

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

**STAFF REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2002**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY – CRD BOARD REQUESTS
FOR INFORMATION FROM CRD PARKS**

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of October 24, 2001 the CRD Board approved a number of changes to the Regional Growth Strategy and requested information about other matters. A number of the requests relate to CRD Parks issues. These requests are addressed in this report.

COMMENTS

Issue – How will proposed trail system from Sooke to Port Renfrew be developed?

The CRD Parks Master Plan identifies a proposed regional trail connecting the provincial Juan de Fuca Marine Trail with the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. Strategic Direction 2 of the CRD Parks Master Plan (Acquire Additional Land for Regional Parks and Trails) recommends the following action:

“... undertaking a detailed inventory of regional park and trail opportunities in the area west of the Sooke River (of particular interest are beach areas along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.) The findings of such a report will be presented to the CRD Board and used to amend the Master Plan.”

The Master Plan does not identify a timeframe for this project. The project will be undertaken sometime after 2003. The study would be undertaken in consultation with the District of Sooke, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director and regional residents.

Issue – Future of Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy

CRD Board Recommendation (October 24, 2001)

“That Regional Planning Services and CRD Parks report to the Regional Planning Services Committee on appropriate changes to the Regional Growth Strategy following a meeting on future involvement in the Regional Green/Blue Spaces.”

Background

The CRD Board endorsed the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy in November 1997. As part of the Strategy, both the CRD Board and Provincial Capital Commission Board approved a number of recommendations. The status of each recommendation is provided in Attachment 1. All the recommendations approved by the CRD Board in the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy have been implemented.

Future Involvement

Staff from CRD Parks, Regional Planning Services and Environmental Services and the Provincial Capital Commission met on December 14, 2001 to discuss future CRD and Provincial Capital Commission involvement in the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.

Staff from CRD Parks, Regional Planning Services and Environmental Services and the Provincial Capital Commission recommend that a five-year update of the Regional Green/Blue Space Strategy should take place in 2003. This update is proposed to be led jointly by CRD Regional Planning Services, CRD Parks and the Provincial Capital Commission. In 2002, a terms of reference for the review could be prepared and some background information could be collected. The terms of reference would address the purpose and objectives for the update, the planning process, information needs, financial resources needed to undertake the update, roles and responsibilities and time frame.

Issue – Greenway Corridor to Connect Southeast Urban Core with Regional Green Space Network

The CRD Parks Master Plan identifies a regional trail connection from the Galloping Goose Regional Trail to Beacon Hill Park and along Dallas Road and Beach Drive to Uplands Park. There are no other regional trail connections planned from the southeast urban area to other regional trails or parks. This issue will be addressed in the five year review of the CRD Parks Master Plan planned for 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the CRD Park Committee forward this report to the Regional Planning Services Committee.
2. That the CRD Parks Committee endorse work required to update the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy.
3. That the update of the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy be coordinated by CRD Parks, CRD Regional Planning Services and Provincial Capital Commission.
4. That a terms of reference for the update of the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy be submitted to the CRD Board in late 2002.

Lloyd Rushton, Administrator

Attachment
JW/mr

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy Recommendations and Status Report

Recommendation	Status
<p>Recommendations Approved by Both the CRD Board and Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) Board</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the CRD and the PCC forward the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy to all municipalities, CRD Municipal Services, the Islands Trust, and the federal and provincial governments, bringing to their attention how they could contribute to the protection and maintenance of regional green/blue spaces. 2. That the PCC continue to support and fund the Commission's Greenways Program. 3. That the CRD and the PCC hold a workshop in 1999 to gauge the effectiveness of the Strategy in guiding the protection and maintenance of regional green/blue spaces. 4. That a status report be prepared for the CRD and PCC Boards of Directors in 1999 that assesses the effectiveness of the Strategy in guiding the protection and maintenance of regional green/blue spaces. 5. (a) That the CRD and the PCC report annually to their respective Boards about green/blue spaces projects; and (b) that the CRD and PCC prepare and distribute an information newsletter on the projects. 6. That the CRD and the PCC provide seed money for organizational costs to support the establishment of an independent land trust information/coordination office to promote land trusts and land stewardship, coordinate the activities of land trusts and provide information. 	<p>Copies of the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy sent to all municipalities. Many have incorporated the Strategy into municipal planning.</p> <p>The PCC continues to support and fund the PCC Greenways Program.</p> <p>Held September 10-11, 1999.</p> <p>Submitted to CRD Parks Committee May 5, 2000 and proposed to be submitted to CRD Board May 10, 2000</p> <p>A newsletter was available in July 1999. Only one report and newsletter has been prepared.</p> <p>The CRD Board approved a one-time grant of \$15,000 in 1998. The PCC also provided a grant. The office opened in 1998. The functions of the office are now being done through the Habitat Acquisition Trust Office.</p>
<p>CRD Board Recommendation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the CRD regard the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy as a planning tool and guideline for preparing the Regional Growth Strategy. 	<p>The Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy has been incorporated into the Regional Growth Strategy</p>
<p>PCC Board Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Commission endorse the Regional Green/Blue Spaces System advocated in the report and regard the proposed system as the Regional Green/Blue Spaces infrastructure. 2. That the Commission and the CRD prepare an implementation plan with measurable objectives. 	<p>The PCC has made the CRD aware of this position.</p> <p>CRD staff (i.e., Parks, Regional Planning Services and Environmental Services) and PCC staff have discussed this. The topic would be further explored as part of the process to update of the Strategy .</p>

