

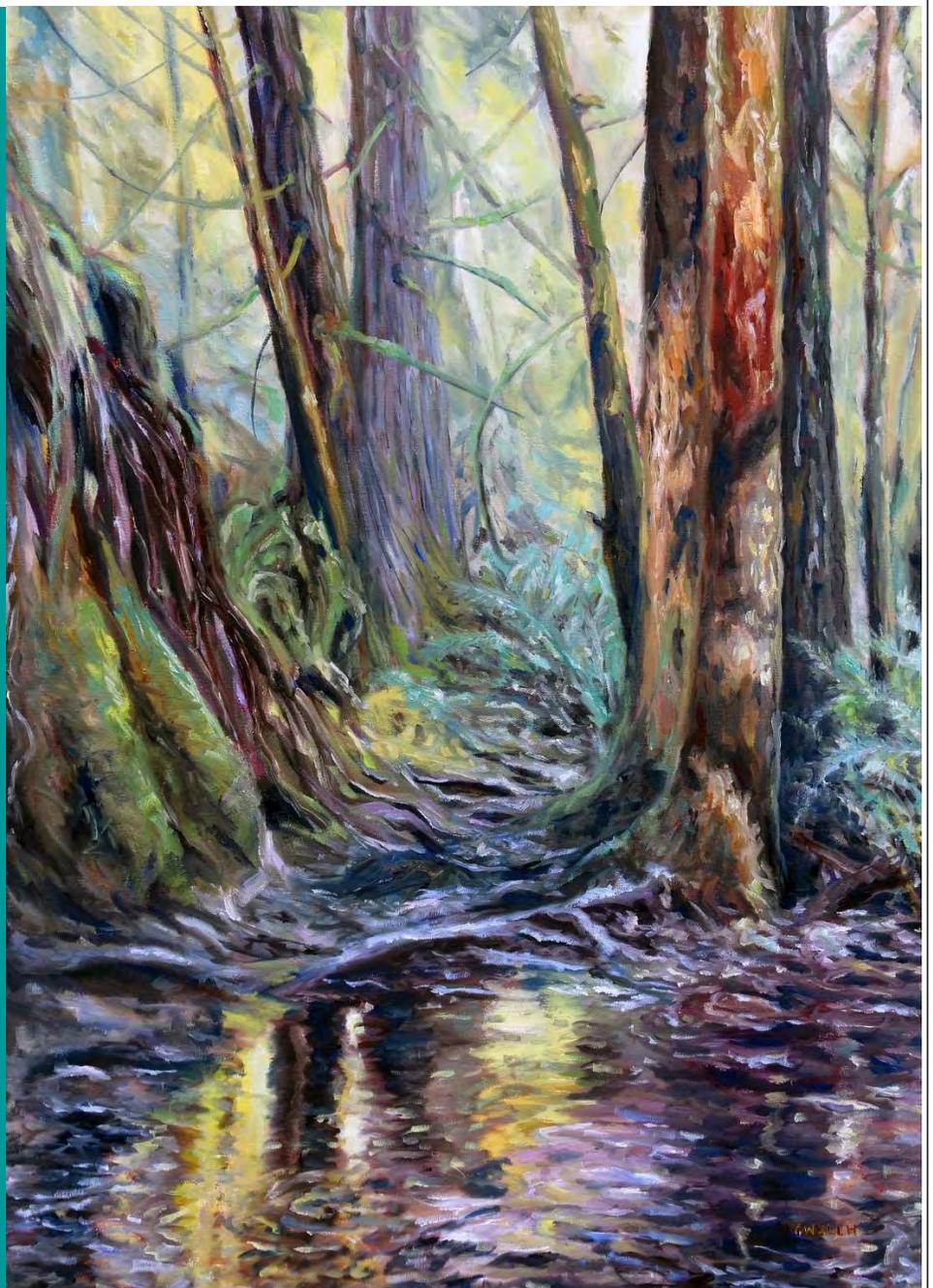
# Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Master Plan 2021 - 2025



Capital Regional District |

Mayne Island Parks and  
Recreation Commission  
411A Naylor Road  
Mayne Island, BC V0N 2J2



# **MAYNE ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

## **MASTER PLAN 2021 - 2025**

### **Acknowledgements**

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The Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that its work takes place within traditional First Nations Territory. Coast Salish people have cared for this land and surrounding waters for millennia and we are grateful for this stewardship. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Capital Regional District; the Mayne Island Conservancy Society and the Mayne Island Pathways and Trails Association for their input and support of the plan. Special thanks are due to our volunteers and the public who contributed suggestions through surveys and at public events which provided valuable assistance in order that we might serve them better.

*Cover photo of oil painting "When I Am Among the Trees" - courtesy Terrill Welch*

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# 1. Executive Summary

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This Master Plan has been developed in consultation with the Mayne Island community, First Nations, Mayne Island Conservancy Society (the Conservancy), Mayne Island Pathways and Trails Association (MIPATA), and visitors to Mayne Island.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to consolidate historical and current information about existing community parks, trails, and shore accesses, the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission (MIPRC) recreational funding program, and to set out the direction for MIPRC for the period 2021-2025.

**More specifically, the purpose of the Master Plan is:**

1. To maintain the variety offered by the different parks ensuring they and existing infrastructure are well maintained and improved,
2. To foster relationships and strengthen partnerships with other community groups and stakeholders so that the community’s recreation needs are met,
3. To maintain the ecological integrity of the parks,
4. To recognize the effect of climate change,
5. To consider increasing the amount of parkland through purchase or land donation.

**The following recommendations are made in this Master Plan:**

**Parks**

1. Ensure the Dinner Bay Playground and sports fields meet safety standards and are updated,
2. Extend the Ed Williams Trail at Dinner Bay Park to provide a running/walking circuit,
3. Undertake further habitat restoration of Emma and Felix Jack Park,
4. Continue the existing stewardship agreement with the Conservancy for restoration in Henderson Park,
5. Work with Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks department to consolidate the Kim Road park entrance/trailhead signage and consider standardizing other signage,
6. Consider supporting fallow deer management at Henderson Park, and
7. Consider creating a land acquisition fund.

## **Trails**

1. Continue the existing joint venture with MIPATA to create a trail from Felix Jack Road alongside Kim Road to the entrance to Mount Parke,
2. Work with MIPATA to develop trails and pathways with a focus on connecting trails, and
3. Support CRD Regional Parks with local projects including the Village Bay to Miners Bay trail.

## **Shore Accesses**

1. Consider development of those undeveloped shore accesses where MIPRC has a permit to occupy.

## **Recreational Funding Program**

1. Continue to provide financial support to providers of community recreation programs.

## **General**

1. Develop a sustainable service plan,
2. Develop emergency protocols,
3. Develop a preventative maintenance program and risk management plan for tree fall hazard and wildfire risk,
4. Consult collaboratively with First Nations,
5. Promote opportunities to volunteer in the parks and trails,
6. Develop standardized signage, and
7. Consider providing an opportunity for the display of memorial plaques.

## 2. Introduction and Context

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### a. Role of the MIPRC

Pursuant to Letters Patent dated August 28 and October 3, 1975, the power to acquire, develop, operate and maintain community parks and undertake community recreational programming in the Southern Gulf Islands was conferred on the Regional Board (“Board”) of the CRD.

Subsequently and through a number of bylaws and amendments<sup>1</sup>, the Board delegated to the MIPRC all of its administrative powers with respect to the development, maintenance and operation of all community parks, and the organization and conduct of recreational programs.

#### **The MIPRC must:**

- Maintain a community parks plan, and;
- Recommend to the Board the acquisition of additional lands for parks purposes that are of community interest.

The MIPRC is made up of the elected CRD Director or alternate representing the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area and eight volunteers, usually Mayne Island residents, appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Director with input from the Commission. Commissioners are appointed to serve two-year terms and appointments are staggered so that half of the commission stands for appointment in any year. Commissioners can serve up to three consecutive terms and additional terms if there are no other applicants for a commissioner appointment.

It is important to point out the distinction between federal, regional and community parks. Mayne Island has parks which are managed by each of these levels of ‘government’. For example, the Gulf Island National Park Reserve which includes Georgina Point Heritage Park and Campbell Point are managed by the federal agency Parks Canada. Mt. Parke and St. John Point are regional parks and managed by the CRD – Regional Parks department. The other parks on Mayne Island, the subject of this plan, are community parks and managed by MIPRC. It should be noted that the property at the end of Edith Point Road which is frequently used by hikers is private property, not a public park, and access is by permission of the property owners.

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<sup>1</sup> CRD Bylaw No. 2969 and CRD Bylaw No. 3488 dated November 14, 2007.

## **b. Purpose of the Master Plan**

This Master Plan establishes a framework and direction for the Commission for the next 5 years, translating the broad direction of its mandate into more specific direction such as a parks vision, goals, and actions based on the values of the variety of assets under its management and input from the public. In order to be responsive to the needs and wishes of a changing community, the Commission will update the Master Plan every five years. This plan will cover the years 2021 – 2025.

## **c. First Nations and site characteristics**

Mayne Island is part of the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) archipelago, the southernmost islands in the Salish Sea separating Vancouver Island from the British Columbia mainland. It is 21 square kilometres (8.1 square miles) in size.

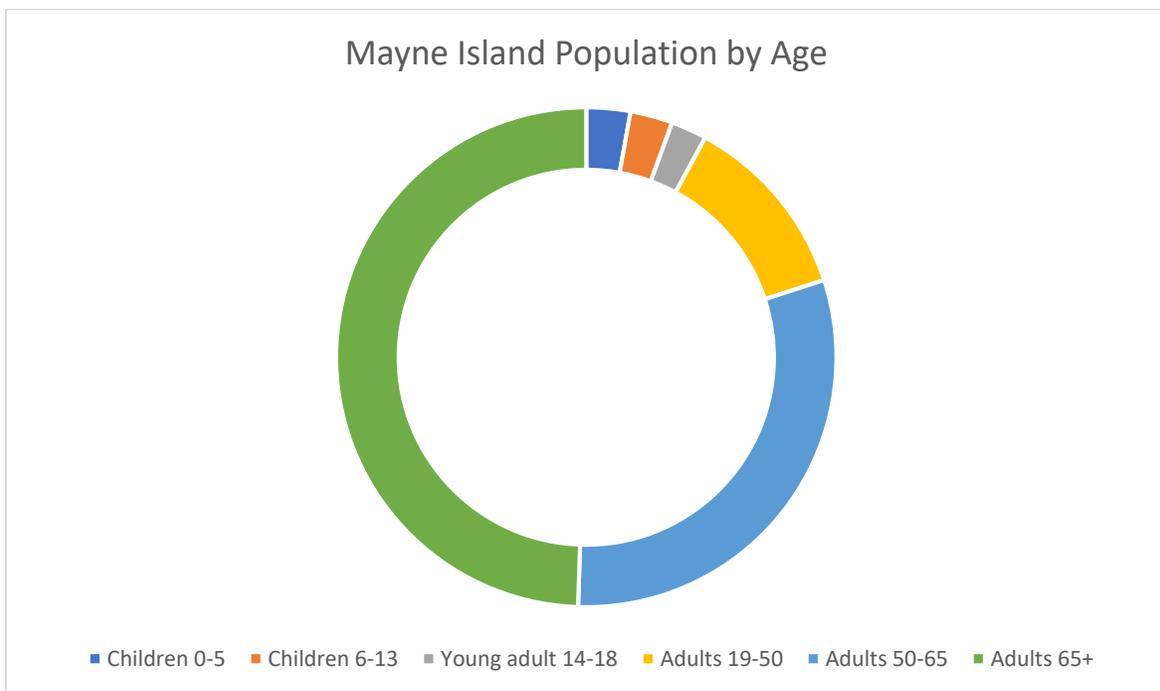
Coast Salish peoples have lived on Mayne Island continuously for millennia. Today, WJŌŁEŁP (Tsartlip Nation) has reserve lands on Mayne Island at Helen Point at the west end of Active Pass. Mayne Island is S,ƘƑAK in the SENĆŦEN language, and the land and surrounding waters have always been used for hunting, fishing, harvesting food and medicines, and other cultural practices. These lands and waters continue to be of essential importance to local First Nations. The MIPRC will continue working to build relationships with Nations who have ties to the island and work with them on parks stewardship in a way that acknowledges their rights and shared history. MIPRC respects all archaeological and environmental protective regulations and traditional First Nations sensibilities regarding the land.

## d. Population being served<sup>2</sup>

The population of Mayne Island is older than the rest of BC with an average age of 60 years. The median age of Mayne Island residents is 65 and about 20 years older than the rest of BC.

The population of Mayne Island varies dramatically depending upon the time of year. The number of full-time residents year-round is approximately 950 yet can increase to 2000 or more with the arrival of part-time residents and visitors during the warmer summer months. Thus, the Commission must meet the needs and demands of permanent residents and a significant number of week-enders and visitors whose numbers vary depending upon the season.

The demographics of the full-time residents is estimated as follows:



<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?B1=All&Code1=590008&Code2=59&Data=Count&Geo1=DPL&Geo2=PR&Lang=E&SearchPR=01&SearchText=Mayne+Island+Trust+Area&SearchType=Begins&TABID=1> See also Southern Gulf Islands Local Health Area Profile, Island Health, 2018

## **e. Current inventory and opportunities**

### **Community Parks**

The current inventory of community parks is as follows with the major parks listed by date of acquisition:

#### **i. Dinner Bay:**

The records show that a subdivision resulted in a dedication of crown land in 1976, and that this crown land became park in 1985 under the leadership of Ed Williams and the early and then recently formed Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission.

Nestled at the head of tranquil Dinner Bay, this 10-acre park has two main highlights. One highlight is the famous Japanese Garden. The concept of such a garden was first considered in late 1987 as a means of commemorating the Japanese who had settled and worked on the island between 1900 and 1942.

A part of Dinner Bay Park was set aside for this purpose. A large pond with a promontory was created and some cherry trees and other plants were donated by the Nagata and Otzuki families, the first were early immigrants to Mayne. Some shrubs and trees were donated by other residents. Other park priorities intervened and the garden went into abeyance until 1999.

By October 1999 the garden was in a state of abject neglect. It had been fenced off as a safety precaution. The cherry trees still flowered but were almost obscured by hundreds of alder trees growing in very swampy conditions. Then one of the Commissioners (Don Herbert) undertook to recreate and fully develop the garden with the help of many volunteers.

Over the Christmas season, the garden is transformed with a magical display of thousands of lights and ornaments.

With continual improvements every year, today the gardens are well known, bringing visitors from afar as they provide a place of peace, tranquility and beauty.



*The Japanese Gardens at Dinner Bay Park tended by many dedicated volunteers*

The second highlight of the park is family enjoyment and sports activities. The park houses the Adachi Pavilion named after the Adachi family who farmed in the area and along with other Japanese families raised strawberries, orchard fruit and hothouse tomatoes – the main supply of tomatoes to Vancouver in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The pavilion has a full kitchen which can be used by families and community organizations hosting events. There are also full-service washrooms. The park has picnic tables and grassy areas for relaxing. There is a large playground for children which includes a zip line, swings and climbing features. The softball field is used by the local softball team and visitors. For golf enthusiasts, there is a putting green, and, for disc golf players, the latest addition is a full 18-hole disc golf course with local players hosting an annual disc golf tournament. There are also two horseshoe pitches and a volleyball court currently in the process of being relocated. And yet there is still room for nature as the park features the Ed Williams trail, recently upgraded and rededicated, which meanders through the woods from Leighton Lane, across Williams Road by the bay and to the entrance of the Japanese Gardens.

**ii. Plumper Pass:**

This 39-acre park became a community park in 1998. It is named after the survey ship, HMS Plumper 1858-59. This park is adjacent to the regional park, Mt. Parke and forms part of the Mt. Parke-Plumper Pass park complex. The park is a wilderness low impact park with hiking trails.

**iii. Emma and Felix Jack (aka Mt. Parke Community Park):**

This 1-acre park was created in 1998 as a result of subdivision amenity zoning and the park is named after Emma and Felix Jack who lived on Mayne Island and were Coast Salish people. The park includes a figure which is based on a Traditional Welcome Figure carved by Coast Salish people. Traditionally there were two such figures in Village Sites, one male, one female with open arms to welcome other tribe members. The figure was carved/sculpted to honour Emma and Felix Jack and all other Coast Salish people that visited or lived on Mayne Island by John Aitken, grandson of Emma and Felix Jack.



*Coast Salish Honouring Figure carved by John Aitken – photo courtesy Toby Snelgrove*

A second permanent public art installation at the park is based on a burial cairn which has been used in many cultures to honour their departed. The purpose is to acknowledge the impact of the residential school system on First Nations society and on Canada as a whole. The installation began on National Aboriginal Day (June 21, 2016) with the burying of a large rock, representing the residential school system. Over the buried rock are placed palm size rocks, many decorated and placed by Mayne Island school children. The cairns final dimensions will be approximately 5 feet in diameter and 2-1/2 feet high. Each rock represents a child who died in a residential school or a survivor of the residential school experience. All community members and visitors are welcome to add a rock or two at anytime, as an ongoing gesture of remembrance, awareness and respect.

There is interest in making this important park even more beautiful with new signage and habitat restoration including a pond, improvements to the stream and reintroduction of native plants.

**iv. Mary Jeffery:**

The most controversial of all the parks. Mary Jeffery donated this 43-acre park to the community in 1992. Mary Jeffery was a school teacher who began her career working in small communities in BC in the 1930's. Mary was a keen naturalist and explored many areas throughout BC and abroad. She retired to Mayne Island in 1970 and lived here until her passing in 1997.

There was a disagreement between the MIPRC and CRD Regional Parks as to whether it was a community park or part of Mt. Parke Regional Park. This discovery was made when the MIPRC starting developing a trail (The Lowland Nature Trail) in the park. After a rather stormy and acrimonious public meeting in 2002, a compromise was reached stating that the park, though part of the regional park, would be jointly managed by the MIPRC and CRD Regional Parks. And hence the name Mary Jeffery Park shall be used as a stand-alone name for all time.

This park is also adjacent to the regional Mt. Parke and is a wilderness low impact park with hiking trails.

**v. Chu-an:**

At approximately 1.5-acres, this park was created as the result of an amenity zoning by Don and Sylvia Slinn in 2001, even though the park wasn't developed until some years later.

This park is on a steep hill with a viewpoint at the top of the trail providing vistas across the Salish Sea to the mainland.

Translating First Nations SENĆOŦEN language into English can present difficulties as the language is a way of thinking but it can also describe physical geography. According to Dave Elliott, Sr. in the Saltwater People, Cuan (no 'h') was the name of Saltspring Island and the significance was it referred to mountains at each end of the island. The first name on a colonial map for Saltspring Island was Chuan Island.

**vi. Miners Bay:**

Located in 'downtown' Mayne Island, this 3-acre park was acquired in 2001 by way of fee simple transfer after a successful fundraising drive by the local Chamber of Commerce. The donation included the library, a double-wide trailer which was subsequently renovated to include an architect-designed enclosure. All of the work was done by volunteers.



*Miners Bay gardens – photo courtesy Bill Warning*

Miners Bay Park is zoned “Community Service S1” pursuant to the Islands Trust Land Use Bylaws. Under this zoning the park may be used for community service uses, recreation facilities, parks, clubs, and accessory uses, buildings and structures. It is a high impact park and a venue for numerous public events such as the May Day and Canada Day celebrations. It also has full-service washrooms; a gazebo and several picnic tables and benches.

**vii. Henderson:**

At approximately 20-acres, this park was acquired in 2007 as the result of amenity zoning following the purchase of the property by a syndicate and large-scale logging activity. Parks Canada was approached to purchase the property prior to it being sold to the syndicate, but Parks Canada did not have the funds to do so. Peter Askin was the commissioner working with the land agent to complete the amenity zoning process, which was approved by the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee.



*View atop Henderson Park – photo courtesy Nancy Wells*

The development and logging activity left the area in desperate need of restoration. The Conservancy prepared a comprehensive report titled “Ecological Restoration Plan: Henderson Park 2016 – 2026”.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the restoration plan was to describe the area “including its conservation values and ecological restoration needs, summarize restoration actions taken to date, and to provide direction for implementing restoration actions from 2016-2026.”<sup>4</sup> The project would not be possible without the hundreds of hours community volunteers have contributed. The work preserves the natural history of Henderson Park while recreational users have opportunities to experience the forest walks and breathtaking views from the ridge. The park is used in ways that respect and protect its values. Through the restoration efforts the park will be a wilderness park with low impact recreation including several hiking trails. There is an information kiosk and a vault toilet facility at the end of Beechwood Drive.

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<sup>3</sup> This document is an update to the original Henderson Park Restoration Plan written in 2008 by Chris Fretwell and Michael Dunn of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

**viii. Village Bay:**

The development of the Village Bay subdivision in 1970 resulted in the creation of this park as per the Local Government Act. Almost 4-acres in size, the park is near the Village Bay ferry terminal and is a low impact picnic area with a vault toilet facility. Adjacent to the park is the Village Bay boat ramp which is managed by MIPRC.

**ix. Conconi Reef:**

This park is named after Thomas David Conconi, Royal Navy Paymaster on the HMS Pylades, stationed here in 1859-60. This land dedication of almost 4-acres in 1968, came about as it was the required 5% under the Local Government Act. This park provides access to the beach on Navy Channel and also has a viewpoint trail on the high side of Navy Channel Road.

**x. Fred and Bette Cotton:**

The 8-acre property was residential and included a home of approximately 2,500 square feet in which Fred and Bette Cotton resided; several accessory buildings; gardens and landscaping. At the time of donation in 2015, it was stipulated that the land be dedicated as a Community Park and named the Fred and Bette Cotton Community Park.



*Entry to Fred & Bette Cotton Community Park by First Nations carver Wayne Thomas*

The house was demolished in 2017 as the cost of upgrading the residence to meet building code and safety standards was deemed to be prohibitive, despite significant community interest in using the building for community purposes such as art shows. The gardens created by Bette Cotton, a garden workshop and numerous outbuildings remain on the property. A prominent feature of the park is the Orca Trail which follows the shoreline of Active Pass, an Important Bird Area (IBA) and then turns inland through the forest. There is also a vault toilet facility.

The covenant on the property states the property may be used for community, social and recreational events and may levy fees and charges for such uses.

A bylaw amendment application was filed with the Islands Trust to have the property rezoned from Rural to Community and Regional Park (P) zone. This application is still in progress. A Rural classification includes “passive recreations (sic) parks” and therefore that is the only permitted type of ‘park’ use at the time of writing. A “Park, passive recreation” as defined in the Land Use Bylaw “means a park which is retained in its natural state other than for walking and hiking trails and signage.” Due to the lack of specific guidelines and uncertainty as to what can take place in a “Park, passive recreation”, the Islands Trust is in the process of amending the definition. Given the current rezoning status, activities in the park are restricted.

**xi. Pocket Parks:**

Pocket parks are small park areas and hence their name ‘pocket parks’. The only pocket parks with formal names are the Alan Cheek Park on Edith Point Road and Don Herbert Park on Beechwood Drive, in recognition of former chairs of the MIPRC who worked tirelessly for the commission for many years. The other parks are found on Beechwood Drive, the Bennett Bay subdivision (three) and Sandy Hook Road.

***A list of Community Parks and their size may be found in Appendix 1.***

## **Shore Accesses**

MIPRC maintains seven developed shore accesses and has several licences of occupation which are as yet undeveloped. The shore accesses are important as they allow residents and the public access to the shoreline, an important and scenic feature to life on Mayne Island.

The developed shore accesses are:

- i. Anson Road
- ii. Edith Point Road
- iii. Kadonaga Bay
- iv. Kippen Road
- v. Naylor Road
- vi. Neil Road, and
- vii. Sykes Road

Many of the shore accesses are named after the road where they are located.

Edith Point is named after Edith Doughty (nee Cameron), niece of Governor James Douglas.

The naming of Kadonaga Bay was taken on by Jeanine Dodds on behalf of the Mayne Island community to recognize the early Japanese settlers.

Kadonaga Bay recalls Goan Kadonaga, the first Japanese settler to arrive on Mayne Island in 1903. He purchased the 160-acre property named St. John Point (now a regional park) on the eastern tip of Mayne Island. The area also symbolizes and recognizes the settlement history of all the Japanese settlers who made important contributions to the economic and social fabric of the island before their removal in World War II.

***A list of Shore accesses may be found in Appendix 2.***

## Trails

All of the major community parks have at least one or several trails in order that park users can explore and appreciate the natural surroundings. There are also trails associated with some of the shore accesses and roadside trails. The current trail network may be found on Map 2. Due to the importance of trails to the park system a special overview and history of trails; pathways and shore accesses may be found in Appendix 3.



*Orca Trail at Fred & Bette Cotton Community Park – photo courtesy Robin Cleator*

## **Boat Ramps**

1. The Commission manages two boat ramps on the island. The Village Bay boat ramp adjacent to Village Bay Park and the David Cove boat ramp at David Cove, just off Porter Road. The boat ramp at Spud Point in Horton Bay is managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, not the MIPRC. The MIPRC is the only commission of the SGI park commissions that manages boat ramps for the use of local and visiting recreational boaters. The Commission is working with the Association of Mayne Island Boaters (AMIB) to ensure proper maintenance of the ramps. The Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission is currently improving access and parking facilities and adding a vault toilet at the Anson Road shore access in preparation for a new dock. The Commission will work with the Harbours Commission to delineate roles and responsibilities with respect to this shore access.



*Village Bay Park and boat ramp – photo courtesy Robin Cleator*

## f. Recreational Funding

Apart from the recreational opportunities provided by parks themselves, MIPRC also supports recreation through recreational funding grants. Organizations and individuals who provide recreational programs may apply for a grant to help support the activity. To date, grants support such diverse groups as disc golf; softball; scouts; tennis; fitness; conservancy; arts; quilting; swimming; gardening and the Lions Christmas ship to name a few.



*Disc Golf Course Hole No. 1 – carving courtesy Lance Shook*

## **g. Challenges**

### **Population Changes and Seasonality**

Part-time residents and tourism results in a significant seasonal increase in island population. This increase puts strong seasonal pressure on community parks and their facilities including trails and shore accesses. An additional challenge in managing increased usage of the parks is limited water resources during the hot summer months to support washrooms, gardens and recreational activities such as the putting green. The Commission must find ways to accommodate temporary spikes in population while protecting limited resources.

### **Maintaining Environmental Integrity**

It has been projected that the impact of climate change in the area includes the following:

- Year-round temperatures will rise.
- Dry spells in the summer will extend.
- Storm activity will become more frequent and intense.
- Sea levels will rise and be subject to larger storm surge and wave effects.

*This will result in increased risk of wildfires; loss of flora and fauna and have a negative impact on shore access stairways.*

A number of invasive plant species are found on the island threatening native plants and the integrity of the land. Some of the invasive plant species include:

- Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*);
- Daphne (*Daphne laureola*);
- English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*);
- Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*);
- Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*);
- Evergreen Blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*);
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*);
- Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*);

Due to climate change and an overpopulation of deer some native species are also endangered and/or at risk. Some species visibly at risk are:

- Cedar trees (*Cedrus*);
- Arbutus trees (*Arbutus menziesii*); and
- Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*).

European fallow deer were introduced to the island after a small number escaped from a Mayne Island farm in the early 1990s. After years of breeding, the deer population is estimated at up to 1,000. The fallow deer, along with their black-tail counterparts, are decreasing biodiversity on the island. Examples are decreased songbird populations, damage to the understory, reduced agriculture yields and damaged personal property and gardens. There has also been an increase in deer-vehicle collisions.

Plagued for years by the growing deer population, Mayne Island residents formed the Mayne Island Fallow Deer Committee. Despite efforts to reduce the number of fallow deer, the fallow deer population is still increasing.

## **Changing Demographics and Volunteers**

Statistical information available indicates there is a decline in the population however it appears that demographics may be changing with younger families moving to the island.

Younger people coming to the island often have several part-time jobs and have less time and availability for volunteer work. No matter what the population or demographic, finding volunteers to assist in maintaining park assets and services is always a challenge. The importance of volunteers cannot be overstated as they have provided the vision, and managerial and physical labour to create, maintain and improve many of the parks' assets and features.

In addition to ensuring all park facilities are well-maintained; on-going communication with the community is required to ensure the parks provide enjoyment for the whole community; one example being the island's teen population.

## Sustaining Service Levels

Most of the park facilities which include buildings; structures; trails and staircases to name a few; are currently managed and maintained by volunteers. The commission foresees the distinct possibility that park management and maintenance will need to be serviced in the future by hiring a maintenance contractor. This will put additional strain on limited park resources.

A recent study has determined that there are insufficient resources to provide for asset maintenance; renewal and replacement long-term. It has been recommended to implement a plan to guide prioritization of future capital investments through informed decision making and provide a basis for a financial strategy for maintaining required levels of service. The plan ensures that sufficient resources are in place when needed to address the full lifecycle costs of owning tangible capital assets that are needed for delivering services. An asset is a physical component that has value, enables services to be provided, and has an economic life greater than 12 months. Apart from developing a preventative maintenance program and renewal prioritization, one strategy is to refrain from increasing park assets and temper demand until the situation is rectified.



## Emergency Preparedness

The global coronavirus pandemic has been a wake-up call for all organizations including parks commissions. Ensuring the safety of the community, visitors and volunteers while providing an outlet for healthy outdoor activity is a challenge never before experienced. Preparing for unexpected emergencies whether they be as a result of wildfires; earthquakes or pandemics, MIPRC needs to develop protocols to deal with the unexpected.

*Dr. Bonnie Henry - carving courtesy Lance Shook*

## **h. Collaborating with others**

MIPRC has a history of collaborating and working with other organizations to achieve mutual goals. This becomes more important than ever as the challenges outlined above increase and the ability to balance limited resources with increased demand becomes acutely more difficult. MIPRC has a close relationship with the Conservancy and is able to benefit from their expertise in restoration and land management. MIPRC also has an excellent relationship with MIPATA working on the development of a trail network. The Mayne Island Lions Club supports many activities of the MIPRC and has greatly enhanced the facilities at Dinner Bay Park. AMIB offers their services with the maintenance of the two island boat ramps. There are other liaisons as well, all of which benefit MIPRC and the community. Some of these relationships are described in more detail in Appendix 3.



*Harvest Brodiaea - photo courtesy Helen O'Brian*

## 3. Strategic Direction

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### a. Themes heard through public engagement

The positive feedback we received about our parks and our management thereof is that there is variety in the type and use of the parks; they are well-maintained and accessible. People also appreciated their natural beauty and the viewpoints. Approximately 10% of respondents stated they like the parks just as they are.

Dinner Bay Park is a favourite for active recreation while Henderson, Plumper Pass and Cotton Park appeal to nature lovers.

Considerable interest was expressed in having more trails and trails to connect different parts of the island. The popular Village Bay to Miners Bay Trail was frequently commented on although it should be noted that this is a part of the Regional Spine Trail, a project of the CRD Regional Parks Department. Multi-use trails accommodating pedestrians and cyclists alongside roadways was a common request.

A similar level of interest was for more protected wilderness and parks left in their natural state. The majority of respondents would support fundraising or donating to acquire more parks.

There is always room for improvement and keeping all the parks we have well looked after should be a priority. With respect to recreation, interests ranged from pickleball to lawn bowling to an arts facility. A walking/running track was frequently mentioned.

## **b. Vision for the park system**

The vision for community parks must be compatible with the various needs of the community. The purpose of the vision is to express the desired end state.

Community park areas and supported recreational programs serve to harmonize with the rural life of Mayne Island. The parks provide opportunities to nourish the physical and social health of our community, supporting community members in healthy, active and balanced lives through shared leisure activities. The parks serve as 'stewards of the environment', protecting, preserving and restoring significant natural areas and corridors of our environment, including coastal woodland and forest ecosystems.

## **c. Goals for the next 5 years**

Flowing from the vision, goals set the desired outcomes to achieve.

### **Goal 1:**

Maintain the variety offered by the different parks ensuring they and existing infrastructure are well maintained and improved.

### **Goal 2:**

Foster relationships and strengthen partnerships with other community groups and stakeholders so that the community's parks and recreation needs are met.

### **Goal 3:**

Maintain the ecological integrity of the parks.

### **Goal 4:**

Recognize the effect of climate change.

### **Goal 5:**

Consider increasing the amount of parkland through purchase or land donation.

## 4. Actions and Implementation

The MIPRC Master Plan comes into effect upon Commission approval and will be forwarded to the CRD Electoral Areas Committee and the Board. It continues to apply until a new or updated plan is approved by the Commission. It is intended that this Master Plan will be effective for 5 years from 2021 – 2025.

### a. Proposed Actions & Anticipated Timeframe

The table below identifies proposed actions. Implementation of the proposed actions will be undertaken subject to availability of volunteers and financial resources. It is anticipated that all proposed actions will be completed or well established by 2025.

Proposed Action	Desired Outcome	Timeframe
1. Ensure the Dinner Bay Park playground and sports fields meet safety standards and are upgraded where possible.	Provide a safe and enjoyable playground experience for all users.	Short-term
2. Extend the Ed Williams Trail at Dinner Bay Park to provide a level walking/running circuit.	Provide low-impact recreational opportunities for people of all ages.	Short-term
3. Undertake further habitat restoration of Emma and Felix Jack Park.	Increase the natural beauty of this important park	Ongoing
4. Continue the existing stewardship agreement with the Conservancy for ongoing park restoration in Henderson Park and other areas as appropriate.	Conserve the parks' natural values and habitat.	Ongoing
5. Work with the CRD Regional Parks department on consolidating the Kim Road park entrance/trailhead signage and standardizing other signage in key areas.	Development of standardized signage so people accessing the park can orient themselves at the outset of their visit.	Short term
6. Consider closing Henderson Park for short periods of time to support fallow deer management.	Protect the ecological integrity of the parks	Ongoing
7. Consider creating a land acquisition fund.	Supports the goal of increasing the amount of parkland	Ongoing
8. Continue the existing joint venture with MIPATA to create a trail from Felix Jack Road alongside Kim Road to the entrance of Mt. Parke.	Increase the number of connected trails to provide a safe environment to access the Mt. Parke-Plumper Pass park complex.	Short to medium term

9. Work with MIPATA to develop trails and pathways with a focus on connecting trails.	Increase the number of connected trails to provide a safe environment for walkers and hikers.	Ongoing
10. Support CRD Regional Parks with local projects including the Village Bay to Miners Bay trail.	Provide a safe and enjoyable alternative for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from the ferry terminal to Miner's Bay.	Short-term and ongoing
11. Consider development of shore accesses where MIPRC has a permit to occupy but not yet developed.	Expand the number of shores accesses for the public.	Ongoing
12. Continue to provide financial support to providers of recreation programs.	Provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community	Ongoing
13. Develop a Sustainable Service Plan with a preventative maintenance program and renewal prioritization.	Preserve park assets and service levels based on sound financial management	Ongoing
14. Develop Emergency Protocols.	Provide a safe environment for park users in both normal and emergency conditions	Ongoing
15. Develop a preventative maintenance program and risk management plan for tree fall hazard and wildfire risk.	Provide a safe environment for the benefit of the whole community	Ongoing
16. Consult in a collaborative manner with First Nations to understand their values and provide ongoing stewardship of traditional territories.	Develop and nurture relationships with First Nations to include their interests.	Ongoing
17. Promote more opportunities for volunteering in the parks.	Support the ongoing maintenance of the parks and facilitate a connection between the public and the parks.	Ongoing
18. Ensure new signs and replacement of existing signs when required are based on the standards developed in Action 5 above.	Standardized signage enhances the visitor experience and simplifies information delivery	Ongoing
19. Provide an opportunity for the display of memorial plaques.	Provide the public with an opportunity to recognize loved ones given the lack of space for memorial benches.	Ongoing

## **b. Implementation Monitoring**

The MIPRC will monitor the implementation of the parks master plan through the MIPRC Capital Plan, MIPRC Operating Plan and regular work planning processes.

If new lands are acquired or significant park infrastructure is envisioned, a plan amendment will be undertaken.

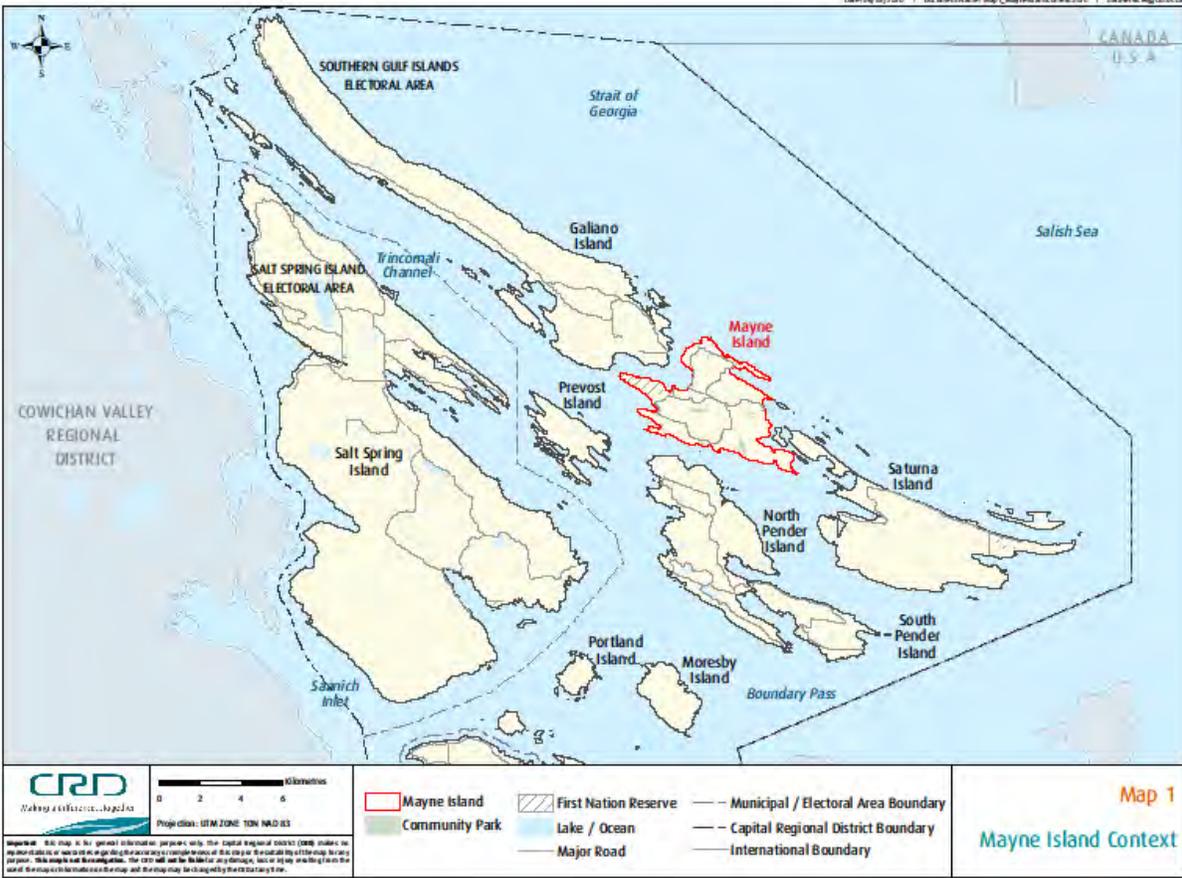
Prior to initiating a parks master plan update in the future, an evaluation of the current plan will be undertaken to determine:

- If the strategic direction has adequately addressed major issues that have occurred.
- The level of implementation of parks master plan actions, and if outstanding actions are still relevant.
- What changes might be needed to provide appropriate direction for the future.



*Eaglet in nest - photo courtesy Trisha Glatthaar*

# Map 1: Mayne Island – Context



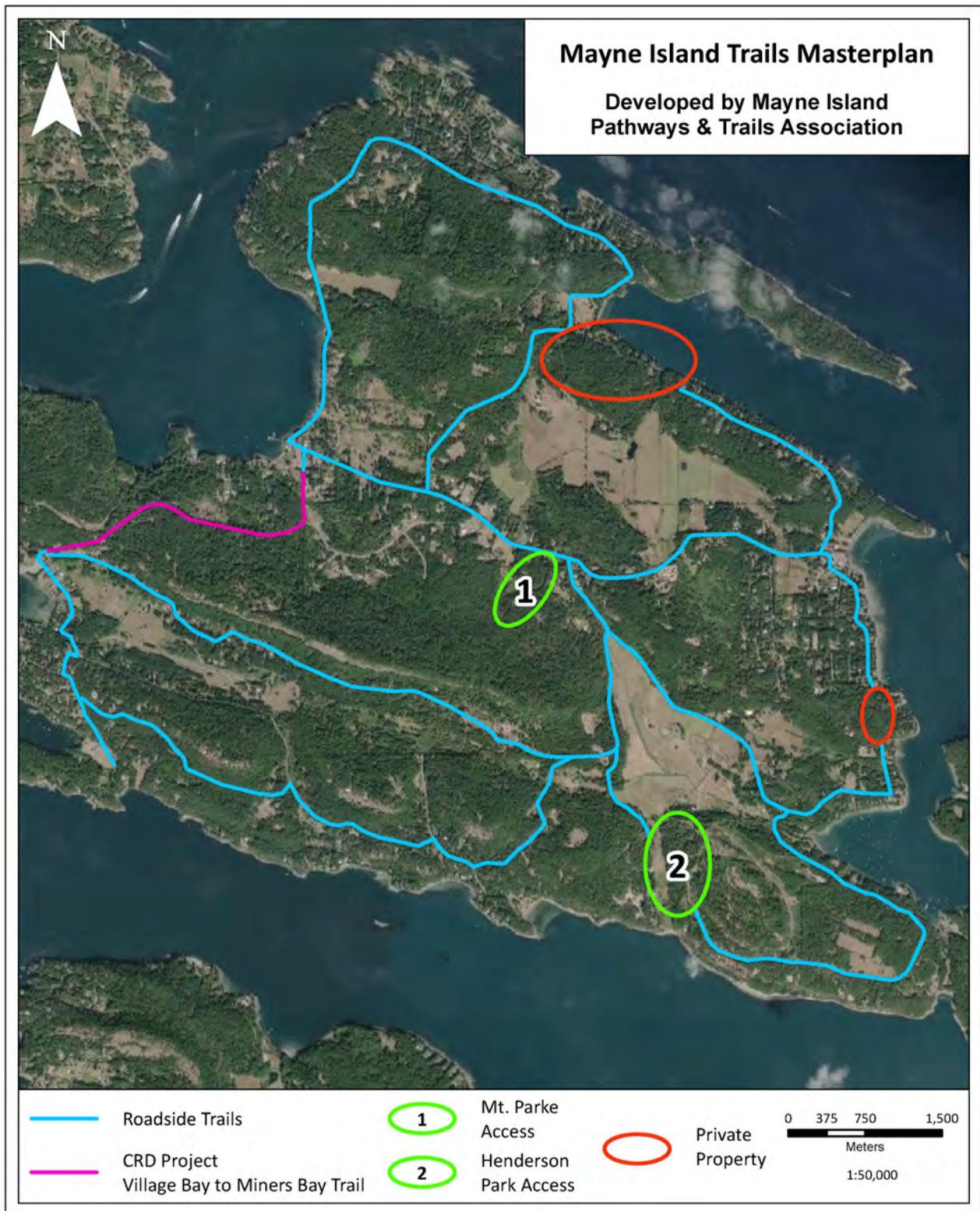
# Map 2: Mayne Island Community Parks, Trails and Shore Accesses- Location



- 1 Conconi Reef Community Park Access:** Navy Channel Road. Beach access trail 100m. Nice wading at low tide. Easy viewpoint trail 110m. Great views of Navy Channel. **Easy**
- 2 Miners Bay Community Park Access:** End of Naylor Road. Beachcombing at low tide. View of Active Pass. **Easy 100m**
- 3 Village Bay Community Park Access:** Dalton Drive or Mariner's Way - Boat ramp and views of Village Bay. **Easy 110m or 130m**
- 4 Georgina Point Heritage Park GINPR Access:** End of Georgina Point Road. Lighthouse Park. Small pristine beach. Limestone rock tidal pools. **Easy 100m**
- 5 Kadonaga Bay Beach Access Trail Access:** Beechwood Drive approximately 500m from Horton Bay Road. Rock outcroppings overlooking Kadonaga Bay. Wildlife viewing. **Medium 300m - steep descent for the last 50m**
- 6 Anson Road Beach Access Trail Access:** Horton Bay Road. Canoe and kayak launch, picnic area, viewpoint. **Easy walk, 100m from Horton Bay Road.** (Drive in for canoe/kayak launch only).
- 7 Neil Road Seaview Access:** Georgina Point Rd. Viewpoint and Active Pass International Bird Area Viewing site. **Medium 80m.** Parking on Georgina Point Rd. only.
- 8 Chu-an Park Access:** Across from 537 Waugh Rd. Great view of Georgia Strait and beyond. **Medium 620m**
- 9 Ed Williams Memorial Trail Access:** Leighton Lane at Dinner Bay Road or Japanese Gardens. Pleasant hike through a wooded trail and along the Dinner Bay Park shoreline. **Easy 600m**
- 10 Isabella Point/Campbell Point (GINPR) Access:** Isabella Lane off Wilkes Road. Good views of George Strait, Geogerson Island and Sauma Island. **Easy 1km**
- 11 Mary Jeffery Park - Lowland Nature Trail Access:** End of Kim Rd. **Easy 1.3 km Loop**
- 12 Holiday Ridge Access:** End of Kim Road. Challenging hike rewarded with awesome views. Good workout. **Medium 2.2 km**
- 13 Old Gulch Trail Access:** End of Kim Road or Holiday Ridge. Completes the loop on Mt. Parke. Trail switchbacks through ancient gulch. Workout. **Medium 600m**

- 14 Plumper Pass Community Park - Loop Trail Access:** End of Kim Road or Mt. Parke Road. Can be combined with Mt. Parke Loop. **Medium 2 km**
- 15 Mt. Parke Road - Linking Trail** Joining Loop Trail and Viewpoint Trail. **Medium 90m**
- 16 Viewpoint Trail Access:** Kim Road and the south side of the Loop Trail. Good views of North Shore mountains and Bowen Island. **Medium 180m**
- 17 Linking Trail** Joining Loop Trail and Old Gulch Trail. **Easy 72m**
- 18 Vulture Ridge Viewpoint Trail (VRVT) Access:** West end (suggested start) 200m beyond the cul-de-sac at the end of Beechwood Dr. or east end at the pedestrian SWW opposite Lot 15. Trail ascends 140ft to the summit ridge of Henderson Hill at approximately 80m above sea level. **Difficult 1.1km**
- 19 Doreen McLeod Beach Access Trail Access:** North end from Punch's Alley 700m. Access: South end from VRVT Trailhead 250m. Gentle downward descent to the foreshore. **Easy**
- 20 Don Herbert Memorial Trail Access:** From Vulture Ridge Viewpoint Trail. A less challenging route to the ridge. **Medium 268m**
- 21 Linking Trail** Vulture Ridge Parking lot to Doreen McLeod Beach Access Trail 70m
- 22 East Boundary Trail** Joins Don Hebert Trail and VRVT at viewpoint. **Medium 537m**
- 23 Pond Spur** Good meditation spot. **Easy 40m**
- 24 Sykes Road Beach Access Trail Access:** End of Isabella Lane. Easy walk from Isabella Lane to the foreshore. Lovely view of Campbell Bay. **Easy 56m**
- 25 Edith Point Road Access:** End of Edith Point Road. View of the Strait of Georgia. **Easy 76m**
- 26 Orca Trail (Access: Cotton Park)** A loop trail and level walk along the foreshore overlooking the Strait of Georgia and through the pretty wooded portion of the park, and ends back on the lawn beside the picnic area. **Easy 409 m**
- 27 Seal Point Trail** A short trail starting from the point at which the Orca Trail leaves the foreshore into the woods and leads to a double bench affording views of Active Pass and the Strait of Georgia. **Easy 58 m**
- 28 Access trails to the Orca Trail** From the entrance to Cotton Park and from the picnic area. **104 m and 39 m respectively.**

### Map 3: Mayne Island – Proposed Trail System



**Note: Trail connections crossing private property can only be made with the agreement of the landowners.**

## Appendix 1: List of Community Parks<sup>5</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Size<sup>6</sup></u>
1. Alan Cheek	Edith Point Road	2.47
2. Beechwood Drive	Beechwood Drive	.3
3. Bennett Bay	Caddy Drive	.211
4. Bennett Bay	Charter Road	.332
5. Bennett Bay	Club Crescent	.193
6. Chu-an	Waugh Road	.612 hectares
7. Conconi Reef	Navy Channel	3.804
8. Fred and Bette Cotton	207 Cotton Road	8 (approx.)
9. Dinner Bay	Dinner Bay Road	10.35
10. Don Herbert	Horton Bay Road	.08
11. Emma and Felix Jack	Felix Jack Road	1.00 (approx.)
12. Henderson	Beechwood Drive	20.00 (approx.)
13. Mary Jeffery <sup>7</sup>	Montrose & Kim Roads	43.00
14. Miners Bay	Village Bay Road	3.00 (approx.)
15. Plumper Pass	Kim Road & Mt. Parke Road	38.78
16. Sandy Hook	Sandy Hook Road	.974
17. Village Bay Park	Mariner's Way & Callaghan	3.75

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<sup>5</sup> Each park has a map available for public viewing upon request.

<sup>6</sup> Size is in acres unless noted as hectares

<sup>7</sup> Jointly managed by MIPRC and the CRD

## Appendix 2: List of Shore Accesses

### Developed

Name	Location
1. Anson Road	Anson Road
2. Edith Point Road	Edith Point Road
3. Kadonaga Bay	Beechwood Drive
4. Kippen Road	Kippen Road
5. Neil Road Seaview	Neil Road
6. Sykes Road	End of Isabella Lane
7. Naylor Road	Naylor Road

### Undeveloped

Name	Location
1. Georgina Point Road	Georgina Point Lighthouse area
2. Letour Road	Foot of Letour Road
3. McLeod Road	Foot of Laura Pt. Road
4. Victor Road	near Maple Drive
5. Wilkes Road	Wilkes Road

MIPRC Masterplan  
Undeveloped beach accesses  
2020



## Appendix 3: Trails; pathways and shore accesses: an overview and history

Hiking and walking trails are necessary for the mental, spiritual and physical health of the people of the island. This is low impact recreation at its best which preserves the beauty and ecological integrity of our parks. Mayne Island has been blessed with some beautiful parks, and the land base dedicated to parkland has expanded greatly over the years from 4% to approximately 6%. In the process of developing a trail network in our parks, we have developed some important partnerships. There is the Conservancy, who are responsible for much (if not most) of the work in Henderson Park, and thanks to the work of the two agencies, much has been done to restore the natural beauty of the park following the extensive logging in 2005. The beautiful kiosk and the interpretive nature trail with outstanding permanent displays are products of this ongoing collaboration, along with the systematic removal of invasive plant species and the creation of fenced demonstration areas where many of the estimated 130 species of native plants can flourish safe from deer browse. The other significant partnership is between the MIPRC and MIPATA. The first collaborative effort was in phase one of the Village Bay to Miners Bay Regional Trail<sup>8</sup> led by MIPATA on the Hoff property through a consent agreement. There were volunteer hours, and financial contributions by the MIPRC in the creation of this 300-metre trail. The most recent joint effort is in the creation of a multi-use 268 metre pathway on the right-of-way parallel to Kim Road from Felix Jack Road to the Regional Park, with a linking trail joining the licensed right-of-way with the trailheads in Plumper Pass Park. We anticipate many further opportunities for collaboration. Map 3, developed by MIPATA, illustrates a vision for an island wide trail network. Pathways and trails adjacent to the public roads would greatly increase safety for non-vehicular traffic. Connections of roadside trails to make a complete circuit of the island would be desirable. Such connections can only be made with the full cooperation and agreement of landowners, with mechanisms in place to protect the interests of the landowner and the trail user.

At the time of the publication of the last Master Plan, there were few hiking opportunities on Mayne Island. The creation of Mt. Parke Regional Park through the active advocacy of pioneer parks commissioners John Halliday, Doreen McLeod and Ed Williams was a significant expansion in the inventory of parkland. This led

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<sup>8</sup> Funding for the Village Bay/Miners Bay regional trail is now in place and we expect work to begin in 2021.

to the first real hiking trail on the island, the John Halliday Trail and thanks to the leadership of the MIPRC working in collaboration with the CRD. The expansion of the regional park resulting from the gift of Mary Jeffery, and the subsequent joint management agreement resulted in the creation of the Lowland Nature Trail in 2003, laid out by our Trail Network Development Committee (TNDC). The TNDC also laid out the Old Gulch Trail in the regional park, a further example of cooperation. There are now over 2 kilometres of trails in the regional park. Plumper Pass Community Park (the original name for Active Pass) was acquired in 1998 and a trail network begun in 2003-2004 has resulted in over 2,200 metres of trails. There are shorter trails at Dinner Bay Park (the Ed Williams Trail) and Village Bay Park. The other community park where there are maintained trails is Conconi Reef Park.

The next important step in the development of our trail network was in the joint agreement signed between the CRD and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on October 12th, 2006 (under the leadership of the then SGI Regional Director, Susan DeGryp) for the development of specified shore accesses. Seven shore accesses have been opened to the public, with more remaining to be developed by the present or future commissions. The acquisition of (the aforementioned) Henderson Park has resulted in the creation of an extensive trail network passing through several distinct ecosystems and totaling about 3,500 metres of trails, including the pedestrian right-of way to the east of the park proper. Finally, the jewel in the crown of our community parks would be our most recent park acquisition, Cotton Park, and where the Orca and Seal Point trails compliment the other wonderful features of this small eight-acre park donated to the island by the Cotton estate.

The Parks Canada trail at Bennett Bay is also worthy of note as the MIPRC has a history of working with this agency.

## Appendix 4: Summary of the Engagement Process

The initial engagement process for the MIPRC Master Plan took place from July – December 2019 and the MIPRC sought input from First Nations, the CRD, community organizations, and the public before the drafting of the master plan was initiated. More specifically, the following aspects were included in the overall engagement process.

### First Nations

- Letters sent to the Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Pauquachin, Tsawwassen, Stz'uminus, Lake Cowichan, Halalt, Lyackson and Semiahmoo First Nations; the Penelakut Tribe and the Cowichan Tribes introducing the project to update the Master Plan and seeking their comments.

### Key stakeholders

- Letter to the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, which has a stewardship agreement for an on-going restoration program at Henderson Park, to advise of the project to update the Master Plan and request their input.
- Letter to MIPATA to advise of the project to update the Master Plan and request their input. A detailed reply was received from MIPATA and their input has been incorporated into the plan.

### Public

- An article in the April 2019 MayneLiner notified the public the MIPRC would be holding a retreat to start the process of updating the Parks Master Plan.
- An article in the May 2019 MayneLiner provided an update on the retreat.
- An article in the July 2019 MayneLiner advised about the survey on the Parks Master Plan to be distributed on July 1, 2019 at Miners Bay Park.
- An information table was set up and a survey distributed at the Canada Day event on July 1, 2019 at Miners Bay Park; the Agricultural Society Fall Fair on August 17, 2019 and at the Lion's Salmon BBQ on September 1, 2019 at Dinner Bay Park.
- An online survey link was posted between September 1 – October 30, 2019 on the MIPRC facebook page and MayneInfo to gather input about what the public would like to see which provided assistance in developing the Parks Master Plan.
- An ad was placed in the October 2019 MayneLiner referring readers to the online survey site.
- Received input from “Designing the Future of Mayne Island Summit” process regarding Parks, Trails and Recreation.
- Survey results were posted on the MIPRC facebook page and a full page ad summarizing the results was placed in the February 2020 MayneLiner.

## Appendix 5: Summary of Survey Results

Approximately 125 completed surveys were received. We wish to thank all those who did respond which provided invaluable assistance in the development of this updated Master Plan.

### Distribution of Surveys

Surveys were distributed at a variety of public events and venues with an online survey available as well. A summary of the surveys completed by location/method is as follows:

Canada Day, July 1, 2019	Miners Bay Park	27
Fall Fair, August 17, 2019	Minty Drive	44
Lion's Salmon BBQ, September 1, 2019	Dinner Bay Park	19
Hard copies handed in	Gulfport Realty office	8
Online surveys; due October 31, 2019		<u>26</u>
Total		<u>124</u>

A summary of the responses is as follows:

#### **(1) What do you like about our community parks at the present time?**

There were many different individual responses, but the three most common responses were: variety, well-maintained and accessibility. Their natural beauty and viewpoints also scored highly.

#### **(2) What is your favorite park and why?**

There were a broad range of responses indicating all sections of the public are happy with the direction we're going. The balance between high use/high impact parks and more natural parks is a challenging one, but we think we've struck a good balance as indicated by the responses. If people are more interested in active recreation, Dinner Bay Park is by far the favourite. Of those more interested in enjoying nature, the natural and low impact parks are favoured such as Henderson, Plumper Pass and Cotton Park. There was some confusion between community parks, regional parks and national parks and we will be working to better inform the community and visitors as to the distinctions among them. The Commission's responsibility is to develop and manage only the community parks.

#### **(3) What would you like to see in our parks?**

Many respondents, approximately 10%, answered that they like the parks just as they are. Another 10% wanted more trails and trails connecting different parts of the island. And another 10% wanted more protected wilderness and parks left in their natural state. After that it largely turned on individual interests. For example, the suggestions ranged from a pickleball court to lawn bowling to an arts facility.

#### **(4) What is an achievable goal in the next five years?**

Again, a large variety of responses. Three common ones would be more parks (absolutely), longer and more trails (maxed out in the existing parks, and hence the need for more parkland), and park upkeep (more volunteers always needed). There were a whole range of other priorities, some achievable and some not. A typical comment would be better and more signage (some people think we have too many signs, and again a balance is always required). Some respondents including MIPATA underscored the need for the Village Bay/Miners Bay trail, a priority we share and we will continue to lobby the responsible governing bodies to complete this trail. Not only would it be an attractive addition to the island but it is also a matter of public safety.

#### **(5) Would you support a campaign to acquire new parks by assisting with fundraising and by donating?**

Again, a broad range of responses, with the majority (nearly 75%) in favour of donating and/or assisting with fundraising. Several of those who answered “no”, were either visitors or part-timers. A few would only assist if the land were used for a specific purpose.

#### **(6) Are your recreational needs being met and what would you like to see the Parks Commission be doing in this area?**

The preponderance of responses would be "yes", with more and longer trails being a common comment and of course multi-use trails along roadsides accommodating pedestrians and bikes. There were a whole range of specific needs. Suffice it to say, the most successful activities in our community parks have become a reality because of groups that have formed to achieve them. Examples would be the disc golf group and the softball team. We encourage groups to organize a particular activity and we will support them through our recreational funding program.

#### **(7) Would you be prepared to volunteer in helping with new recreational activity if it's one of interest to you?**

There were slightly more saying “no” than “yes”, but we were pleasantly surprised at the pool of potential volunteers. There were a variety of reasons for saying “no”, such as part-timers or weekenders which is understandable. While question 5 refers to the acquisition of new parkland and not new recreational activity, we have noticed a general trend where people are more willing to donate money than their time. However, to put a good spin on this, Mayne Island has the highest participation rate for parks volunteers among all the other Southern Gulf Islands.