, this is going to be an important issue for council," he said. "We have to hold the CRD accountable for what they present ... ensure that they've done their due diligence. We certainly don't want a repetition of the mistakes of the past. It's a new day. Let's make sure we stay on track."

As for the Friends of Island View Beach, they intend to stay their own course to protect the park and its users from change that isn't what those users want, they say, and not what the park needs.

"It sometimes feels as though they (the CRD) are trying to wear us down through sheer fatigue," said Austin. "But we love this park and we're not going away."

The next step in the CRD's process is a series of public meetings to be held in Victoria and at the Saanich fairground. Details can be found at [crd.bc.ca](http://crd.bc.ca). Information about the Friends of Island View Beach can be found at [www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com](http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com).

## Central Saanich asks CRD to confirm its park data

Angela Cowan  
News Staff

Central Saanich's Parks and Recreation Committee had a spot of refereeing to do last Monday between representatives from the CRD and the Friends of Island View Beach.

The CRD's effort to develop a new management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park has been a contentious issue for years, and it looked as though the fight was still going strong.

Mike Walton, senior manager for CRD Regional Parks, presented information describing its four-step public participation process, detailing in particular the first step, currently underway,

that includes disseminating "factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park."

Mere seconds after Walton finished, several members of the Friends of Island View Beach took the microphone to point out inaccuracies.

The Friends claim there were egregious errors in reporting the species-at-risk in the park, the width of ditches and mislabelled and mis-dated photos

used to illustrate points in the presentation.

Additionally, members stressed any park management plan would need to address climate change, or the whole thing is for naught.

Some issues raised were more logistical than factual; Councillor Alicia Cormier asked if the last stage of the CRD's consultation process could take place in the fall, rather than summer when many people are away; and

Coun. Zeb King wanted to ensure those who may have to leave early in two upcoming informational sessions have ample access to the feedback forms.

Walton readily responded to the concerns by saying the CRD is open to receiving more information from the public.

"This is a public process and we're open to these opportunities (for input). We're here to listen," said Walton.

Wayne Watkins, who

served as the chair of the parks committee in 1989 and whose signature is on the current park management plan, demanded council investigate the validity of the CRD's facts.

Coun. Carl Jensen then moved to ask the CRD to confirm the validity of its information and provide references, with Mayor Ryan Windsor adding an amendment

to require the CRD to utilize an independent third party if it was not able to confirm its own data.

The motion passed, with only Coun. Chris Graham opposed, saying, "The last thing we need to do is ask the CRD for more studies."

At this point, public hearings on Jan. 29 at the Leonardo Da Vinci Centre, and Feb. 5 at the Saanich Fairground

main hall are scheduled to go ahead as planned. The meetings run from 6 to 9 p.m.

Public input through the CRD's response form must be received by midnight, Feb. 15, 2015.

To view the plan and response form, visit [www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan).

reporter@peninsula  
newsreview.com

Jim Parker *Publisher*  
Steven Heywood *Editor*  
Janice Marshall *Production Manager*  
Bruce Hogarth *Circulation Manager*

# VIEWPOINT

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## OUR VIEW

# Find common ground

**W**hen you use statistics and numbers to back up an argument, it exposes said debate to interpretation by another party.

That seems to be what has happened to the Capital Regional District as it starts to sell its proposed management plan for Island View Park.

Oddly, the CRD might have learned that lesson from its aborted attempt at a park plan in 2013 and come better prepared to defend their latest version.

This year, they are facing the exact same opposition, as a group called The Friends of Island View Park resurrect their critique of CRD officials and pick apart the latest plans for the area.

We hope the CRD and park users can reach consensus

It's likely, then that whatever information the CRD comes up with or revises through its public input process this month and next,

someone will always oppose it. The reason is fear of change.

It's a simple explanation and could easily be decried by people who can't admit that's at the root of their opposition. But when they call for a plan to weigh heavily on the side of local residents, you can bet the park won't be changing all that much.

Of course said plans must take people's concerns into consideration, but should be balanced with protection of the ecosystem — and it has been said that Island View Park is home to some very rare dunes and wildlife. Preserving it should be uppermost in any plan.

The CRD is not in an enviable position. People have used the park for years — both for recreation and for agriculture and more. There's also a general expectation by property owners that when they buy their homes, the land around them won't ever change. As local governments know, however, that just isn't the case and no one can buy a view.

We hope the CRD and park users can reach some sort of consensus on Island View Park and how public use and the ecosystem can co-exist without one side tromping all over the other.

Getting to that point means both must sharpen their pencils and determine where they share common ground.

**What do you think?** Give us your comments by e-mail: [editor@peninsulanewsreview.com](mailto:editor@peninsulanewsreview.com) or fax 250-656-5526. All letters must have a name and a telephone number for verification.

# Island View Park battle rages

Opponents of the CRD want the public process stopped for now

Tim Collins  
Contributor

"This isn't a done deal."

That statement by Mike Walton at the Capital Regional District's (CRD) first public meeting regarding Island View Beach went a long way to characterizing the situation in which the CRD finds itself in their latest attempt to develop and shepherd through a new management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

That meeting, held at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre in Victoria on Jan. 28, attracted about 25 interested people and gave CRD staff the opportunity to present what they have called the scientific facts regarding the park.

The CRD's last attempt at this process came to an abrupt halt in May of 2013 when they were sent back to their desks by the CRD Regional Parks Committee Board to regroup and bring forward a plan based on "factual, technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park."

The credit for that move was claimed by a group called The Friends of Island View Beach (FIVB); a group that has consistently challenged the veracity of much of the information put forward by CRD staff in 2013. At the time, they claimed the regional government had a predetermined agenda to fundamentally change the way that the park is used.

No representation of the FIVB was present at the Jan. 28 public meeting.

"We called for the postponement of



The CRD's Mike Walton. He says the CRD has a responsibility to act as stewards of the land.

the public meetings because, again, we have caught CRD staff presenting information to the public that supports their position but that isn't accurate or scientific," said Jason Austin, the spokesperson for FIVB.

"Their presentation is incomplete, ridden with mistakes, half truths and pure fabrication and with what appears to be a deliberate intent to deceive the public as to the number of species at risk in the park."

Austin called the decision to proceed with the meetings despite the demonstrated inaccuracies in the information being presented as "irresponsible and arrogant."

"We're on the outside looking in again, and the CRD staff are not listening to what we have to say," said Austin. "They are simply not telling the truth."

"It's very difficult to deal with people who send you an e-mail calling you a liar," said

Walton when asked why the FIVB have not earned a more active role in this renewed planning process.

"And at any rate, the FIVB are just one of the many stakeholders. We're not going to give anyone a privileged level of influence in this process."

Walton did not identify any other organized stakeholders, speaking instead of meeting people who live in the neighbourhood of the

park. He further maintained the CRD has a responsibility to act as stewards of the land and that it will always be difficult to balance that responsibility with allowing public use of park lands.

### Species at risk?

The presentation of the CRD staff at the public meeting seemed to recognize that responsibility by speaking about the species

at risk at Island View Beach, but Austin maintained it was a cynical bit of theatre, again supplying information that is not factual, he said.

"They use the terms Island View Beach and Island View Beach Regional Park as meaning the same thing," said Austin. "They clearly aren't."

### PLEASE SEE:

Park plan faces stiff opposition, page 5

# Park plan faces stiff opposition

Continued from page 3

"Island View Beach extends far beyond the park's boundaries and what happens in the park may have no impact on those other areas."

Austin said that he raised this issue in a Jan. 14 email to Walton, pointing out the presentation material implied a gross overestimation of species at risk within the park and asking that presentation materials be changed to reflect only what was happening in the park, as per the CRD's 2013 direction.

He said he received no response until Jan. 29 in which Walton acknowledged the following: "Island View Beach" and "Island View Regional Park" are terms we use in our presentation materials. Much of the general information we present applies to both contexts. Regarding your concerns around species at risk (SAR) there are 33 known (SAR) in and around the park. Nine species at risk are known to be resident or breeding in the park."

Despite that acknowledgment, the presentation materials were not changed and the slide presented at the Jan. 28 meeting public meeting read: "There are 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach."

"Did the people hearing that presentation know that they were being told about a much larger region?" asked Austin. "I'd bet that very few of them realized that the true number of species at risk in the park had just been inflated by over 300 per cent."

## Other issues in play

But the species at risk within the park were not the only issues raised at the public



Jason Austin of The Friends of Island View Beach.

meeting. Much of the presentation dealt with the long standing controversy regarding the ditches within the park. Originally constructed around 1936, the ditches have served to drain surface water and help to alleviate the mosquito infestations that have plagued the area.

"Actually, as you can see," said Todd Golumbia, the CRD's Environmental Conservation Specialist, "the ditches don't actually drain (the land) that well."

He told the public meeting mosquitoes actually may be breeding in the ditches.

The statements infuriate Austin and his members.

"Anything CRD staff say about the ditches has to be taken with a grain of salt. Since before 2010, CRD park staff were advocating filling in the ditches and breaching the sea wall to flood the park."

Under the existing park bylaw CRD Parks staff have the duty to maintain the ditches and keep them clear of debris.

"They ignored that duty for over 20 years despite frequent calls to do so, including from Central Saanich," said Austin.

Another concern of the FIVB involves climate change and rising sea levels.

Although the public presenta-

tion did address sea levels on a general level, no specific climate change forecasts were presented. When asked about climate change and rising sea levels and what could be done to protect the park, Golumbia said, "Well, we're not going to stop that ... maybe we don't want to stop it."

## Independent assessment needed

Austin maintains that the CRD staff has lost the confidence of the public and the Central Saanich municipal council, which has asked that the CRD verify its information or get a third party to do so.

"It's for that reason that my group have been calling for two years for an independent environmental assessment of the park," said Austin. "This will provide guidance, and show if there are species at risk in the park that need protection, and what the protection might be."

"In the meantime," said Austin, "this process should be put on hold."

Further public meetings are still scheduled with no changes to the information being presented. Dates and times are available at [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca).

# LETTERS

## Readers respond: *Canada's special forces not alone, the CRD and Island View Park, airport noise*

seem to have a callous disregard for us.

*Frank Baylis  
North Saanich*

### Concerned about new CRD park plan

I am concerned about the need to create a new plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

I have enjoyed the park as it is for 40 years and hope to enjoy it as it is for another 40.

My concerns are flooding and reduced access as well as so-called stewardship.

I realize that First Nations enjoyed our lands without Europeans for thousands of years but that doesn't mean I want to hand

control of the park to them.

In the future I would like to see increased trails through the fields and better drainage (ditches) and dikes as required to deal with our rising sea levels.

*Jim Laite  
Saanichton*

### What's their agenda?

I agree with The Friends of Island View Beach that the CRD meetings be postponed until they get the facts correct.

Finding out the CRD agenda has been impossible and I would like to know what it is. They ignore any input from the public and

# CRD moves on with contentious park plan

Island View Beach management plan, which calls for it to remain multi-use, is not without its critics

Tim Collins  
Contributor

After being sent back to regroup following an unsuccessful and contentious effort in 2013 to introduce a new management plan for Island View Beach, the CRD is now back, forging ahead on the development of a new plan. On February 5, they completed the first step in that process but once again the effort is not without its critics.

The process, as mapped out by CRD staff, listed the first step in the development of a management plan as providing factual, scientific information about the park's natural environment by way of their web site and through three public meetings. The last of those meetings took place at the Saanich Fairgrounds on Feb. 5 and was attended by a collection of about 70 interested residents, academics and CRD staff. Previous meetings had been held at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre in Victoria, and at Heritage Park.

The last two of those meetings were attended by representatives of a group



The Capital Regional District is dealing with complex issues surrounding its proposed management plan at Island View Beach.

Tim Collins

called the Friends of Island View Beach (FIVB), a group that has consistently criticized the information being presented by the CRD as being inaccurate and misleading. Jason Austin of FIVB maintains that his efforts to present a power point presentation that specifically challenged the CRD's information were met

with what Austin has called stonewalling by the people running the meeting.

"The first time I tried to give my point of view, the people running the meeting gave me five minutes at the end of the meeting, and then cut me off saying that they had to pack up the hall," said Austin. "At the last meeting I wanted to present

my information, and I was essentially shouted down by one of the academics that is associated with the CRD and has provided them with information that I was going to challenge."

Mike Walton, the CRD's Senior Park Manager, disputes that characterization of the meetings.

"I thought that the meet-

ings went very well," said Walton. "The goal wasn't for people just to talk to us, but to each other ... to share their points of view... and I think we achieved that."

When asked about statements posted by FIVB both at the meetings and on the FIVB web site that accused the CRD of distributing "misleading environmen-

tal information" and being guilty of a "breach of their duty ... to the public", Todd Golumbia, one of the CRD's chief architects of the new process, defended the information in an interview.

"I stand by the information that we presented," said Golumbia. "I've reviewed all of the information that is available ... consulted with experts in the field ... and we've listened to some of the concerns expressed by people attending the meeting and gone back and reviewed the information. I'm confident that, as much as is possible, we've got it right. These are very complex issues and there is a lot of information out there."

Walton also stands by the information that was presented but acknowledges that the process inflames the people's passions regarding the way that park land should be managed.

"We have a responsibility as stewards of the land," said Walton. "But I'll be the first to acknowledge that parks are for people ... as well as protected species."

PLEASE SEE:

Enmity and mistrust, page 5



# Defining species at risk in Peninsula park a problem

Tim Collins  
Contributor

"There are 33 species at risk that use the park or the immediate shoreline."

It's a claim by the Capital Regional District in its proposed management plan for Island View Beach that The Friends of Island View Beach (FIVB) vehemently dispute.

The group claims the CRD has inflated the number of species at risk with the inclusion of plants, insects and other animals who are either not at risk or are not even present in the park.

While one might be excused for thinking the issue could be easily resolved by consulting the experts, it appears to be a question of what experts

you want to believe.

Take the bog spider. According to information presented by FIVB and drawn from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), "Only single specimens were collected at these locations despite several thousand pit-fall traps over multiple months. These occurrences may represent random dispersal by 'ballooning from the strong population at Tumbo Island.'" In other words, according to COSEWIC, the bog spider isn't even present at Island View Beach Regional Park.

Not so, according to Claudia Copely, the Senior Collections Manager at the Royal BC Museum.

"That information is based on information in

*"I can understand that people who don't work in the area could be confused."*

— Claudia Copely

2009. We set our traps in different places ... in the wet areas ... and we've identified the species as living in the park."

When asked why COSEWIC continues to post their information, and why they wouldn't have accepted this new information and modified their own listing, Copely said that COSEWIC may have a backlog of information.

"I can understand that people who don't work in the area could be confused."

Similar disputes have

arisen about virtually all of the species that have been put forward by the CRD as at risk.

The whole thing is further complicated by exactly what the CRD means when they say that there are 33 species at risk "that use the park or immediate shoreline."

According to Todd Columbia, one of the CRD's chief architects of the new process, it's a complicated issue.

"With plants it's easier, but with animals you never quite know whether they're in the park or not. They may be there 100 per cent of the time or they might just be there for a short period as they pass through."

Still, the FIVB insists that the number of at risk species has been inflated to promote

what they predict will be an environmental bias in the eventual management plan. They say that this belief is borne out by the admission of the CRD itself.

In a January 29 letter

to the FIVB, Mike Walton, the CRD's Senior Park Manager, said "Regarding your concern around species at risk, there are 33 known species at risk in and around the park. Nine species are known to

be resident or breeding in the park."

The debate continues into the next phase of the process for Island View Beach Regional Park.

editor@peninsula  
newsreview.com

## Enmity and mistrust apparent: Brice

Continued from page 4

"It's a socio-ecological system — people and environment — and it's our job to bring them together."

Walton acknowledges that the process can be difficult for all sides and points of view.

"We have to look for common ground, elevate the value of each other's expectations ..." said Walton. "We're going to have some difficult conversations. Some people may have to think hard about the values of some things that they have never thought about and we have to challenge ourselves."

According to Susan Brice, the Chair of the CRD's Regional

Parks Board, the enmity and mistrust between some area residents and the CRD are apparent.

"I think that a lot of it goes back a few years when something called the Cordova Strategy was brought forward. That wasn't a CRD document, but some people saw it as a planned strategy to fundamentally change the way the park operates," said Brice. "It's hard to un-ring that bell, but it's time to move forward."

Brice said it's important that people realize that it will be elected representatives who decide how the park is used.

"It's been a multi-use park for decades and as far as I'm con-

cerned it's going to stay that way," said Brice. "We're going to manage the ditches, control mosquitoes and people will be allowed to enjoy the park. I'm willing to let this process play out."

The next steps in that process involve the CRD's gathering of information in small meetings with a variety of stakeholders, setting up round table discussion sessions and presenting a draft management plan to another set of public meetings in the hopes of getting feedback from the public.

Austin said he is unimpressed. "The process has started off flawed. I only hope that it gets better."