

Frequently Asked Questions

Transfer of Western Forest Products Lands to the CRD.

1. What lands are being transferred to the CRD?

The lands being transferred to the CRD fall under a three-year payment plan to Western Forest Products.

- The first installment of \$9.4 million on August 12, 2010 comprised three sets of parcels:
 - [Sandcut Beach](#)
 - Majority of the parcels adjacent to [Sooke Potholes Regional Park](#)
 - Weeks Lake parcels in the Leech watershed
- In the second installment, additional land adjacent to Sandcut Beach valued at \$3.4 million transferred to CRD in August 2011.
- The third installment in August 2012 land parcels adjacent to Sooke Potholes Regional Park CRD valued at \$1.3 million.
- The final installment of lands at Jordan River valued at \$4.5 million will transfer upon environmental contamination clean-up by Western Forest Products, including the Certificate of Compliance from the Ministry of Environment, expected by December 2012.

2. What are the attributes of the lands?

- 3.5 km of shoreline between Jordan River and Sandcut Beach for recreation and conservation.
- Several parcels in the Sooke Potholes area for recreation and conservation, which will bring completion of the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt from 82% to 90%.
- The Weeks Lake area will be used to enlarge the Leech River future water supply lands.

3. What is the size of the lands?

2350 hectares are being purchased in total including:

- CRD Regional Parks - 1510 ha (Jordan River 187 ha and Sooke Potholes /Sea to Sea 1323 ha)
- CRD Integrated Water Services: Weeks Lake - 840 ha

4. What are the details of the purchase agreement?

The agreement for sale is between the Capital Regional District and Western Forest Products. CRD will take possession for management purposes of all the parcels under the registered agreement for sale upon completion of payment in each installment, except for two parcels in Jordan River which require remediation.

- Total price - \$18.8 million
- Total cost watershed lands paid by CRD Integrated Water Services in 2010 - \$3.1 million
- Total cost regional parkland paid over three years - \$15.6 million

- 2010 - \$6.5 million
 - \$4 million - [Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund](#)
 - \$2.5 million - Partners (private donors 250,000; TLC \$250,000; Province of BC \$2 million)
- 2011 - \$3.3 million Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund
- 2012 - \$5.8 million Regional Parks Land Acquisition Fund

5. Will all of the parcels be retained for parkland?

Some of the parcels being purchased may contain land that is recognized as excess to parks. Staff is working to carry out detailed assessments on all [Jordan River](#) lands to determine the exact areas to be retained for regional parks use. The CRD will look to sell non-essential lands to reduce the net cost of the purchase or to trade for more desirable park lands.

6. What will happen to any lands deemed surplus?

The CRD Board will consider information received during the public and First Nations consultation process along with the need to dispose of surplus lands and reinvest potential revenue back into the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Program.

7. Will any of the parkland be opened up to the public?

Sandcut Beach remains open to the public. CRD Regional Parks' staff has made improvements to the infrastructure, including the trails, vegetation management, parking lot, etc.

8. What is the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt?

The [Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt](#) is a visionary undertaking dating back to the 1960s to create a corridor of protected wilderness and parkland stretching from Saanich Inlet in the east to the Sooke Basin and Sooke River in the southwest. The goal is to create a continuous protected area of approximately 11,500 hectares, making it the largest protected area in the CRD. The Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt comprises provincial, regional and municipal park land, including Gowlland Tod Provincial Park, Goldstream Provincial Park, Sooke Mountain Provincial Park, Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve and the Sea to Sea Regional Park Reserve. With the Western Forest Products land acquisition, the green blue belt is now 90% complete.