

Matthews Point Regional Park Management Plan

Capital Regional District | September 19, 2018



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Acknowledgements

The Capital Regional District (CRD) would like to acknowledge and thank Cowichan Tribes and Penelakut First Nation for their involvement in this planning process and for their insights into the park’s history and continued importance. The CRD also thanks all others who participated in the planning process for their many contributions.

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Cover photo of Matthews Point Regional Park courtesy of Habitat Acquisition Trust.

1 Executive Summary

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has prepared a management plan for Matthews Point Regional Park on Galiano Island. The management plan includes a park vision, goals and objectives, strategic direction statements, park zoning, development and management actions, and an implementation plan. This management plan will guide the management and operation of the park for at least the next 15 years.

The public participation process for developing the draft management plan included an on-island open-house and web-based information to introduce the project, and a comment form (available at the open-house and on-line) to allow for easy and broad-based input. Additional methods, such as posters, signage, and letters, were also used to alert people to the opportunity to be involved in the planning process. Six First Nations were contacted and provided information about the project and offers were made to meet and discuss the project.

The Draft Vision for Matthews Point Regional Park is:

“Matthews Point Regional Park is recognized as a small gem within the larger island landscape. The park maintains the natural character along a portion of Active Pass, providing a natural viewscape for those travelling on the water. Further, it provides Galiano residents and island visitors opportunities to connect with nature and helps protect the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. Together with adjacent natural areas, the regional park is part of a wider natural area network that facilitates a healthy community.”

Some of the priority management actions for Matthews Point include:

- Remove the former landowner’s shed and related infrastructure.
- Formalize the Ridge Trail route as the main trail opportunity in the park and permit hiking and horseback riding on it.
- Develop hiking-only trail links to the adjacent Bluff Park and to the adjacent Matthews Shore Access Trail and close other informal trails in this area of the park.
- Develop a primary park entrance at the west park access, including an information kiosk, small parking area (3-4 cars), bike rack, and toilet.

2 Introduction and Context

The Gulf Islands are within the traditional territories of several Coast Salish First Nations. Both Hul'q'umi'num speaking peoples and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples from First Nations now known as Cowichan Tribes, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Halalt, Lyackson, Tsawout, Tseycum, Tsartlip, Pauquachin, and Malahat lived on and regularly used the lands and waters in the Gulf Islands. Today, the Penelakut First Nation has reserve lands at the north end of Galiano Island.

Galiano Island, the surrounding waters, and smaller adjacent islands have been used and occupied by First Nations for hunting, fishing, gathering, and other cultural practices for millennia. As Cowichan Tribes elder Luschiim (Arvid Charlie) noted, "Harvesting went on at different times of the year for different fish and any beach that you could land a canoe on was full of people, especially at harvesting times—they may have been waiting for the right tide or sometimes were processing the catch...Freshwater was used from the natural springs coming from the cliffs. The park lands were a hunting spot, a particularly good spot on bad weather days when the deer would lay under the older growth trees there...It also was a spot where certain people would go, up on the cliff, to watch for the whales." Locations on Galiano Island and Gossip Island were also jumping off points for trips across the Strait of Georgia to the Fraser River or Lummi Island. First Nations continue to use the area for cultural activities including food harvesting.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) manages and operates 31 regional parks/park reserves and 3 regional trails. Regional parks help secure the region's biodiversity and quality of life by establishing, in perpetuity, an interconnected system of natural lands. Regional parks protect the region's natural systems and offer compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities. Regional parks are integral to creating a human connection with nature—fostering appreciation and respect—and maintaining a vibrant community. They also assist in mitigating climate change.

Matthews Point Regional Park (Matthews Point) is one of six regional parks/park reserves in the southern Gulf Islands (Map 1). These island parks protect a variety of landscapes within the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. They are part of the tourism offer that is identified in the Experience the Gulf Islands (ETGI) Concept Plan (2016). The ETGI Concept Plan was developed by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission and the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission as an inter-island community tourism initiative to develop and promote experiences for residents and visitors to the area.

Matthews Point was initially established in 1999, in partnership with The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), and was expanded in 2005 and 2006. The TLC contributed over \$650,000 (34%) to the overall

acquisition costs. The park is approximately 25 ha in size and located between the north shore of Active Pass and Bluff Road East on Galiano Island (Map 2). It is noted for its older second growth coniferous forest, arbutus woodland, and coastal bluffs (Map 3). A sand beach is located adjacent to the park. Additional information about the park's natural environment is provided in Appendix 1.

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 classifies Matthews Point as a regional Natural Area. The Natural Area classification is meant to protect the natural environment and to provide for appropriate outdoor experiences and activities. It protects key greenspaces that are important to the natural character of the region. These areas may contain some sensitive or threatened ecosystems. Matthews Point Regional Park is best known for its coastal cliffs and Douglas-fir/Arbutus woodland ecosystems, and a natural wet meadow located along the ridge. An Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment conducted in 2018 documented 10 species-at-risk, three rare species, and one rare ecological community in the park. A portion of the park is recognized as critical habitat for one of the species-at-risk, Lindley's False Silverpuffs. Additional ecological information is provided in Appendix 1.

A conservation covenant, held jointly by Habitat Acquisition Trust and TLC, is registered on the park's land title. The intent of the covenant is to restrict the use of the land to regional park purposes and to ensure that it is managed with a focus on nature conservation. The covenant is monitored annually by the covenant holders.

A linear Statutory Right of Way between Bluff Road East and the seaward boundary of the park is held by BC Hydro and Telus Communications allowing works related to hydro transmission and distribution and related to telecommunications and data transmission. The rights of way permit the access, necessary poles, equipment building, transformers, and the likes needed for the above purposes. The statutory right of way precludes the CRD from constructing any building or structure within 25 metres that would affect the use of the statutory right of way by these two organizations.

The park management plan will provide management direction for at least a 15 year horizon. The management plan translates the broad direction of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan into more specific direction such as goals, objectives, management statements, and actions for Matthews Point. This strategic direction is based on the features and values of the park and input from First Nations and the public. A summary of the engagement process for this management plan is provided in Appendix 2.



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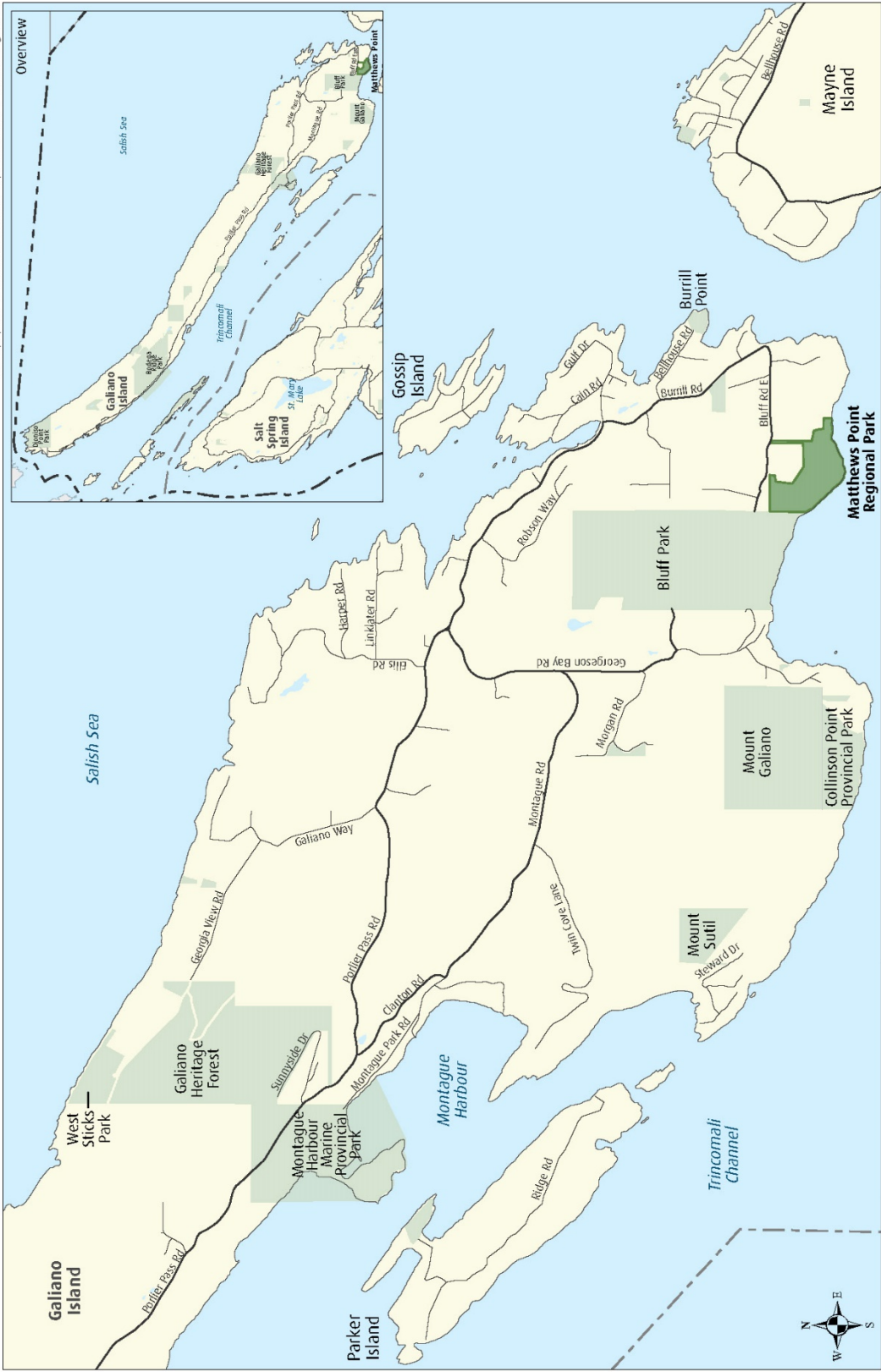
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Map 1
Mathews Point Regional Park
Context

0 2 4 6 Kilometres

Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83

Regional Park
 Regional Park Reserve
 Other Park/Protected Area
 First Nation Reserve
 Municipal / Electoral Area Boundary
 Capital Regional District Boundary
 International Boundary
 Lake / Ocean
 Major Road



Map 2
Matthews Point Regional Park
Park Location

Matthews Point Regional Park
 Other Park/Protected Area
 Lake / Ocean
 Local Road
 Electoral Area Boundary
 Capital Regional District Boundary
 International Boundary

Kilometres
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Map 3

Matthews Point Regional Park
Park Ecosystems

Matthews Point Regional Park

- Property Line
- Local Road

Dominant Ecosystem Type

- Garry Oak/Coastal Bluffs
- Douglas-fir Forest
- Douglas-fir/Arbutus Woodland

0 50 100 150 Metres

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3 Strategic Direction

3.1 Vision for Matthews Point Regional Park

The vision for Matthews Point is:

“Matthews Point Regional Park is recognized as a small gem within the larger island landscape. The park maintains the natural character along a portion of Active Pass, providing a scenic viewscape for those travelling on the water. Further, it provides Galiano residents, First Nations, and island visitors with opportunities to connect with nature and helps to protect the coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. Together with adjacent parks and trails, Matthews Point Regional Park is part of a wider network that facilitates a healthy community.”

3.2 Goals and Objectives

Protecting and Conserving Nature

Goal 1: To maintain the park largely in a natural state.

Objective 1: Minimize development within the park.

Goal 2: To manage the park in a way that respects and protects key natural values on-site.

Objective 1: Develop visitor opportunities in ways that consider natural area sensitivities.

Objective 2: Work with others to manage or maintain key values.

Connecting with Nature

Goal 3: To create a connection between the public and the park’s natural and cultural values that fosters appreciation and respect.

Objective 1: Provide opportunities for low-impact recreation that are based on, and linked to, experiencing the natural values of the park.

Objective 2: Provide information on-site that connects visitors to the park, its history, and its key values.

Objective 3: Promote awareness of ways the public can assist in the protection of nature and the park.

Goal 4: To connect with the adjacent local park and shore access trail to create an opportunity for longer visitor experiences.

Objective 1: Work cooperatively with the owners/managers of adjacent lands to develop a complementary and connected trail network.

3.3 Development Concept

Flowing from the vision, goals, and objectives for the park, the development concept adds further clarity to the direction for how the park will be developed and managed over time.

Development Concept

The development concept is to keep the park natural, with minimal visitor facilities and services. Trail opportunities will be provided as the primary means for the public to experience the park. Park facilities will be located above the bluffs, with the possible exception of a link to the adjacent Matthews Shore Access Trail.

3.4 Management Statements

The following management statements will guide decision-making about the park.

Natural Area Conservation

- Environmental conservation will focus on protection of critical habitat for species at risk in the park.
- The CRD will consider partnership/stewardship agreements with appropriate groups to support ecological restoration or research in the park.
- Where existing infrastructure is not needed, it will be removed to allow for naturalization of the park.
- Where visitor facilities are needed, they will be planned and designed with conservation and operational sustainability in mind.

Cultural Heritage Management:

- The recommendation of the 2018 Archaeological Overview Assessment related to the one area of archaeological potential identified within the regional park will be implemented as appropriate.
- The CRD will work with First Nations to include First Nations content, along with other cultural and ecological information, on the park information kiosk panels.

Visitor Opportunities

- In the park, the public will experience nature through one primary trail that provides hiking and horseback riding opportunities (the Ridge Trail).

- The public will have an opportunity to hike from Matthews Point Regional Park to both the Galiano Club's Bluff Park on the west and to the Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission's Matthews Shore Access Trail on the east.
- Trails will be developed with consideration of user safety, natural and cultural protection, and operational sustainability.
- The public will be encouraged to follow "Leave No Trace" principles.
- The planned future regional trail along Bluff Road East will provide active transportation access to the regional park.

Park Operations

- Park operations and development will be limited to that which is necessary to minimize visitor impacts to the environment and to maintain designated visitor facilities.



Matthews Point

3.5 Park Zoning

The CRD contracted an Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment and an Archaeological Overview Assessment in 2018 to update existing information about the park and assess potential areas of sensitivity. In part, the park zoning is based on the outcomes of these assessments.

A strip of land between the cliff edge and the seaward boundary of the park is zoned as Environmental Protection Zone with the goal of preserving this area solely for nature. It includes the Coastal Bluffs ecosystem, most of the species at risk known in the park, and the steep wooded slopes that maintain the natural viewscape from the water. Generally, this area will be managed without significant human intervention.

The majority of the park above the coastal bluffs is zoned Natural Environment Zone, with the goal of maintaining this area in a natural state and providing opportunities for compatible (low-impact) visitor use, particularly trail use.

Two small areas are zoned as Park Services Zone, one at the western park access and a second associated with the existing communications/utility rights of way. The goal of this zone is to allow for visitor services such as parking, access required under existing Statutory Rights-of-Way, and access for management and emergency vehicles, if needed.

The zoning is illustrated on Map 4.



View from Matthews Point Regional Park



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0 50 100 150 Metres

Map 4
Matthews Point Regional Park
Park Zoning

Matthews Point Regional Park

- Property Line
- Local Road

Park Zoning

- Environmental Protection Zone
- Natural Environment Zone
- Park Services Zone

Matthews Point Regional Park
Park Zoning

4 Development and Management Actions

The following development and management actions are recommended (Map 5):

1. Remove or dismantle existing infrastructure related to former landowners' use of the property (e.g. former landowner's shed).
2. Install a gate on the communications/utility facility access at Bluff Road East, to preclude public vehicle access, and provide a gate key to those with permitted access (e.g. Statutory Right of Way).
3. Formalize the Ridge Trail for hiking and horseback riding, including realignment of the existing informal path, where necessary/appropriate for safety, resource conservation, or trail sustainability reasons.
4. Develop a designated hiking trail to link the Ridge Trail to Bluff Park (managed by the Galiano Club) and close other informal pathways in this area of the park.
5. Develop a designated hiking trail to link the Ridge Trail to the adjacent Matthews Shore Access Trail (managed by the Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission) and close other informal pathways in this area of the park.
6. To facilitate use by both regional park and future regional trail users, develop the primary park entrance in the surveyed road dedication adjacent to the western Park Services Zone through a permit from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure. This should include an information kiosk, small parking area (3-4 cars), bike rack, and toilet. Maintain a natural buffer, to the extent possible, between these facilities and neighbouring properties. If use of the road dedication is not permitted, the park entrance facilities will be developed in the western Park Services Zone.
7. Install an information kiosk, including a park map and key information about the park, at the top of the communications/utility facility access to the park, where it can be seen by people accessing from Bluff Road East and from the link to Matthews Shore Access.
8. Sign the park trails to allow for ease of wayfinding, including identifying the park boundary, on link trails to the adjacent Bluff Park and Matthews Shore Access Trail.
9. Liaise, at least annually, with the owners/managers of the adjacent Bluff Park and Matthews Shore Access Trail and with the covenant holders.
10. Consider entering into a CRD partnership/stewardship agreement with conservation groups and/or universities to develop and undertake an on-going restoration program in the park.



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Map 5
Matthews Point Regional Park
Park Development and
Management Actions

Matthews Point Regional Park

- Matthews Point Regional Park
- Property Line
- Local Road
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking/Equestrian Trail

Ridge Trail

- Mattheus Shore Access Trail
- Bluff Park Trail
- Link Trail to Bluff Park
- Link Trail to Mattheus Shore Access

5 Implementation

The Matthews Point Management Plan comes into effect upon CRD Board approval and continues to apply until a new or updated plan is approved by the Board.

5.1 Plan Implementation

Table 1 illustrates the priority for implementing the proposed management actions, subject to resource availability. Generally, it is hoped that short term actions will be addressed within the first five years after approval of the management plan.

Table 1: Anticipated Schedule and Additional Direction for Implementation

Action	Implementation Priority
1. Remove or dismantle existing infrastructure related to former landowners' use of the property (e.g. former landowner's shed). Work should be done between October and December to avoid bald eagle breeding window and should follow best management practices for protection of roosting bats.	Short Term
2. Install a gate on the communications/utility facility access at Bluff Road East and provide a gate key to those with permitted access.	Short Term
3. Formalize the Ridge Trail for hiking and horseback riding, including re-alignment where necessary or appropriate for safety, resource conservation, or trail sustainability. If ground disturbance (digging) within the archaeological area of potential is required, an Archaeological Impact Assessment will be undertaken in advance.	Short Term
4. Develop a designated hiking trail to link the Ridge Trail to Bluff Park (managed by the Galiano Club) and close other informal pathways in this area of the park. Any brushing work should be done between late September and the end of March to avoid the breeding bird window. Outside of this timeframe, a qualified environmental professional must be consulted to limit disturbance to nesting birds.	Short Term

<p>5. Develop a designated hiking trail to link the Ridge Trail to the adjacent Matthews Shore Access Trail (managed by the Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission) and close other informal pathways in this area of the park. Any brushing work should be done between late September and the end of March to avoid the breeding bird window. Outside of this timeframe, a qualified environmental professional must be consulted to limit disturbance to nesting birds.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
<p>6. Develop the primary park entrance in the surveyed road dedication adjacent to the western Park Services Zone through a permit from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure. This should include an information kiosk, small parking area (3-4 cars), bike rack, and toilet. Maintain a natural buffer, to the extent possible, between these facilities and neighbouring properties. If use of the road dedication is not permitted, the park entrance facilities will be developed in the western Park Services Zone.</p>	<p>Short Term to Medium Term</p>
<p>7. Install an information kiosk, including park map and key information about the park, at the top of the telecommunications/utility access to the park, where it can be seen by people walking in from Bluff Road East and from the Matthews Shore Access Trail.</p>	<p>Short Term to Medium Term</p>
<p>8. Sign the park trails, including park boundary at Bluff Park and the Matthews Shore Access.</p>	<p>Short Term to Medium Term</p>
<p>9. Liaise, at least annually, with the owners/managers of the adjacent Bluff Park and Matthews Shore Access Trail and with the covenant holders.</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>10. Encourage conservation groups and/or universities to enter into a CRD partnership/stewardship agreement to develop and undertake an on-going restoration program in the park.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

5.2 Plan Monitoring

The CRD will monitor the implementation of the management plan through the annual Regional Parks Service Plan and work planning processes.

If unexpected circumstances, significant issues, or critical new information arise that warrant substantive changes to the management direction, a plan amendment may be considered. In developing any plan amendment or updated management plan, the CRD will engage with First Nations, the covenant holders and other key stakeholders, and the public. Any amendments or new management plan must be approved by the CRD Board.

Prior to initiating a full management plan update, an evaluation of the current plan will be undertaken that will consider:

- if the vision, goals and objectives have been useful in guiding park management and are still relevant;
- if the strategic direction adequately addressed all or most of the major issues and management considerations that arose over the lifespan of the management plan;
- to what extent the management actions were implemented and if any outstanding actions are still relevant;
- if requirements in the conservation covenant have been adequately addressed; and
- if changes to the plan's direction are needed.

Appendix 1: Background Information

A 1.1 History of the Park

First Nations

The southern Gulf Islands are within the asserted traditional territories of several Coast Salish First Nations. The area has been occupied and used for hunting, gathering, fishing and other cultural practices for millennia - providing foods and medicines for First Nations peoples.

Galiano Island and its surrounding smaller islands were used before making trips across the strait to the Fraser River. People gathered at the bay on Galiano Island that is now known as Montague Harbour; it was a staging area where preparations were made before setting out. There were often hundreds of canoes that would meet there. Once ready to make the trip they would travel together through Active Pass and make a stop at Gossip Island before starting across the Strait. Travelling in large numbers provided greater safety. The bluffs at Matthews Point Regional Park were known for their fresh water spring sources, which were important when embarking on a journey.

The waters of Active Pass, being influenced by the plume from the Fraser River, support red and green urchins, rock scallop, weather vane scallops, and herring, among other sea life. Harvesting went on at different times of the year for different marine resources. The beach adjacent to the Matthews Point Regional Park was used by the First Nations as a stopping area as part of both their land-based and water-based harvesting practices.

The lands that make up Matthews Point Regional Park were a hunting spot. They were used for deer hunting over the years and were particularly good on windy, wet days as the deer would take shelter under the trees.

First Nations continue to have ties to the park as part of their traditional territory.

Contemporary History

The park was acquired in three phases. In 1999, with a high level of local support and in partnership with The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), the CRD acquired the first 14.8 hectare parcel. The CRD Parks Master Plan, approved in 2000, identified Matthews Point as an area with regional park potential and subsequently, a second parcel of 12.14 hectares was acquired in 2005; and an additional 5.9 hectares were acquired in 2006. The total cost for the three parcels was \$1,937,500 of which CRD Regional Parks contributed \$1,284,375 and TLC contributed \$653,125. As a condition of the purchases in 1999 and 2005, the CRD Board directed that four residential lots fronting on Bluff Road East be subdivided

from the property and sold, with funds being reinvested in the Land Acquisition Fund. A conservation covenant was registered on the back portion of each of the residential lots to ensure that a natural, undeveloped buffer to the park would remain in perpetuity. Also, as a condition of TLC's involvement in the park acquisition, a conservation covenant was registered over the park lands. It is held by and monitored by both TLC and Habitat Acquisition Trust.

As far back as 1979, a previous owner established a statutory right of way on a portion of the property for a telecommunications equipment building. A single track access was developed along the property boundary by the telecommunications company for access to its facilities. A small area of the park (approximately 700 square metres) was disturbed through the development of the telecommunications equipment building and cable cut. In 2014, the CRD, BC Hydro, and Telus Communications established a statutory right-of-way for telecommunications and the distribution of electricity.

Archaeological Research

An Archaeological Overview Assessment was conducted by Ursus Heritage Ltd. in 2018 to determine if archaeological sites or areas of archaeological potential exist in the park that might be impacted by actions proposed in the management plan. No existing archaeological sites were identified in the park and only one area of archaeological potential was identified. Information about this area will remain confidential. If work is anticipated that would require ground disturbance (digging) within the area of potential, a second level of assessment will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist in advance to further check the area.

A 1.2 Ecological Information

Plants and animals and their physical environment make up ecosystems. The park is best known for its coastal cliffs, rising 100 metres above the ocean, and its mixed Douglas-fir forest/Arbutus woodland ecosystems. Although there are seven ecological communities recognized in the park, the main ecosystems include: 1) Mature Douglas-fir forest, including some veteran first growth trees; 2) Arbutus woodland, including a 300 year old arbutus tree, 3) Coastal bluffs and cliffs, and 4) a wet meadow.

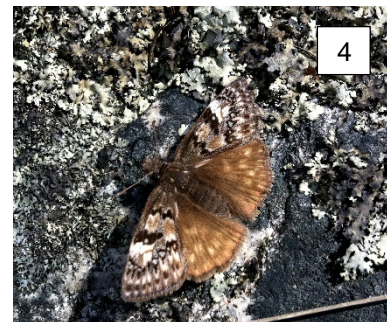
The CRD had an Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment undertaken by Carrina Masslovat, Registered Professional Biologist #1407, in 2018 to update existing information relating to the regional park.

A total of 207 plant species were noted in the field surveys with about ¼ of those considered introduced. Faunal surveys identified 19 species. Some key highlights relating to fauna using the regional park lands are provided below.

- Thirty-two bird species were identified including: Bald Eagle, Cliff Swallow, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Violet-green Swallow nesting was observed during the 2018 field surveys.
- Six bat species were identified through a 12-night sampling period at the beach adjacent to the park.
- A small stream and wetland exists in the western portion of the park. Two Northern Red-legged frogs were observed in a small pool during the field surveys. This pool may provide breeding habitat for the frog.

One rare ecological community and three rare species were identified in the immediate area on the BC Conservation Data Centre's iMap. They are:

1. Ecological Community – Douglas-fir/dull Oregon-grape (*Pseudotsuga menziesii/Mahonia nervosa*)
2. Vascular Plant – Lindley's microseris (*Uropappus lindleyi*) – 2004 sighting in Bluff Park and on Matthews Point
3. Non-vascular Plant – Twisted Oak Moss (*Syntrichia laevipila*) – 2002 sighting
4. Invertebrate Animal – Propertius Duskywing (*Erynnis propertius*) – 1995 and 2010 sighting in Bluff Park



During the 2018 ecological field surveys 11 species-at-risk were observed in Matthews Point Regional Park. They are:

Common Name	Latin Name	What They Are	Provincial Status*	Federal Status	Species At Risk Act Status
Propertius Duskywing	<i>Erynnis propertius</i>	Butterfly	Red-list (S2) 2013	Not listed	No schedule
Twisted Oak Moss (observed but not confirmed in 2018 due to dryness of plant)	<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>	Moss	Blue-list (S3) 2015	Special Concern 2014	Schedule 1: Special Concern 2005
Lindley's False Silverpuffs	<i>Uropappus lindleyii</i>	Flowering Plant	Red-list (S1) 2000	Endangered 2008	Schedule 1: Endangered 2010
Northern Red-legged Frog	<i>Rana aurora</i>	Amphibian	Blue-list (S3) 2016	Special Concern 2015	Schedule 1: Special Concern 2005
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Bird	Blue-list (S3S4B) 2015	Special Concern 2018	Schedule 1: Threatened 2010
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Bat	Yellow-list (S4) 2015	Endangered 2013	Schedule 1: Endangered 2014
Sand Lacepod	<i>Thysanocarpus curvipes</i>	Flowering Plant	Blue-list (S3) 2013	Not listed	No schedule
Ozette Coralroot	<i>Corrallorhiza maculata var. ozettensis</i>	Flowering Plant	Blue-list (S3) 2018	Not listed	No schedule
Bird's-foot Wing-moss	<i>Pterogonium gracile</i>	Moss	Red-list (S2) 2015	Not listed	No schedule
No common name	<i>Flavopunctelia soledica</i>	Lichen	Red-list (S1S2) 2010	Not listed	No schedule

Orobus-seeded Liverwort	<i>Targionia hypophylla</i>	Liverwort	Red-list (S1S2) 2015	Not listed	No schedule
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*Red-list=extirpated, endangered or threatened in Canada; Blue-list=special concern or have characteristic that make them sensitive or vulnerable to human activities or natural events; Yellow list=species or ecosystems that are at the least risk of being lost. The S1-S4 are further provincial status rankings assigned by the BC Conservation Data Centre and range from (S1) critically imperiled to (S4) apparently secure, with some cause for concern.

No species-at-risk or critical habitat for species-at-risk were identified within the footprint of proposed park facilities.

The marine waters south of the park, referred to as Active Pass, have been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA), which is an international program that identifies and monitors significant populations or species of birds. Active Pass supports significant numbers of overwintering Pacific loon and Brant's cormorant as well as Bonaparte's gull during the spring and fall migration. In addition, 10 pairs of Bald eagles nest along the shores of the IBA. The Mayne Island Conservancy estimates that nearly 100 eagles forage in Active Pass in the winter. The cliffs and forest in the park are likely used by these birds.

A 1.3 Visitor Use

The park lands have been held in 'park reserve' status since 1999 and hence has not been widely publicized as a regional park. To-date, activities undertaken in the park include informal walking, nature viewing, horseback riding, and perhaps limited trail cycling, though no evidence of this has been noted on-site.

Comments received during the public engagement for the management plan included:

- Galiano Island residents noted that it is largely island residents that use the park and in particular, islanders from the immediate area, though more people are starting to come to the park as more information is made available.
- The overarching theme of comments received regarding visitor use tended toward keeping the park as it is, with minimal, basic facilities being added (e.g., toilet).
- In both rounds of engagement, some individuals requested that the opportunity to ride horses on the Ridge Trail be maintained although others expressed a desire to have the park trails be for hiking only.

Appendix 2: Summary of the Engagement Process

The engagement process for the Matthews Point Regional Park Management Planning Process has included:

Initial Engagement – 2017

First Nations

- Letters were sent to the Penelakut, Cowichan Tribes, Tsawout, Tseycum, Tsartlip, and Pauquachin Nations introducing the project and seeking their interest in participating in the project.
- At the request of the Cowichan Tribes, a meeting was held with Cowichan Tribes representatives to talk about the project and to seek traditional knowledge about the park and surrounding areas.
- On April 18, 2018 a meeting was held with Chief and Council of Penelakut First Nation to discuss Matthews Point Regional Park and the draft management plan.

Other Government Agencies

- A letter was sent to the Islands Trust introducing the project and alerting them about the November 18, 2017 public open-house on Galiano Island.

Key Stakeholders

- Letters were sent to park neighbours, including the Galiano Club and the Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission, to the two organizations that jointly hold a Conservation Covenant on the park lands (Habitat Acquisition Trust and The Land Conservancy of BC), and to the Galiano Conservancy Association introducing the project and inviting them to the November 18, 2017 public open-house.

Public

- Information about the park and the planning process was posted on the CRD website in October 2017. This included a comment form to seek input about a number of aspects that would provide background information and assist in developing the draft management plan.
- A media release was released in October announcing the project.
- A project sign was installed at the park to alert the public to the project and how they could be involved.

- A public open-house was held at the Lions Hall on Galiano Island on November 18, 2017, between 12:30 pm and 4 pm to gather local knowledge about the park and surrounding area.

Draft Management Plan Engagement – (2018)

First Nations

- The draft management plan was sent to key First Nations with a request for their comments and an offer to meet with any Nation that would like a presentation about or to discuss the draft plan. Comments were received from staff of Cowichan Tribes. The Penelakut First Nation indicated it had no additional comments beyond what had been provided in April 2018.

Other Government Agencies

- The draft management plan was referred to the Galiano Local Trust Committee (Islands Trust), the CRD's Southern Gulf Islands Economic Sustainability Commission, and CRD's Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission, for review/comments. The Galiano Local Trust Committee, at its June 2018 meeting, commented positively on the draft plan but did not provide any specific comments by resolution. An Islands Trust staff memo noted that the draft plan conformed to the Official Community Plan and Bylaw. Comments were received from the Galiano Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Before finalizing the management plan, a copy was provided to BC Hydro and Telus highlighting how the Statutory Right of Way was addressed in the plan, noting key actions proposed within or adjacent to the right of way, and providing an opportunity for comments to be provided.

Key Stakeholders

- Letters, with links to the draft plan and comment form and a notice about the public engagement opportunities, were sent to 17 developed lots neighbouring the park, to the Galiano Club, and the park covenant holders (Habitat Acquisition Trust and The Land Conservancy of BC).
- An email was sent to the Galiano Conservancy Association also providing a link to the draft plan and comment form on the CRD website.

Public

- Updates were made to the CRD website in May 2018, including posting a copy of the draft park management plan and a comment form to seek input about the draft plan.

- A media release was put out when the CRD Board released the draft management plan for public review (May 2018). A link to the draft plan and comment form on the CRD website was included in the media release.
- An updated project sign, providing information about the upcoming management planning steps and providing the website address, was installed at the main park entrance.