

CRD Regional Parks Inclusion & Accessibility Audit



Regional Parks Committee
January 24, 2024

Francis/King Regional Park

Strategic Priorities

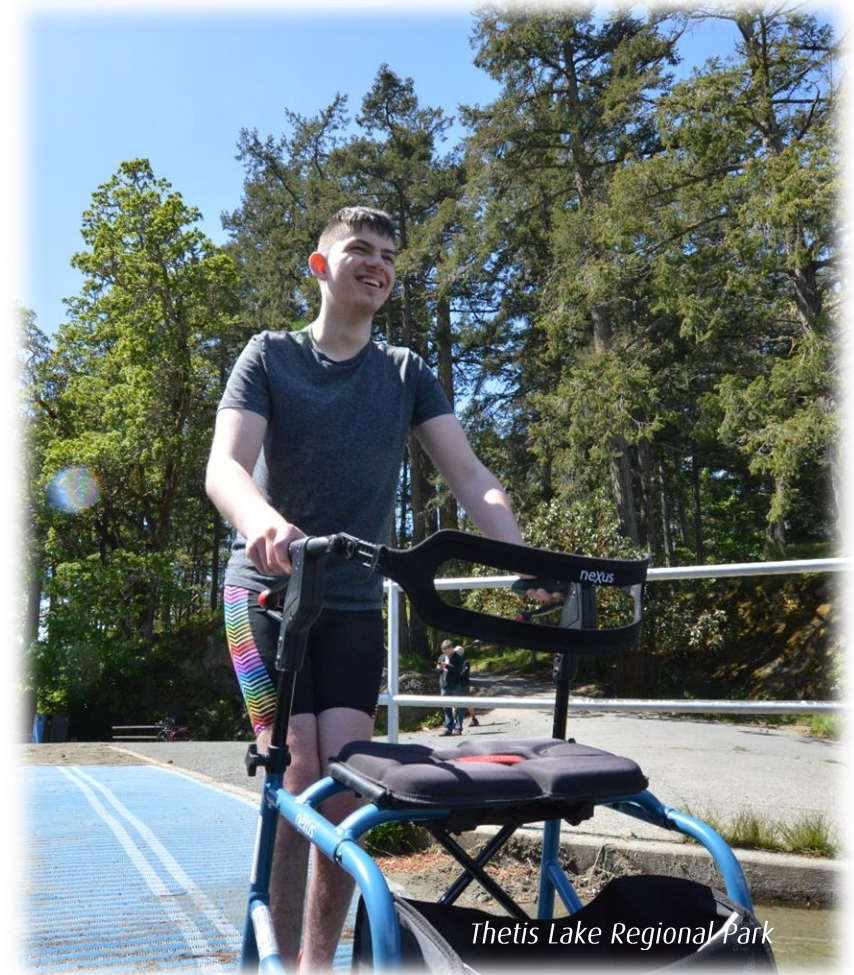
Enhancing health and well-being by providing equitable access to regional parks and regional trails is a priority for the Capital Regional District.

Key priority actions include:

5-1a Develop and apply an Equity Lens to inform management and operation of regional parks and regional trails.

5-1b Conduct an Inclusion and Accessibility Assessment of regional parks and regional trails that assess barriers and deterrents to access.

5-1c Replace the 2003 Universal Access Plan for Regional Parks with new Accessibility Guidelines.



2023 Access & Equity Focus Areas

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park



Initial research and education led staff to four key focuses around access & equity projects for 2023:

- To complete a staff-led Accessibility Audit of all regional parks.
- To review current regional parks accessibility standards.
- To continue developing local partnerships.
- To improve the accessibility information regional parks provides.

2023 Maintenance Improvements



Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park



East Sooke Regional Park



Thetis Lake Regional Park

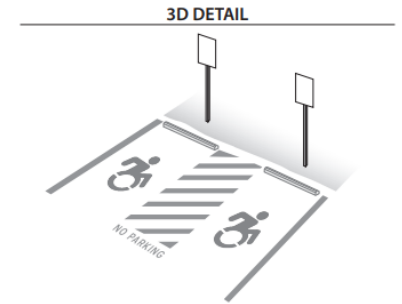
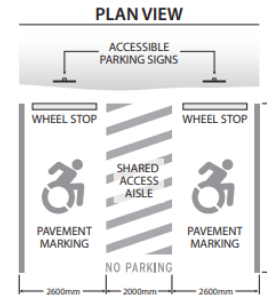


Mill Hill Regional Park



Thetis Lake Regional Park

CRD Regional Parks - Facility Standards



RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES

Number of designated parking spaces	Park accessibility value	Number of designated accessible parking spaces
2-50	Low	0-1
	Medium	1-2
	High	2-3
51-100	Low	1-2
	Medium	2-3
	High	3-4
101-200	Low	4-5
	Medium	5-7
	High	6-8
201-300	Low	5-6
	Medium	6-8
	High	8-10

PARK ACCESSIBILITY VALUE

- Access to a designated user friendly regional parks trail and/or direct access to a regional trail.
- Adaptive or accessible facility (dock, washrooms, playground) and/or adaptive or accessible feature (adaptive biking trail, mobi-mat).
- Accessible picnic facilities and/or accessible access day-use areas.

Accessible value is to be calculated based on the above accessible value criteria. Should a regional park possess multiples within one accessible criteria, each item should be added to the total accessible value.

- High: 3 or more.
- Moderate: 1 or more.
- Low: 0-1

F-28	Accessible Parking Stalls - Paved Parking Lot
Application	To be used in paved parking lots to provide suitable parking for visitors with a disability. These standards meet the CSA B651-18 Accessible design for the build environment requirements.
Specifications	Parking spaces are a minimum of 2600mm (103") wide with an access aisle 2000mm (79") wide on a minimum of one side. The international symbol of access painted on the pavement must be at least 1000mm long and painted white.
Supplemental Information	In locations with a single accessible parking stall, a 2000mm access aisle is required adjacent to the accessible parking stall. To be used in combination with sign standard P-019.

Partnership Programs

CRD





Connecting to Nature

Saturday, January 20 | 1:30-3pm

Connecting to Nature (Guided Walk)-All ages
Devonian Regional Park (Metchosin)

On this guided walk with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist, you'll make connections to nature while exploring the forest, wetland and beach. From the mushrooms providing life to the forest, to the trees providing life to animals, we'll discover connections small and large.

Meeting place: Meet at the information kiosk at the parking lot off William Head Road.

Trail Description: 1km; compact surface with roots; moderate incline.

BC Transit #54 or #55

Sunday, January 21 | 10am-12pm

Moss Landscapes of Vancouver Island
(Guided Adult Walk)-18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join guest naturalist, Kem Luther, and a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the strange lives of mosses along the accessible Elsie King Trail. Learn how to identify the most common species of Vancouver Island. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather.

\$8/person + GST. You must pre-register as space is limited.
Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Trail Description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline. Wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, January 27 | 1:30-3pm

Taking a Lichen to Nature (Guided Adult Walk)-18 years+
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Join guest naturalist, Juliet Pendray and a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the often-overlooked lichens of the forest along the accessible Elsie King Trail. Juliet will share her passion, experience and knowledge on these small but important species as you stroll or roll along the trail. Learn how to identify the most common species and what role lichen plays in the forest. Bring a hand lens/magnifier if you have one and dress for the weather.

\$8/person + GST. You must pre-register as space is limited.
Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events.

Trail Description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline. Wheelchair accessible.

Sunday, January 28 | 1:30-3pm

Magnificent Moss (Guided Walk)-All ages
Francis/King Regional Park (Saanich)

Spend your afternoon in the forest with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist to discover the wonderful world of mosses and what makes them so magnificent.

Meeting place: Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Munn Road.

Trail Description: 800m; boardwalk and compact surface; slight incline. Wheelchair accessible.



Moss Landscapes of Vancouver Island



Exploring Indigenous Perspectives through Storytelling

Wednesday, January 31 | 10-11am

Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Through Storytelling
(Guided Walk)-All ages
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

On this interactive program, we invite participants to explore the cultural significance of birds and animals, through a First Peoples lens. The cultural lessons and values shared through the time-honoured tradition of storytelling will amaze participants. We will discover how First Peoples passed down important teachings from their respective territories to upcoming generations. We begin with a traditional welcome and territory acknowledgement, then share the history and importance of the site to the First Peoples of the area. We will move along the trail and meet some interesting characters who will share their knowledge and wisdom to help us gain an understanding of how they are interconnected with First Peoples.

Meeting place: Meet at the Beaver Lake Picnic Shelter at the Filter Beds parking lot.

Trail Description: 800m; on compact surface; slight incline.

BC Transit #70, #72 or #75

Updated Website Information



Trails

The main trails at Elk/Beaver Lake are the 10k Trail and the Lakeside Trail. The 10k Trail is relatively wide with a packed gravel surface. Some sections have slopes greater than 5%. Gravel is firm and compact for most sections. The lake side trail is a narrower natural surface trail that follows the east side of the lake. Trail tread consists of roots, rocks, woody debris, and some narrow pinch points. Both trails are susceptible to seasonal wet spots and muddy areas.



Toilet Building Washrooms

Washrooms are in the picnic area at the main beach. Packed gravel pathways with a gradual slope connect the 10k trail to the washrooms. Washrooms have accessible toilet stalls with transfer space and grab bars beside and behind the toilet. Toilet paper dispensers are closed-roll style, mounted above the side grab bar. Latch locks are located on the doors. Sinks have ample knee clearance under the bowl.



Fishing Pier

The fishing pier is an accessible floating dock located on Elk Lake. Low slope ramps connect the dock to the main parking area. The dock provides ample access for maneuverability for those with limited mobility. Rod holders and benches are in place, as well as a sink for cleaning.



Playground, Beach and Picnic Area

The playground, beach and picnic area are accessed by either a paved or packed gravel pathway. Both pathways have a slight slope. Pathways connect with the playground, and an accessible picnic table. The beach and lake is accessed over a short grass area and then a small strip of sand. Entrance pathways also connect with the Elk/Beaver Lake 10K Trail.



2023 What We Learned

- Park users are seeking a range of visitor experiences.
- Detailed accessibility information is essential.
- Consistent standards across jurisdictions/land managers is key.
- Working with local partner organizations brings so much value.
- It is essential to work with consultants & stakeholders with lived experiences.



Francis/King Regional Park

2024 Access & Equity Projects



Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park

- Develop a set of Regional Parks and Trails Accessibility Guidelines.
- Undertake the second annual park accessibility audit.
- Complete a study of accessible use on the regional trails.
- Continue to work on improvements identified in the 2023 accessibility audit.

Questions?

CRD

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