

## Status Summary of Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority	Strategic Action	Status	Comments
Strengthen management of existing parks and trails.	Upgrade, maintain, repair or replace major facilities.	ongoing	Current capital projects to repair, renew or replace facilities include facilities renewal, e.g., Elk/Beaver Lake washroom replacement, Todd Trestle repair, and an assessment of condition of other major assets to inform future capital planning, all of which are scheduled for completion in 2017-2018.
	Cultivate partnerships, explore new approaches and adopt best management practices and technologies.	ongoing	Continuing to liaise with other park agencies and municipalities to learn new approaches and share best practices. Ongoing partnerships with NGOs on land acquisition, restoration, conservation and environmental education projects. Working with organizations such as Tourism Victoria to share information and promote regional parks as part of the overall tourism offer.
	Explore opportunities for generating non-tax revenue.	ongoing	In 2016, Regional Parks received approximately \$1.1 million in non-tax revenues from a variety of sources including grants, license and permit fees, campground and parking revenues and fines.
	Complete or update park and trail management plans for priority parks and trails.	ongoing	Regional Trails Management Plan completed in 2016. Island View Beach management plan submitted for Committee endorsement in June 2017. Gulf Islands Trail Plan scheduled for completion in 2018.
	Complete ecological inventories and conservation plans for priority parks and address priority conservation issues.	ongoing	Human/carnivore risk assessment completed for Sea to Sea Regional Park in 2016. Staff have entered into data sharing agreements with the BC Conservation Data Centre and Environment Canada to ensure inventory information on species at risk in regional parks is updated regularly.
	Collaborate on the development of a natural area connectivity plan.	underway	Planning for natural area connectivity requires further discussion among CRD Services relating to resourcing and responsibilities. Regional Parks staff has initiated discussions with BC Parks, Parks Canada and the Cowichan Valley Regional District to identify opportunities to collaborate on creating links between protected areas and on contributing to the achievement of Canada's commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity to protect at least 17% of Canada's terrestrial area by 2020.
	Complete asset, maintenance and operation plans.	ongoing	Annual operating plans for parks and trails introduced in 2014; development of asset management program underway.

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	Develop an environmental education plan and provide leadership in a review of interpretive facilities in the region.	ongoing	Review of environmental education programs is ongoing. Exhibits at Francis/King Nature Centre were updated in 2013. Exterior of Elk/Beaver Lake Nature Centre was updated in 2017. Condition assessment and feasibility study for Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre is planned for 2018.
	Develop an outdoor recreation strategy.	not started	The Regional Parks Social Science Program will begin collecting information on CRD residents' preferences for outdoor recreation activity and on emerging recreation trends. This information will be integrated into park management decisions. Decisions on appropriate recreation opportunities and conservation management are made on a park by park basis through management planning, impact assessments and social science research.
Strategically plan for and open existing land banked parks and trails as resources are approved.	Develop a park and trail opening strategy.	ongoing	Planning complete for opening Mount Manuel Quimper section of Sea to Sea and Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail. Detailed planning underway for opening remainder of Sea to Sea and Sooke Hills Wilderness by 2019. Other park reserves will be opened as management plans are completed and required facilities are developed. A public consultation process planned for 2018 will investigate whether there is public support for using a portion of the funds in the Land Acquisition Fund to support capital facility development necessary to open park land.
	Continue construction of the E&N Rail Trail.	ongoing	Phase 1 of trail will be complete by 2018 (Hallowell to Maplebank section); borrowing authority for completion of phases 3 and 4 has been secured. Construction scheduled for completion in 2019.
	In partnership with other public agencies, local government and private landowners, initiate planning for the regional trails system on Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.	ongoing	Planning has been initiated and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

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Strengthen community involvement, education and partnerships.	Engage the community by providing volunteer and educational experiences for people, including youth and families, to discover, learn about, protect and restore parks and trails.	ongoing	Volunteer program is robust with an average of over 700 volunteers contributing 5,000 hours annually. Curriculum-based school programs are offered spring and fall. Guided hikes and special events are offered year-round.
	Foster and initiate partnerships and expand volunteer opportunities.	ongoing	Partnerships are underway with organizations, academic institutions and individuals for volunteers to restore natural areas and assist with invasive species removal.
	Integrate First Nations interests into planning for, and management and stewardship of, regional parks and trails.	ongoing	Discussions are underway with First Nations to identify opportunities for collaboration in the planning and management of regional parks and trails.
	Undertake a visitor use survey.	underway	Regional Parks Social Science program intends to undertake visitor surveys in select regional parks across the system in the next five years. Regional Parks is partnering with Royal Roads University faculty to undertake a pilot survey at Sea to Sea Regional Park in 2017, the results of which will inform the design and delivery of future visitor use surveys.
	Undertake a survey of residents.	complete	Household survey was completed in 2016; analysis of results underway.
Prepare for future land acquisition.	In partnership with other CRD departments, First Nations and the federal and provincial government, prepare a sensitive ecosystem inventory for land west of the Sooke River.	ongoing	An ecosystem analysis to support consultation with First Nations and other government agencies on land acquisition priorities west of the Sooke River is underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.
	Prepare a land acquisition strategy and examine acquisition options to achieve the future regional parks and trails system.	complete	Land acquisition strategy 2015-2017 completed; new strategy will be prepared for 2018-2019.

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	Prepare a boundary rationalization plan for recent acquisitions prior to park dedication and declare land that does not have regional park or trail value as surplus and sell these lands. Proceeds from the sale of the surplus lands would be used for further park or trail acquisitions.	ongoing	Surplus lands are identified on a park by park basis.
Promote the health benefits of regional parks and trails.	Partner with other levels of government and health agencies to promote the health benefits to the community of regional parks and trails.	ongoing	Regional Parks liaises with other park agencies to create and deliver information to the public about health benefits of outdoor recreation, and partners with others to promote active lifestyles, e.g., Bike to Work Week events, articles Island Parent magazine, outdoor family events with Westshore Parks and Recreation.
	Undertake a study on the natural capital value of regional park land.	ongoing	Internal resources to support this initiative are not currently in place. Regional Parks staff is working with CRD Asset Management to explore options to support this project such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Natural Asset Initiative that assists local governments in valuing natural capital.</li> <li>• The David Suzuki Foundation, which has piloted a natural capital valuation methodology.</li> <li>• Environmental Consultants who have completed natural capital valuations.</li> </ul>
	Focus programs on engaging youth and families in park activities.	ongoing	60% of guided hikes and special events are geared towards families and youth.
	Provide more accessible opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature.	ongoing	A guide to User Friendly Trails was published in partnership with local agencies in 2014. Nature events are offered each month in a park with an accessible trail. Park facilities are being improved to enhance accessibility, e.g., new accessible picnic table at Thetis Lake Regional Park main beach, trail resurfacing at Island View Beach Regional Park and rebuilding the Elsie King Trail at Francis King Regional Park.

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Engage in planning for regional sustainability.	Bring forward, as part of the process to prepare the Regional Sustainability Strategy, the discussion of the concept that at least half of the region's land base should be managed for nature conservation.	complete	The Regional Sustainability Strategy was transitioned to an update of the 2003 Regional Growth Strategy. In keeping with the principles underlying the Regional Growth Strategy, planning for regional sustainability includes establishing a connected system of natural areas and protecting ecosystem benefits through a variety of means.
	Partner with CRD Regional Planning to advance Regional Parks' interests into planning for regional sustainability.	ongoing	Regional Parks staff continue to work with Regional Planning on corporate initiatives, for example the Climate Change Strategy and the Regional Growth Strategy.