

# Regional Trails Management Plan

## Where We Start

Fact Sheet 1 - 2014



## What's in a Management Plan?

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is developing a management plan for the regional trails system. It will guide decision making, priority setting, and budget planning for the next 10 years. The trails system comprises the Galloping Goose Regional Trails, Lochside Regional Trail and E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector.

The Regional Trails Management Plan will include:

- ◊ background information.
- ◊ a vision for the CRD regional trail system.
- ◊ management principles/core values.
- ◊ broad policies to guide regional trail management.
- ◊ specific policies and actions for the three individual regional trails.
- ◊ an implementation strategy to guide annual budget and capital planning.

## Starting Points

The *Regional Parks Strategic Plan*, approved by the CRD Board in 2012, provides the starting point for management of the regional trails. The Strategic Plan outlines key principles that apply to regional parks and trails. The management plan needs to be consistent with, and build upon, the Strategic Plan direction. Here are some key points from the strategic plan:

- ◊ Regional trails connect communities and provide many outdoor recreation opportunities and an alternate non-motorized transportation network.
- ◊ Regional trails are managed as an arterial trail system that connects the municipalities and electoral areas within the CRD and to adjacent regional districts.
- ◊ Regional trails are managed to provide non-motorized transportation and recreation - cycling and pedestrian routes and horseback riding trails.
- ◊ Regional trails provide greenways that offer habitat for animals and plants.

# Capital Regional District Regional Pedestrian & Cycling Masterplan



regional parks strategic plan | 2012—2021

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT | APPROVED BY CRD BOARD JUNE 13, 2012

Prepared for the CRD by  
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CRD  
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The *Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan* (PCMP), approved by the CRD Board in 2012, also provides direction relevant to regional trails management planning.

- ◊ The vision set out in the PCMP is one where the CRD is a liveable and environmentally sustainable region where walking and cycling are key components of the transportation system.
- ◊ CRD will make a concerted effort to shift new trips and portions of existing trips over to walking, cycling and transit.
- ◊ The region will provide a cycling network that is safe and comfortable for all - not just the courageous and intrepid cyclist.
- ◊ A multi-use regional trail system provides regionally significant pedestrian areas/corridors.

The *Regional Transportation Plan*, drafted in 2013, also provides key points that inform the regional trails management planning process. The Transportation Plan envisions:

- ◊ a future where transportation is sustainable, offers choice, enables smart growth, and makes livable communities possible.
- ◊ a multi-modal and integrated approach to transportation will be used.
- ◊ cycling as an appealing, safe and viable transportation option for residents and visitors of all skill and confidence levels.
- ◊ walking as an increasingly popular and desirable mode of transportation that is supported by safe, convenient, and accessible pedestrian infrastructure.
- ◊ enhancing existing regional trails and funding expansion of the regional trail system.

These strategic direction statements will be considered, along with provincial, municipal, First Nations and public input, and best management practices, as we develop the regional trails management plan.

# Regional Trails Management Plan

## Regional Trails Classifications

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Lochside Regional Trail

### Classifications

The Capital Regional District (CRD) regional trails are classified in three categories:

- ◊ Bike and pedestrian trails.
- ◊ Multiple use trails.
- ◊ Hiking and walking pathways.

### Bike and Pedestrian Trails

These regional trails are designated primarily to accommodate a high volume of users for recreational and commuting cycling, and for walking and running. Non-motorized vehicle transportation corridors for commuters, they are the arterial cycling trails in the region. These trails have major infrastructure and a paved surface. There are three bike and pedestrian regional trails:

- ◊ Galloping Goose Regional Trail between Luxton (in the City of Langford) and Victoria.
- ◊ Lochside Regional Trail between the Swartz Bay ferry terminal and the Switch Bridge on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.
- ◊ E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector.

### Multiple-Use Trails

These regional trails are designated for biking, hiking and horseback riding. The surface of these trails will be improved with gravel and designed to prevent degradation of the natural surface area through erosion and runoff. There is one multiple-use regional trail:

- ◊ Galloping Goose Regional Trail between Luxton (City of Langford) and Leechtown (Kapoor Regional Park).

### Hiking and Walking Pathways

Regional hiking and walking pathways are regional trails that link regional and other parks into one continuous pathway system. They are corridors used for walking, running, hiking and, where possible, horseback riding. Pathways provide natural greenway connections between parks through suburban land and other landscapes, such as farms and resource lands. Regional pathways, as a general rule, will be a single-track trail that may at times be embedded in, and parallel to, a regional trail. They can also exist on streets. There are four pathways within the region, all of them owned, operated and managed by agencies other than the CRD. They are the West Coast Trail (Parks Canada), Juan de Fuca Marine Trail (BC Parks), Kludahk Trail (Kladuhk Outdoor Club), Colquitz Creek Trail (District of Saanich).

## Examples of Trail Classifications



### Bike and Pedestrian Trail

#### Galloping Goose Regional Trail

Victoria to Luxton

Approximately 22 km of the 55 km Galloping Goose Regional Trail is in an urban setting and is heavily used by both cyclists and pedestrians.

Selkirk Trestle, Victoria, photo credit Cindy Andrie



### Multi-use Trail

#### Galloping Goose Regional Trail

Luxton to Kapoor Regional Park

Approximately 32 km of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail is in a rural environment. This section of the trail provides opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

Galloping Goose, Metchosin, photo credit Bev Hall



### Hiking and Walking Pathway

#### Juan de Fuca Marine Trail

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

Owned and operated by BC Parks, this 47 km wilderness hiking trail is recognized as a regional pathway. The *CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan* envisions pathways linking regional and other parks.

Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, photo credit Trevor Leyenhorst