



Metro Vancouver
Regional Parks Plan

OCTOBER 28, 2011



Buntzen Lake, Lindsay Loop Trail, Photo: Jeremy Plotkin

Cover photo credits (clockwise from bottom left):

Burnaby Lake Regional Park

Pacific Tree Frog, Kanaka Creek Regional Park, Photo: Mike Stefiuk, Courtesy of KEEPS;

A Midsummer Fête, Colony Farm Regional Park

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VISION

THE REGIONAL PARKS PLAN

Regional parks contribute to a healthy, sustainable region by conserving natural assets and promoting a healthy society. They enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors by providing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities to experience nature while simultaneously promoting ecological health by protecting and enhancing regionally important natural landscapes. The Regional Parks program fosters environmental stewardship through community development and promotes a sense of responsibility and connection to the place that we live.

This Regional Parks Plan sets strategic direction for the parks function at Metro Vancouver and will be followed by an implementation plan as well as individual park management plans.

Metro Vancouver's vision is:

Healthy parks – healthy people



Sasamat Lake, Belcarra Regional Park, Photo: Chris Eastman

PART ONE: PLAN OVERVIEW

Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework

Since 2002 Metro Vancouver has formally put the concept of sustainability at the centre of its operating and planning philosophy and advanced its role as a leader in the attempt to make the region one which is explicitly committed to a sustainable future. This comprehensive endeavour became known as the Sustainable Region Initiative, or more familiarly as the ‘SRI’. In 2008, Metro Vancouver’s Board adopted a Sustainability Framework outlining its vision, mission, values, sustainability imperatives, and sustainability principles. Depicted in Figure 1, the Sustainability Framework provides the foundation for Metro Vancouver’s suite of plans, including the Regional Parks Plan.

Regional Vision

Metro Vancouver has an opportunity and a vision to achieve what humanity aspires to on a global basis –the highest quality of life embracing cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social justice and compassion, all nurtured in and by a beautiful and healthy natural environment.

We will achieve this vision by embracing and applying the principles of sustainability, not least of which is an unshakeable commitment to the well-being of current and future generations and the health of our planet, in everything we do.

As we share our efforts in achieving this vision, we are confident that the inspiration and mutual learning we gain will become vital ingredients in our hopes for a sustainable common future.

Metro Vancouver is a political body and corporate entity operating under provincial legislation as a ‘regional district’ and ‘greater boards’ that delivers regional services, planning and political leadership on behalf of 24 local authorities. It is comprised of:

CITY OF
ABBOTSFORD

VILLAGE OF
ANMORE

VILLAGE OF
BELCARRA

BOWEN ISLAND
MUNICIPALITY

CITY OF BURNABY

CITY OF
COQUITLAM

CORPORATION OF
DELTA

CITY OF LANGLEY

ELECTORAL
AREA A
(UNINCORPORATED
AREA)

TOWNSHIP OF
LANGLEY

VILLAGE OF
LIONS BAY

DISTRICT OF
MAPLE RIDGE

CITY OF NEW
WESTMINSTER

CITY OF NORTH
VANCOUVER

DISTRICT OF NORTH
VANCOUVER

CITY OF
PITT MEADOWS

CITY OF PORT
COQUITLAM

CITY OF
PORT MOODY

CITY OF RICHMOND

CITY OF SURREY

TSAWWASSEN
FIRST NATION

CITY OF
VANCOUVER

DISTRICT OF WEST
VANCOUVER

CITY OF
WHITE ROCK

The Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework

REGIONAL VISION The highest quality of life embracing cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social justice and compassion, all nurtured in and by a beautiful and healthy natural environment. Achieved by an unshakeable commitment to the well-being of current and future generations and the health of our planet, in everything we do.

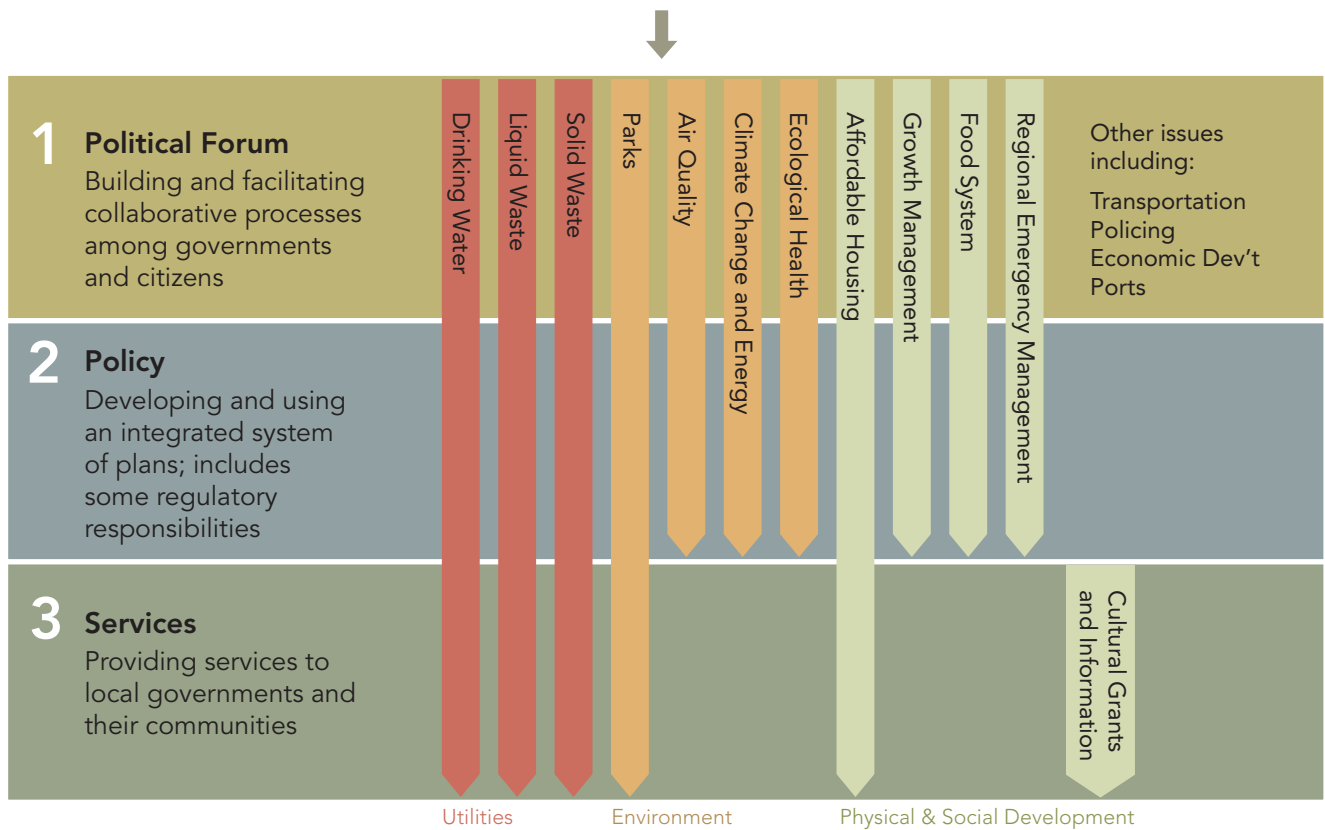
METRO VANCOUVER ROLE AND MISSION Serve the region and attain excellence in meeting these responsibilities. Plan for the future by developing and using an integrated system of plans. Facilitate collaboration with local governments and citizens.

VALUES Integrity is our foundation. Passion for our work and pride in our accomplishments are our drivers. Respect for the public and compassion in our relationships are our guideposts.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVES Have regard for local and global consequences and long-term impacts. Recognize and reflect the interconnectedness and interdependence of systems. Be collaborative.

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES Protect and enhance the natural environment. Provide for ongoing prosperity. Build community capacity and social cohesion.

...these are the foundation for Metro Vancouver's three interconnected roles:



Progress towards a sustainable region is measured by



which establish strategic priorities and key activities

Context for the Regional Parks Plan

History

In 2005, the Board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District approved the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan to guide the delivery of its regional parks function for the next decade and beyond. The Board committed to monitoring the implementation of the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan and undertaking a review of the plan after five years with the objective of providing updates and revisions where required.

The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan was the first of a series of corporate management plans created to address delivery of services according to the principles of sustainability under the framework of the Sustainable Region Initiative. The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan is being updated in 2011 to provide a new format and actions to ensure consistency and integration with Metro Vancouver's overall suite of sustainability plans.

Trends, Challenges, Opportunities

Metro Vancouver's population growth is expected to continue with one million more residents added to the region in the next 30 years. To accommodate future growth without further sprawl, the Regional Growth Strategy aims to create compact, complete, healthy communities. Protection of the environment is one part of achieving that goal. The Regional Parks Plan supports the Regional Growth Strategy by protecting lands for recreation as well as conserving and enhancing natural features and regional connectivity.

Past population growth and associated impacts of urban development have threatened the health and function of the region's natural environment. The key challenge of the Regional Parks Plan is to help promote regional ecological health and maintain the health of Regional Parks while providing good access to outdoor facilities and amenities within complete communities. To accomplish this, the Regional Parks Plan addresses the following issues:

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The natural landscapes of the region are highly valued for their scenic qualities. In fact, many of the region's natural assets are of national and international significance. Nevertheless, it is for the basics of life – their ecosystem services – that our natural assets require our utmost attention. Ecosystem services include vital benefits like water purification, biodiversity, pollination, clean air and stable, fertile soils.

A network of connected protected spaces is necessary in order to maintain a resilient natural system that ensures room for ecological processes to occur, allows for species movement between patches, provides opportunity for gene flow between individuals and populations, and is resilient to disease and the possible impacts of climate change. The challenge is to maintain and enhance these assets for the benefit of current and future generations while accommodating increasing regional population and associated urban development. The large natural areas contained in Regional Parks play an important role in maintaining regional ecosystem services. Parks also provide an important opportunity to provide public education about such topics as climate change carbon sequestration, water filtration, biodiversity, and hydrology.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLNESS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Across North America, two trends have been identified as acting to reduce the physical and mental well being of people. The first is a dramatic rise in the number of serious health issues (e.g. Type II diabetes and obesity) due, in part, to sedentary lifestyles. The second trend is lack of contact with and understanding of nature. Research indicates that access to green space tends to improve overall physical and mental health; therefore investing in parks and protected areas is part of improving the health and wellness of regional residents. Creating healthy complete communities requires, in part, providing access to a diversity of activities and experi-



ences that encourage all people regardless of age, background or ability, to connect with their community and with nature. In a region where private outdoor space is becoming a luxury and residents highly value outdoor recreation, we aim to improve quality of life for residents by providing good access to public open space close to home.

ACQUISITION AND OPERATING PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering is a key component of Metro Vancouver's regional parks program. On occasion, Metro Vancouver finds that it is more efficient to enter into agreements with another park agency or organization to purchase and operate all or a portion of a Regional Park. These relationships are developed as required to meet unique circumstances which emerge over time. Although the traditional regional park service delivery model is to 'buy and operate', the best way to maximize outcomes for the public is to take advantage of complementary expertise, organizational capabilities, budgets and staff resources.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Regional Parks will be operated and managed in a manner that ensures reasonable public access either immediately or in the future. From a conservation perspective, some highly sensitive sites provide value to the region without providing human access. In these situations Metro Vancouver will provide interpretation from adjacent sites or limited access under controlled circumstances.

When Metro Vancouver grants exclusive use of Regional Parkland to individuals, corporations or organizations, it will ensure that these agreements generate public value and maintain reasonable public access where appropriate.

REVENUE GENERATION AND ENHANCED PARK SERVICES

The plan commits staff to pursuing opportunities to generate revenue through enhanced services. Due to the shortfall between the regional park system's core funding and demand for expanded park facilities and programs, accessing alternative revenue streams is of great interest to Metro Vancouver. Revenue obtained via federal and provincial grant programs, philanthropic donations, partnerships, and enhanced park service fees are important sources of complementary funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

METRO VANCOUVER

Metro Vancouver focuses on protecting exceptional representative regional landscapes and providing opportunities for passive outdoor recreation, nature study and community stewardship. The regional parks function addresses the issue of unequal distribution across the region of significant natural features such as mountains and beaches and spreads the financial obligation to protect and manage these regional assets among all users. Over time, in response to increased demand and historic property agreements, there has been minor

duplication of service between provincial, municipal and regional parks. A few municipalities provide access to regionally significant conservation and nature based recreation and MV provides some activities in a limited manner, like camping, that are traditionally the purview of the province. Some of these overlaps existed prior to the creation of the Regional Parks function. Overall, we strive to complement what others are doing. The Regional Park System is composed of 22 regional parks, 5 greenways, 2 ecological conservancy areas and 4 regional reserves with over 13,780 ha of parkland.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government focuses on protecting exceptional representative natural landscapes, important historic places and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. In the region, they operate several national historic sites through Parks Canada and two national wildlife areas managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Widgeon Valley and Alaksen Wildlife Areas encompass almost 425 hectares of land managed for research, conservation, and interpretation purposes. Metro Vancouver often works with federal agencies such as the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Port Metro Vancouver on conservation related issues.



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND CROWN CORPORATIONS

The provincial government focuses on protecting nationally and internationally significant natural and culture features and outdoor experiences. The responsibility for outdoor recreation and conservation is spread amongst several ministries. BC Parks has the largest mandate for providing conservation and recreation opportunities in the province. However, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations manages fishing and hunting activities as well as several wildlife conservation programs. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for ensuring that sustainable fisheries, healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems, and recreation and wildlife opportunities are available to all. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provides and invests in cycling networks. The Agricultural Land Commission Act and regulations provide conditions under which conservation and passive recreation uses are allowed on farmland located within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Crown corporations, such as BC Hydro also have mandates to provide recreation opportunities; balancing energy needs with preservation of the natural environment.

BC PARKS

Provincial parks are managed by BC Parks under the Ministry of Environment for conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and research. There are seven provincial parks in Metro Vancouver. These parks provide camping facilities, ski hills and extensive wilderness areas for summer and winter backcountry recreation. BC Parks also manages six Wildlife Management Areas and two Ecological Reserves for conservation values. Approximately 62,000 hectares are protected and managed by the Province within the MV region.

MUNICIPALITIES

Member municipalities typically provide facilities and opportunities to support sports, leisure, and cultural programs and services. Depending on the type of lands within their jurisdiction, they may also provide lands for conservation purposes. Many municipalities focus

their outdoor recreation efforts on providing facilities for active sports with conservation and nature based recreation making up an important but minor portion of the services they provide. The Regional Parks Plan recognizes the need for connections to local parks and open space plans to advance outdoor recreation services and environmental stewardship. Municipal partnering is a key component of Metro Vancouver's regional parks program.



Derby Reach Regional Park, Photo: Craig Sobering

TRANSLINK

Translink's Transport 2040 initiative promotes walking and cycling as part of healthy communities. They manage the BC Parkway and coordinate development of the Central Valley Greenway with municipalities and non government organizations. The Regional Parks Plan supports the Transport 2040 initiative by promoting a regional greenway network to improve the walkability and cycle-ability of Metro Vancouver.

FRASER RIVER ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FREMP)

FREMP brings together agencies responsible for land and water management of the Fraser River, downstream from Kanaka Creek Regional Park. As a FREMP partner, Metro Vancouver participates in long range planning to ensure a sustainable future of the Fraser River estuary. The primary objectives of FREMP align closely with the goals of the Regional Parks Plan. This is of particular importance due to the number of parks and greenways located along the Fraser River.

NGOS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in efforts to conserve important habitats around the region through fundraising, advocacy, and stewardship activities. They are also active in promoting and building recreational trails and delivering environmental education programs. These groups are mainly composed of volunteers who dedicate large amounts of time to the health of the natural environment.

REGIONAL PARK PARTNERS

Metro Vancouver's park system receives strong support from its Park Partners. Supported by Regional Parks' staff, our Park Partners are community-based associations comprised of volunteers that help plan, manage and implement the stewardship, conservation, educational and recreational interests of regional parks.

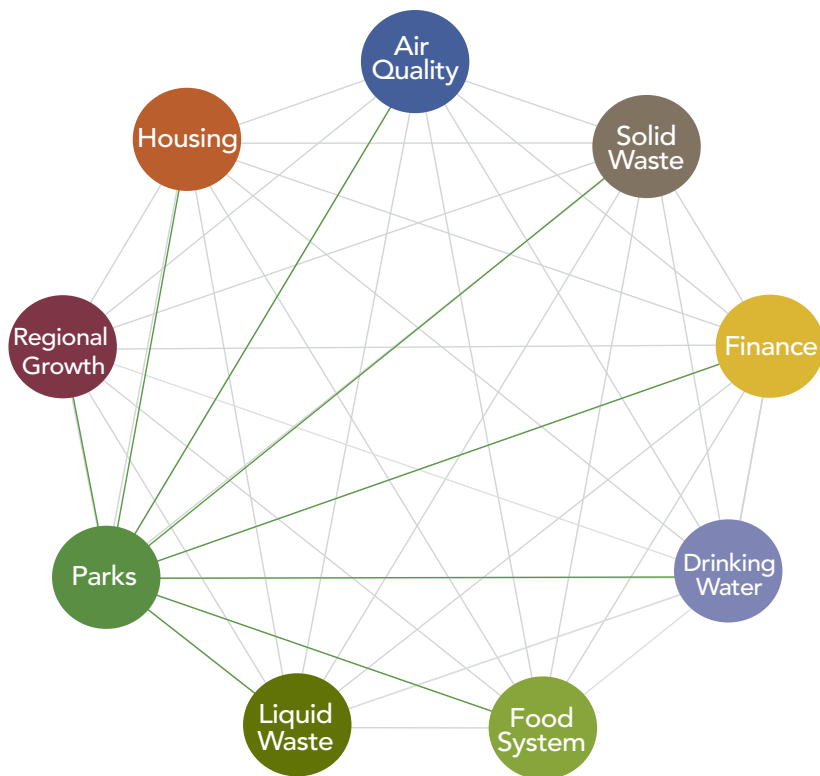
FIRST NATIONS

First Nations have constitutional rights which are taken into account in park planning processes. As a treaty First Nation, the Tsawwassen First Nation also has specific treaty rights requiring consideration.



Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

Figure 2 Metro Vancouver's Interconnected Management Plans



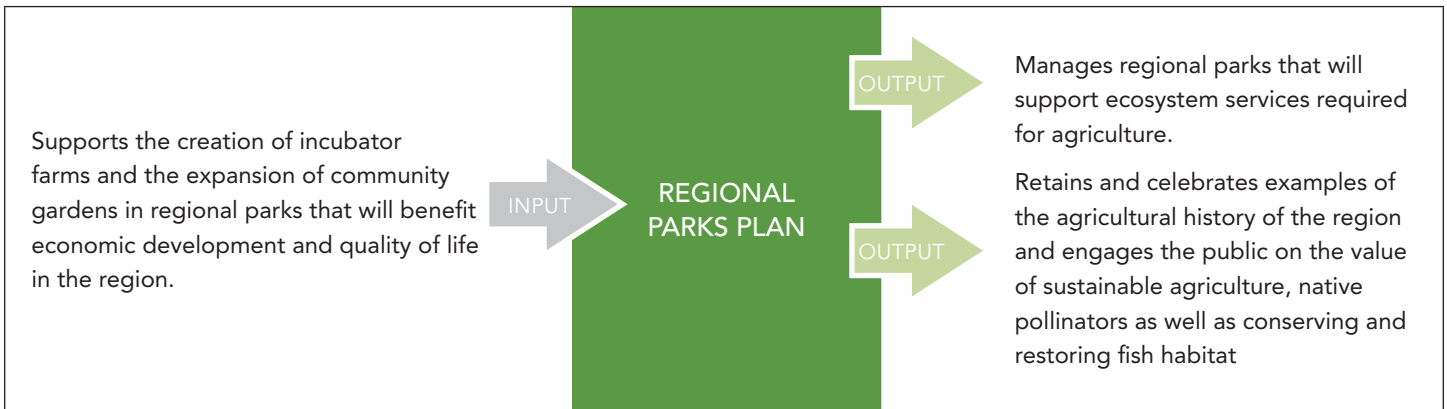
Coordinating with other Metro Vancouver Plans

The Regional Parks Plan is one plan among a suite of interconnected management plans developed around Metro Vancouver's Sustainability Framework (Figure 2). The following section summarizes key links where actions identified in other Metro Vancouver plans affect the Regional Parks Plan, and conversely where actions in this Plan make a contribution to the goals of other Metro Vancouver plans (Table 1).

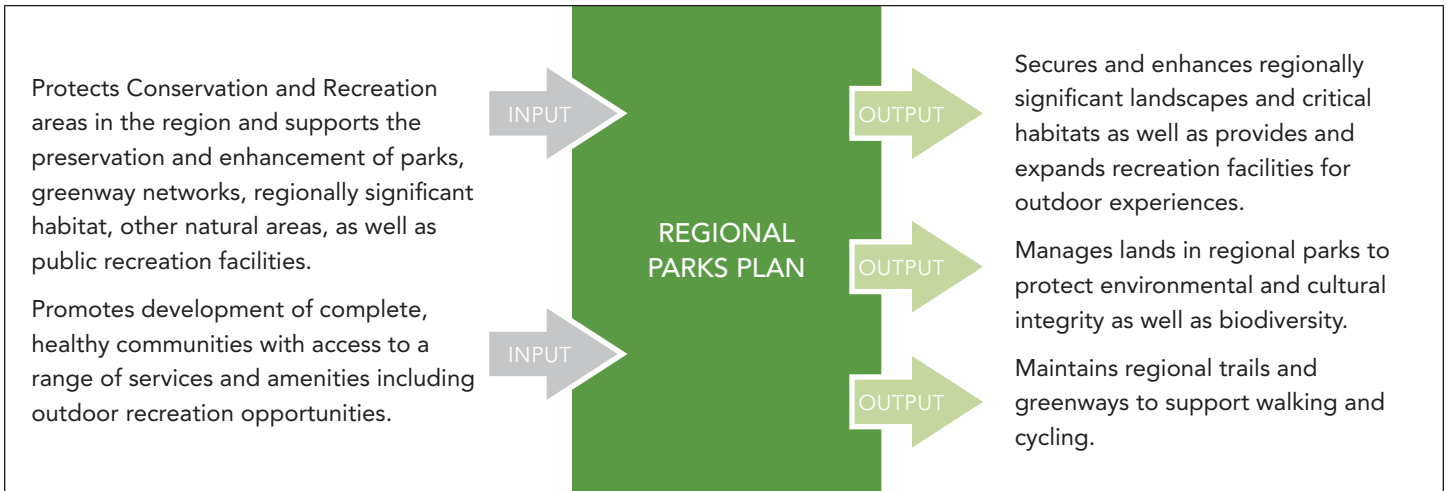
Table 1 Linkages between Metro Vancouver Management Plans

Linkages Between Metro Vancouver Plans

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY



REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY



INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Linkages Between Metro Vancouver Plans

INTEGRATED LIQUID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (ILWRMP)



INTEGRATED AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT PLAN (IAQGGMP)



DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN



PART TWO: GOALS, STRATEGIES and ACTIONS

The Regional Parks Plan has four goals, which are addressed by ten strategies and supporting actions. The supporting actions reinforce each other to create a context for delivery of park services at the regional level.

An implementation plan will be prepared to provide additional detail on land acquisition, land use policies, site priorities, visitor experience, natural resource management, partnerships, and operations. The implementation plan will explain how each park works to support the goals of the parks system and the region.

As ecological health reflects the essential link between human health and well-being and the health of the natural environment, it is critical that we protect the wide range of ecosystem services nature provides. These include services such as the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. Through its sustainability framework, Metro Vancouver committed to ecological health as one of ten strategic priorities. The commitment is reflected in the various Metro Vancouver plans and is crystallized in the Metro Vancouver Ecological Health Action Plan.

Through its Regional Park's function, Metro Vancouver acts as a steward to a valuable inventory of natural landscapes and the species they support, making a major contribution to ecosystem services in the region. Parks can preserve natural ecosystems and biodiversity, filter and clean air and water, maintain ecosystem function and foster human contact with the nature.

Barred Owl, Kamaka Creek Regional Park, Photo: Mike Stefnuk, courtesy of KEEPS



Goal 1:
Promote Ecological Health

Strategy 1.1 Manage Regional Parks to protect and improve ecological health

An ecosystem based approach to land management based on principles of sustainability, adaptive management and interconnectedness, provides the foundation for deciding between competing objectives and accommodating a range of objectives while preserving ecological health.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

1.1.1 Develop management plans for every park in the regional system including establishing activity zones appropriate to different environmental areas.

1.1.2 Identify damaged and debilitated ecosystems within regional parks and implement regional park conservation activities and projects to restore or enhance their ecological health.

1.1.3 Restrict public access to sites that are too environmentally sensitive for human use while seeking ways to provide off site interpretation and education opportunities.

1.1.4 Manage invasive species that threaten the structure, function or composition of regional park ecosystems using an integrated pest management approach and best management practices for the safe disposal of invasive plants.



Matsqui Trail Regional Park

<p>1.1.5 Incorporate carbon sequestration strategies into park plans whenever appropriate.</p>
<p>1.1.6 Develop sustainable farming principles to ensure that farming in regional parks contributes to ecological health.</p>
<p>1.1.7 Implement a full cost accounting system for park facility development using estimates of the ecosystem benefits provided by regional park land, together with measures of social and economic benefits to the region.</p>
<p>1.1.8 Develop and maintain inventories of physical, historical and natural assets on regional park land to support sustainable park use and natural resource management planning, inform public outreach, and efficient management of park assets.</p>

Strategy 1.2 Protect regional landscapes with high ecological value or high regional significance.

The supply of ecosystem services is directly related to the existence of large, highly diverse and interconnected natural areas which contain habitats for a variety of species. These lands are defined as having high ecological value.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

<p>1.2.1 Secure land with high ecological value to the region, particularly wetlands, riparian zones, upland forests and critical connections between such habitats.</p>
<p>1.2.2 Partner with other levels of government, educational institutions, private landowners and conservation organizations to expand Metro Vancouver’s ability to acquire and protect land with high ecological value.</p>
<p>1.2.3 Complete sensitive ecosystem inventory mapping for the region, create a mapping catalogue of habitats and corridors in the region with high ecological value, and share this information with other governments and agencies to assist in their ecosystem protection initiatives.</p>



Matsqui Trail Regional Park

Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation for Human Health and Wellness

Metro Vancouver provides a Regional Park system, including valuable natural places with basic public access and facilities for outdoor recreation, enabling regional residents to pursue outdoor activities and a healthy lifestyle.

Strategy 2.1 Increase outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences for regional residents

A physically active population that has frequent opportunities for contact with nature is a healthier one. Providing residents with opportunities for a variety of outdoor experiences in a range of landscapes encourages appreciation and better understanding for nature and ecology and increases the depth and range of human experience and enjoyment of the natural environment.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

- 2.1.1 Give high priority to the replacement and upgrading of facilities that are now reaching the end of their useful life.
- 2.1.2 Expand the number and capacity of basic facilities in regional parks to meet the growth in demand.

- 2.1.3 Increase park system capacity by acquiring lands with high outdoor recreation potential.
- 2.1.4 Increase universal access to regional park facilities through the implementation of an incremental barrier removal strategy including use of accessible design approaches and re-fits wherever feasible.



Piper Spit, Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Photo: Jeremy Plotkin

2.1.5 Provide opportunities to experience working farm landscapes in appropriate park sites through the establishment of an active farm program and academy for sustainable food production, and the development of policies to fit agriculture within regional park settings. Promote education, demonstration and observation of farm activities where appropriate.

2.1.6 Support regional tourism initiatives such as the Experience the Fraser project through parkland acquisition, facility development and program development where the goals and activities support those of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Strategy 2.2 Promote the physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation.

Communicating the contribution of parks and nature as a means of improving and maintaining health will encourage residents to use parks as a step towards healthy lifestyles.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

2.2.1 Develop and deliver a communication and education strategy to promote the physical and mental health benefits of parks and outdoor recreation; develop relationships with health authorities and social service agencies to incorporate the therapeutic benefits of parks into public policy, programs, and research.

2.2.2 Collaborate with a broad range of regional partners to expand opportunities, programs and services within regional parks that promote physical activity, social interaction and healthy lifestyle choices.

2.2.3 Ensure that policies developed and actions taken by Metro Vancouver in Regional Parks model and encourage sustainable and healthy choices.

Strategy 2.3 Provide safe and well maintained outdoor recreation facilities to park visitors.

Operating large, natural parks and outdoor recreation facilities so that they are accessible, safe, clean and meet all current public health and safety standards is an underlying requirement of park and recreation service delivery.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

2.3.1 Continue to provide uniformed operating staff at all park sites with broad roles including visitor services, maintenance, and regulatory compliance.

2.3.2 Apply a maintenance management system for capital assets to ensure timely repair or replacement of facilities and efficient use of funds.

2.3.3 Implement a regional parks risk management program, including guidelines for staff on risks, risk avoidance and appropriate responses.

2.3.4 Expand public regulatory compliance through bylaw enforcement as necessary assisted by programming tools and tracking systems.

Goal 3: Support Community Stewardship, Education and Partnerships

The regional parks system plays a crucial role in connecting people to the natural environment, increasing understanding and a sense of responsibility for the ecosystems that support human life.

Regional parks also provide an opportunity to protect and showcase valued cultural assets including understanding and actively managing cultural resources and providing access to cultural programs like music and art.

Strategy 3.1 Provide education programs in regional parks to foster stewardship, health and wellness, personal safety and social responsibility.

Regional parks are excellent venues in which to foster environmental and cultural stewardship, provide information on healthy lifestyles, promote personal safety in the outdoors and encourage community responsibility for parks and protected areas.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

3.1.1 Provide a range of educational and recreational program experiences for park visitors to promote understanding of ecology, environment and healthy living with a special emphasis on children, youth and under-represented demographic groups such as new Canadians and ethnic groups.

3.1.2 Offer educational programs such as bear and dog awareness, backcountry safety, dressing for the weather, and walking with a partner that promote the safe use of regional parks for outdoor recreation.



Sasamat Lake, Belcarra Lake Regional Park. Photo: Jeremy Plotkin

Strategy 3.2 Seek partnerships to improve program delivery and provide special facilities where others have expertise.

Metro Vancouver adds value to the regional parks programs experience by partnering with others who have expertise.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

<p>3.2.1 Partner with and give recognition to non-profit societies to provide and maintain appropriate specialized facilities and programs in parks, where this is preferable to the use of public funds.</p>
<p>3.2.2 Support, engage, and train park associations, community organizations and individual volunteers to design, develop and implement effective stewardship activities in regional parks such as habitat restoration, heritage restoration, species recovery, community gardens and other activities of their choosing in alignment with regional parks goals.</p>
<p>3.2.3 Partner with education institutions to use regional parks for research, curriculum instruction and occupational training.</p>
<p>3.2.4 Work with municipalities to ensure a rational distribution of local and regional responsibilities for parkland, facilities and programmes between local and regional parks authorities and explore the use of local development control mechanisms as a potential complementary land acquisition tool for regional parks.</p>
<p>3.2.5 Prepare a framework, policies and tools for the park partnership program to ensure integration with corporate strategies.</p>

Strategy 3.3 Implement adaptive reuse of acquired heritage resources where appropriate.

Heritage resources which have been acquired through purchase acquisition or relocated to public areas can be adapted to add value to the park experience.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

<p>3.3.1 Develop and implement a heritage resource management and acquisition policy framework.</p>
<p>3.3.2 Develop and implement a heritage resource adaptive reuse strategy.</p>

Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities

Regional parks can support regional economic development by providing opportunities for enhanced recreation and environmental services in cooperation with the private sector.

Strategy 4.1 Partner with businesses and organizations to provide enhanced services for visitors

Working with businesses and other organizations may enable Metro Vancouver to increase the range of outdoor recreation opportunities within regional parks using non-tax based revenue streams.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

4.1.1 Identify potential enhancements to services and programs consistent with park setting and regional sustainability goals and principles, and seek partnership with the private sector and other public sector entities to provide such enhancements.

4.1.2 Integrate regional tourism strategies into regional park facility and program planning, development and operations, which are consistent with park settings and regional sustainability goals and principles.

4.1.3 Develop guidelines for business case analysis and cost/revenue sharing for enhanced revenue partnerships.

Strategy 4.2 Encourage Philanthropy

Philanthropy is a non-tax based source of funding for the regional park system. Supporting philanthropic endeavours helps Metro Vancouver further advance the recreation and conservation facets of the sustainability framework.

METRO VANCOUVER WILL:

4.2.1 Support the Pacific Parklands Foundation and other fundraising organizations in their efforts to raise funds for conservation, stewardship, development, programs and services.

4.2.2 Develop an annual set of priorities for projects and programs for consideration for fundraising by philanthropic organizations.

4.2.3 Encourage and negotiate private land and capital donations which expand recreation opportunities and conserve regional biodiversity

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The following performance measures will monitor progress in achieving the specific goals of the plan while also informing future updates of the plan.

Goal 1: Promote Ecological Health

- Hectares of environmentally sensitive and natural parkland secured annually by Metro Vancouver
- Percentage of the sensitive ecosystem inventory updated within the last 5 years

Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Recreation and Human Health and Wellness

- Number of annual visits to regional parks compared to previous years
- Number of new recreation facilities opened annually
- Number of rebuilt major facilities

Goal 3: Support community stewardship, education and partnerships

- Number of people participating in education programs annually compared to previous years
- Number of people participating in stewardship programs annually compared to previous years
- Number of volunteer hours contributed in regional parks

Goal 4: Promote Philanthropy and Economic Opportunities

- Annual non-tax revenue generated from enhanced services, grants, donations and through Pacific Parklands Foundation

Adaptive Management

A key feature of the Regional Parks Plan is adaptive management which uses the best science or information available to write and implement policies and practices, then monitors and makes changes as necessary to achieve the desired outcome. Through monitoring, assessment and collaboration with partners, Metro Vancouver will continue to adapt in response to new information and will employ the precautionary principle to ensure the ecological and cultural values of parks are not compromised.

GLOSSARY

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

The components and connections between healthy functioning ecosystems, the valuable services they provide and human health and well being. It recognizes that maintaining and enhancing the integrity of ecosystems and other natural assets is essential for ensuring that people continue to benefit from the stream of ecosystem services that contributes to our well-being and economic prosperity.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICE

The aspects of ecosystems utilized, actively or passively, to produce human well-being. They include the provision of clean water and air, pollination of crops, mitigation of environmental hazards, pest and disease control and carbon sequestration.

BASIC SERVICE

These are services supported by the tax levy. Examples include access roads, parking lots, trails, beaches, toilet facilities, picnic shelters and tables, boardwalks, viewing towers, interpretive signs, educational displays, interpretive programs and special events. Most basic park services are free but some involve a fee which is set out in the Regional Parks Fees and Charges Bylaw.

ENHANCED SERVICE

These are value added services involving individual or group exclusive use, for services requiring additional capital and operating resources beyond that funded through the tax levy. Enhanced services involve a fee. Services may be provided directly, or through business agreements with third-parties. Examples include reserveable facilities, group camps, private special events, camping, food services, rental of canoes, kayaks and bicycles as well as park tours offered through third parties.