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REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017

SUBJECT **Regional Parks Strategic Plan – 2012-2021**

ISSUE

Mid-term status report on implementation of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan – 2012-2021.

BACKGROUND

The current Regional Parks Strategic Plan (Attachment 1) was approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in 2012. The Strategic Plan replaced the 2000 Regional Parks Master Plan in guiding the long-term management of regional parks in the CRD.

The Strategic Plan was prepared through an extensive community engagement process between 2009 and 2011, which included two rounds of public consultation and input from other government agencies through an intergovernmental working group. A volunteer Community Advisory Panel was tasked with leading much of the public engagement process and recommending a strategic plan to the Regional Parks Committee.

The Strategic Plan sets out the vision, mission and strategic priorities for the regional parks system during the term of the plan. The approved Strategic Plan recommended that a mid-term “check in” be conducted on the status of the Strategic Plan, including an assessment of the strategic priorities set out in the plan.

The Strategic Plan sets out 6 strategic priorities. They are:

1. strengthen the management of existing parks and trails
2. strategically plan for and open existing land banked park reserves and trails as resources are approved
3. strengthen community involvement, education and partnerships
4. prepare for future land acquisitions
5. promote the health benefits of regional parks and trails; and
6. engage in planning for regional sustainability

Each strategic priority is accompanied by one or more strategic actions for achieving the strategic priorities. Attachment 2 provides a staff assessment of progress towards implementing these strategic actions.

Overall, most of the strategic priorities set out in the 2012-2021 Strategic Plan continue to be relevant and appropriate objectives for staff to work toward. Twenty-five of the 26 strategic actions identified in the plan are either complete or ongoing (Attachment 2).

Work has not been initiated on a proposed recreation strategy at this time. Regional Parks 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Mike Walton, PhD, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

BH:km

Attachments: Attachment 1 – Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021
Attachment 2 – Status Summary of Strategic Priorities