

Regional Parks

Terms of Reference to Prepare the 2010 Regional Parks Strategic Plan

CRD

Capital Regional District | March 2009



CRD
Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8
T: 250.478.3344
crdparks@crd.bc.ca
www.crd.bc.ca/parks

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Regional Parks system in the Capital Regional District (CRD) has been built over the past 43 years. Today, this system encompasses 11,575 hectares of land in 28 regional parks and 88.5 kilometers of contiguous regional trails (see Map 1). This system protects diverse natural areas that help define the region we live in, provides many opportunities for people to enjoy, appreciate and experience these natural areas, and contributes to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the region.

In 2000, the CRD Board adopted a ten-year Regional Parks Master Plan. The Master Plan is a strategic document that sets the direction for the entire Regional Parks system. The Master Plan does not address park-specific management or operational issues. The Plan provides a vision for Regional Parks; statement of purpose for the parks and trails; map showing the proposed system of regional parks and trails; guidelines for managing regional parks and trails; and an implementation strategy which includes strategic directions for Regional Parks.

The 2000 Master Plan has had a major influence on Regional Parks. It guided the establishment of the Land Acquisition Fund, which led to the acquisition of 2,800 hectares of land worth \$28 million. It helped guide the stewardship of the natural environment and connect people to the land, offering them a rich source of personal discovery, joy, renewal and health that inspires a deep sense of belonging and stewardship for generations to come. It also helped guide opportunities for citizens, community organizations and other levels of government to partner with Regional Parks to achieve our vision.

Regional Parks now needs to set a course for the next ten years. We face many opportunities and challenges: the region has grown by an estimated 35,200 people over the past ten years and is expected to grow by another 32,000 over the next decade; the regional parks system has grown over the past 10 years from 8,620 to 11,575 hectares; use of regional parks and trails has increased; outdoor recreational pursuits have become more diverse; natural areas and species continue to be lost; new environmental challenges continue to emerge both locally and globally; and questions are being raised about how regional parks and trails should be managed and what the management priorities should be. To respond to these opportunities and challenges, Regional Parks needs to examine the capacity of the organization to operate and manage the system in a fiscally responsible

manner while providing excellent stewardship of natural and cultural resources and built infrastructure, and ensuring the delivery of excellent services to park visitors.

Regional Parks is embarking on a process to prepare a strategic plan for the period 2010 to 2019. In preparing this plan the term Master Plan will be changed to Strategic Plan to more accurately reflect the intent of the document. The term Master Plan tends to be associated with a land use plan for the development of an area. A strategic plan is a management tool that applies to organizations and addresses fundamental organizational decisions. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan will provide a set of management guidelines that define the long-term “big picture” framework within which policy, fiscal, administrative and strategic decisions would occur. The plan will thus focus the energy of the organization, ensure that everyone is working in the same direction and provide flexibility for the organization to respond to changing circumstances.

Map 1

Terms of Reference to Prepare the Regional Parks Strategic Plan



Regional Park	Lake / Reservoir
Other Park	Canada
Capital Regional District	United States
Municipal Boundary	

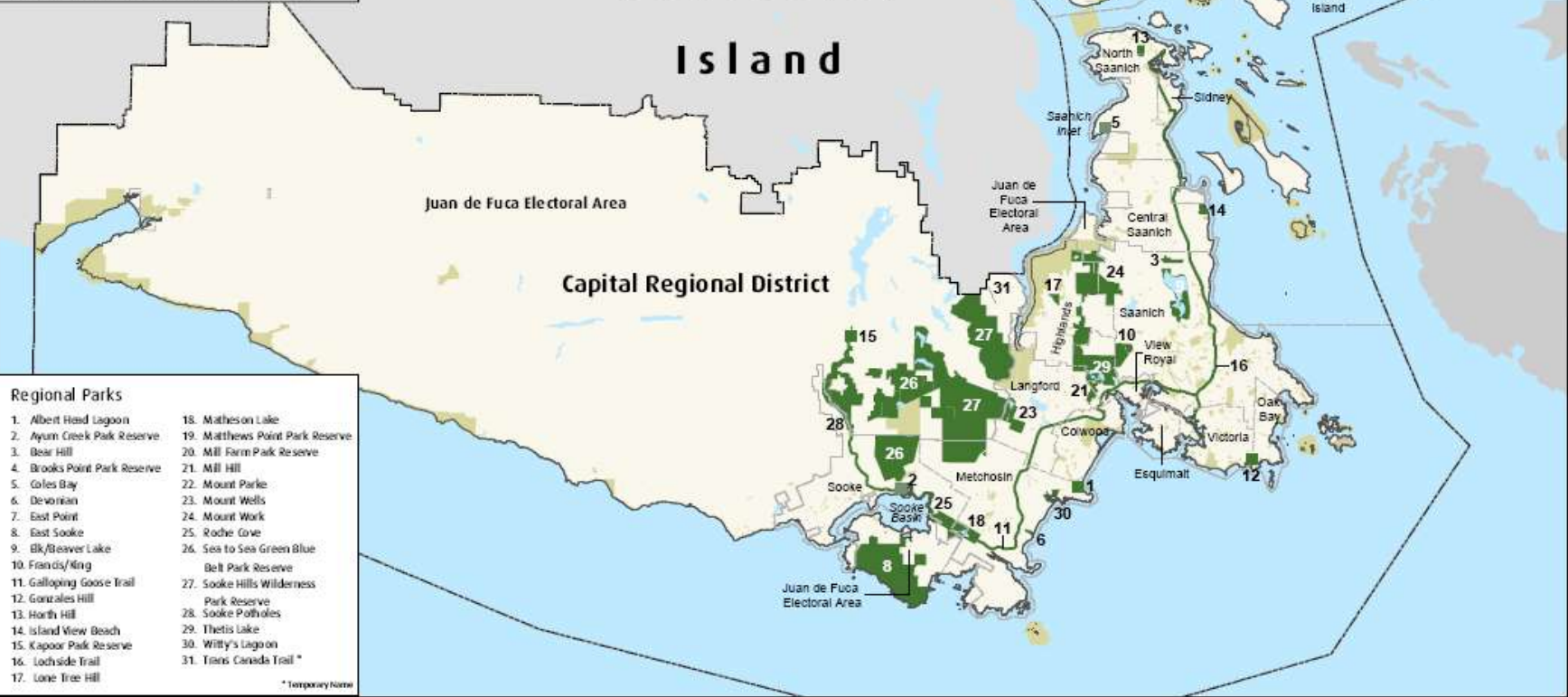
1:425,000

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

North Arrow

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18, North, North America Datum

DISCLAIMER
The Capital Regional District does not warrant the accuracy within the map, nor will it accept responsibility for errors or omissions. The CRD reserves the right to alter or update the information without notice. Maps should not be used as navigation tools.
February 2009 | CRD_Parks_Overview_Terms_0209.mxd | Parks GIS Services



- Regional Parks**
- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Albert Head Lagoon | 18. Mathieson Lake |
| 2. Ayum Creek Park Reserve | 19. Matthews Point Park Reserve |
| 3. Bear Hill | 20. Mill Farm Park Reserve |
| 4. Brooks Point Park Reserve | 21. Mill Hill |
| 5. Gales Bay | 22. Mount Parke |
| 6. Devonian | 23. Mount Wells |
| 7. East Point | 24. Mount Work |
| 8. East Sooke | 25. Roche Cove |
| 9. Elk/Beaver Lake | 26. Sea to Sea Green Blue Bell Park Reserve |
| 10. Francis/King | 27. Sooke Hills Wilderness Park Reserve |
| 11. Galloping Goose Trail | 28. Sooke Potholes |
| 12. Gonzales Hill | 29. Thetis Lake |
| 13. Harth Hill | 30. Wilby's Lagoon |
| 14. Island View Beach | 31. Trans Canada Trail * |
| 15. Kapoor Park Reserve | |
| 16. Lochside Trail | |
| 17. Lone Tree Hill | |
- * Temporary Name

2.0 PURPOSE AND GOAL

2.1 Purpose

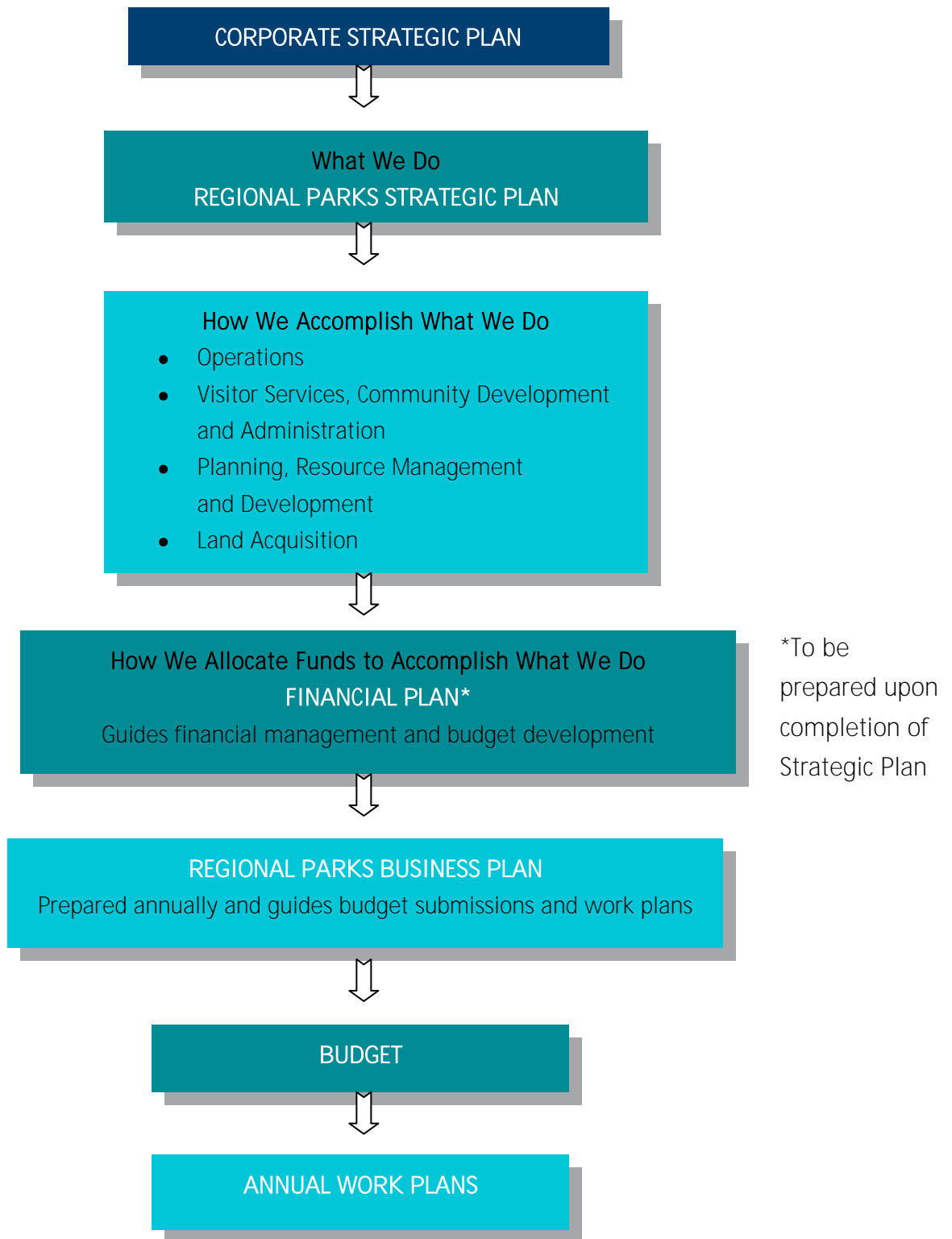
- (a) Prepare the Regional Parks Strategic Plan for the period of 2010 to 2019 that focuses on fundamental organizational decisions: what the organization does, why it does it, what the most important opportunities and challenges are that the organization needs to respond to and what the right actions are to move the organization forward.
- (b) Engage citizens, First Nations, governments, CRD Directors and Regional Parks volunteers and staff in the process to prepare the Strategic Plan, in an open and inclusive way, by informing, consulting, involving and collaborating with them.

2.2 Goal

The goal of the Strategic Plan will be to address the following:

- (a) Benefits of Regional Parks;
- (b) Contribution of Regional Parks to the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the region;
- (c) Opportunities and challenges facing Regional Parks;
- (d) Vision and purpose for Regional Parks;
- (e) Link between the Regional Parks Strategic Plan and other CRD initiatives, such as the Regional Growth Strategy, Climate Action, and Watershed Protection;
- (f) Future regional parks and trails system and how this system will be integrated with other park and trail systems in the region;
- (g) Principles that will guide the management of regional parks and trails; and
- (h) Priorities over the next ten years.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CRD CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN AND KEY REGIONAL PARKS PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND SERVICES



4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To engage in informed discussions about the future of Regional Parks, the following information is needed:

- (a) Status of the strategic actions from the 2000 Master Plan;
- (b) The view of regional residents and park visitors about regional parks and future management priorities;
- (c) The value added to society by having regional parks (i.e. the economic, social and environmental value);
- (d) Comparison of the amount of protected area in the CRD with other similar jurisdictions;
- (e) Overview of how regional parks are managed in other similar jurisdictions;
- (f) The relationship of Regional Parks with other agencies who manage protected areas in the CRD;
- (g) Sensitive ecosystems and outdoor recreation opportunities west of Sooke River;
- (h) Criteria to be used to identify areas of interest to regional parks;
- (i) The areas of interest to Regional Parks as potential future regional parks;
- (j) Budget allocation to Regional Park services;
- (k) Regional population trends and growth management plans; and
- (l) Environmental and societal trends that could affect the management of Regional Parks.

5.0 PROCESS TO PREPARE THE STRATEGIC PLAN

TIMELINE	KEY STEPS	REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE	BOARD	ENGAGEMENT
Spring 2009	Terms of Reference	Recommend to Board	Approval	
Spring 2009	Establish Citizen Advisory Panel	Recommend to Board	Approval	
Summer/Winter 2010	Collect and Review Background Information Identify and Discuss Opportunities and Challenges	Review results	Review results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory Panel • Inform, consult and involve citizens • Inform and involve First Nations and governments • Hold a one day forum with panel of experts to explore the future of regional parks
Spring 2010	Draft Strategic Plan	Recommend to Board	Approve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory Panel to recommend draft Strategic Plan to Committee • Inform, consult and involve citizens • Inform and involve First Nations and governments
Fall 2010	Final Strategic Plan	Recommend to Board	Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory Panel to recommend Strategic Plan to Regional Parks Committee • Inform citizens, First Nations and governments of decision

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

A comprehensive public participation program is essential in preparing the Strategic Plan to ensure ideas, opinions, values and issues are known and considered. The process will help to:

- 1) Achieve the best policy result by promoting the overall public interest and participation; and,
- 2) Maximize public satisfaction with the ultimate decisions.

In addition to public participation, First Nations and federal, provincial and local governments also need to be involved to ensure that their interests are considered in preparing the plan.

6.1 Purpose

To engage CRD citizens, park visitors and volunteers, First Nations, federal, provincial and local governments, and organizations who have an interest in the future of Regional Parks, by informing, consulting, involving and collaborating with them in the development of the Strategic Plan.

6.2 Goals

There are four goals for the public participation process:

- 1) To inform and educate;
- 2) To incorporate public values into decision making;
- 3) To improve the substantive quality of decisions, and
- 4) To influence the direction of Regional Parks for the next ten years.

6.3 Guiding Principles

The public participation process will be guided by the following principles:

- Full participation;
- Transparent process;

- Mutual understanding;
- Inclusive solutions;
- Relevant;
- Easily accessible; and
- Responsive.

Regional Parks will inform participants about the feedback received, how the input was considered and how it influenced decisions.

6.4 Public Participation

Public participation will range from providing information, to consulting and involving residents and park visitors through surveys and public meetings, to engaging the public by collaborating through a Citizen Advisory Panel.

Citizen Advisory Panel

CRD will look to the public for advice about the future direction of Regional Parks. This will be accomplished through establishing a Citizen Advisory Panel. The proposed terms of reference for establishing the Citizen Advisory Panel is presented in Appendix A.

6.5 First Nation Engagement

The CRD is committed to informing, involving and collaborating with First Nations in the preparation of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan. Regional Parks will ask First Nations how they might wish to participate. Opportunities to participate could be through the Citizen Advisory Panel, staff technical working group and meetings with individual First Nations.

6.6 Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government Engagement

Engagement will range from providing information, to consulting and involving participants through workshops, meetings and a staff technical working group.

Participants:

CRD Board and Regional Parks Committee

CRD Departments:

Planning and Protective Services

Parks and Community Services

- Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation
- Peninsula Recreation
- Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation
- Southern Gulf Islands Parks and Recreation Commissions

Environmental Services

Water

Corporate Services

Finance

CRD Advisory Groups

Roundtable on the Environment

Development and Planning Advisory Committee

Municipalities

Municipal Councils

Parks and Recreation Departments

Planning Departments

Federal Government

Parks Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service

Department of National Defense

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

BC Parks

Islands Trust

7.0 TIMELINE

	2009				2010			
	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
2009/2010 Key Tasks								
Terms of Reference								
Establish CAP*								
Meetings with CAP								
Public, Government and First Nations Engagement								
Survey of Park and Trail Visitors								
Survey of Regional Residents								
Board Adoption of Strategic Plan								

Note:

*CAP – Citizen Advisory Panel

APPENDIX A

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ESTABLISHING A CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL FOR THE REGIONAL PARKS 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Terms of Reference defines the purpose and process to establish a Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) for the preparation of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the CAP is to provide advice to the Regional Parks Committee on the preparation of the Regional Parks 2010 to 2019 Strategic Plan and to recommend a Regional Parks Strategic Plan to the Regional Parks Committee.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

The CAP will be made up of at least 20 people. Members will be selected by using the following criteria:

1. 13 people will be selected from the three sub-regions in the CRD and one person from each of the three electoral areas:
 - a. Five people from the Core (Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and View Royal);
 - b. Three people from the Saanich Peninsula (North Saanich, Central Saanich and Sidney);
 - c. Five people from the West Shore (Colwood, Langford, Highlands, Metchosin and Sooke); and
 - d. One person from Southern Gulf Islands, Salt Spring Island and Juan de Fuca electoral areas.

2. Four youth who will be attending high school in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. The goal is to have one person from each of the four School Districts in the CRD (i.e. Gulf Islands, Saanich, Greater Victoria and Sooke).

3. An interest in and knowledge of regional parks in the CRD.
4. An interest in the future of the region.
5. Familiarity with the range of interests to be addressed in the project (i.e. park management, conservation, outdoor recreation, strategic planning).
6. A willingness to commit volunteer time of approximately 18 months to the project. This will include monthly to bi-monthly CAP meetings, several public meetings, a workshop, field trips and other project-related meetings.
7. Ability to work in a group and develop agreement with people who may hold different views.
8. Achieve a balanced representation based on gender and age.
9. Represent the public interest in a regional context and not that of any organization or specific interest.

4.0 FIRST NATIONS

Regional Parks will ask First Nations that might have an interest in the outcome of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan how they might wish to participate.

5.0 SELECTION PROCESS

The CRD will invite the public to apply for membership on the CAP.

A six-person selection group will review the applications, assess the application on the selection criteria and make recommendations to the Regional Parks Committee regarding appointment to the CAP. The six-person review group will consist of one member from the Regional Parks Committee and one staff member from:

- Regional Parks;

- Inter-Municipal Parks and Recreation Directors Committee;
- Local government in a planning department;
- BC Parks; and
- Parks Canada.

6.0 APPOINTMENT

The CAP members will be appointed by the CRD Board for the length of the project.