



# **Salt Spring Island Regional Trail Feasibility Study & Next Steps**

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission  
December 11, 2025

# Background

- 2016 Regional Trails Management Plan
- 2018 Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan
- 2023 Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032
- 2023-2026 Board Transportation Priorities (1a, 1b)





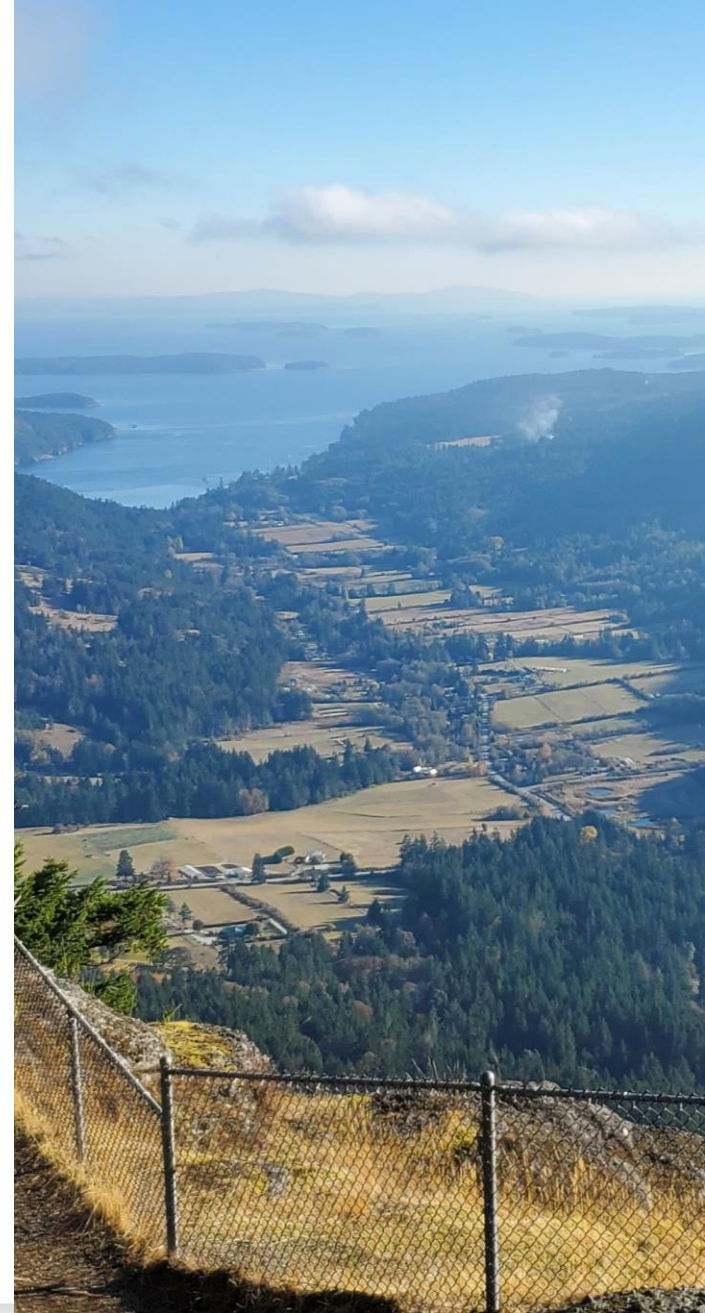
# Regional Transportation Service

- **Regional Transportation Service (RTS) established**
  - Bylaw No 4630 consolidates transportation planning and regional trail management
  - Reports to CRD Transportation Committee
- Initial priorities: Galloping Goose, Lochside and E&N regional trails
- Regional Parks transferred staff/funding resources to RTS
- Gulf Island regional trails not current RTS priorities, but may be included with CRD Board approval



# Feasibility Study Overview

- Project managed by CRD Regional Parks
- Launched in June 2024
- Assessed the 21 km conceptual route from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius Bay via Ganges Village
- Applied BC Active Transportation Design Guide standards
- Identified physical constraints, cost estimates and priority segments for phased implementation
- Developed with input from key community and agency partners



# Feasibility Study Results

## Initially, 3m Paved, Separated Trail

- Meets AAA standards
- Generally, aligns with guidelines (except 4 segments)
- Estimated cost: \$102M

## 2m Unpaved Trail, Semi-Separated Trail

- Similar to Mayne Island Regional Trail
- Aligns with low-use rural guidelines (except 6 segments)
- Estimated cost: \$63M

## Initial Phase Priority Segments

- Ganges-Vesuvius Bay
- Estimated cost: \$8.5M



# Feasibility Study Results – Segment Overview

Segment	Length (m)	Cost	Priority	Recommended Facility
A1 – Fulford Ferry Terminal	302	\$1,360,000	7	Trail on Shoulder
A2 – Fulford Ferry Link	1,022	\$4,180,000	11	Separated Trail
B – Fulford Valley	3,493	\$6,480,000	12	Separated Trail
C – Mountainside	3,221	\$7,600,000	13	Separated Trail
D – Cusheon Lake-Cranberry	2,742	\$7,710,000	10	Separated Trail
E – Ganges Hill*	2,987	\$18,970,000	14	Separated Trail
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13,767 m</b>	<b>\$46,300,000</b>		
F – Ganges Village Core	805	\$3,930,000	8	Existing & Planned Sidewalks/Bike Lanes
G – Upper Ganges Village	795	\$4,370,000	4	Existing & Planned Sidewalks/Bike Lanes
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,600 m</b>	<b>\$8,300,000</b>		
H – Blain-Sharp	836	\$1,220,000	2	Separated Trail
I – Sharp-Central	1,432	\$1,820,000	6	Separated Trail
J – Portlock-Mobrae	1,923	\$1,740,000	1	Traffic-calmed Shared Roadway
K – Vesuvius Curves	1,563	\$390,000	5	Traffic-calmed Shared Roadway
L1 – Vesuvius Bay Rd	612	\$2,120,000	9	Separated Trail
L2 – Vesuvius Ferry Terminal	340	\$1,180,000	3	Trail on Shoulder
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>6,706 m</b>	<b>\$8,470,000</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22,073 m</b>	<b>\$63,070,000</b>		

Future Phase

Initial Phase

\* Recent MOTT road widening



# Conclusions

- Fully separated trail not feasible under current Regional Parks guidelines
- Viable corridor: mix of trails, traffic-calmed side streets, sidewalks and bike lanes (\$63M)
  - Interim measures could further reduce costs
- Requires coordinated, multi-year, multi-agency effort
- Regional Parks lacks capacity/expertise for active transportation trail development
- Aligns with CRD Transportation Committee mandate
- Existing plans may need review, revision, or repeal to align with RTS plans and priorities



# Current Status

Nov. 26, 2025 - CRD Regional Parks Committee endorsed staff's recommendation:

## **The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:**

1. That planning, implementation and operation of all regional trails on the Gulf Islands—such as those identified in the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan—be referred to the CRD Transportation Committee for consideration;
2. That this report, including the Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan be referred to the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Administration for information, in recognition of the local interest in establishing additional community trails in village sites on Salt Spring Island; and
3. That staff report back with a list of all CRD Regional Parks plans, policies, and bylaws requiring amendment or repeal as a result of establishing the Regional Transportation Service, and outline the process and timeline for completing these changes.



# Next Steps

(Pending CRD Board Consideration – Dec. 10, 2025)

- CRD Board reviews the Regional Parks Committee recommendations (Dec. 10, 2025)
- CRD Transportation Committee reviews the report, then likely back to the Board
- Next steps may include:
  - CRD governance approach confirmation
  - Identifying and actioning required updates to CRD Regional Parks plans, policies, and bylaws
  - For SSIRT, and other Gulf Island regional trails, additional project planning to determine an implementation approach





A photograph of two cyclists riding on a dirt path through a lush green forest. In the background, a waterfall cascades down a rocky ledge. The scene is vibrant and scenic, with dense foliage and tall trees.

# Thank you