

**REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**

SUBJECT **Mount Work Regional Park – Draft Management Plan**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park is ready for public review.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board initiated the management planning process for Mount Work Regional Park in June 2020.

An initial round of engagement was held between June and November 2020. It included gathering input from First Nations, key government agencies, stakeholder groups, user/interest groups and the public. An Engagement Report was provided to the Regional Parks Committee in February 2021 and an addendum report outlining the outstanding input not captured in the February report was posted directly to the project webpage when completed in May 2021. A number of meetings and site visits were undertaken with representatives of the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council between August 2020 and September 2021. The initial engagement and input has informed the development of the draft management plan.

The draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park is ready for public review (Appendix A). The draft plan and a related online survey will be available through the CRD website. Various tools will be used to direct the public to the draft plan and online survey form. The draft plan will be provided to First Nations, key government agencies and key stakeholders with a request for review and comment and an offer to meet, if desired, to discuss the draft management plan. Input from the second round of engagement will be considered before finalizing the management plan for approval.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan be made available for public review and comment.

Alternative 2

That the draft park management plan be referred back to staff with direction for revision.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

The draft management plan outlines known information about the environmental conditions of the park and sets out goals, policy direction and management actions to protect and rehabilitate key areas within the park. Where applicable, climate change implications have been noted in the plan.

Intergovernmental Implications

The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council directed the CRD to work through its Land Use Committee as the management plan was being developed. CRD staff met with the Land Use Committee on four occasions and conducted three site visits to different areas of the park. Information provided by the Land Use Committee has been considered and used, as appropriate, in the management plan.

Prior to writing the draft management plan, engagement was undertaken with staff responsible for the federal Ecological Gifts Program (Environmental and Climate Change Canada), the Heals Rifle Range at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt/Naden (Department of National Defence), Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (BC Parks), the provincial fish stocking program (Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development), as well as with staff and the Committee of the Whole at the District of Highlands, staff at Saanich, staff at Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, and staff in CRD's Environmental Resource Management Division (Hartland Landfill).

Social Implications

Prior to and during the writing of the draft management plan, engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders such as The Land Conservancy of BC, which holds conservation covenants on two parcels within the park, South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS), which has a licence with the CRD for trail maintenance in the designated mountain biking area within Mount Work, and with some of the former private landowners whose lands are now part of the park. Park neighbours and many user groups/interest groups were also notified of the planning and engagement processes and have provided input.

The draft management plan sets out strategic direction, as well as specific development and management actions. Release of the draft plan for public review continues the planning process, as outlined to, and anticipated by, the public. An updated engagement process flowchart is attached as Appendix B.

Financial Implications

Given that most of the proposed management actions in the management plan are conceptual in nature, have not been scoped out as projects yet, and/or the actions are not anticipated in the immediate future, it is difficult to provide specific anticipated costs. Detailed implementation costs will be determined through future capital plans, service plans and project plans. Management actions may be implemented through core budget, capital budget and/or special funding, such as grants. Implementation of specific park management actions is subject to availability of staff and financial resources and must be considered in relation to other priorities in the Regional Parks system. The table below provides cost estimates, in 2022 dollars, for proposed infrastructure that can be estimated at this time, totalling approximately \$913,000.

Location & Infrastructure	Estimated Cost	Implementation Timing
Killarney Lake	\$305,500	short term
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
2 tables (\$3,900)		
Equestrian mounting block (\$3,900)		
Horse bridge (\$227,500)		
Designated Mountain Biking Area	\$130,000	short term
Covered staging/TTA viewing area (\$130,000)		
Willis Road Primary Access	\$343,200	short term
Design (\$260,000)		
Single Toilet (\$70,200)		
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		
Durrance Lake	\$114,400	
2 tables (\$3,900)		medium term
Double Toilet (\$97,500)		medium term
Information Kiosk (\$13,000)		short term
Whole Park	\$19,500	short term
Trail signage (\$19,500)		short term
	TOTAL \$912,600	

Service Delivery Implications

Approximately 35 management actions are recommended over the next 15 years. These actions are set out as ongoing, short, medium or longer-term priorities. It is noted in the draft management plan that these priorities must be considered in light of priorities within the whole of the regional parks system and will be implemented subject to available resources (staff and financial).

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The draft management plan furthers the CRD Corporate Plan priorities relating to Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship, First Nations Reconciliation, and it is in line with direction in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2021-2021.

CONCLUSION

CRD Regional Parks staff are seeking approval to release the draft management plan for Mount Work Regional Park for public review and comment. The draft management plan and an online survey will be accessible through the CRD website to allow the public an easy way to review and provide their input. Various tools will be used to advertise the review opportunity. CRD staff will provide the draft plan to First Nations, government agencies and key stakeholders and will offer an opportunity to meet with them to discuss the draft management plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Mount Work Regional Park Draft Management Plan be made available for public review and comment.

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: Mount Work Regional Park – Draft Management Plan (March 2022)
Appendix B: Engagement Process Flowchart
Appendix C: Presentation