



**REPORT TO PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019**

SUBJECT **Mount Parke Regional Park and St. John Point Regional Park – Approval of Management Plans**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Regional Parks Division seeks approval of the management plans for Mount Parke Regional Park (Mt. Parke) and Saint John Point Regional Park (St. John Point) on Mayne Island.

BACKGROUND

Mt. Parke is a key recreational destination in the Gulf Islands. This 49-hectare, largely forested property was acquired in 1991 and officially opened as a regional park in April 1995.

St. John Point was acquired in 2017. This 26-hectare property has significant ecological values, public use interests and a need for some public facility development. A management plan for St. John Point is a requirement of the conservation covenant held by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society that is registered on title.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved initiating the management planning process for these two parks at its September 2018 meeting.

An initial round of public engagement was held to gather information to assist in developing the draft management plans and a second follow-up round of engagement was held in May and June 2019. Staff reports summarizing the work conducted to engage the public, the Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout and Tseycum First Nations, and key stakeholders were provided to the Committee on February 27 and July 24, 2019. In general, the input received noted strong support for the draft management plans.

All comments received were considered in finalizing the plans. The management plans proposed for approval (Appendices A and B) are intended to guide decision-making in the two regional parks for the next 15- to 20-year period.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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

1. That the Mt. Parke Regional Park Management Plan be approved; and
2. That the St. John Point Regional Park Management Plan be approved.

Alternative 2

The Parks & Environment Committee refers the management plans for Mt. Parke and St. John Point regional parks back to staff with direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

There are positive public implications for island residents and visitors by having both of these parks managed in ways that are ecologically sound and supported by the public. Approval of the management plans provides a commitment to the public regarding how these two parks will be managed.

Environmental & Climate Implications

The management plans outline known information about the environmental values and natural features of the parks and confirm ongoing management of Mt. Parke as a regional natural area and St. John Point as a regional conservation area.

Financial Implications

For plan implementation, existing staff will undertake ongoing operations and maintenance needs and any facility development will be dependent on available financial and staff resources, as addressed through Regional Parks' core and capital budgets. Short-term actions in the plans will be considered alongside other regional parks projects but are tentatively scheduled for the period of 2020 to 2025, and primarily involve minor facility and trail development in Mt. Parke, and some facility, parking infrastructure and trail development at St John Point, where total capital expenditures of \$150,000 are budgeted.

Intergovernmental Implications

An application to the Agricultural Land Commission, for non-farm use will be required before park entrance facilities (parking lot, toilet, information kiosk) can be developed within the agricultural land reserve area within St. John Point. In addition, since the former landowners made a donation to the Environment and Climate Change Canada Ecological Gifts Program, an application will also be required to this agency before park entrance facilities are developed because these facilities are a change in use from what existed at the time of land acquisition.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The Regional Parks 2012-2021 Strategic Plan identifies completing management plans for priority parks as a high priority.

CONCLUSION

Completing management plans for regional parks are key actions consistent with the Regional Park 2012-2021 Strategic Plan. Park management planning processes for Mt. Parke and St. John Point were initiated in 2018, and draft plans were developed and improved based on input provided through public engagement opportunities and stakeholder consultation throughout 2019. The management plans are intended to guide decision-making in the two parks for the next 15 to 20 year period and are now proposed for decision.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the Mt. Parke Regional Park Management Plan be approved; and,
2. That the St. John Point Regional Park Management Plan be approved.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Mt. Parke Regional Park Management Plan

Appendix B: St. John Point Regional Park Management Plan