

Help shape the future... of CRD Regional Parks and Trails

Newsletter Issue 1 Spring 2010

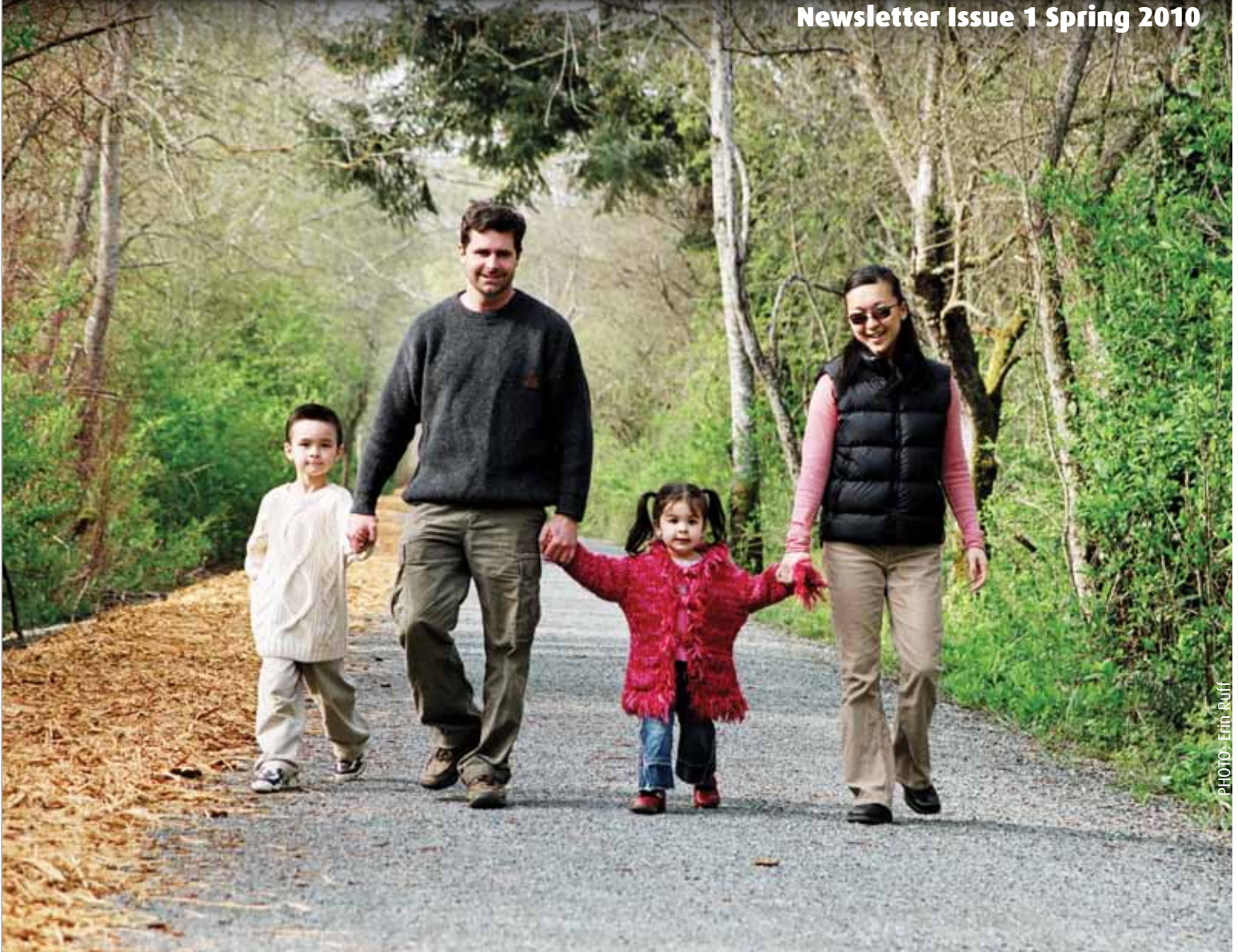


PHOTO: Erin Ruff

Regional Parks Preparing for a New Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan will focus on fundamental organizational decisions:

- What CRD Regional Parks does
- What the most important opportunities and challenges are that the organization needs to respond to
- How regional parks and trails should be managed and what those management priorities should be
- What the right actions are to move Regional Parks forward

The Future of CRD Regional Parks

CRD Regional Parks is preparing a new strategic plan that will set the direction for the regional parks and trails system over the coming decade.

The Strategic Plan will define the long-term ‘big picture’ framework for our regional parks and trails. Citizen involvement is essential in preparing this plan, which involves a comprehensive public participation component.

History of the Strategic Plan

In 2000, the CRD Board adopted a ten-year Regional Parks Master Plan, now called the Strategic Plan. It had a major influence on Regional Parks and guided the direction of the department over the last ten years. It led to establishment of the Land Acquisition Fund and helped guide the stewardship of the natural environment, connect people to the land, and provide opportunities for citizens, community organizations and other levels of government to partner with Regional Parks to achieve our vision.

About Regional Parks

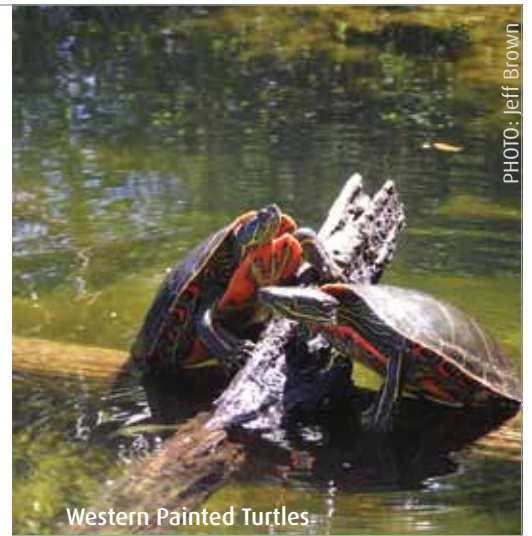
CRD Regional Parks protects and manages more than 11,500 hectares of accessible natural areas in 30 regional parks and three regional trails on southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands.

Regional Parks was established in 1966. It included Coles Bay, Elk/Beaver Lake, Horth Hill, Island View Beach, and Witty’s Lagoon. The idea for a regional parks system dates back to the 1950s. It was the foresight of citizens and elected officials whose goal was to protect these natural areas that define our region for



PHOTO: John Tuck

Lochside Regional Trail



Mount Work - Hartland Mountain Biking Trails

Western Painted Turtles

the residents and for future generations. The Regional Parks system has been built over these past 43 years; in 2016 we will celebrate our 50th anniversary!

We have grown from the original five parks to 30 regional parks and three regional trails that make up approximately 50% of the total protected natural area in the region.

Our regional parks and trails are a defining ingredient of our region’s livability. It can be argued that they are among the best in the world. They provide much more than just opportunities for people living in both urban and suburban areas to connect with nature and each other. Parkland has also helped the CRD move towards creating an economical, social and environmentally sustainable region for the long term.

In contributing to the overall quality of life enjoyed by Capital Regional District residents, our parklands protect ecosystems, provide outstanding outdoor recreation experiences, provide habitat for plants and animals, and support the natural cleansing of water and air. Regional parks also contribute to the economy through tourism: walking, hiking and visiting parks are the top three activities enjoyed by visitors to the Capital Region.

Regional Parks now needs to set the course for the next ten years.

Citizen Advisory Panel

A Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) has been set up to provide advice to the CRD Regional Parks Committee on the Strategic Plan for the coming decade. The 17-member panel includes women, men and students from throughout the district, and represents a wide age range of people with diverse interests in and knowledge of regional parks.

Panel members play an essential role in engaging the public to ensure ideas, opinions, values and issues are known and considered in preparing the Strategic Plan. The CAP will recommend a Strategic Plan to the CRD Regional Parks Committee. (See sidebar for members).

Citizen Advisory Panel Members

- Maleea Acker, (Vice-Chair)
- John Chapman
- Dave Chater (Chair)
- Jenny Clark
- Timothy Conlin
- Dustin Creviston
- Jeffrey Doyle
- Marnie Essery
- Deanna Henry
- Caleigh Inman
- Jim Knock
- James MacPherson
- Bob Peart
- Steven Peterson
- Paul Reeve
- Audrey Roburn
- Sarah Temple



Nature Programs at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park



Thetis Lake Regional Park

Strategic Planning Process



How to Get Involved

Regional parks and trails mean so much to the citizens of this region. That is why we are engaging citizens, First Nations, governments, CRD Directors and Regional Parks volunteers and staff in the process to prepare the Strategic Plan.

Public engagement will be conducted in an open and inclusive way, to ensure your ideas, values and issues are known and considered.

Community Engagement

A series of community dialogues will be held throughout the Capital Regional District. The format will include facilitators to gather information on key park themes from a series of small groups (see diagram on page 4).

Juan de Fuca

Otter Point Fire Hall
 Friday, May 12

Sooke

Sooke Hall
 Thursday, May 13

Saanich Peninsula

Sidney Mary Winspear Centre
 Bodine Hall
 Tuesday, May 18

Victoria

Ambrosia Centre
 Burnaby & Powell Rooms
 Thursday, May 6

Salt Spring Island

Anglican Church
 Wednesday, May 19

Westshore

Langford Church of the Rosary
 Monday, May 17

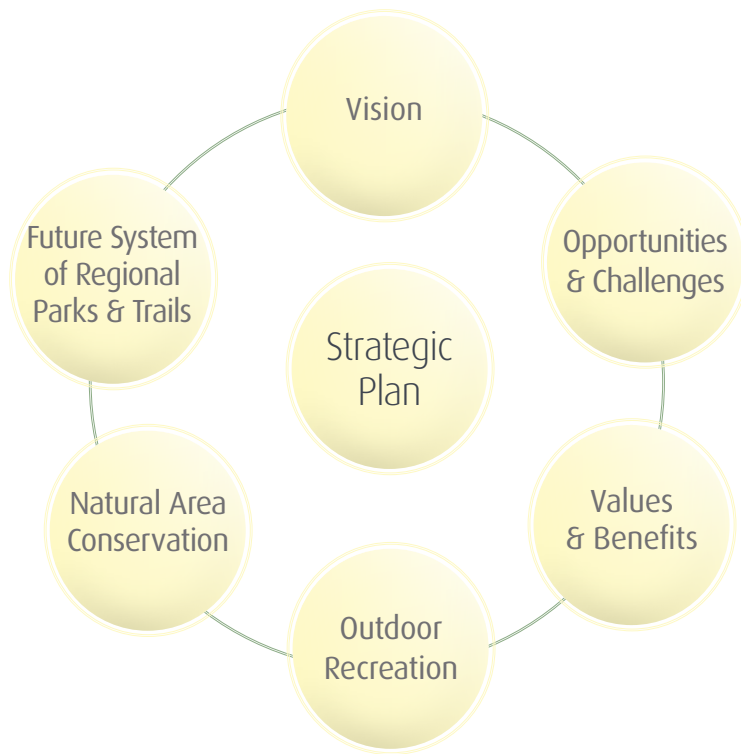
Doors open	6 - 7 pm
Community dialogues	7 - 8:30 pm
Wrap-up	8:30 - 9 pm

You can also provide us with your input by filling out the response form insert in this newsletter or online at:

www.crd.bc.ca/parks/planning/strategicplan

The information you provide will be used by the Citizen Advisory Panel in collaboration with Regional Parks to help prepare a draft strategic plan. Regional Parks will report on what you told us and how your input was considered in drafting the plan.

Key Themes of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan



Witty's Lagoon Regional Park

Land Acquisition Fund

The CRD Regional Parks' Land Acquisition Fund was initially established in 2000 to acquire prime natural areas in the region that would otherwise be lost to development.

The land acquisition vision came out of the Regional Parks' Master Plan. This plan was developed with residents of the region and a public advisory group, and set the strategic direction for our regional parks and trails system. The public advisory group was very instrumental in establishing the Land Acquisition Fund and identifying areas of park potential. It was identified that the lands acquired for the regional parks and trails system through this fund would contribute significantly to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the region.

In the past 10 years, the CRD has acquired 2,968 hectares of the region's prime natural areas, valued at \$30,704,000. These land purchases were made possible with many partners: land owners, citizen and business donations, The Land Conservancy of BC, Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and the federal and provincial governments.

The Land Acquisition Fund continues to receive strong municipal and public support. The Capital Regional District Board recently approved the continuation of the successful fund for an additional ten years. It will increase from \$12 to \$20 per average residential assessment over the next five years (2010-2014) at a rate of \$2 per year and be maintained at \$20 to 2019.

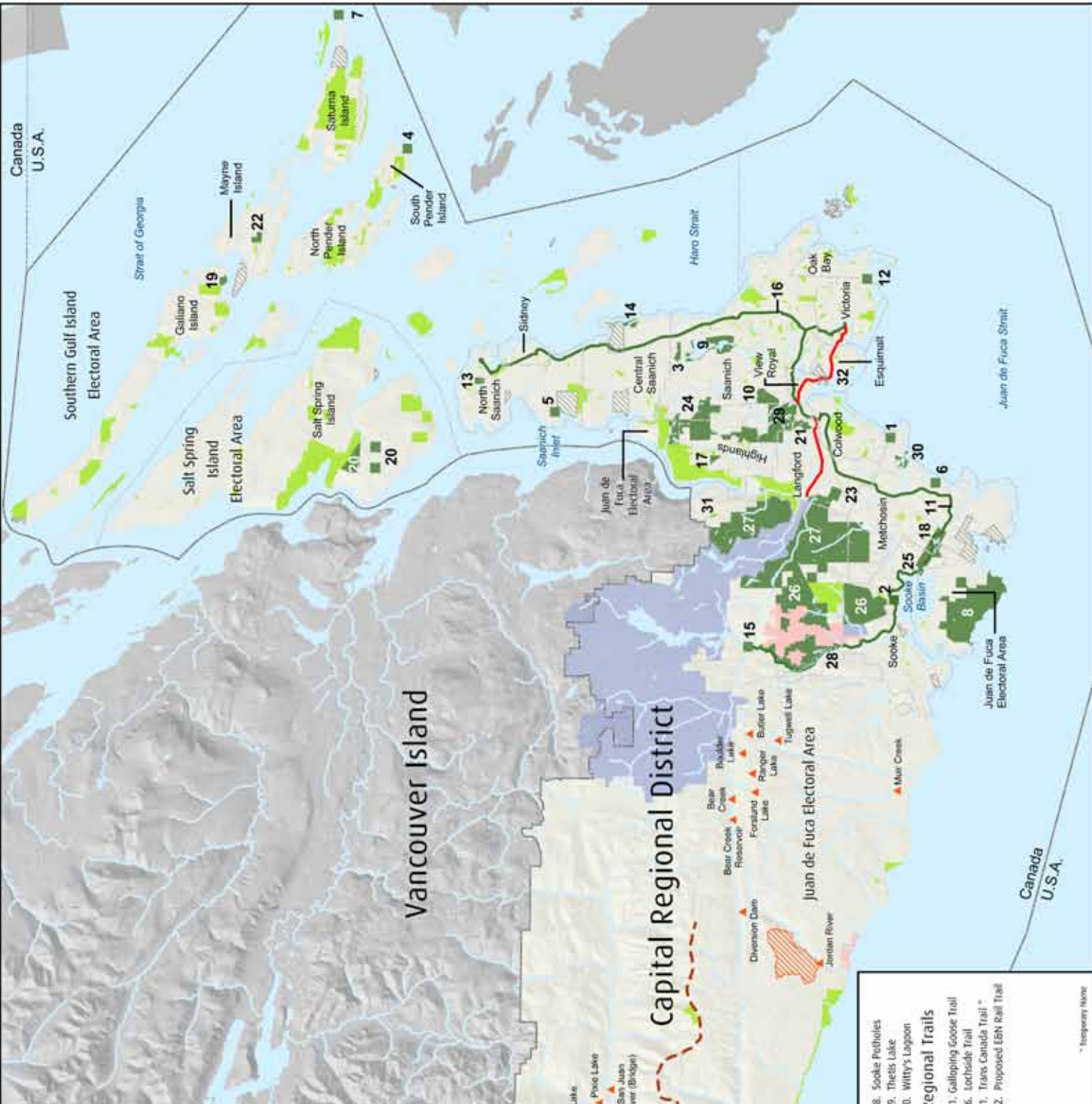
Capital Regional District Regional Parks and Trails, Protected Areas, and Provincial Recreation Sites



- Regional Park
- Other Park
- CRD Water Supply Land
- Temporary Off Road Vehicle Area
- Western Forest Product Lands to be Acquired for Parkland
- Malahat / San Juan Ridge
- Provincial Recreation Hill
- Provincial Recreation Tourist Site
- Regional Trail
- Proposed Trail in Regional Trail
- Regional District Boundary
- Municipal / Electoral Area Boundary
- River / Stream
- Lake / Reservoir



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10, North, North American Datum
DISCLAIMER This map is for general information purposes only. The Capital Regional District does not warrant or represent that the information is accurate or complete. This map is for informational purposes only and should not be used for navigation. This map will not be liable for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the map or information on this map and the map may be changed by the CRD at any time.
 April 2015 | CRD Parks, Recreation, Snow, Ice, and Land Use | parks@crd.ca



- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Regional Parks | 14. Island View Bleach | 28. Sooke Peitholes |
| 1. Albert Head Lagoon | 15. Koojoo Park Reserve | 29. Thetis Lake |
| 2. Ayum Creek Park Reserve | 17. Lone Tree Hill | 30. Witty's Lagoon |
| 3. Bear Hill | 19. Matthews Point Park Reserve | Regional Trails |
| 4. Brooks Point Park Reserve | 20. Mill Farm Park Reserve | 11. Galloping Goose Trail |
| 5. Coles Bay | 21. Mill Hill | 16. Lochside Trail |
| 6. Devonian | 22. Mount Parke | 31. Trans Canada Trail* |
| 7. East Point Park Reserve | 23. Mount Wells | 32. Proposed EBN Rail Trail |
| 8. East Sooke | 24. Mount Work | |
| 9. Elk/Beaver Lake | 25. Sorche Cove | |
| 10. Francis/King | 26. Sea to Sea Park Reserve | |
| 12. Gonzales Hill | 27. Sooke Hills Wilderness Park Reserve | |
| 13. Harth Hill | | |

* Temporary Name



Francis King Regional Park

Nature Programs at a Glance

CRD Regional Parks provides nature programs to communities, including school field trips, in-class presentations, public programs, and community events. In 2009:

- 227 school programs: 7,344 students, teachers, parents
- 205 public programs: 11,205 participants
- 17 community events: 7,091 visitors
- 3 Nature centres: 8,271 visitors

Regional Parks at a Glance

Total Number of CRD parks and trails:

- 30 Regional Parks, 3 Regional Trails

Total size of the regional parks and trails system:

- 11,500 hectares

Year regional park system established:

- 1966, Coles Bay, Elk/Beaver Lake, Horth Hill, Island View Beach, Witty's Lagoon

Largest regional park:

- Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve, 4,103 hectares

Smallest regional park:

- Gonzales Hill, 1.8 hectares

Highest point in the system:

- Mount Braden, Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve, 471m

Top 10 Visited Regional Parks & Trails

1. Elk/Beaver Lake
2. Thetis Lake
3. Mount Work
4. Galloping Goose
5. Island View Beach
6. East Sooke
7. Witty's Lagoon
8. Lochside
9. Sooke Potholes
10. Roche Cove

Volunteers at a Glance

CRD offers opportunities for residents to be involved in the preservation and stewardship of regional parks. In 2009:

- 386 volunteers contributed 6,158 hours

Conservation Values at a Glance

- Protection of large areas of natural habitat
- Protection of all nine ecosystems of conservation significance mapped by Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory
- Reported occurrences of nationally and provincially listed elements at risk:
 - 59 plant species
 - 31 animal species
 - 12 ecological communities



Witty's Lagoon: Sitting Lady Falls



PHOTO: Berdine Jonkers

FSC Certified 100% recycled paper



Mount Work



Golden Eagle

PHOTO: Phil Petersen



Matheson Lake

CRD Regional Parks

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