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## REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **Waive the Daily Additional Vehicle Fee at Regional Parks Campgrounds for Persons with Disabilities**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

Capital Regional District (CRD) staff seek approval to improve accessibility to CRD Regional Parks campgrounds by waiving the additional nightly vehicle fee for persons with disabilities who require a second accessible vehicle.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the May 20, 2025, CRD Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting, the following Motion with Notice was carried:

*That the CRD Parks waive parking fees for people with disabilities where they require an extra accessible vehicle, similar to BC Parks parking policy.*

This motion was carried at the July 9, 2025, CRD Board meeting, with direction that staff report back on the implications of waiving parking fees for persons with disabilities who require an extra accessible vehicle.

Following clarification with the AAC, staff understand that this motion relates primarily to the additional vehicle fee at CRD Regional Parks campgrounds. The CRD currently owns three frontcountry campgrounds: Jordan River Regional Park (year-round, first-come, first-served, with a self-pay vault); Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) (seasonal, operated by the T'Sou-ke First Nation, first-come, first-served, with fees collected by T'Sou-ke staff); and Island View Beach Regional Park (seasonal, online reservations, additional fees collected by CRD staff and a self-pay vault). These campgrounds provide 137 sites: 101 RV/tent sites and 36 tent-only sites. Campground fees are \$25 per night, with a \$10 per night charge for an additional vehicle. The intent is to waive the \$10 per night additional vehicle fee for disability-related accessibility needs.

BC Parks does not charge parking fees at provincial parks. The program referenced in the initial AAC motion is the BC Parks Social Services Camping Fee Exemption Program, which waives the camping fee for persons with disabilities who receive income assistance, aside from a \$6 transaction fee. Eligibility is based on participation in an income-support program. BC Parks has noted that the program has administrative challenges for both staff and applicants.

Within CRD Regional Parks, paid parking is in effect at Thetis Lake Regional Park and Sooke Potholes Regional Park from May 1 to September 30. Parking costs \$2 for two hours or \$4 for the day. Since 2024, parking for people with a valid parking permit for persons with disabilities has been free when they are parked in a designated accessible parking space.

If the recommendation is adopted by the CRD Board, staff will proceed to work through the necessary bylaw updates to remove the \$10 parking fee for additional vehicles required by campground users with disability-related accessibility needs.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

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

1. That staff report back with amendments to Bylaw No. 3675, "Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010" to eliminate the additional vehicle charge for people with disabilities at CRD Regional Park campgrounds; and
2. That staff collaborate with the T'Sou-ke First Nation to identify feasible options for implementing the program at Spring Salmon Place Campground in Sooke Potholes Regional Park.

### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff with alternative direction.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Goal 5 of the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 focuses on making regional parks and trails inclusive and accessible. Additionally, Goal 1 of the 2024 CRD Accessibility Plan aims to improve physical accessibility of CRD facilities and services, ensuring persons with disabilities can access, participate in, and gain employment with the CRD.

### *Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implications*

The CRD Accessibility Advisory Committee, an advisory committee of the CRD Governance Committee created under the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, was established to provide recommendations on reducing barriers across CRD policies, programs, services, infrastructure, and outdoor spaces. Recommendations, such as the one being considered in this report, are grounded in lived experiences.

### *Financial Implications*

Camping opportunities within regional parks are a subsidized recreational activity, with annual operating costs exceeding revenue. Revenue and operating costs vary by campground due to differing service delivery and operation models. In 2025, 68 additional vehicle bookings were made at the Island View Beach Campground, generating revenue of \$680. Data on the number of second vehicles with a persons with disabilities designation was not collected; however, staff reasonably estimate that approximately 10–20% of these vehicles may have carried this designation. Implementing a program to waive the additional vehicle charge for persons with disabilities may result in a small reduction in annual campground revenue. System-wide, implementation of this program should result in less than \$1,000 in lost revenue.

### *First Nations Implications*

Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 identifies Priority Action 1-2d—Support business relations with First Nations that provide value-added and compatible services in regional parks and regional trails, such as campground operations.

The Spring Salmon Place (KWL-UCHUN) campground in Sooke Potholes Regional Park is operated on a first-come, first-served basis by the T'Sou-ke First Nation under an operating agreement. Implementation at this location will require collaboration with the Nation to assess operational and revenue implications. To ensure fulsome collaboration with the T'Sou-ke First Nation, if deemed feasible, this program would not be implemented prior to May 2027 at the Spring Salmon Place campground.

*Service Delivery Implications*

Should the CRD Board endorse the recommendations in this report, staff are prepared to implement the changes for the 2026 camping season at Island View Beach and Jordan River campgrounds. This work would include updating public information (e.g., park signage, park webpages, and self-administered camping permits, etc.) and training staff responsible for ensuring that those receiving the waived fee have a valid parking permit for people with disabilities.

**CONCLUSION**

At the July 9, 2025, CRD Board meeting, CRD staff were asked to report back on the implications of waiving parking fees for people with disabilities who require an extra accessible vehicle. Staff researched the BC Parks program and identified a feasible option for CRD campgrounds that will not have a significant revenue impact. Staff are seeking Board approval to implement a program to waive the \$10 additional vehicle fee for people with disabilities at CRD campgrounds. Once Board approval has been obtained, staff will work towards implementing the changes for the 2026 camping season.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. That staff report back with amendments to Bylaw No. 3675, "Capital Regional District Regional Parks Services and Facilities Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1, 2010" to eliminate the additional vehicle charge for people with disabilities at CRD Regional Park campgrounds; and
2. That staff collaborate with the T'Sou-ke First Nation to identify feasible options for implementing the program at Spring Salmon Place Campground in Sooke Potholes Regional Park.

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