

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2022**

SUBJECT **Regional Parks – Strategic Plan Vision Statement**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek input and accept a proposed vision statement for the new Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Parks Committee met on January 26, 2022 to provide input and accept the proposed direction of the new CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan. A proposed vision, mission, values and priority statements were presented and deliberated.

The proposed vision statement, “A legacy of regional parks and trails for conservation and outdoor recreation” was not accepted by the Regional Parks Committee at the January 26 meeting. Instead, the Committee moved the following motion arising:

That we refer the vision statement back to staff for further revision and have it presented as an option at the February Board meeting with this report.

Discussion around the proposed vision statement by the Regional Parks Committee focused on having a more ambitious, forward-looking vision. Staff have prepared three proposed vision statements that incorporate the feedback from the Regional Parks Committee, as well as reflect language from vision statements in other CRD strategies, that relate to the future of the Regional Parks’ service.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the following proposed vision statement be accepted for the new CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public:

We work cooperatively and respectfully to steward and expand an exceptional system of regional parks and trails that is rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage, resilient to change, connects people to nature and provides healthy outdoor experiences for all.

Alternative 2

That the following proposed vision statement be accepted for the new CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public:

We enjoy access to a resilient system of natural parks and trails that protect the region’s biodiversity, respects culturally significant landscapes and offers compatible outdoor recreation experiences for current and future generations.

Alternative 3

That the following proposed vision statement be accepted for the new CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public:
We inspire people to discover, explore and experience nature through collaborative stewardship of our natural and cultural heritage.

Alternative 4

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

The proposed vision statement for the new Regional Parks Strategic Plan aligns with the Climate Action Strategy vision statement, which reads: “Through collective action, we eliminate emissions and foster healthy and resilient communities and natural areas now and in the future.”

Intergovernmental Implications

The proposed vision statement for the new Regional Parks Strategic Plan supports the CRD’s commitment to reconciliation with First Nations in the region.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

The proposed vision statement for the new Regional Parks Strategic Plan aligns with the Regional Growth Strategy vision statement, which reads: “In 2038, Capital Regional District residents enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life. We have a vital economy, livable communities and steward our environment and natural resources with care. Our choices reflect our commitment to collective action on climate change.”

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The proposed vision statement for the new Regional Parks Strategic Plan complements the CRD’s corporate vision, as follows: “Our communities strive to achieve exemplary environmental stewardship, a dynamic vibrant economy and an inclusive, caring society. Regional cooperation, mutually beneficial decision making and advancing shared interests shape the essence of the CRD.”

CONCLUSION

The Regional Parks Committee met on January 26, 2022 to provide input on the vision, values, mission, issues and priorities to be incorporated in the new Regional Parks Strategic Plan. The Committee referred the proposed vision statement back to staff for further revision and to be presented as an option, or options, for consideration by the CRD Board prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public. Staff have prepared proposed vision statements that incorporate the feedback from the Regional Parks Committee, as well as reflect language from

vision statements in other CRD strategies, that relate to the future of the Regional Parks' service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following proposed vision statement be accepted for the new CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan prior to seeking input from stakeholders, First Nations and the public:

We work cooperatively and respectfully to steward and expand an exceptional system of regional parks and trails that is rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage, resilient to change, connects people to nature and provides healthy outdoor experiences for all.

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