

**REPORT TO PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019**

SUBJECT **Mt. Parke and St. John Point Regional Parks Public Participation Report on the Draft Management Plans**

ISSUE

To present input from the second round of public engagement for the development of the management plans for Mt. Parke and St. John Point regional parks.

BACKGROUND

The Mt. Parke and St. John Point management planning project was initiated by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in September 2018. The first round of public participation in the management planning process was held in the fall of 2018 to gather input and suggestions for consideration in advance of drafting management plans for the parks. A report summarizing that initial engagement was provided for information to the Parks & Environment Committee on February 27 and the CRD Board on March 13, 2019.

The CRD Board approved releasing the draft management plans for First Nations engagement and public review and comment in May 2019. A second round of public participation was held in May and June 2019. A number of key stakeholders and approximately 90-95 people were reached through the public participation opportunities. The four W̱SÁNEĆ Nations (Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout and Tseycum) were each provided copies of the draft management plans and invited to meet with CRD staff to discuss them.

The attached Public Participation Report summarizes the key input received on the draft park management plans for these two regional parks (Attachment 1). In general, the input received noted strong support for the draft management plans, with some comments and suggestions for changes and improvements. All comments received will be reviewed and considered and changes will be made as appropriate in finalizing the park management plans.

Some general messages heard from the public through the second round of engagement included:

St. John Point

- a conservation focus is the most important aspect
- concern exists regarding providing picnic tables, which may draw more camping, fires and larger groups to the park
- concern exists regarding enforcement (potential for inadequate enforcement)
- some interest in developing the beach access at Kadonaga Bay for easy kayak launching
- some desire for stronger fallow deer management

Mt. Parke

- support for keeping the park natural and allowing low impact uses
- an interest in trail sustainability and including trail specifications in the management plan

- desire for continued land acquisition around the park
- concern about where the park-private land boundaries are and desire for boundaries to be marked so public use does not cross onto private land
- concern about climate change and tree die back and desire for tree-replacement

CONCLUSION

All comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration. Changes will be made as appropriate in finalizing the park management plans.

RECOMMENDATION

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

That this report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, RPF, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P. Bio, Acting General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment: Attachment 1 – Mt. Parke and St. John Point Regional Parks Management Planning Process – Draft Management Plans – Public Participation Report