

Wrigglesworth Lake

Interim Management Guidelines



Capital Regional District | November 2024



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
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1. Context

1.1 Background

Wrigglesworth Lake Regional Park is in the traditional territory of multiple First Nations who have stewarded the lands since time immemorial. The Capital Regional District (CRD) purchased Wrigglesworth Lake Regional Park in 2022, in a CRD Board-approved acquisition agreement with the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (JdFEA P&RC). The JdFEA P&RC used the funds from the Wrigglesworth Lake Regional Park acquisition to purchase other lands for community park purposes in Otter Point.

The 15.5-hectare parcel is in the Malahat community of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (Map 1). Prior to its acquisition, the property served as a valuable greenspace and lake access for the surrounding community. The park naturally connects to the Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail) and provides an opportunity for dog walking, paddleboarding, freshwater swimming and day use. The 4.21-hectare freshwater lake is accessible by an open, flat green space, and a small network of pathways offers valuable nature-based recreation opportunities. Since the acquisition, CRD staff have begun securing the site and maintaining the trails to ensure they are safe for public use while minimizing impacts to the natural environment. Current public uses are primarily day use, picnicking, swimming and paddleboarding.

The property is located within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone, which covers about 11% of the CRD land base and is poorly protected across its range. About 77% (11.97 ha) of the property has been identified as a sensitive ecosystem, such as wetland, mature forest and riparian habitat, including the presence of a large lake. This property supports diverse habitat values for many species, including large mammals such as beaver, bear and cougar, and a diversity of forest birds. Knowledge of other rare or endangered species are limited; however, the property likely supports diverse flora and fauna representative of those unique ecosystems. The property is situated within the Arbutus Creek watershed, supporting the ecological health and function of the ecosystems downstream. Further research will build a better understanding of the park values and potential threats.

Under Malahat's *Official Community Plan Bylaw 3721* (OCP), the property is in rural Malahat and is designated as Parks. Under *Malahat's Land Use Bylaw 980*, the property is zoned Greenbelt 2 and Greenbelt 3. The OCP and Malahat's *Land Use Bylaw 980* provide additional context and land use planning direction for the property at the neighbourhood level.

1.2 First Nations Reconciliation

Reconciliation Goal 1 within the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (Strategic Plan) is to pursue “strong, collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations through working in partnership.” Priority action 1-1a within the Strategic Plan supports this goal and sets out that the CRD will “work collaboratively with First Nations to develop and implement priority initiatives related to regional parks and regional trails, such as involving First Nations in land acquisition and park management planning and operations.”

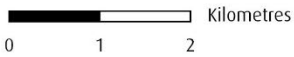
To date, 12 First Nation Governments or Treaty Associations have asserted Territory over the property. These include the Lyackson First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, MÁLEXEŁ Nation (Malahat Nation), Spune’luxutth Tribe (Penelekt Tribe), Tsu'uubaa-asatx First Nation, Stz'uminus First Nation, the Te'Mexw Treaty Association, SẂÁUTW (Tsawout First Nation), WSIKEM (Tseycum First Nation), BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin First Nation), and WJOLÉLP (Tsartlip First Nation). CRD staff will collaborate with First Nations, during the lifespan of this IMG and beyond, to identify and pursue opportunities that respect and support First Nations’ rights and self-determination. The CRD will collaborate with interested First Nations to establish a name for the park and to incorporate Indigenous language names for plants and site features in interpretive and other signage.

1.3 Purpose & Connection to the Parkland Acquisition & Management Planning Processes

Securing and managing parks and protected areas is a resource-intensive process, which is guided by the Land Acquisition Strategy. Prior to acquisition, the property was evaluated against a comprehensive set of acquisition criteria and the CRD’s Land Acquisition Strategy guided the identification of the property as a desirable addition to the regional parks and trails system.

The purpose of this IMG document is to guide how CRD staff will manage the property prior to a park management plan being in place. This includes providing guidance on site securement and how the property will be utilized on an interim basis. It further guides building relationships and gathering information needed to inform a future management planning process.

The development of a park management plan is a multi-year process that involves extensive First Nations, stakeholder and public engagement, and approval by the CRD Board. The management plan will provide a long-term vision for the park and specify management actions to achieve it. Once a park management plan has been prepared, the IMG will no longer be used to manage the property.



Projection: UTM ZONE 10N NAD 83

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- Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park
- Other Regional Park
- Other Park/Protected Area
- First Nation Reserve
- Greater Victoria Water Supply Area
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail / Trans Canada Trail
- Municipal/Electoral Area Boundary
- Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Lake/Ocean
- Creek/River

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Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park

Map 1: Local Context



2. Park Classification

The Strategic Plan establishes a park classification system that is used to assign each regional park one of four classifications based on the intended management outcome. Each classification includes a purpose statement that provides high-level direction for how parks under that classification are to be managed to achieve the intended outcome.

At the time of transfer and purchase, Wrigglesworth Lake was designated as a **Natural Recreation Area**. The purpose of this classification, as outlined within the Strategic Plan, is “to protect a connected system of natural areas and to offer visitor opportunities that are primarily focused on compatible outdoor recreation.”

This classification will be applied on an interim basis until more is learned about the site during the IMG. A final park classification will be designated through a management planning process.

3. Interim Park Management Goals

The following interim park management goals are applicable to all park acquisitions and establish the outcomes of implementing the IMG to help to prioritize efforts and resources. They are intended to provide the necessary groundwork for securing the site and undertaking the future development of a park management plan.

- 1 Build Relationships**
Identify First Nations, local governments, partners and stakeholders interested in the management of the property and develop working relationships to identify shared goals and future opportunities for collaboration.
- 2 Gather Information**
Gather baseline archaeological, cultural heritage, ecological, outdoor recreation and infrastructure information to identify park values and priorities to be included within a future park management plan.
- 3 Protect Park Values**
Conduct site securement, including addressing interim operational, cultural, conservation and outdoor recreation needs to protect known and potential park values.

4. Interim Management Actions

The following table outlines a series of interim management actions that will guide the operation of the property over the lifespan of the IMG.

Interim Management Actions	Timing
Reconciliation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with First Nations to jointly determine a process for ongoing engagement and identify shared priorities for park management and use. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with First Nations to identify the property's archaeological and cultural significance, including traditional land uses, areas, biogeographical features and species of importance. 	Short-term / Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management of archeological and cultural heritage sites will be undertaken in accordance with provincial legislation and following discussions with involved First Nations. 	Medium-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with First Nations to jointly determine environmental, economic, social and cultural interests in the property and identify co-management and other opportunities that align with or further these interests. 	Short-term / Ongoing
Conservation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor ecological values within the property to assess potential threats and identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures, as needed. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the CRD's impact assessment process and best management practices, as needed, to mitigate potential impacts on the natural environment and support development/facilities within the park. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and manage property encroachments. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an ecological inventory and assessment to document existing ecological values, identify and assess potential threats, mitigation options, and restoration opportunities. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an assessment of priority invasive species within the property and identify appropriate management actions. 	Medium-term

Visitor Experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and mitigate visitor safety hazards. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install minimal infrastructure needed to secure the site. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document visitors-use patterns to better understand recreation values. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce <i>Capital Regional District Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1, 2018</i>. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the CRD's Dog Management Policy Framework, dogs may be off leash but must remain under effective control at all times. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor visitors use to inform a recommendation for the site under the CRD's Dog Management Policy Framework, within a future management plan (e.g., dogs on leash or dogs may be off leash but must remain under effective control at all times). 	Long-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to the property will be provided from Goldstream Height Drive, which provides appropriate visitor amenities as a primary access node. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an interim sign plan to guide the installation of necessary orientation and basic park regulation signage. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic facilities of a seasonal portable toilet (May to September) and regulatory signage will be provided within the property. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing established trails within the property. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on the CRD's website informing the public of what outdoor recreational opportunities are available on the property in the interim and what visitor amenities can be expected. 	Short-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility of an active transportation connection to and from the property and the existing, near-by Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail). 	Long-term
Climate Action & Resiliency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to adapt to climate change, including identifying natural hazards to and from the property and necessary mitigation measures that could be included as actions within a future park management plan. 	Long-term
Access & Equity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider undertaking an assessment to identify accessibility and equity barriers and opportunities for improvement that could be included as actions within a future park management plan. 	Long-term

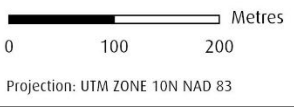
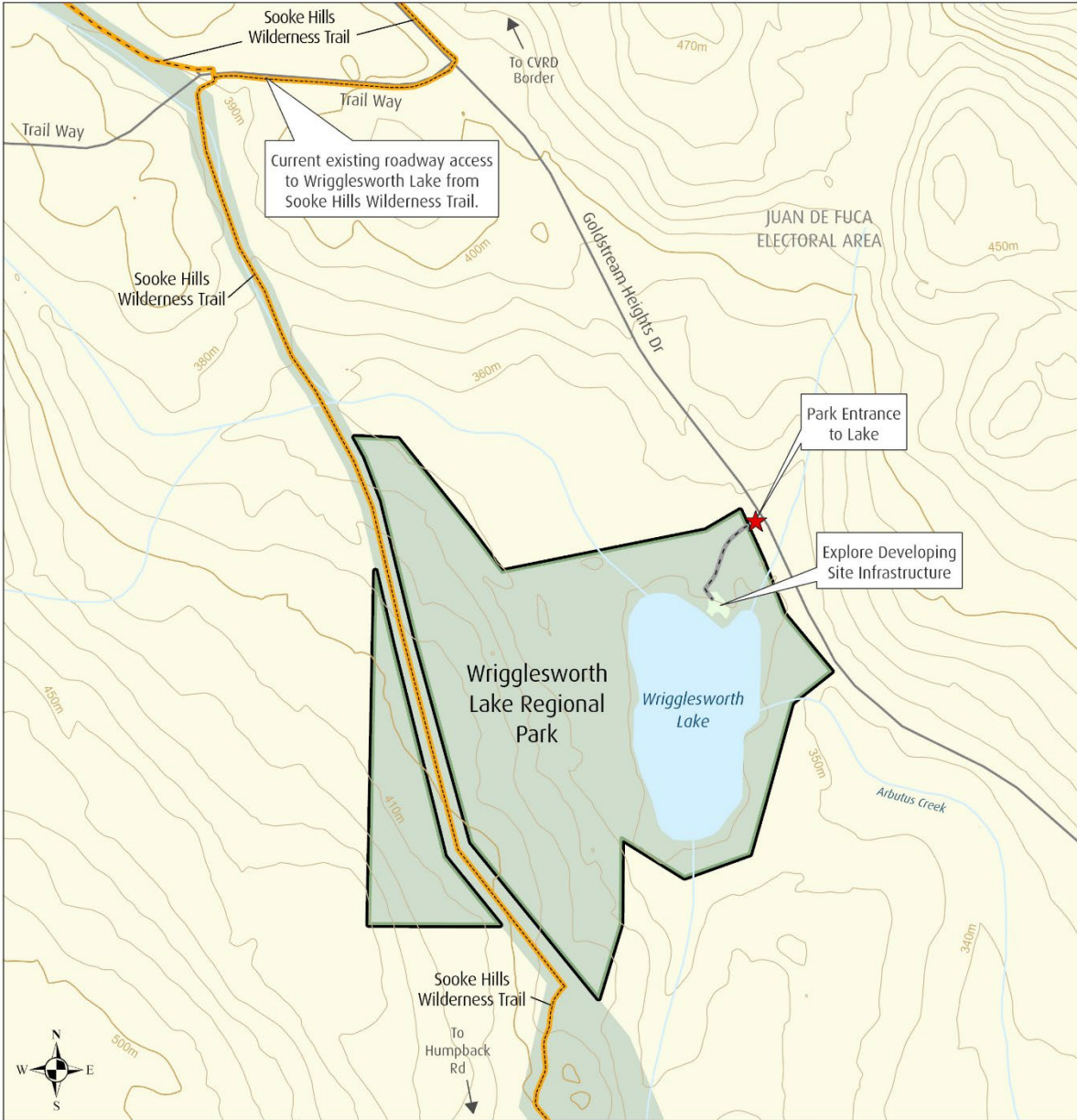
5. Implementation Strategy

5.1 Interim Development Concept

The Interim Development Plan establishes the location of key infrastructure and visitor amenities that will be available while the IMG is in place (Map 2). It should be noted that the concept is temporary and subject to change once a new Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park Management Plan is in place and a final development concept is approved. The types of infrastructure and resources dedicated to installation during the IMG stage are therefore selected accordingly. During the IMG period, staff will conduct all necessary preliminary work to inform the final development concept, so the ideas proposed in the management plan and development concept are grounded in solid baseline studies and cost estimates.

5.2 Monitoring and Review

At the beginning of each year, CRD staff will prepare an annual operating plan (AOP) for Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park, which will outline the interim management actions that are to be completed within the property over the year, including estimated timelines and required resources. Monitoring of the implementation status of the IMG will occur during the preparation of the AOP and will provide an opportunity for staff to review implementation progress, identify outstanding management actions or new actions that are to be completed, and evaluate the success of completed or ongoing management actions.



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- Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park
- Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail Corridor
- Picnic Area
- Lake
- Creek
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking/Cycling/Equestrian Trail
- Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail
- No Official Name Trail
- Road
- Contour - 100m interval
- Contour - 10m interval

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Wigglesworth Lake Regional Park

**Map 2:
 Interim Development Plan**

