

PARKS MASTER PLAN

March 2025

north saanich

Territorial Acknowledgement

North Saanich is located within the traditional and unceded territories of the WSÁNEĆ people; specifically, the BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation and WSÍKEM (Tseycum) First Nation, who are an active and vital part of our community.



Community Acknowledgement

We appreciate the input provided by many members of the District of North Saanich community. The project team was inspired by your passion and commitment.



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Project Summary

The North Saanich Parks Master Plan (PMP) is a guiding document for the planning, development, and management of parks and trails from 2024 to 2034. It prioritizes environmental protection and maintaining the rural character of the area while focusing on enhancing existing parks and amenities rather than creating new ones.



Developed with input from residents, community groups, District staff, and Council, the PMP aims to reflects the community values and addresses current challenges. A key principle is that the extensive parks and trails in North Saanich are highly valued, and their improved management and upgrades are prioritized.

The PMP process began with a comprehensive assessment of the current park system, resulting in a 'State of the Parks' report. This included an environmental overview, a review of local policies, and an analysis of the system's strengths, challenges, and gaps. The plan compares North Saanich's parks to similar communities, offering guidelines for consistent, high-quality planning and design.



















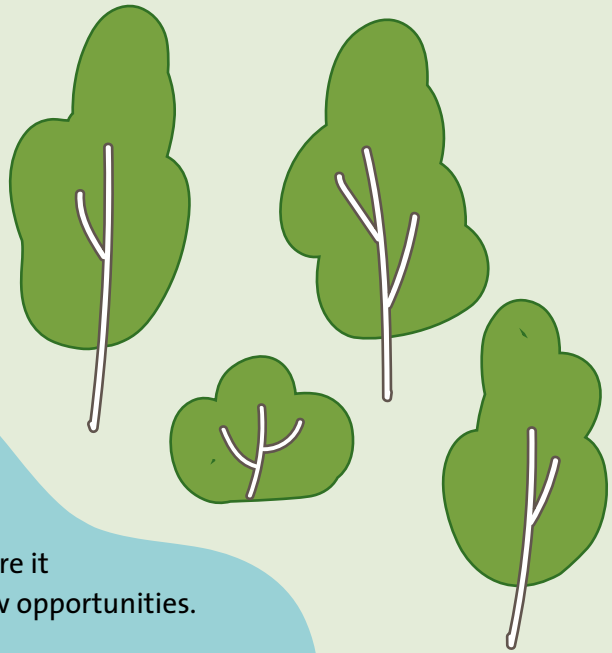
With 21 recommendations, the PMP organizes actions into two categories: planning & policy and capital improvements. The plan does not commit the District to any specific project, and all proposed projects will require Council approval. The recommended implementation plan divides recommendations into short-term (0-3 years), medium-term (4-6 years), and long-term (7-10 years), with order of magnitude costs outlined. The plan provided may be subject to change as opportunities and funding evolve over the plan period.















The PMP will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet community needs and adapt to new opportunities.

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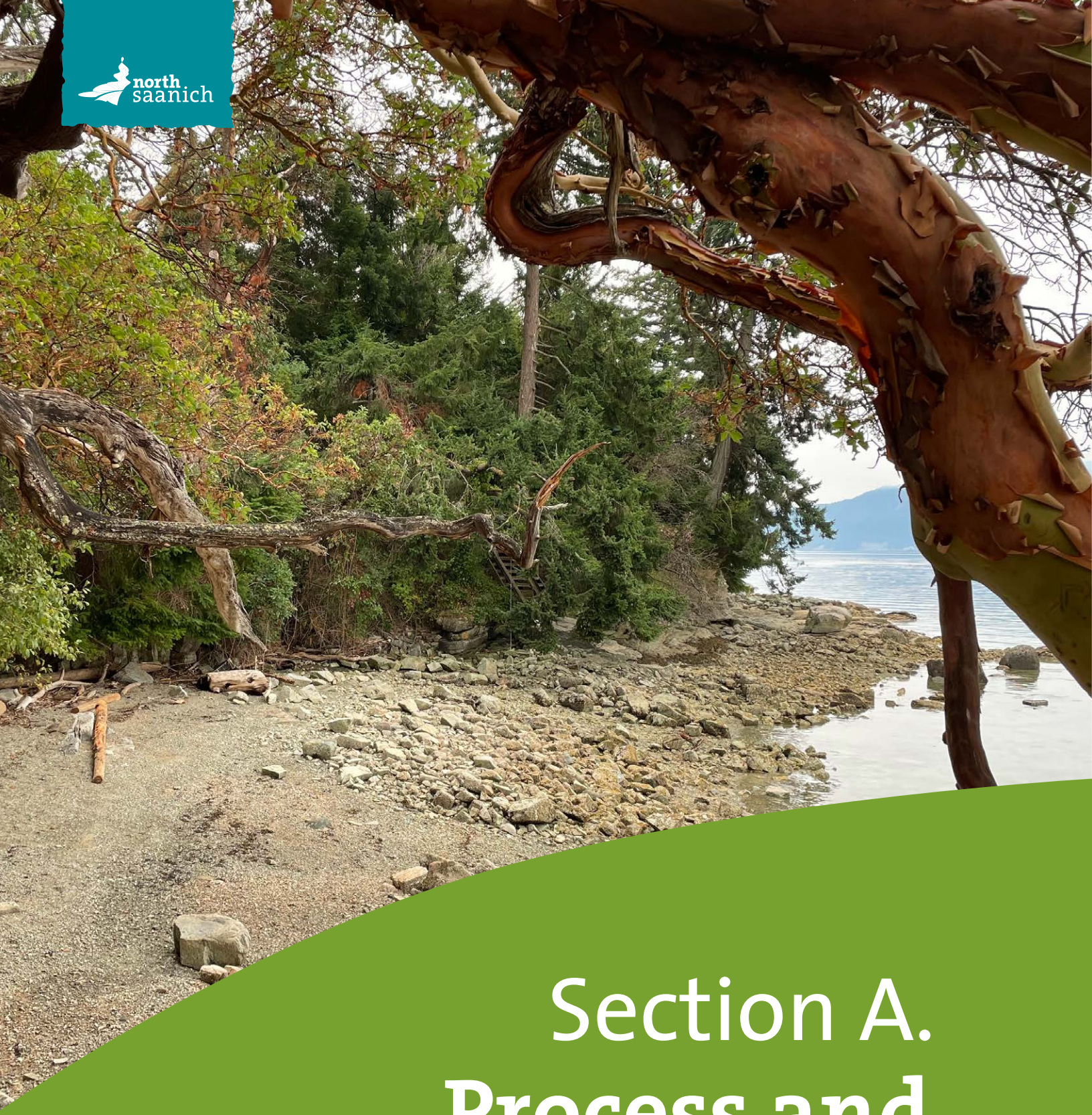
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Section A. **Process and Setting**



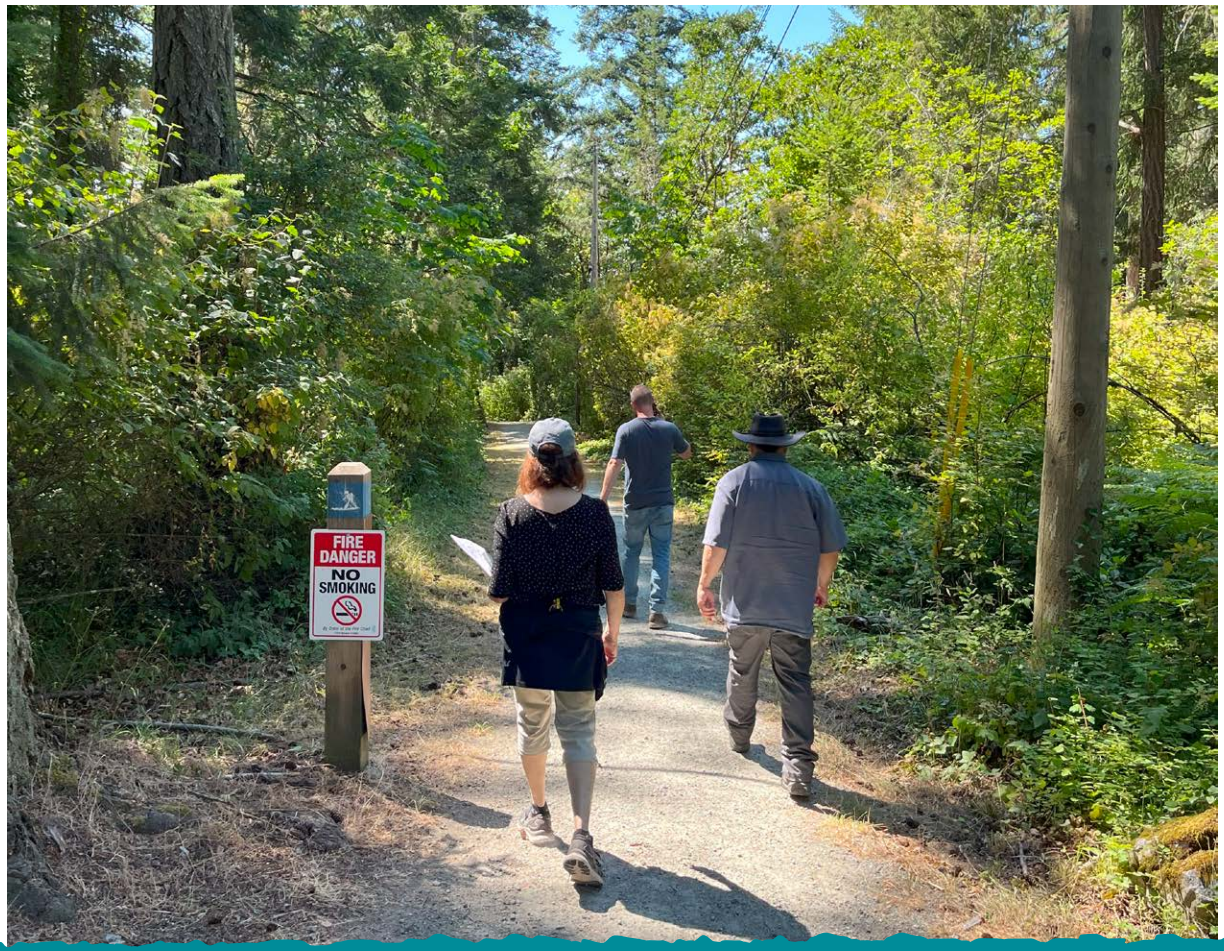
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Parks Master Plan (PMP) is to provide guidance for staff and Council to make decisions on parks policy, planning, development management and new parkland property acquisition. This plan places significant emphasis on protecting the environment and maintaining the rural and forested character of North Saanich.

A PMP is a comprehensive strategic document that covers the entire parks and outdoor recreation system. It provides recommendations for prioritizing investments in the short term (0–3 years) and outlines steps for medium-term (4–6 years) and long-term (7–10 years) implementation. The plan aids in budget development, acquisition strategies, funding applications, and park planning efforts.

This plan is dynamic and will evolve with the community. Its recommendations will be annually reviewed and adjusted to seize new opportunities and prioritize investments aligning with community needs. All proposed projects will be part of broader planning and budgeting processes, requiring individual approval by the Council before implementation.



1.2 Key Outcomes

The following are some of the key technical activities and desired outcomes of the PMP process:

- Define a vision statement, goals, and objectives
- Review current park conditions, assets, and service levels
- Provided desktop evaluations of environmental resources
- Create a classification system for parks and trails with clear service level expectations
- Find and prioritize gaps and areas for park system improvement
- Prioritize protection of the environment through collaboration and management systems
- Compare the park system with similar communities to set expectations for North Saanich
- Develop park planning and design improvement guidelines
- Outline actionable strategies and a prioritized ten-year capital investment plan





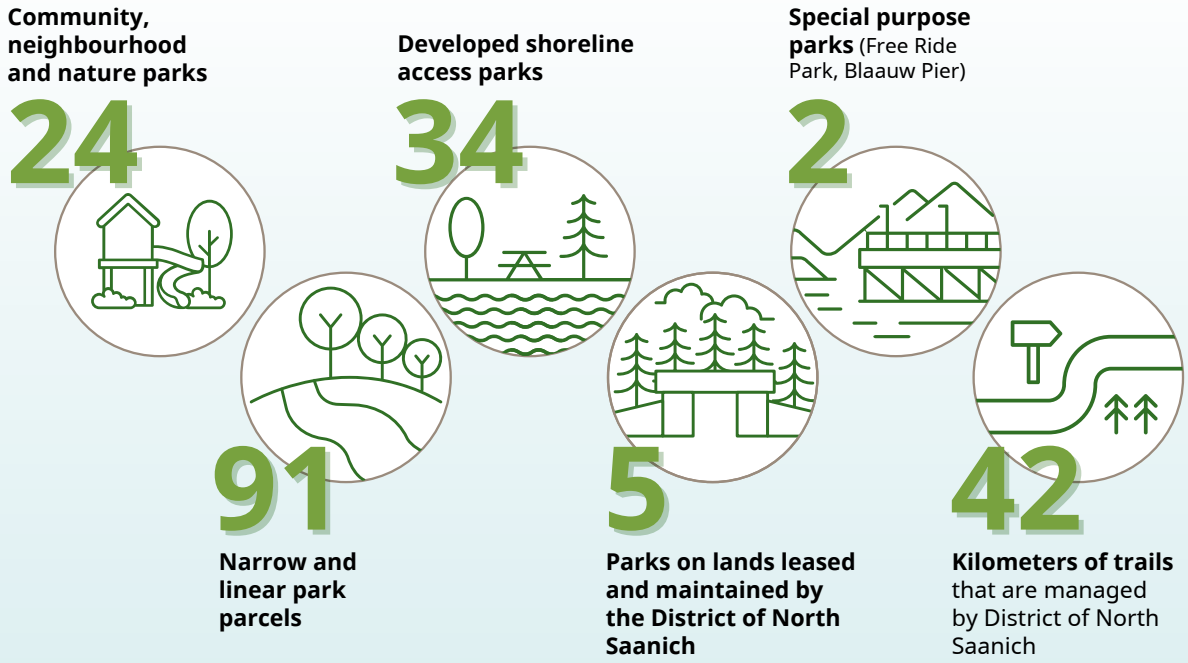


1.3 Overview of Our Parks

North Saanich boasts a diverse and beloved parks and trails system. Within the municipality, parks fall under various ownership and jurisdictional categories, including municipal, provincial, federal, and regional management. The District of North Saanich's parks system currently includes the following:

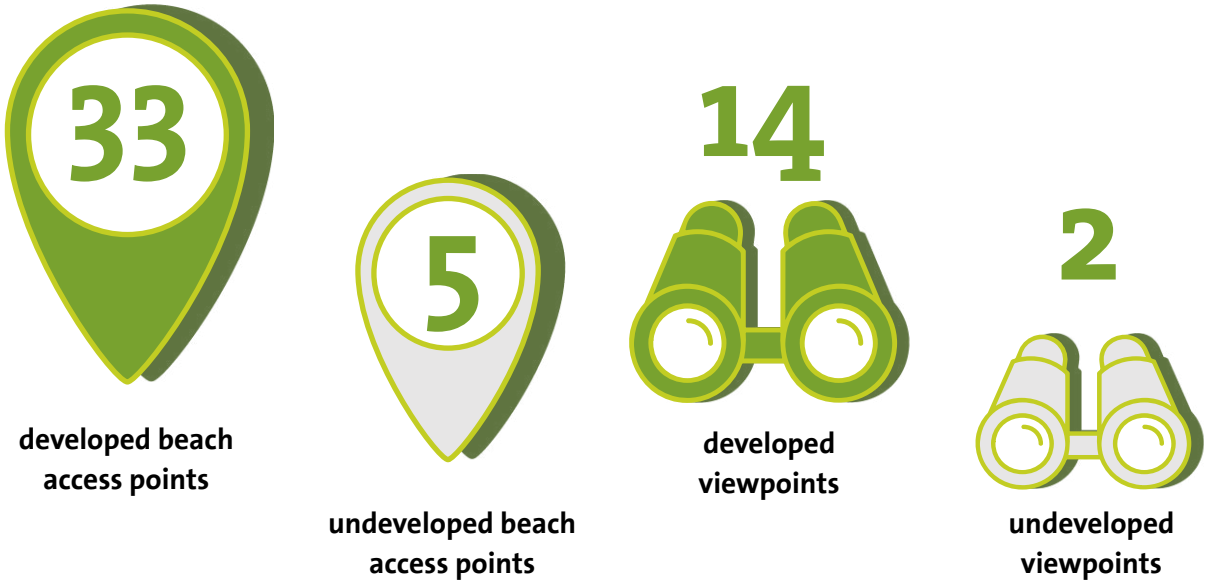
1.3.1 District Parks and Trails in North Saanich

The following are the developed parks in North Saanich that are owned or operated by the District. Mapped as properties (polygons) this includes community parks, neighbourhood parks, some of the nature parks, and some of the shoreline access parks. Some of these parks have names (34) and the others are unnamed.



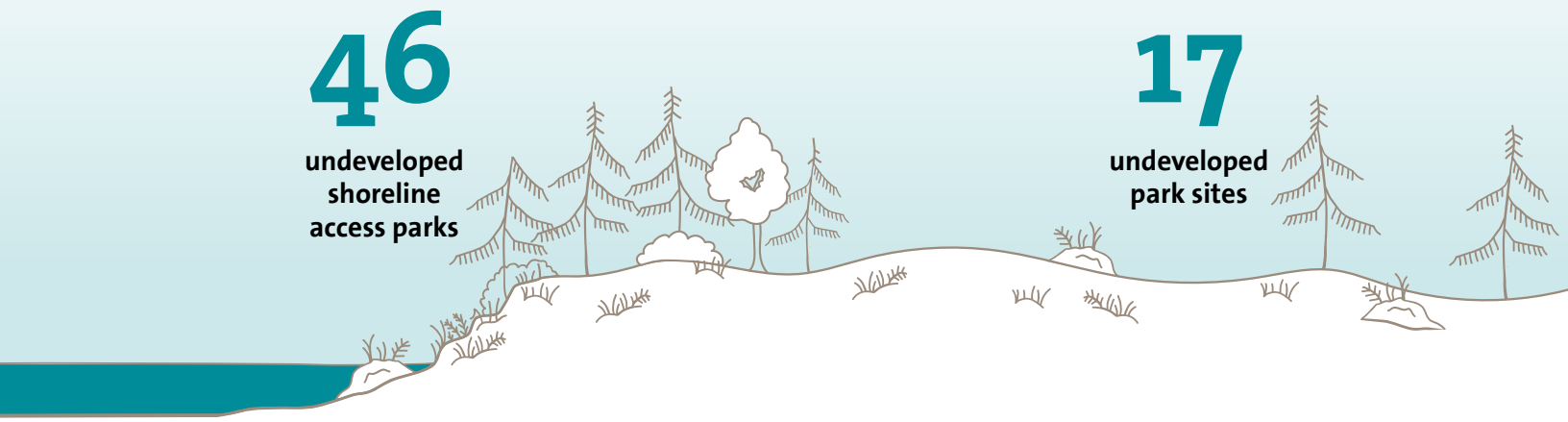
1.3.2 Access Points and Viewpoints

Access points and viewpoints, mapped as points, include special viewing areas such as rocky outcrops, high points, and points along the shoreline with a particular view. The beach access points may include stairs, ramps, site furnishings, seating, signage to locations of particular interest. Some of these points overlap with parks.



1.3.3 Undeveloped District Park Parcels

The following undeveloped parks are undesignated, and they are in addition to the list of developed District parks and trails above:

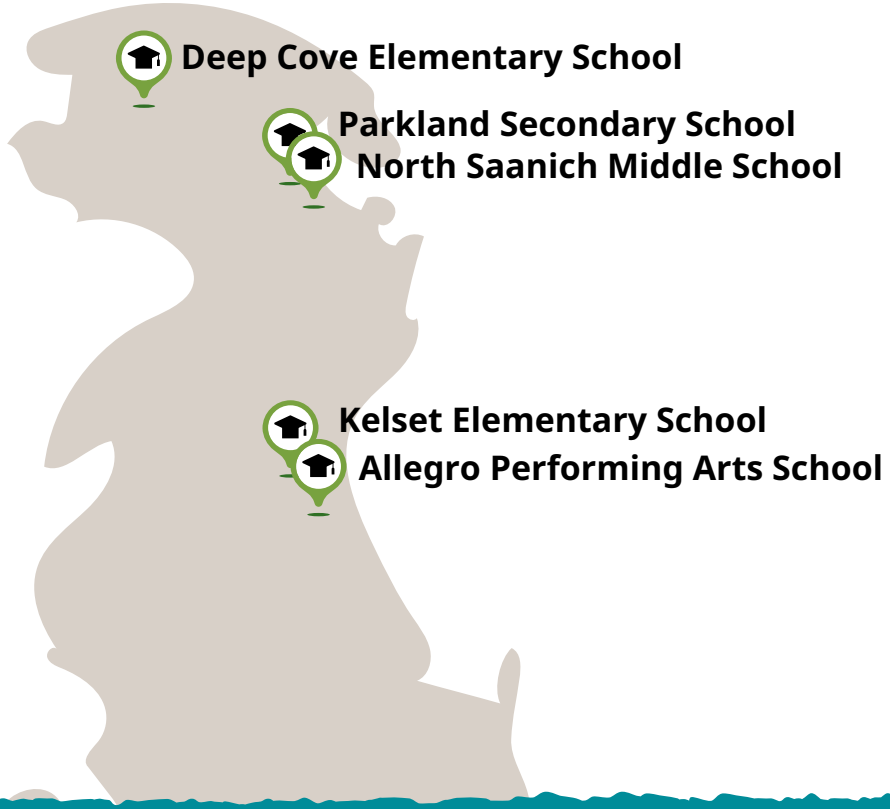


1.3.4 Other Parks Owned and Managed by Other Jurisdictions

The following are parks in the District that are owned by others:

- **Blue Heron Park** is owned by the Memorial Park Society
- **Horth Hill** and **Coles Bay Regional Parks** that are owned and managed by the Capital Regional District (CRD)
- **Tsehum Harbour Park** is a small, federally-owned parcel under Parks Canada. It is adjacent to the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, with the lagoon falling within this sanctuary. The sanctuary is overseen by the Canadian Wildlife Service under Environment and Climate Change Canada
- **ŁÁU,WELṈEW̱/John Dean Provincial Park** that is managed by BC Parks
- **SMONEĆTEN/ McDonald** campground that is a park of the Gulf Island National Park Reserve
- **Rotary Park,** owned by the airport, is a special-purpose ballfield park used by the baseball community that is not available for public use. Maintenance operations are shared by District of North Saanich and Sidney.

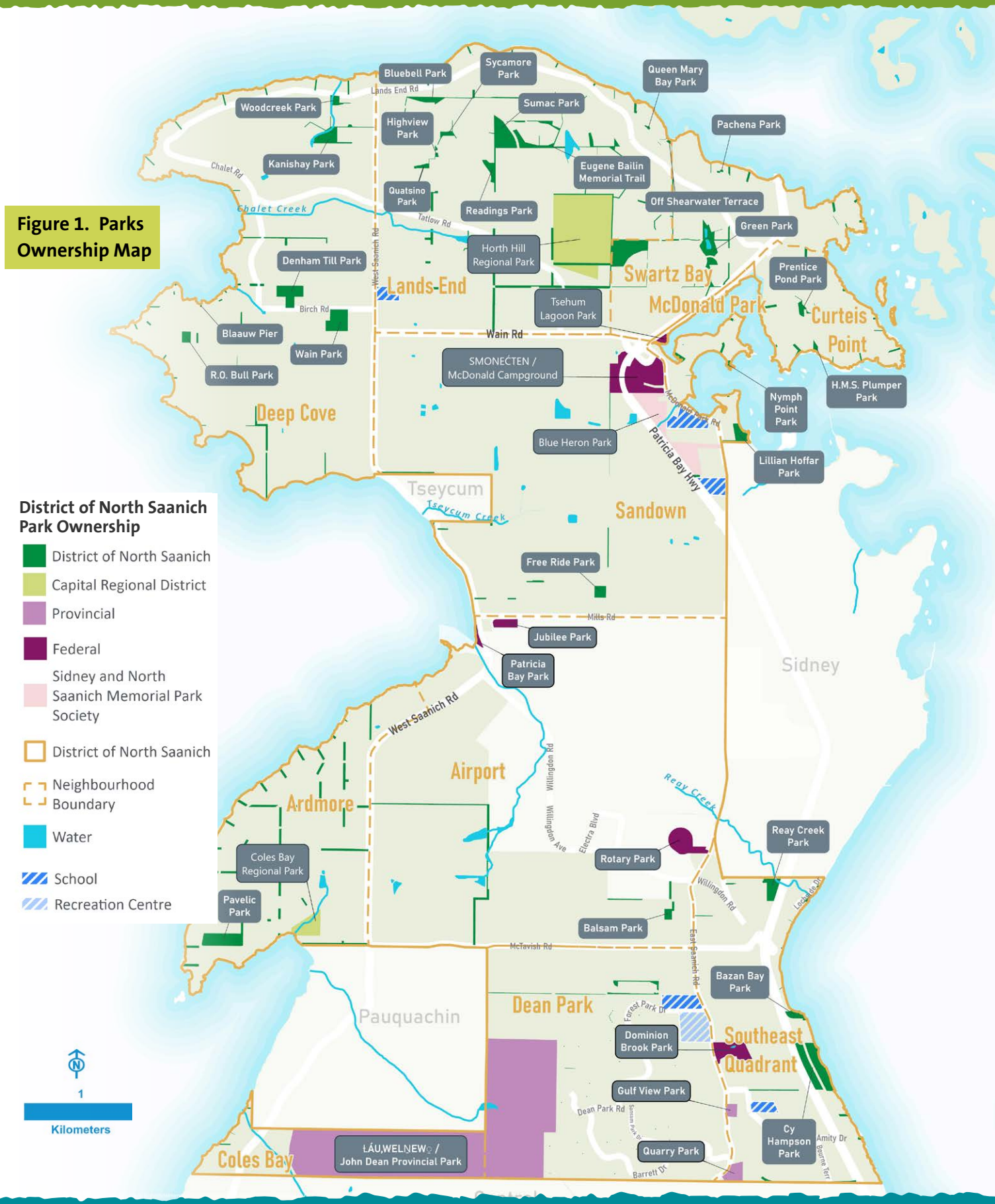
1.3.5 School Sites



1.3.6 Other Lands

- **Sandown Community Garden** that is owned and operated by the District of North Saanich
- **Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery**
- **Panorama Recreation Centre** that is owned and operated by the CRD
- **Dickson Woods**

Figure 1. Parks Ownership Map



1.4 Jurisdiction and Responsibilities

The following is a summary of the key organizations with influence on the parks and trails in North Saanich and their respective responsibilities.

Table 1. Jurisdictions and Responsibilities

Jurisdiction/Organization	Responsibilities
District of North Saanich	Parks and Operations staff are responsible for all District parks. This includes general care and maintenance of all assets including playgrounds, sport courts, site furnishings, signage, trails, fencing, and washroom facilities. Activities including mowing, landscape maintenance, and tree care. Parks and Operations is also responsible for building maintenance of District facilities that are not within the parks system.
Capital Regional District	The CRD is responsible for the planning and maintenance of Horth Hill Regional Park and Coles Bay Regional Park.
Provincial (BC Parks)	BC Parks is responsible for the planning and maintenance of John Dean Provincial Park.
Federal (Parks Canada)	Parks Canada is responsible for the planning of Tsehum Lagoon Park and the planning and maintenance for SMONCTEN campground which is part of the Gulf Islands National Park.
Federal (Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO))	DFO is responsible for maintaining and protecting fish and fish habitat under the Fisheries Act. DFO has jurisdiction over the marine environment from the low water mark out to 12 nautical off the outer coast.
Transport Canada	Transport Canada is responsible for preserving the right of public navigation under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.
Friends of North Saanich Parks	This is a volunteer organization that primarily focuses on invasive plant removal. The District of North Saanich provides some funding for activities.
Friends of Dominion Brook Park	This is a volunteer organization that provides gardening and maintenance for Dominion Brook Park. Tasks include raking, weeding, planting, mulching, and other garden maintenance activities. Raising public awareness of the park and its history, maintaining archival records, fundraising for projects, and caring for the ornamental plant collection, including labeling and inventory, are essential tasks.
Friends of North Saanich Mountain Bike Society	This is a volunteer organization that provides management and maintenance for Freeride Park.

Jurisdiction/Organization	Responsibilities
Saanich Peninsula Memorial Park Society	This not-for-profit park society owns Blue Heron Park which has facilities including a running track, all weather sports fields (soccer, rugby, slo-pitch), forested trail system, parking lot, picnic tables, water and washrooms. The all-weather sports field is leased to the Peninsula Soccer Association.
Peninsula Recreation Commission	This commission operates under the CRD umbrella and focuses its efforts on the Panorama Recreation Centre (PRC). Outdoor assets here include a playground, tennis courts, multi-sport court, and parking areas. A large area of PRC is mowed lawn that the Commission maintains. They also lease the former Greenglade school for activities.
School District 63	The School District provides operations and management for all school sites including hard surfaces, vegetation, sports fields, and parking areas.
Ministry of Forests	The Ministry of Forests owns most of the foreshore areas in BC with a few exceptions. The Ministry of Forests administers Crown Land tenures, water licences and Change Approvals in the aquatic environment.
Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT)	MOTT maintains roadway boulevards on MOTT owned roadways and roundabouts in the McTavish Interchange.
Victoria International Airport	Victoria International Airport maintains sections of Willingdon Road and the roundabout at Willingdon and East Saanich Roads. The airport also owns and maintains the flightpath multi-use path.
Canadian Wildlife Service under Environment Canada and Climate Change Canada	Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. North Saanich and Sidney collaborate to support the management of the sanctuary.



1.5 Planning Process

The PMP was initiated in May 2023 and is anticipated to be complete with formal adoption by Council in the fall of 2024. The project process included the following project milestones:

Spring 2023	Project Kickoff
Summer 2023	State of the Parks System Review
Fall/Winter 2023	Phase 1 Community Engagement
Winter/Spring 2024	Draft Parks Master Plan
Spring/Summer 2024	Phase 2 Community Engagement
Summer/Fall 2024	Finalize Parks Master Plan

Over the summer of 2023, the team conducted a comprehensive assessment, including research, environmental analysis, and park supply analysis, culminating in 'The State of the Parks Report'. In October 2023, Phase 1 of public engagement kicked off with an online survey, stakeholder visioning sessions, an open house, pop-up events, a session with Tseycum First Nation, and workshops with District staff and officials. Phase 2 in the spring and summer of 2024 included another open house, public survey, and stakeholder meeting. The project will conclude with presentations to Mayor and Council.

1.5.1 Key Background Documents

The following documents were reviewed during the research for the Parks Master Plan. Refer to **Appendix A** for a comprehensive overview of each document.

- Official Community Plan Update
- BC Housing Legislation (2023)
- District Of North Saanich Parks Plan (2011-2015)
- North Saanich Active Transportation Plan (2021)
- Bioregional Framework For The Saanich Peninsula (2021)
- District Of North Saanich Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2021)
- Capital Region Coastal Inundation Mapping Project Summary - Version 2.0 (2021)
- Tseycum Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Overview (2022)
- Drainage Master Plan (2022)
- Briarwood Beach Access Review (2022-2023)
- Tree Protection Bylaw (2022)







2.0 North Saanich Community Characteristics

2.1 Local and Regional Context

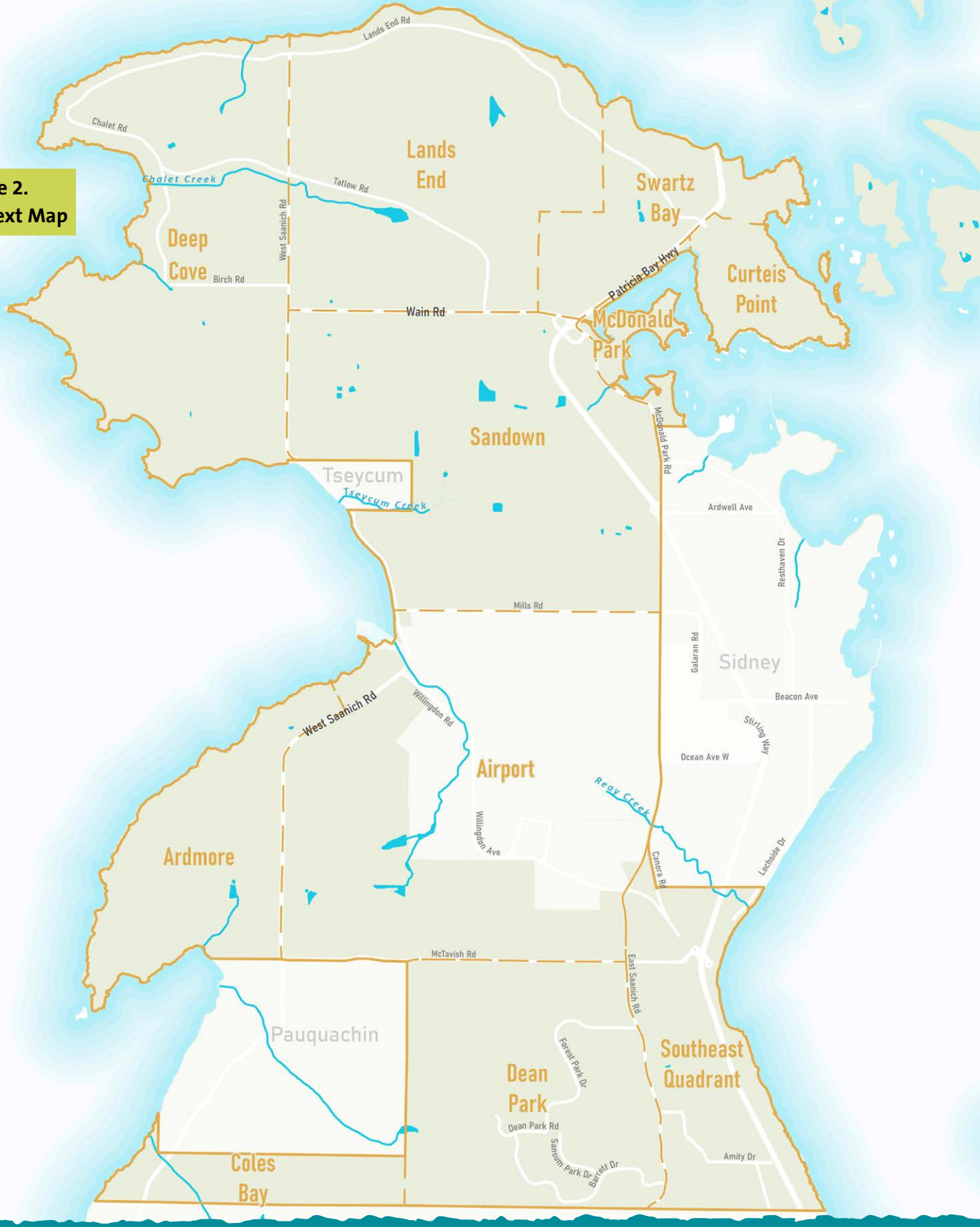
The District of North Saanich ('the District') is situated on the Saanich Peninsula on Southern Vancouver Island within the Capital Regional District (CRD) and is approximately 25 km north of the Province's capital city, Victoria. The District exists within the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ-speaking peoples who have stewarded the lands and waters of this area since time immemorial and continue to do so today. Specifically, the Pauquachin First Nation and Tseycum First Nation are active and vital community residents, and the District is committed to respectfully and appropriately engaging these Nations in matters of common interest.

North Saanich is a highly desirable rural-residential area. The District has eleven distinct neighbourhoods that include Ardmore, Deep Cove, Lands End, Swartz Bay, Curteis Point, McDonald Park, Sandown, Airport, Southeast Quadrant, Dean Park, and Coles Bay. It is surrounded on three sides by ocean called the Salish Sea. This stunning coastline offers views of the water, surrounding islands, and beautiful mountains. There are several coastal parks with small beaches, and numerous shoreline access points and viewing areas. The shorelines attract many boaters and fishing enthusiasts serviced by local marinas.

The District's rolling interior lands afford many beautiful views and provide a generous feeling of open space. A significant portion of the land is agricultural and is protected by the Provincial Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). As a result, land use patterns have remained relatively unchanged since the late 1970s. Agriculture and agri-tourism are very important to the community, as evidenced by the number of farms and roadside produce and flower stands. The community also includes Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary with a rich habitat for many species of birds during migration and through the winter.

The District is also the gateway to the greater Victoria area for both domestic and international travel. The Victoria International Airport and the Swartz Bay BC Ferry terminal are important transportation hubs within the District.

Figure 2.
Context Map



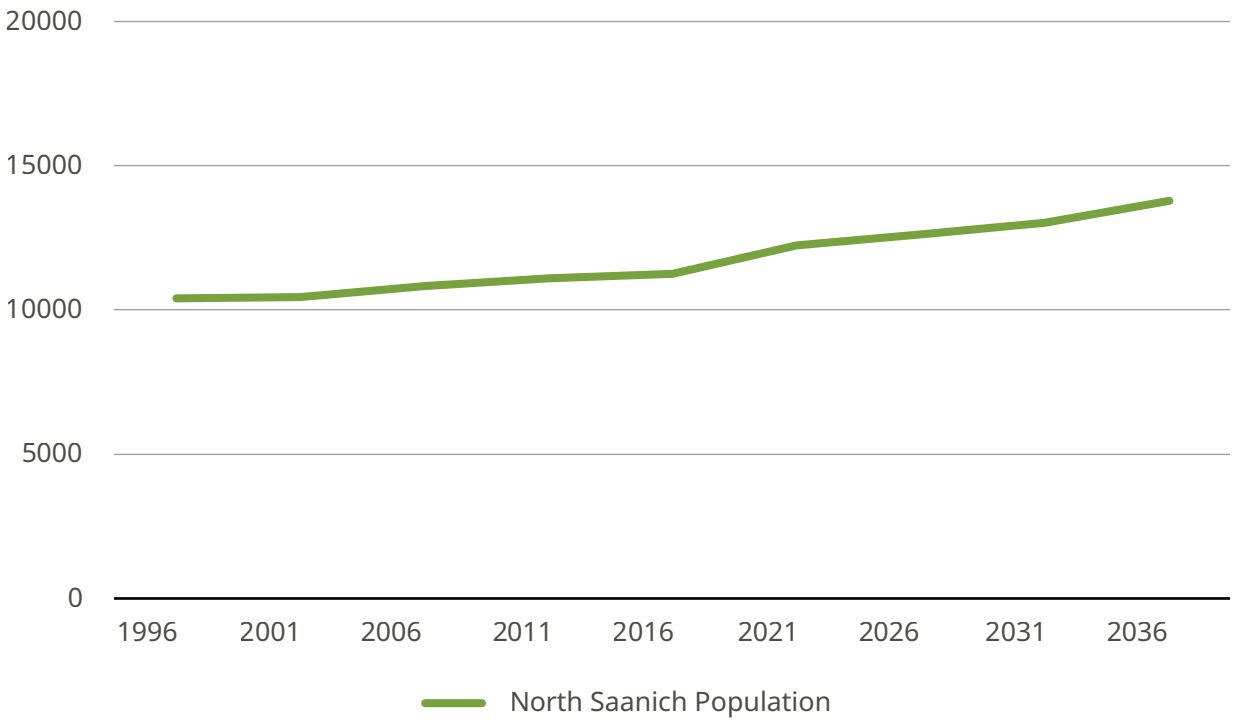
2.2 Demographics

2.2.1 Population and Community Profile

North Saanich is home to approximately 12,250 residents. The population increased by around 9% between 2016 and 2021 and is projected to include another 1,544 residents by 2036. For comparison, in 2021 the communities of Salt spring, the Highlands, and Cowichan Bay experienced higher population growth than North Saanich while Sidney, Central Saanich and Saanich experienced lower population growth.

According to Statistics Canada in the 2021 census, the median age of North Saanich residents is approximately 57 years old, which is significantly higher than the average in the CRD at 45. Between 2006 and 2016, the proportion of adults 65 and over increased from 22% to 32%, and then to 35% in 2021. This aging trend indicates that residents under 65 have grown older or have left without being replaced at the same rate with younger individuals aging in the community or moving to North Saanich.

Figure 3. North Saanich Population



The 2021 census indicated that 2.8% of North Saanich residents identify as Indigenous and 19.4% of residents are first generation immigrants. Further, 6.5% of residents belong to a visible minority.

The income of North Saanich residents is significantly higher than the median average within the CRD. Compared to the CRD, North Saanich has a much higher proportion of two-person households with approximately 50% in North Saanich and 38% in the CRD. Additionally, the District has a very high proportion of couples without children (48%).

North Saanich has a relatively low population density, at 302 per square kilometre. Compared to the CRD, North Saanich has a much higher proportion of single-detached dwellings and a lower proportion of other dwelling types. Generally, affordability is the most common housing standard not met in North Saanich, which is typical of regional and provincial trends. The highest distribution of residents in North Saanich is within the Dean Park and southern Tsehum areas, while the lowest distribution is within the Airport lands to the north in the Sandown area.

In addition to the North Saanich population, residents of Sidney are significant visitors to North Saanich parks. The Town of Sidney serves as the 'Urban Hub' for the central and northern Saanich Peninsula, and in turn North Saanich serves as the 'Recreation Hub' for the region. Sidney's population according to the Statistics Canada 2021 Census was 12,320 which is almost identical to that of North Saanich. In Sidney this population lives within 5.11 square kilometres, while North Saanich's population is spread out over 37.16 square kilometres meaning Sidney residents utilize the parks and trails in North Saanich.



2.3 Local Environment Review

North Saanich and the Saanich Peninsula lie within the rain shadow of Vancouver Island and the Olympic Mountains, which creates a dry, semi-Mediterranean climate. This unique area is called the Coastal Douglas Fir Moist Maritime Biogeoclimatic Zone (CDFmm), which is characterized by Douglas-fir forests interspersed with Garry oak savanna, Arbutus clearings, and specialized wetland and shoreline environments. In recent history, the ecology of the Peninsula has undergone significant change including due to urban development, agriculture practices, deforestation, fire suppression, and the introduction of new species. The CDFmm zone is currently the smallest and most at-risk zone in BC as it makes up just 0.3% of BC's total land area. It is home to the most species and ecosystems at risk in BC. However, only 11% of the CDFmm zone is protected in conservation areas.

Falling within this unique environmental context, North Saanich's parks provide important habitats, offer vital ecosystem services, and hold cultural significance for the WSÁNEĆ Nations, who have traditionally stewarded the lands and rely on the seafood and traditional foods they provide. These environments not only provide essential ecological functions like carbon sequestration, water filtration, and habitat, but also provide important interactions between residents and the natural world. Active stewardship that recognizes the historical as well as the contemporary ecological context is essential to preserve these invaluable natural assets.



2.3.1 Environmental Desktop Review

Protection of the marine and land-based natural environment is very important to the District. One of the objectives of the PMP is to review and consider the ecological features of the parks system including the shorelines, stream corridors, and green spaces (Refer to **Figure 4** – Environmental Review Map). An environmental desktop study was conducted by Urban Systems in the summer of 2023 within the District. Key components of the desktop study include:

- Regulatory considerations that include legislation and policies containing environmental direction and potential requirements that may be relevant for any future land development.
- Desktop review of the natural elements / environmental considerations that are relevant in the parks.
- Recommendations for protection of environmentally sensitive areas and valued components within the parks.
- Future considerations pertaining to environmental components prior to development activities.
- Mapping of the existing parks and the development permit areas from the Official Community Plan maps and schedules.

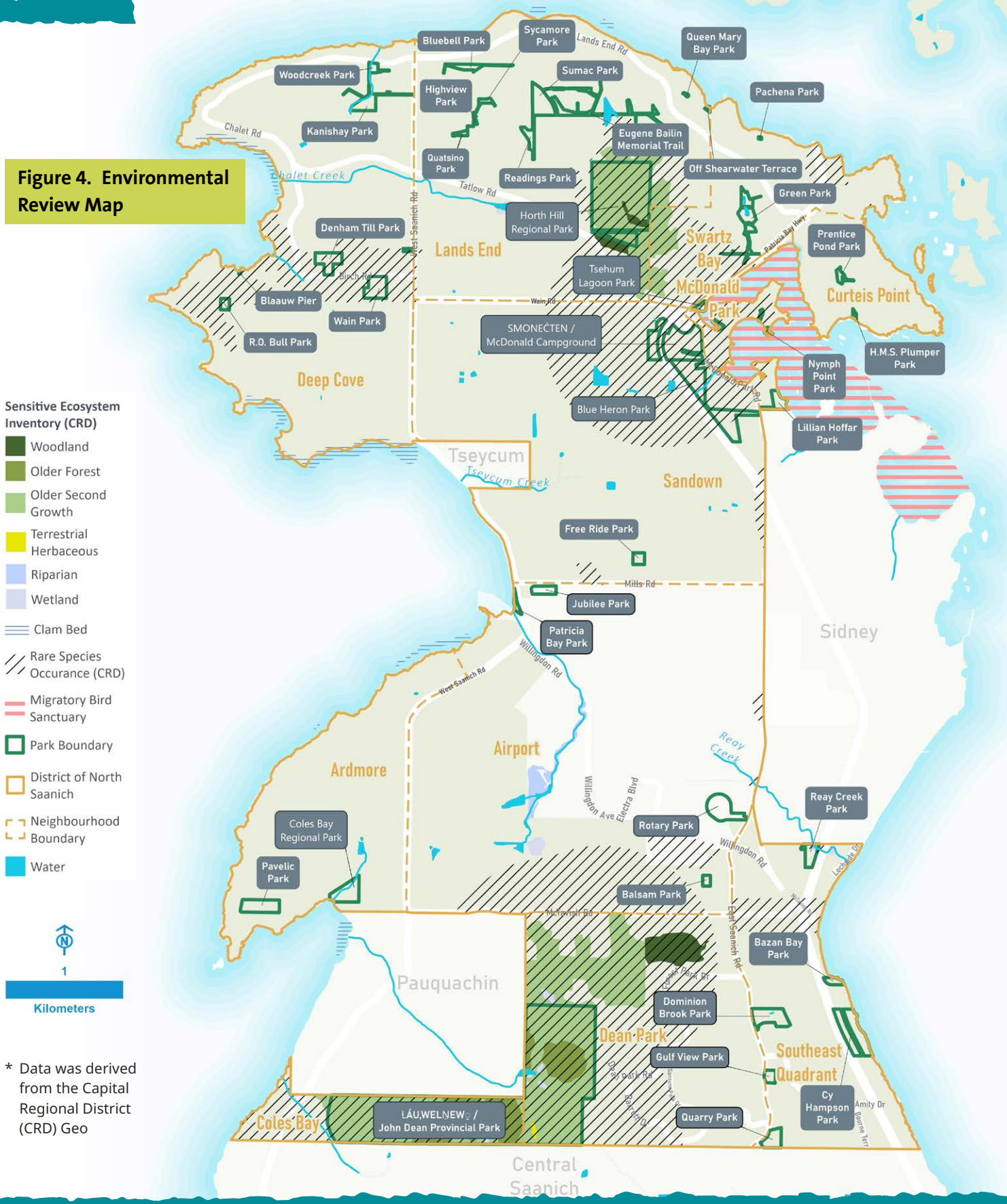
In North Saanich, various District-owned parks fall within environmental Development Permit Areas (DPA) (see **Figure 5** Environmental DPA Map). There are also many locations where North Saanich's parks fall within areas marked with rare species occurrences and where they abut clam beds and a migratory bird sanctuary (see **Figure 4** Environmental Review Map).

Key findings from the environmental report include:

- Identifies critical habitats and mapped species in North Saanich, including fish-bearing streams like Tseycum, Ten-ten, and Reay Creeks.
- Regulations protect these habitats with fish timing and risk reduction measures. Coastal management involves local, provincial, and federal levels.
- Shoreline restoration at access parks can improve eelgrass and fish spawning habitats.
- North Saanich is on the Pacific Flyway, hosting migratory birds protected by national and provincial laws, with Tsehum Harbour being a sanctuary for species like the Marbled Murrelet.

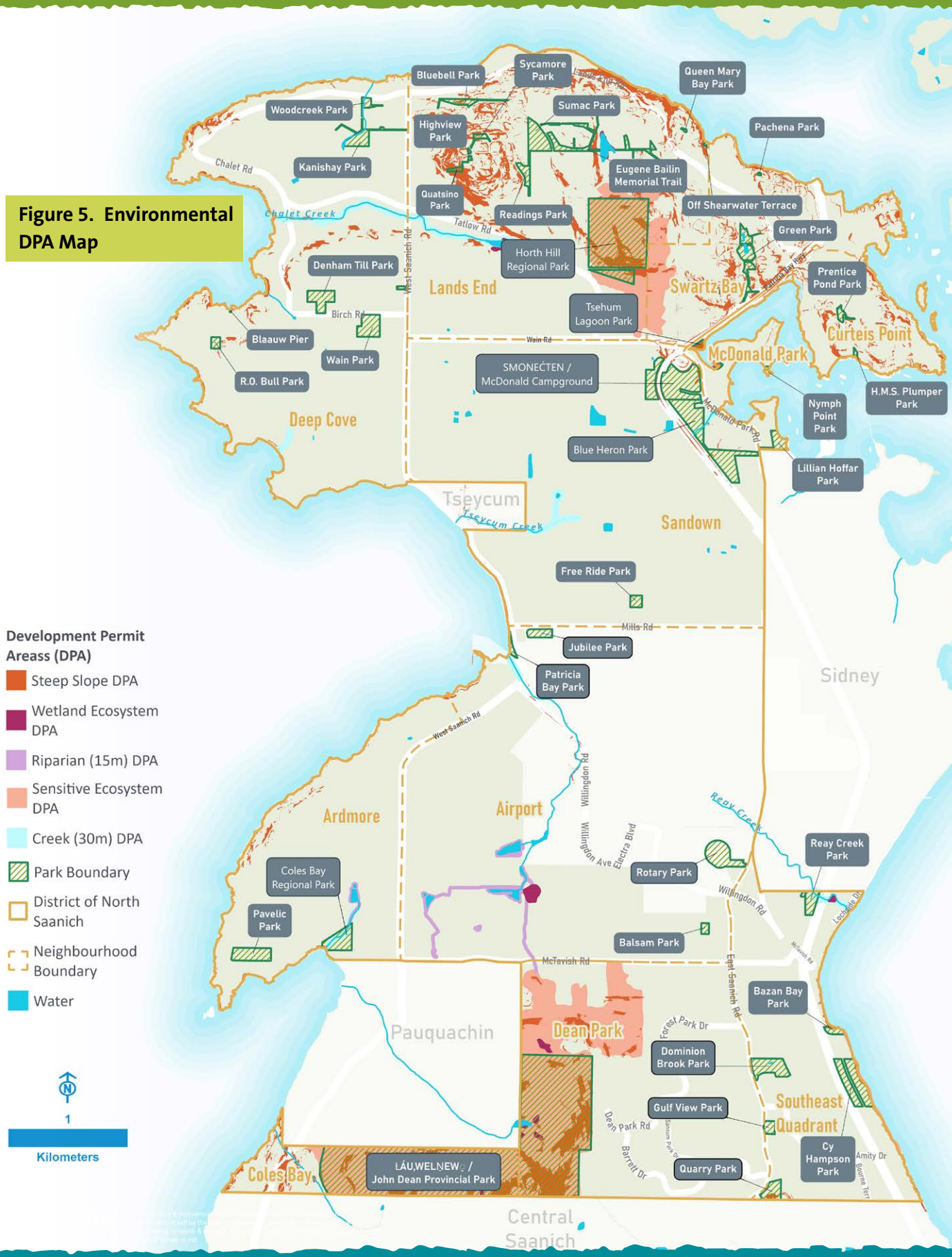
The full environmental report is provided in **Appendix B.**

Figure 4. Environmental Review Map



* Data was derived from the Capital Regional District (CRD) Geo

Figure 5. Environmental DPA Map







3.0 Community Input and Priorities

3.1 Community Engagement Process

The creation of this plan involved two distinct phases of community engagement to hear from residents and seek important input to shape parks planning in North Saanich. Engagement was guided by the project's Communications and Engagement Plan, and the process was designed to be collaborative, involving District residents, community groups, First Nations, District staff and Council.

A summary of the participation levels is shown below:

351 Responses to the Community Survey via Connect North Saanich

125 People attend the Public Open Houses

7 Visioning Workshops (First Nations and other contributors including community associations, planning commissions, parks advocacy groups)

4 Engagement pop up events

2 Open Houses

1 Visioning workshop with Mayor and Council

3.1.1 Phases of Engagement

Engagement took place alongside the development of the Plan to inform key outputs. Phase 1 (Fall 2023) helped the project team to develop a high-level vision and understand community priorities around park use, satisfaction levels, and desire for improvements. Phase 2 (Summer 2024) engagement coincided with the release of the draft Parks Master Plan, and it invited participants to read the draft plan and provide feedback on its contents. Detailed takeaways are described in the Phase 1 Engagement Summary and Phase 2 Engagement Summary.



3.1.2 Community Engagement Activities

Community engagement activities were designed to be interactive and informative.

Community Surveys

Surveys were conducted in Fall 2023 and Summer 2024 to hear directly from residents and other interested parties about key aspects of the plan's development. The surveys were hosted online on Connect North Saanich, but printed copies were also made available for pickup at Municipal Hall. The first survey received 209 total responses, and the second survey received 142.

Public Open Houses

The project team hosted two public open houses for participants to learn more about the plan in-person and discuss topics firsthand with the project team and North Saanich staff. There were approximately 80 open house attendees in November 2023, and roughly 45 attendees in June 2024.

Engagement Pop-ups

In November 2023, District staff facilitated four community "pop-ups" at key locations in the community. Staff were equipped with a District banner and information cards that promoted the survey and open house.

The pop-up locations were at The Roost, Fickle Fig, Deep Cove Market, and Panorama Recreation Centre.

Visioning Sessions

First Nations and special interest group contributors were identified early in the project planning process. They were invited to workshops with the project team.

- **Tseycum First Nation**
- **Parks Advocacy Groups**: Friends of North Saanich Parks, Friends of Dominion Brooks Park
- **Environmental Organizations**: Peninsula Streams Society, Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition
- **Community Associations (2 sessions)**: North Saanich Residents Association, The Terraces Neighbourhood Association, Woodcreek Strata, Eagle Ridge Strata, Eaglehurst Residents Association, Bazan Bay Community Association, Dean Park Estates Community Association, Lands End Residents, Save North Saanich, Property Responsibility on the Waterfront (PROW), McTavish Neighbourhood Community Group
- **Commissions:** Planning Commission, Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee, Agriculture Commission, Stewardship Commission, Healthy Communities Advisory Committee
- **Mayor and Council**

The following parties were invited to participate in visioning workshops but were unable to attend: Pauquachin First Nation, Eagle Ridge Strata.

3.2 Key Findings from Community Conversations

Phase 1

This phase focused on community visioning exercises, understanding current satisfaction levels with parks, and desire for future improvements.

Greatest Strengths

- Variety and quantity of parks and trails that provide connectivity.
- The beauty and abundance of the natural environment.
- Large number of beach access points.
- The maintenance of parks is good, despite the limited staff resources available.

Key Challenges

- Parking is a challenge at most beach accesses.
- Lack of coordination and resources to address invasive species management.
- Not enough trash receptacles and collection is too infrequent.

Vision

- Protect and enhance the natural areas including forests and creeks and maintain the rural character of North Saanich.
- Support and encourage a coordinated approach for volunteers to help protect the environment.
- Improve accessibility to parks, beaches, and trails.
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions and governing bodies for a peninsula-wide approach to management and planning.

Investment Considerations

- Provide support and resources for invasive species management.
- Provide naturalization methods and maintenance changes at the parks.
- Provide wayfinding information and interpretive signage at parks, trails and beach accesses.
- Expand the trail network.
- Increase Park staff resources.
- Address waste management in the parks.

Phase 2

This phase was designed to seek input on the draft Parks Master Plan, particularly support levels for its proposed vision, goals, and priority projects.



General Support For The Plan

- The draft vision and goals were rated positively by a majority of survey participants, suggesting a general level of support.



Community Priorities

- Patricia Bay Park, Wain Road Park, and Dominion Brook Park were the top 3 priorities for park enhancements.
- Beach access improvements (including ramps and stairs were considered a high priority for engagement participants.
- Environmental enhancements (e.g. drought tolerant plantings, bird boxes, etc.) was a preferred action for the District.



Importance Of Recreation

- This phase received numerous written comments related to the closure of the Wain Road pickleball courts.
- Participants stressed the importance of pickleball spaces like Wain Road Park to promote, social connection, and active living for people of all ages.



4.0

Vision, Goals and Objectives

A vision statement, goals and objectives are defined for the future of parks and trails in North Saanich to be used as a guide for future investments and actions.

4.1 Vision

The vision statement sets the overall direction of the Parks Master Plan:

> **Stretching from shore to land to shore, our parks and trails safeguard our environment, preserve the rural character of our community and support recreation.**

4.2 Goals and Objectives

Protect and Enhance our Natural Environment

- Protect more natural areas within parks to increase biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem services.
- Reduce the impact of development and redevelopment on riparian, shoreline, and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Encourage and support stewardship, including the management of invasive species.

Improve Connections Between Parks for Both People and Animals

- Integrate Park trails with the active transportation network.
- Encourage safe and accessible trails in new development areas.
- Establish new trails to improve connectivity between parks, neighbourhoods, and other community destinations.

Build Relationships, Partnerships and Communications

- Encourage peninsula organizations and neighbouring jurisdictions to collaborate on environmental management and park planning.
- Encourage and support volunteerism related to parks and trails.

Improve Park Planning, Design, and Park Amenities

- Establish guidance for park design and development to serve all people.
- Establish guidance for the acceptance and planning of donated land.
- Establish guidance for the shoreline access parks.
- Provide additional park amenities (e.g. Seating, rest areas, signage) to support community needs.
- Find opportunities to integrate more cultural amenities uses, and placemaking into parks (e.g. First Nations place names and associated signage)

Increase Park Management Efficiency and Services

- Use levels of service to guide park planning and operations.
- Match staff resources to maintenance and service needs.
- Work with partners on management strategies to protect the health and safety of natural areas.
- Establish systems for increased cleanliness within parks and trails.
- Establish and implement naturalization and nature-based solutions.

4.3 Guiding Principle

North Saanich has extensive parks and trails that are appreciated by residents. Improved management and upgrades of the existing parks and amenities is a priority over adding new parkland and amenities.





5.0

Trends and Best Practices

Examining trends and best practices in park planning offers insights for municipalities to manage their parks system. Highlighting successful approaches from various regions helps to identify opportunities for increased efficiencies, sustainable practices, and equity, among others. By leveraging this knowledge, the PMP works to meet current needs and anticipate and adapt to future demands.

In this section, five topic areas will be discussed. They are:

- Naturalization
- Dogs in Parks
- Park Planning & Design
- Levels of Service & Park Management
- Inclusivity

For a fulsome explanation of each topic, including examples from other cities and how they have been implemented, refer to **Appendix C**.



5.1 Park Naturalization

Naturalization is a growing trend in park management that aims to incorporate more natural elements into existing parks, transitioning from heavily maintained, ornamental landscapes to habitats that better mimic local natural environments. This approach is increasingly popular across Canada and the United States, particularly in areas where parks require substantial human upkeep. Naturalized parks focus on creating ecosystems that enhance biodiversity, improve ecosystem services, and reduce maintenance demands.

However, naturalization presents challenges, including public perception and maintenance concerns. Communities may worry that less frequent upkeep could lead to issues like increased pests or wildfire risk. To address these concerns, municipalities often engage in public education and outreach efforts. Successful examples from cities like Edmonton and Vancouver show that clear communication about what to expect from naturalized areas—using diagrams, graphics, and informational sessions—can help mitigate concerns and build public support for these ecological improvements.

One domain that naturalization has been particularly useful in is the transition from mown lawn areas to meadow habitats. Lawns not only require significant upkeep and maintenance, but they also offer little ecological value. Some communities may not require the number of mown areas in order to meet their recreational needs and find that naturalization and the creation of meadow areas to be more aligned with their community needs and values.









5.2 Dogs in Parks

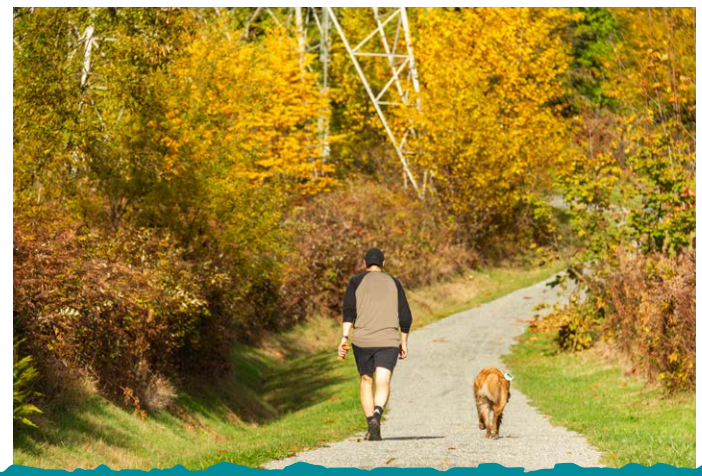
As more communities embrace the benefits of responsible dog ownership, there is a growing trend towards developing designated off-leash areas in parks and trails. This shift recognizes that well-managed off-leash spaces can enhance the quality of life for both dogs and their owners while reducing conflicts with other park users. Best practices in dog management now include creating a variety of off-leash parks—ranging from large, amenity-rich destination parks to smaller neighborhood areas—each designed to meet diverse needs and preferences. These areas often feature clear signage, appropriate surfacing and fencing, and amenities such as waste stations to ensure a positive experience for all visitors.

Communities must also be mindful of environmental impacts when planning off-leash areas. To protect sensitive ecosystems, dog parks are increasingly situated away from high biodiversity zones and water bodies. Effective design includes using natural boundaries or low-profile fencing to delineate off-leash areas and implementing strategies to manage dog waste responsibly. By integrating these practices, communities aim to balance recreational opportunities for dogs with the need to preserve natural habitats and minimize user conflicts.









5.3 Park Planning and Design

The effectiveness of parks to deliver the many benefits that they can provide hinges significantly on thoughtful planning and design. Engaging professionals, such as Landscape Architects and Qualified Environmental Professionals, from the early stages of planning so that parks are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the community and environment. While municipalities can handle minor enhancements internally, major interventions benefit from the expertise of planning and design professionals. Collaborative efforts between municipalities and these experts yield parks that optimize functionality, inclusivity, and sustainability, thereby maximizing their positive impact on the community.

Many communities across BC have design guidelines, procedures and standards that are part of their development requirements and application processes. These guidelines often include standardized details, technical specifications, and best management practices that provide municipalities with clear direction for planning and design initiatives.







5.4 Levels of Service, Park Amenities, and Asset Management

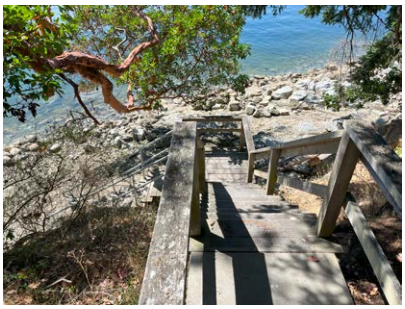
Levels of Service (LOS) encompass standards for park amenities, maintenance, operations, and asset management that guide the planning, development, and management of parks. These standards are developed to meet community needs and expectations and manage workflows and budgets. Many Canadian municipalities are defining their LOS intentionally to balance demands and available resources.



The amenities that parks provide their community should reflect the needs and values of current and anticipated future users. For instance, many communities are beginning to look critically at the traditional design of parks and consider how age-friendly amenities that promote social cohesion and inclusion may be implemented. Further, more consideration for natural features that often require less maintenance and may offer a greater sense of place are being prioritized in the design and planning of parks.



Despite their function, any amenity within parks are assets. Asset management programs in municipalities have been expanding in recent years beyond the traditional focus on roads and utilities. Many municipal asset management programs now include parks, park assets, and natural assets. Municipalities are beginning to recognize the value of natural and engineered green infrastructure assets. Some communities are creating asset management plans that include a detailed inventory of all these assets, including lifecycle expectancy and replacement costs



The maintenance of park assets and amenities plays an important role in the perceptions of parks and their resulting use. Many municipalities are experiencing tension between increasing park use and maintaining parks to expected standards in a context where resources are decreasing. To address this, parks staff are adopting more sustainable practices, such as reduced mowing and watering, integrated pest management with minimal pesticide use, and data-driven maintenance strategies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

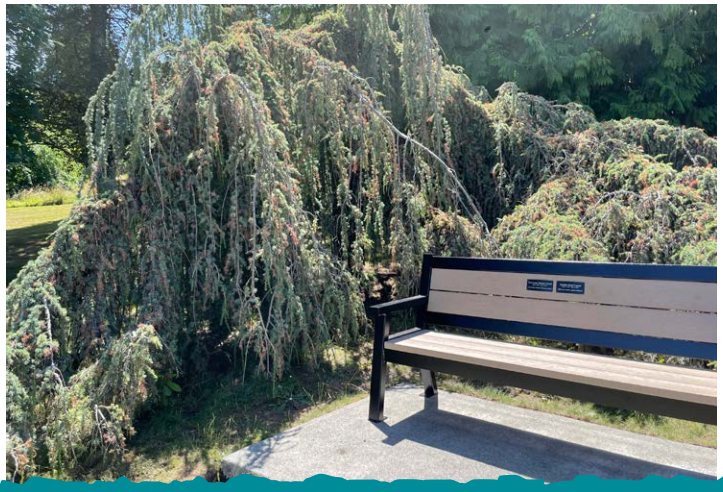


5.5 Inclusivity

Inclusivity in parks is the purposeful design and management of park space, amenities, and infrastructure to promote the equitable access of these resources to all people. Inclusive parks and trails are essential for enabling all people to have access to the important services that they provide. Best practices such as universal design can be employed to promote the use of parks and trails for people with varying abilities. Further, critically analyzing the stories that are communicated in park spaces, as told through park names, memorial sites, and interpretive signage, can be a useful process to determine whether or not the full breadth of a community's cultural heritage is being represented.









Section B. **Analysis**

The following section provides an analysis of the North Saanich parks and trails system. This includes integration and evaluation of the existing inventory, classifications, supply ratios, community input, and the strengths and challenges of the North Saanich parks and trails system.



6.0 Parks

6.1 Parks Inventory and Analysis

6.1.1 Parks Classification

The classification of parks and open spaces can help to provide an understanding of the various functions and intended uses of parkland, which can be a useful planning and management tool.

The following is the proposed classification system for parkland in the District of North Saanich. Some parks are difficult to classify because they fit into more than one definition. In those cases, the most appropriate category is selected based on park use.

The parks classification has been applied to all parks within the municipal boundary lines. Regardless of jurisdiction (federal, provincial, regional, or society), these classifications help with planning and management. For planning, they allow for effective analysis of the park system, ensuring equitable access and walkability to parks. They also guide decisions on future amenities and improvements. For example, large playgrounds or spray parks are more suited to community parks, while smaller neighborhood parks require different, scaled-down enhancements. This approach ensures park developments are appropriate and meet community needs.

North Saanich Parks Classification Categories:

1. Community Park
2. Neighbourhood Park
3. Nature Park
4. Shoreline Access Park
5. Linear Park
6. Special Purpose Park
7. Undeveloped Park

Other Lands with Park Values:

- School Sites
- Privately Owned Park-like Spaces (POPS)
- Cemetery Lands
- Recreation Centre Sites

The table on the following page outlines the typical elements, size and maintenance levels of service for each of the park classifications.

Table 2. Parks Classifications

Type	Size	Purpose/Consideration	Maintenance Levels of Service
Community Park	Park Size, Current Range- 1.0-10.0ha Ideally a minimum of 1.0ha. Range is min 1.7-6.0 ha	• Destination parks that serve residents from throughout the district and visitors to the area. • Usually provide visual, physical, and social focus of the community. • Offer natural features and/or built facilities, cultural features, and open space. • May include amenities such as sports fields, dog parks, shoreline access, larger playgrounds (spray parks, multi-age play structures) sport courts, signs (wayfinding, interpretive, and regulatory), trails, and parking lots. • Offer diverse activities – picnics, special events, sports, play, viewing, trail uses.	• Regular: • Mowing established areas intended for open space use and recreation. Other areas intended for naturalization should receive infrequent mowing. • Path and trail maintenance • Vegetation maintenance • Porta Potty maintenance • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal • Equipment maintenance (play structures, benches, etc.) • As Required: • Signage maintenance • Parking area maintenance • Weeding (by volunteers)
Neighbourhood Park	Ideally a minimum of 0.2 ha.	• Generally, serve the catchment area similar to that of an elementary school. • Form the visual, physical, and social focus of a neighbourhood. • Typically include play equipment, pathways, signs (park name), open grass, and seating; may also include other recreation amenities.	• Regular: • Mowing • Path and trail maintenance • Equipment maintenance (play structures, benches, etc.) • Vegetation maintenance • As Required: • Signage maintenance • Parking area maintenance • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal • Weeding (by volunteers)

Nature Park	Typically, large but can be smaller. Range is 0.1-5.1 ha	• Dominated by natural features such as forests and watercourses, often including environmentally sensitive areas. • Recreation usually includes trail uses and opportunities for nature appreciation, • Amenities may include trails usually gravel or dirt), parking lots, signs (wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive), and gathering areas.	• Regular: • Path and trail maintenance • Vegetation maintenance • As Required: • Signage maintenance • Parking area maintenance • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal
Shoreline Access Park * this includes both developed and undeveloped shoreline parks	Typically, 0.01-1.2 ha	• Sites that provide access from upland areas to the ocean shoreline, or access to viewpoints over the water. • Include trails, viewing areas. • Amenities may include parking, and boat launches. • May be destination parks such as pocket beaches, others exist for access only. • Considered secondary to other types of parks that may also be located on the waterfront.	• As Required: • Stairs and ramp maintenance • Signage maintenance • Parking area maintenance • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal
Linear Park * this includes both developed and undeveloped linear parks.	Variable – Range is 0.01-3.3 ha	• Corridors for the purpose of supporting a path or trail. • May have amenities such as benches, small pieces of playground equipment, staging areas, and signs. • Some of the undeveloped linear parks are natural areas considered for wildlife habitat.	• Regular: • Path and trail maintenance • Equipment maintenance (benches, etc.) • Vegetation maintenance • As Required: • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal

Special Purpose Park	Variable – Range is 0.03-1.0 ha	• Destination areas with specific and unique roles.	• Regular: • Porta potty maintenance • As Required: • Signage maintenance • Parking area maintenance • Equipment maintenance • Garbage receptacle maintenance and litter removal
Undeveloped Park	Variable Range is 0.02-3.5 ha	• Sites that are currently undeveloped but hold potential for future amenities or trails. • Some sites have unofficial paths or trails but lack signage and generally do not receive ongoing maintenance.	• As Required: • Limited fire smart management

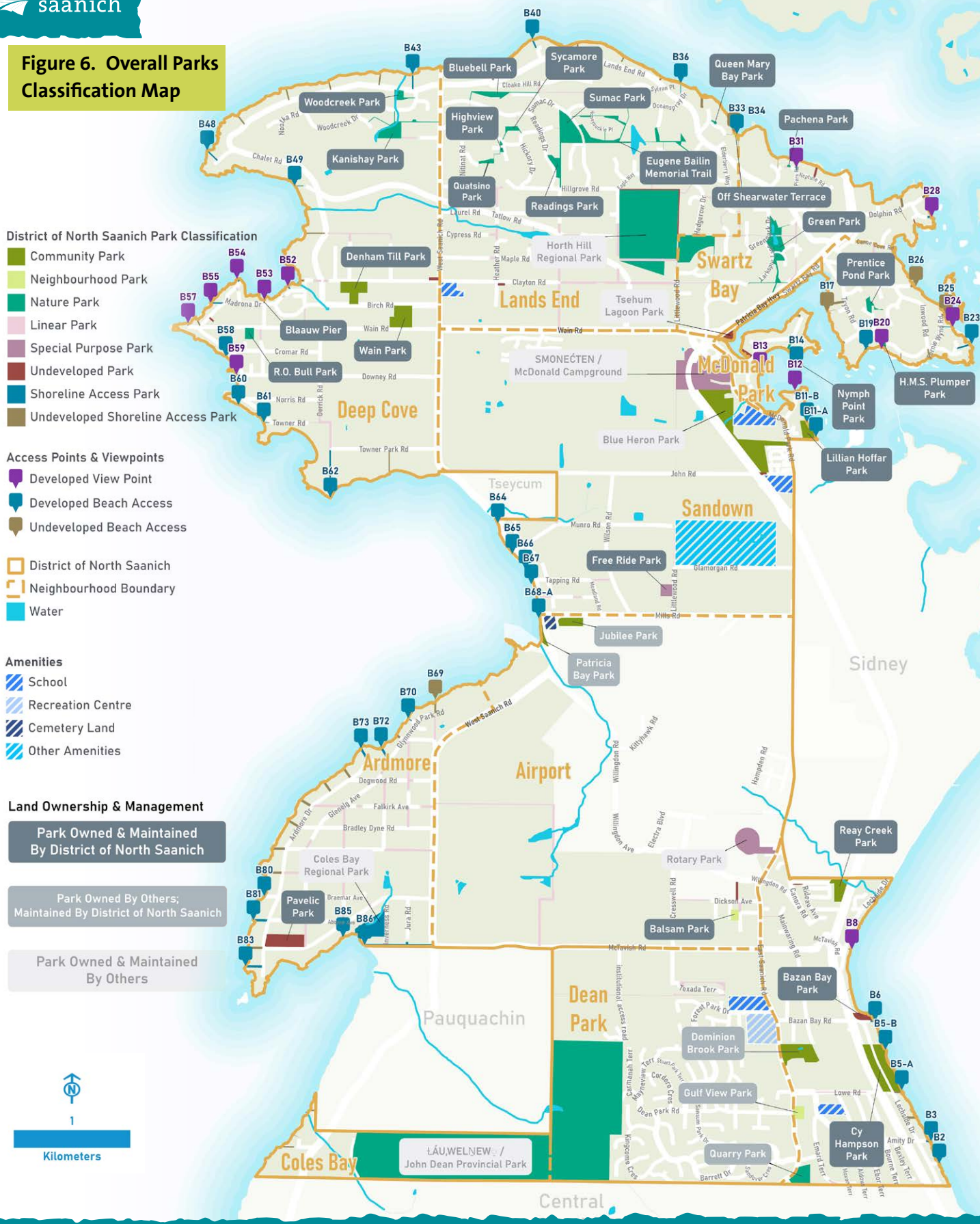
6.1.2 Other Parks and Lands Providing Park Values

The following are parks and other lands with park values.

Table 3. Other Parks and Lands

Type	Size	Purpose/Consideration	Locations
School Sites	Variable	• The green space of the public-school sites (school buildings and parking lots are excluded). • Included because the land has park values. • Land size is tabulated separately from parks because school sites are subject to change by the School District.	• North Saanich Middle School • Parkland Secondary School • Deep Cove Elementary School • Kelset Elementary School • Allegro Performing Arts School
Cemetery Lands	Variable	• Lands with burial sites that generally have park values.	• Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery
Other	Variable	• Other lands that offer park values like food security initiatives • Recreation centre sites	• Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture • Panorama Recreation Centre

Figure 6. Overall Parks Classification Map



6.1.3 Parkland Inventory

The below graphic shows the parkland inventory within the municipal boundaries of North Saanich. Parks in the municipality are managed by different ownership and jurisdictional categories, including municipal, provincial, federal, and regional authorities. There are three main categories:

1. Parks owned and operated by the District of North Saanich (e.g., Wain Park)
2. Parks operated by North Saanich but owned by other jurisdictions or organizations (e.g., Dominion Brook Park)
3. Parks owned and operated by other jurisdictions (e.g., Blue Heron Park)

Table 4. Parks Summary Table

	Parks owned and operated by the District of North Saanich	Parks operated by North Saanich and owned by other jurisdictions / organizations	Parks owned and operated by other jurisdictions / organizations
Community parks **9 parks** **36.71 ha**	**5 parks** • Cy Hampson Park • Denham Till Park • Lillian Hoffar Park • Reay Creek Park • Wain Park (15.74 ha)	**3 parks** • Dominion Brook Park • Jubilee Park • Patricia Bay Park (5.95 ha)	**1 park** • Blue Heron Park (10.44 ha)
Neighbourhood parks **3 parks** **1.71 ha**	**2 parks** • Balsam Park • Unnamed (0.72 ha)	**1 park** • Gulf View Park (0.99 ha)	**n/a**

	Parks owned and operated by the District of North Saanich	Parks operated by North Saanich and owned by other jurisdictions / organizations	Parks owned and operated by other jurisdictions / organizations
Nature parks **20 parks** **192.42 ha**	**17 parks** • Bluebell Park • Eugene Bailin Memorial Trail • Green Park • H.M.S. Plumper Park • Highview Park • Kanishay Park • Nymph Point Park • Pachena Park • Prentice Pond Park • Quatsino Park • Queen Mary Bay Park • R.O. Bull Park • Readings Park • Sumac Park • Sycamore Park • Woodcreek Park • Green space (no name) (25.43 ha)	**1 park** • Quarry Park (2.13 ha)	**2 parks** • Horth Hill Regional Park • ŁÁU,WELṈEW̱/John Dean Provincial Park (164.86 ha)
Developed shoreline access parks **35 parks** **8.33 ha**	**34 parks** (4.73 ha)	**n/a**	**1 park** • Coles Bay Regional Park (3.6 ha)
Linear parks **91 parks** **31.75 ha**	**91 parks** (31.18 ha)	**n/a**	**n/a**
Special purpose parks **4 parks** **16.4 ha**	**2 parks** • Blaauw Pier • Free Ride Park (1.02 ha)	**n/a**	**2 parks** • McDonald Campground • Rotary Park (15.38 ha)

	Parks owned and operated by the District of North Saanich	Parks operated by North Saanich and owned by other jurisdictions / organizations	Parks owned and operated by other jurisdictions / organizations
Undeveloped parks **18 parks** **7.58 ha**	**17 parks** • Bazan Bay Park • Donated Farm • Green space (no name) • Pavelic Park • Tsehum Lagoon Park (6.98 ha)	**n/a**	**1 park** (0.6 ha)
Undeveloped shoreline access parks **46 parks** **5.25 ha**	**46 parks** (5.25 ha)	**n/a**	**n/a**

6.1.4 Parkland Supply Analysis

Parkland supply is analyzed using three different methods. Many municipalities use population-based standards to calculate and plan their supply of developed parkland. The additional analyses of area-based supply and spatial distribution can increase the understanding of parkland supply and needs for future parks.

Parkland supply standards are controversial, with some believing that the quantitative approach detracts from a qualitative consideration of parks and recognition that conditions are unique in every municipality. In BC, even where standards are not embraced for their inherent value, they are often used to assist in the calculation of park development cost charges (DCCs).

In many jurisdictions, parkland supply standards are used as a guideline, rather than a definitive requirement. Park supply standards can be applied in a flexible manner so that a full range of park types are available to all residents. They also enable a community to measure their supply over time, and to compare themselves with other communities.

Parkland Supply And Linear Parks

The District of North Saanich has an abundance of long, narrow park parcels that equal to 31.7 hectares and approximately 40% of the District's total parkland. Currently, the primary function of these park parcels is to support trails used for activities such as walking, cycling and equestrian use. While these uses are important, linear parks can serve additional functions with the addition of amenities such as picnic sites and park benches, interpretive signage, and even small pieces of play equipment. This is particularly useful in neighbourhoods with limited adjacency to other park types traditionally holding more of these amenities.

For instance, in areas such as the Ardmore neighbourhood, linear parks make up most of the District-owned parkland while the neighbourhoods of Dean Park and the Southeast Quadrant are primarily served by community parks such as Cy Hampson and Dominion Brook.

Population-Based Analysis

Population-based parkland supply is typically calculated on the more active types of parkland such as community and neighbourhood parks. **Table 5** illustrates the existing supply of active parkland in relation to the population within the District now and in the future. It is expected that rural residents will travel to urban areas for active recreation opportunities in parks.

Table 5. Population-Based Analysis

Park Type	Parkland Area (ha)	2021 Population: 12,235 (ha/1000)	2036 Population: 13,779 (ha/1000)
Community Parks	32.13	3.0	2.7
Neighbourhood Parks	1.71	0.1	0.1
Other (Linear, Developed Shoreline Access Parks, Special Purpose)	56.48	4.2	3.8
Sub-Total	90.32	7.4	6.6
Nature Parks	192.42	15.7	14.0
Undeveloped Areas (including Undeveloped Parks and Undeveloped Shoreline Access Parks)	12.81	1.0	0.9
Cumulative Sub-Total	295.55	24.2	21.5
School Sites (no buildings)	12.8	1.2	1.0
Recreation Centre Sites (no buildings)	5.3	0.3	0.2
Other Amenities (Cemetery and Sandown Centre) – no buildings	34.3		
Total	**347.9**	**25.6**	**22.7**

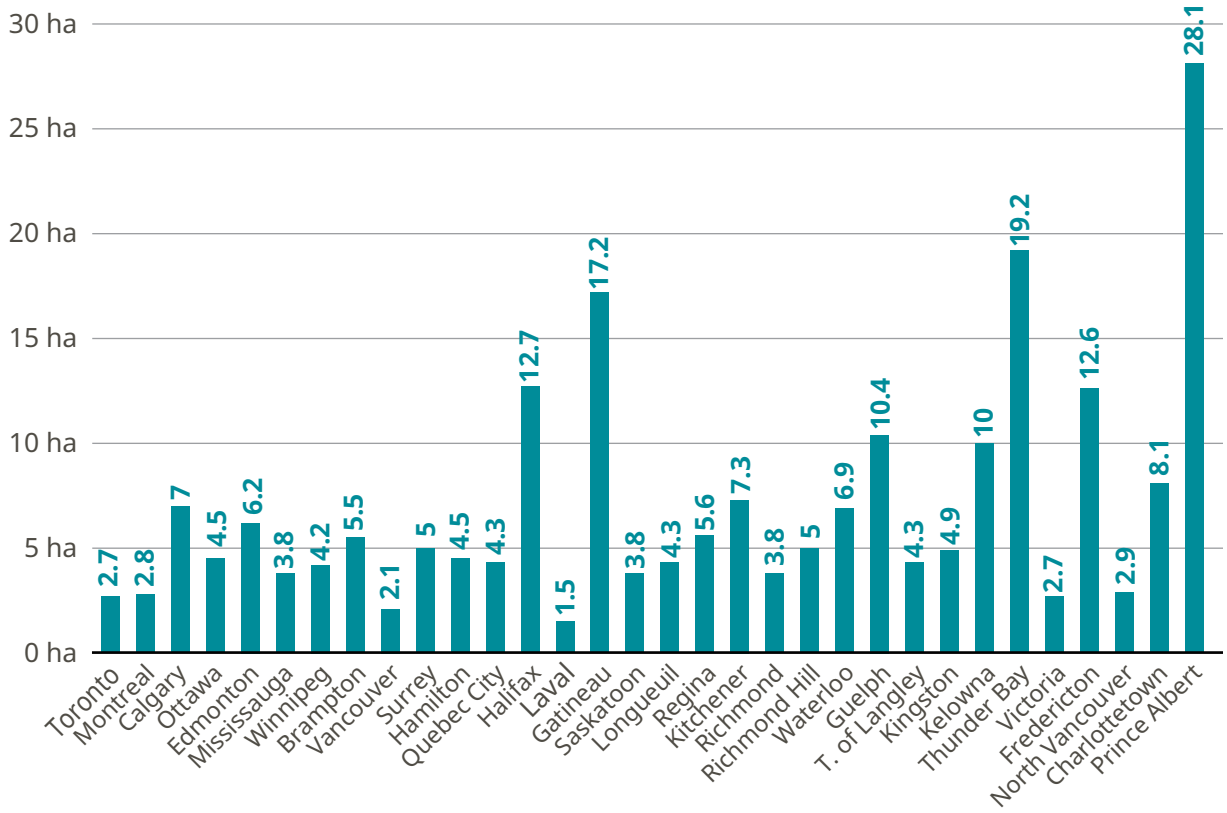
The current supply of active parkland, including parks run by other jurisdictions but NOT including nature parks, undeveloped parks, school grounds or recreation centre sites is 7.4 ha/1,000 population (based on a current population of 12,235). If the District were not to acquire any additional parkland until 2036 despite an anticipated population growth to 13,779, the active parkland supply would drop to about 6.6 ha/1,000 population. With nature parks and undeveloped parks added, these numbers are 24.2ha/1,000 population in 2021, decreasing to 21.5ha/1,000 people in 2036. With school sites, recreation centre sites, nature parks and undeveloped parks added, these numbers are 25.6 ha/1,000 population in 2021, decreasing to 22.7 ha/1,000 population in 2036.

While school sites add to the active parkland supply in many cases, the District does not have control over these sites, and most are unavailable for community use during school hours. The District also has limited control over recreation centre sites (Panorama Recreation Centre), however facilities here are available for public access and use at all times.

The number of hectares (ha) of municipal parks per 1,000 people can vary significantly across municipalities in British Columbia, as it depends on local policies, geographic factors, and available land. For many years the Canadian standard for supply of active parkland (usually community and neighbourhood parks) was 4 ha/1,000 population. With trends towards increasing density, especially within downtown cores, supply standards have been decreasing. The general range in urban areas of BC is typically between **2 to 4 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents**, with some cities exceeding this average. Municipalities with smaller land areas, which are mostly built out, cannot meet the traditional supply standards due to the high land values and lack of available undeveloped land. North Saanich has a generous supply of active parkland in comparison.

In rural and smaller communities across British Columbia, the ratio of municipal parks per 1,000 residents tends to be higher than in urban areas due to more available land. Typically, rural areas can have parkland ratios ranging from **5 to 10 hectares per 1,000 residents**, with some communities potentially exceeding this depending on their land use priorities and natural surroundings. While there is no “correct” amount of parkland per population, it is helpful to review and understand similarly sized communities to reveal common trends.

Figure 7. Parkland supply in Canadian communities



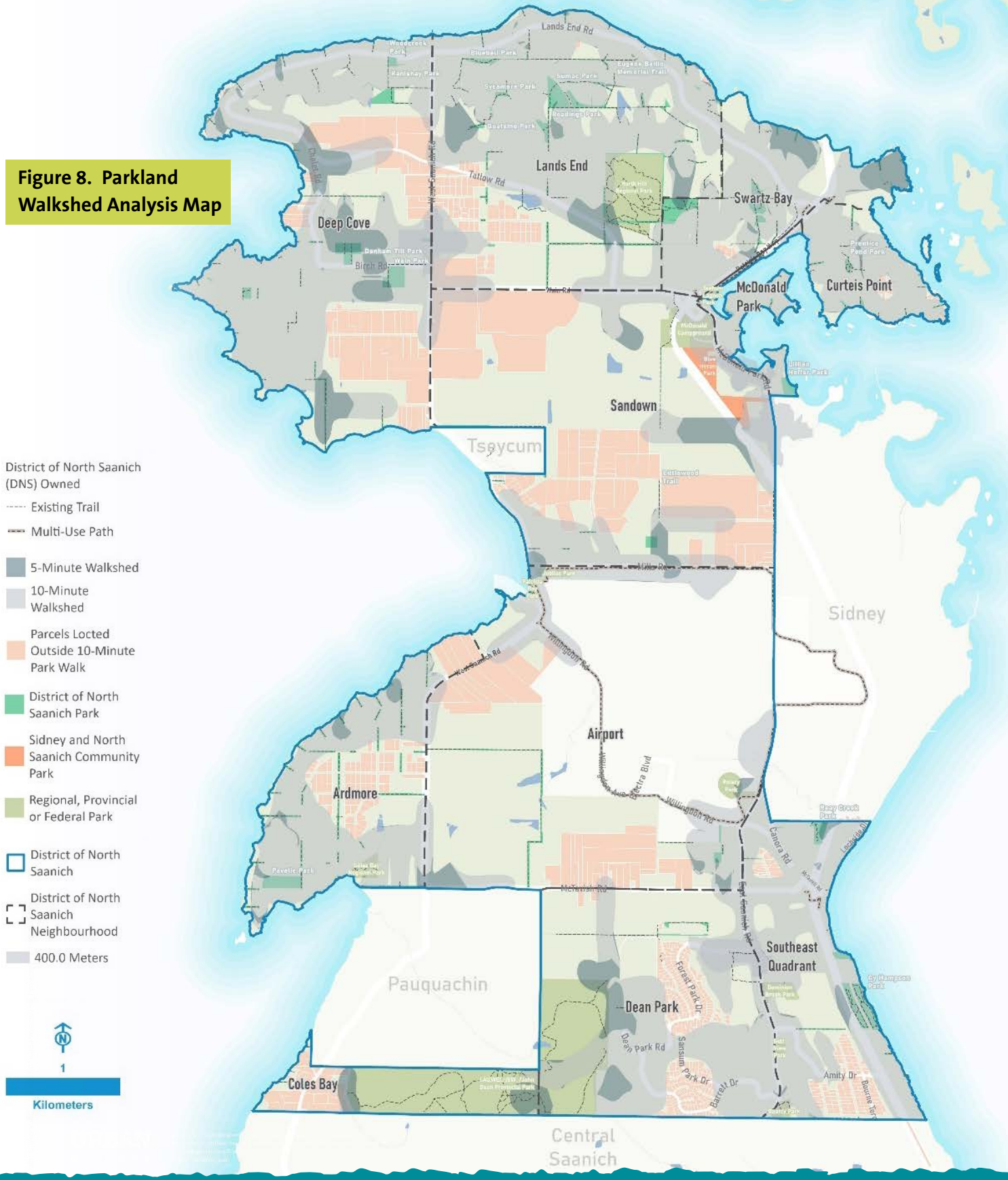
Source: www.ccpr.parkpeople.ca

Walking Distance Analysis

Another way to analyze parkland supply is by spatial distribution, or the distance people can walk to access a park. The Parkland Walkshed Analysis Map (**Figure 8**) illustrates the approximate walking distances to parks in North Saanich. This analysis is based on target walking distances of 5- and 10-minutes, (400 and 800metres respectively) from community parks, developed shoreline access parks, nature parks, school sites, recreation centre sites and parks owned by other jurisdictions. This is a common approach for measuring parkland supply.

Figure 8 illustrates the residential parcels of the District that do not currently have access within a ten-minute walk from their homes. Most of these areas are larger single-family lots with private yard space. These typically have less need for access to park spaces. Since North Saanich is a rural community, it is important to recognize that many residents access parks by car.

Figure 8. Parkland Walkshed Analysis Map



Parkland Percentage Analysis

A third way of measuring parkland supply is in relation to land area. Some municipalities have targets of 12 – 15% of their total land area occupied by protected areas, consistent with provincial standards. This measure typically includes open space, natural areas, and parks managed by other municipal, provincial and federal governments. **Table 6** illustrates the parkland supply by area. North Saanich, with 8.0% of its 3,686-ha land base in parks and protected areas, has just below the average amount of parkland by this measure.

Table 6. Parkland Percentage Analysis

Park Type	Park Count	Area (ha)	% Of Total Area
Community Park	9	32.13	0.9%
Linear Park	92	31.75	0.9%
Nature Park	20	192.42	5.2%
Neighbourhood Park	3	1.71	0.0%
Shoreline Access Park	35	8.33	0.2%
Special Purpose Park	4	16.4	0.4%
Undeveloped Park	18	7.56	0.2%
Undeveloped Shoreline Access Park	46	5.25	0.1%
Total		**295.55**	**8.0%**

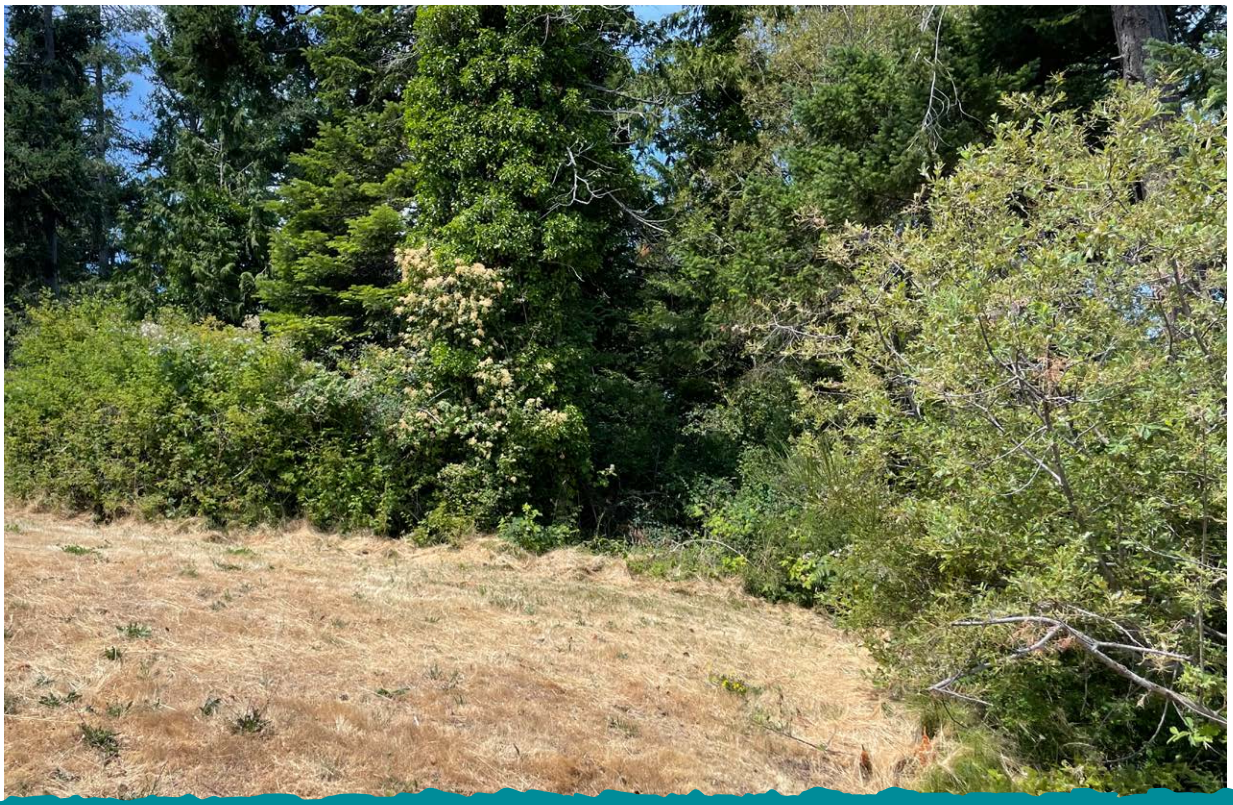
Other Parks	Count	Area (ha)	% Of Total Area
Recreation Centre	1	5.3	0.14%
Schools	5	12.8	0.35%
Other Amenities (Cemetery, Farm)	2	34.3	0.93%
Cumulative Total		**347.9**	**9.4%**
Provincial Target			**12 – 15%**

Donated Land

Over the years, some parcels of undeveloped parkland in North Saanich have been donated by private landowners. Sometimes (but not always) there are stipulations that the land remain in its natural state through preservation agreements for a term. Other times, the land has a conservation covenant or a park designation.

While acquiring additional land enhances the District's park system, it also requires careful consideration of the planning, maintenance, and operation implications. Understanding the unique ecological and recreation potential of each parcel demands significant resources and expertise. Therefore, the District must allocate human resources to effectively manage and steward these new assets. The amount of parkland in North Saanich is abundant in the community so it may not always be in the best interest of North Saanich to absorb these additional parcels into the park system.

The donated land parcels that have been gifted to the District are forested parcels that would fall into the park classification of nature park. There are some options for the District – hold these as conservation lands, potentially involving a stewardship group in their management, or make these available as nature parks with trails and a sign. The latter option would require more District management.



6.1.5 Parks Evaluation

This section provides a description and evaluation of all developed parks inclusive of all land that is owned by other jurisdictions/organizations.

Table 7. Park Evaluation

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Community Parks					
Blue Heron Park	Saanich Peninsula Memorial Park Society	One soccer field, artificial turf fields, Peninsula Soccer Association club house	Trail maintenance requests often come to North Saanich as Memorial Park Society is resource challenged	• Parking Area • Picnic Sites • Toilets • Playing Fields	• Walking/ Hiking • Dog Walking • Baseball/ Soccer
Cy Hampson Park	District of North Saanich	Large, paved parking area, lawn, fenced, picnic area and benches, accessible walking trail, toilets (One porta potty, not handicap accessible), water tap, rocky beach, stairs, water views, water access, garbage receptacles, wildlife viewing, open fields	Ambiguous off-leash dog area programming, parking needs re-design, repaving of asphalt pathway required, no double gates Handicap bathroom, proper water fountain, additional garbage receptacles, clarify signage rules	• Paved Parking Lot (800m²) • Gravel Parking Lot (350m²) • Porta Potty (1) • Paved Path (1000m) • Gravel Path (1000m) • Picnic Tables (9) • Benches (7) • Garbage Receptacles (4) • Stairs>Rock/ Concrete (18m) Wire Cattle Fence (1500m) • Gates (4) • Water Tap	• Walking/ Hiking • Beach Activities • Bird Watching • Dog Walking • Scenic View

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Community Parks (continued)					
Denham Till Park	District of North Saanich	Historic area, orchard, parking area, beautiful picnic area for event space Playground, swing set, wooded area, wildlife viewing, trails	Aging playground amenities, aging building vestiges, no washrooms, no water, septic field requires decommissioning, aging orchard trees need maintenance Structure fire hazard, Trail update required for GIS, Maintenance plan required for orchard	• Swing set • Benches (2) • Picnic tables (1) • Play Structure • Gravel path (300m) • Gravel Parking Lot (500m²) • Decorative Fence (100m)	• Open Field
Dominion Brook Park	Government of Canada	Large area, historic arboretum (national historic value), stream and pond, large field area, large trees, good sign kiosk, maintained by Friends of Dominion Brook, potential for rainwater management Maintained by District staff along side the Society of Dominion Brook Volunteers, porta potty, walking, open areas, wildlife viewing	Aging amenities, invasive species was observed. The pond and water features are failing in several locations, causing erosion and sediment problems and should undergo remediation. The fence around the pond should be removed upon completion of remediation Improve irrigation required	• Porta Potty (1) • Benches (3) • Gravel Parking Area (550m²) • Rock/Concrete Path (80m) • Gravel Path (350m) • Wooden Picnic Structure • Two District Registered Dams • Garbage Receptacles (1) • Decorative Fence (100m)	• Walking/ Hiking • Bird Watching • Dog Walking • Scenic View

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Community Parks (continued)					
Jubilee Park	Government of Canada/ Victoria Airport Authority	Well-used, destination park, playground w/ rubber surface, shade sail, picnic area, exercise groups, connects to the Flight Path Has garbage receptacles	Land is leased from the Airport but maintained by DNS, no sewer system or flushing toilets, small parking lot but room for expansion	• District Play Structures • Shade Sails • Gravel Parking Lot (700m²) • Garbage Receptacles (1) • Paved Path (180m) • Rubber Surface • Picnic Tables (4) • Bench (1)	• Open Field • Play Structures
Lillian Hoffar Park	District of North Saanich	Abuts the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, wooded, waterfront park, parking, interpretive signage, garbage, established planting, large trees, heritage value, kayak access, high use	Derelict boats in harbour, garbage overflow due to live-a-board boats in harbour, encampment	• Beach Access • Concrete Break Water (50m) • Concrete Shore Wall (225m) • Gravel Parking Lot (300m²) • Paved Path (235m) • Gravel Path (120m) • Picnic Table (1) • Benches (5) • Information Kiosk • Garbage Receptacle (1) • Large Park Sign (1)	• Walking/ Hiking • Beach Activities • Bird Watching • Scenic View

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Community Parks (continued)					
Patricia Bay Park	Government of Canada/ Victoria Airport Authority	Portion of the park is a wheelchair accessible waterfront, panoramic views, sunset viewing, paved trails, parking lot, memorial benches, picnic tables, public toilet, shoreline trail (Scoter Trail), tidal flats, seabirds, possible active and/or historic clam garden in the Bay	Limited capacity parking lot, beach access improvements needed Accessible washroom required	• Paved Parking Lot (560m²) • Gravel Parking Area (110m²) • Information Kiosk • Porta Potty (1) • Paved Path (400m) • Gravel Path (900m) • Picnic Tables (3) • Benches (17) • Garbage Receptacles (1) • Stairs>Rock/ Concrete (15m) • Stairs>Concrete (30m) • Stairs>Wood (5m) • Large Park Sign (1)	• Walking/ Hiking • Beach Activities • Bird Watching • Dog Walking • Scenic View
Reay Creek Park	District of North Saanich	Community Gardens, fish bearing stream, parking Gravel walking trail with bridge to Sidney park to Peter Grant Park in Sidney	Environmental protection and enhancement, trail connectivity	• Paved Parking Lot (245m²) • Gravel Path (250m) • Wooden Gazebo • Water Tap • Bridge> Concrete/ Wood (2) • Bridge> Aluminum (1)	• None

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Community Parks (continued)					
Wain Park	District of North Saanich	Substantial parking, multiple tennis, decommissioned pickleball courts, large open space area, swing set	Aging washrooms, improved drainage needed, aging baseball facilities, aging swing set, improvements needed to basketball court	• Paved Parking Lot (600m²) • Gravel Parking Lot (800m²) • Washroom Permanent with Septic Field (1) • Gravel Path (150m) • Picnic Tables (3) • Benches (2) • Pickleball (4 courts) • Tennis (2 courts) • Garbage Receptacles (2) • Basketball Court • Swing Set • Baseball Diamonds (2) • Large Park Signs (2)	• Baseball/ Soccer
Neighbourhood Parks					
Balsam Park	District of North Saanich	Picnic areas, playground, large mown grass area, used by neighbours Two swing sets	High maintenance, aging play structures	• Playground Structure • Swing Sets (2) • Picnic Table (1) • Gravel Path (80m)	
Gulf View Park	Government of Canada	Picnic tables, great view of the ocean, historic relics Gravel parking lot	North Saanich provides mowing and maintenance		
Unnamed Greenspace	District of North Saanich	Near Swartz Bay off Shearwater Terrace			

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Nature Parks					
Bluebell Park	District of North Saanich	Forested area, walking and horseback riding trail Use for walking/ bike riding/ horseback	Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (400m)	• Walking/ Hiking
Eugene Bailin Memorial Park	District of North Saanich	Nature Trail, connects to Sumac Park Use for walking/ bike riding/ horseback	Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (2,000m)	• Walking/ Hiking
Green Park	District of North Saanich	Connects to Horth Hill, connects to roads throughout area, two ponds and open meadow, Use for walking/ bike riding/ horseback	Regular trail maintenance	• Grave Path (1,285m) • Picnic Table (1) • Bench (1)	• Walking/ Hiking
Green Space-Unnamed Park	District of Saanich				
H.M.S. Plumper Park	District of North Saanich	Has Beach Access Point B20. Viewpoint only, looped trail with bench	Update trail on the GIS	• Large Park Sign • Gravel Path (100m)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Nature Parks (continued)					
Highview Park South	District of North Saanich		No trails, no maintenance, there are two portions sometimes referred to as Highview Park North or South	• Green Space	• None
Horth Hill Regional Park	Capital Regional District	No District responsibility for park			
Kanishay Park	District of North Saanich	Wooded and wetland area, horseback riding trails Use for walking/ bike riding/ horseback	Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (770m)	• Walking/ Hiking
ŁÁU,WELṈEW̱ / John Dean Provincial Park	Province of British Columbia	No district responsibility for park			
Nymph Point Park	District of North Saanich	Abuts the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, waterfront, Breakwater – marine traffic viewing, Multi-use trail with picnic table and benches	Separated by Marina lands, Derelict boats in harbour, garbage overflow due to live-a-board boats in harbour, encampment.	• Large Park Sign • Gravel Path (80m) • Bench (2) • Picnic Table (1) • Stairs>Wooden (8m)	• Walking/ Hiking • Bird Watching • Scenic View
Pachena Park	District of North Saanich	Walking, nature trail that connects roads Multi-use trail		• Gravel Path (63m)	• Walking/ Hiking

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Nature Parks (continued)					
Prentice Pond Park	District of North Saanich	Historically stocked with trout	Existing walking trail needs to be inspected, existing registered dam	• Gravel Path (615m) • District Registered Dam	• Walking/ Hiking
Quarry Park	Province of BC, Leased by DNS	Historic site – old Quarry, nature trails One loop Multi-use trail, picnic table	Steep trails No designated parking area	• Gravel Path (300m) • Picnic Table (1) • Large Park Sign	• Walking/ Hiking • Bird Watching • Dog Walking
Quatsino Park	District of North Saanich	Green space	Currently no maintenance	• Green Space	• None
Queen Mary Bay Park	District of North Saanich	Multi-use trail	Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (10m)	• Walking/ Hiking
R.O. Bull Park	District of North Saanich	Old growth, nature/forest trail Multi-use trail	Limited parking Regular trail maintenance, no designated parking	• Gravel Path (180m) • Large Park Sign	• Walking/ Hiking
Readings Park	District of North Saanich	Trails, nature walk Multi-use trail	Regular trail maintenance, no designated parking	• Gravel Path (640m)	• Walking/ Hiking • Dog Walking • Horseback Riding
Sumac Park	District of North Saanich	Large 4ha park, multiple loop trails, trails connect to Horth Hill, horseback riding trails, great hiking Multi-use trail	Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (880m)	• Walking/ Hiking, Horseback Riding

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Nature Parks (continued)					
Sycamore Park	District of North Saanich	Views, picnic area Multi-use trail	Limited parking Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (330m) • Stairs>Wooden (10m)	• Walking/ Hiking
Woodcreek Park	District of North Saanich	Hosts multi-use/ connector trail, nature experience Multi-use trail	No amenities Regular trail maintenance	• Gravel Path (160m)	• Walking/ Hiking
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named)					
B2	District of North Saanich	East end of Wardle Road Beach access, stairs to water	Yes	• Gravel Path (5m) • Stair>Concrete/Rock (12m)	
B3	District of North Saanich	East end of Amity Drive Beach access, stairs to water, benches		• Gravel Path (40m) • Benches (2) • Stairs> Concrete/ Rock (8m)	
B6	District of North Saanich	East End Bazan Bay Road. Three parking spaces, shoreline access, nice trees, sewer overflow outfall, rocky beach, treed area in fence Beach access	Fenced green area, steep trail to beach	• Gravel Path (40m) • Stairs>Concrete (5m) • Bench (1)	
B8	District of North Saanich	1900 Block of Lochside Drive Viewpoint and bench		• Bench (1)	
B12	District of North Saanich	North End of Blue Heron Road Viewpoint and bench		• Bench (1)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named) (continued)					
B13	District of North Saanich	East end of McMicken Road Viewpoint and bench		• Bench (1) • Gravel Path (55m)	
B19	District of North Saanich	South end of Beach Road. Beach access to pebbled beach, good view Beach access with bench	Limited parking	• Stairs>Concrete (5m) • Bench (1) • Gravel Path (40m)	
B23	District of North Saanich	Northeast End of Tryon Road New beach access with stairs		• Gravel Path (110m) • Stairs>Wood (10m)	
B24	District of North Saanich	Mid Fernie Wynd Road on East Side Viewpoint and bench		• Gravel Path (85m) • Bench (1)	
B28	District of North Saanich	East End of Gullhaven Road Viewpoint only		• Gravel Path (20m)	
B31	District of North Saanich	Corner of Pachena Place and Neptune Road Viewpoint and bench		• Gravel Path (10m)	
B33	District of North Saanich	Beach Access with newer stairs		• Gravel Path (250m) • Stairs>Wood (20m)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named) (continued)					
B36	District of North Saanich	East end of Junco Road. Flat rock and shell beaches, forest trail, parking area improved/re-paved Currently closed	Steep and rotting wooden staircase Failing stairs	• Stairs>Wood (80m) (Currently Closed)	
B40	District of North Saanich	North end Seabreeze Road Beach access, concrete stairs		• Gravel Path (70m) • Stairs>Concrete (10m)	
B43	District of North Saanich	Near Woodcreek Park Beach access, wooden stairs	Regular maintenance	• Gravel Path (120m) • Stairs>Wooden (10m)	
B48	District of North Saanich	West End of Moses Point Road. Shoreline access, small pocket beach, biodiverse area Beach Access	Limited parking, not universally accessible Regular maintenance	• Gravel Path (100m) • Bench (1)	
B49	District of North Saanich	West end of Tatlow Road. Large Beach, good swimming, evening sun, views across Saanich Inlet, kayak launch, decent parking, historic area Beach Access	Regular maintenance	• Gravel Path (70m) • Stairs>Concrete (5m)	
B52	District of North Saanich	North side of Meldram Drive Viewpoint with bench	Regular maintenance	• Gravel Path (25m) • Bench (1)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named) (continued)					
B54	District of North Saanich	North End of Setchell Road Viewpoint with bench		• Gravel Path (25m) • Bench (1) • Stairs>Wood (3m)	
B55	District of North Saanich	Madrona Drive and Setchell Road. Sunset view, beach access, stairs Viewpoint with bench	Limited parking, not universally accessible	• Gravel Path (90m) • Bench (1)	
B57	District of North Saanich	West end of Coal Point Lane Viewpoint with bench		• Stairs>Wood (2m) • Bench (1)	
B58	District of North Saanich	West end of Cromar Road Beach Access, concrete stairs with bench		• Gravel Path (40m) • Bench (1) • Stairs>Concrete/ Rock (7m)	
B59	District of North Saanich	West End of Downey Road. New aluminum stairs, parking, small mown area, beach access, beautiful cove Beach Access, bench, aluminum stairs	Invasives – Himalayan blackberry (took over planted area) No parking sign No parking	• Gravel Path (20m) • Bench (1) • Stairs>Aluminium (16m)	
B60	District of North Saanich	West end of Norris Road Beach Access, concrete and rock stairs		• Stairs> Concrete/ Rock (16m)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named)					
B61	District of North Saanich	West end of Towner Road -Beach Access, concrete and rock stairs, and bench	No parking	• Gravel Path (40m) • Bench (1) • Stairs>Concrete/ Rock (8m)	
B62	District of North Saanich	Warrior Point Beach access, wooden stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (385m) • Stairs>Wood (7m)	
B70	District of North Saanich	West End of Briarwood Place. Swimming, small boat/paddling launch, pebble beach Beach Access, stairs and bench	Parking limitations, garbage issues, overgrown, new staircase needed down bank	• Gravel Path (32m) • Stairs> Concrete (2m) • Bench (1)	
B72	District of North Saanich	Glenelg Avenue and Ardmore Drive. Quiet, natural Beach Access, stairs and bench	Parking limitations	• Gravel Path (100m) • Stairs> Wood (3m) • Bench (1)	
B73	District of North Saanich	Bay View Beach Access Ardmore Drive Beach Access, stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (100m) • Stairs> Wood (3m) • Bench (1)	
B80	District of North Saanich	Popular bench at top, great sunset views, small pocket beach, swimming, interesting rock types, sand Beach Access, stairs and bench	Limited parking	• Stairs> Concrete (10m) • Bench (1)	

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Developed Shoreline Access Parks (Un-named)					
B81	District of North Saanich	West End Aboyne Avenue Beach Access, stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (100m) • Stairs> Wood/ Concrete (10m) • Bench (1)	
B83	District of North Saanich	Near Yarrow Point Beach Access, stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (135m) • Bench (1)	
B85	District of North Saanich	South End Hartfell Avenue Beach Access, stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (10m) • Stairs> Rock/ Concrete (10m) • Bench (1)	
B86	District of North Saanich	West End of McTavish Road Beach Access, stairs and bench		• Gravel Path (45m) • Stairs> Concrete (3m) • Bench (1)	
Special Purpose Parks					
Free Ride Park	District of North Saanich	• Mountain biking infrastructure, well used, various levels • Covered picnic bench	• Limited parking • Garbage disposal	• Biking, Parking Area • Picnic Area • Picnic Shelter • Porta Potty (1) • Water Tap • Information Kiosk • Garbage Receptacles (1) • Fenced Chain Link (400m) • Gate (2) • Large Wooden Viewing Deck	• Mountain Biking

Park	Ownership	Description of the Park and Strengths	Observed Challenges and Needs	Park Amenities (From DNS Data)	Park Activities (From DNS Data)
Special Purpose Parks (continued)					
Blaauw Pier	District of North Saanich	• View of marina activities, novel experience, parking, eel grass bed below • Viewpoint	• Aging pier • Limited parking, no access to the water	• Wooden Pier (85m)	
Rotary Park	Government of Canada/ Victoria Airport Authority	• Owned by Victoria International Airport, maintained by Sidney and North Saanich. Five baseball fields, large gravel parking lot	• Maintenance requirements	• Parking Area • Toilets • Playing Fields	• Baseball
SMONEĆTEN (McDonald) Campground	Government of Canada (Gulf Islands National Park)	Wooded campground facility		• Pit toilets • Water • Picnic tables • Vehicle • Walk-in camping sites	• Camping

6.2 Comparable Communities' Analysis

Comparing the number, amount, and area of parks between communities is important because it helps assess equity for access to green spaces, supports public health by evaluating recreational opportunities, and informs urban planning decisions. It also highlights environmental sustainability efforts, as parks contribute to biodiversity and climate resilience. By comparing these metrics, communities can identify disparities, promote fair distribution of resources, and enhance overall quality of life. The following tables include comparison of parkland supply and recreational amenities.

6.2.1 Park Supply Comparison

Table 8 is a summary of the park and trail system supply for comparable communities based on population-based parkland supply across British Columbia.

Table 8. Summary of the park and trail system supply for comparable communities

	Average	North Saanich	Sooke	Powell River	Summer-land	Central Saanich
Population	14,462	12,472	15,421	14,072	13,000	19,742
Population Density per km²	**343**	**335**	272	455	175	478
Total Number of Parks	**84**	**170**	136	33	23	58
Total Number of Municipal Parks	78	152	125	33	23	55
Total Number of Non-Municipal Parks	7	13	6	n/a	n/a	3
Total Park Hectares (Municipal Active Parkland)	**163.75**	**79.5**	215.3	164.4	278.9	80.7
Municipal Active Parkland (Community, Neighbourhood, Developed Shoreline, Linear and Nature Parks) **Ha/1000 residents**	**11.29**	**6.36**	13.9	10.6	21.5	4.1
Total Park Hectares – Municipal + All Other Parklands (Federal, Provincial, Regional, School District)[1]	**775.22**	**300.72**	2881.7[2]	182.3[2]	302.8[3]	208.6[3]
Municipal + All Other Parklands (Federal, Provincial, Regional, School District) **Ha/1000 residents**	**61.86**	**24.1**	187.1	13.0	23.3	10.6

1 This analysis only includes park lands that are within the municipal boundary of the reference community.

2 Does not include buildings and parking lots in school sites.

3 Does include buildings and parking lots in school sites.

6.2.2 Outdoor Recreation Facility Provision

Park amenity supply can be evaluated by comparison with other communities. The summary below shows the park amenities in North Saanich compared to other similarly sized BC communities. Although useful as a rough comparison, each community has different needs based on community demographics.

Table 9 shows the numbers of recreation amenities in North Saanich compared to the average numbers for four other BC municipalities with populations between 13,000 and 20,000.

Table 9. Comparative Amenities Analysis

	Average	North Saanich	Sooke	Powell River	Summerland	Central Saanich
Population	14,941	12,472	15,421	14,072	13,000	19,742
Outdoor Facilities						
Grass soccer/football fields	8	4[4]	7	14	9	6
Grass Baseball/softball Fields	10	7[5]	12	13	9	9
Synthetic turf sports fields	1	2[6]	1	1	0	0
Basketball Courts	5	4[7]	6	7	1	5
Pickleball Courts	2	1[8]	1	2	2	1
Tennis Courts	4	8[9]	0	4	5	3
Combined Pickleball/Tennis Courts	1	0	2	0	1	1
BMX/Bike Skills Parks	1	1	1	1	0	0
Off-Leash Dog Parks	0	0	0	1	1	0
Water/Spray Parks	0	0	0	1	1	0
Playgrounds	11	8[10]	10	13	10	11

4 These are on School District Lands.

5 Two fields are on District land at Wain Park; however they are not currently maintained for functional softball or baseball play. Five fields are at Rotary Park which is managed by Pennisula Baseball Association.

6 None of these are on District Lands. Two are at Blue Heron Park.

7 The one District-owned court has one hoop and is located at Wain Park and requires upgrades for useability.

8 One court is located at Panorama Recreation Centre which is owned and operated by the CRD. Other facilities in Central Saanich and Sidney are available.

9 Two courts are District-owned and are located at Wain Park. Two courts are located at Panorama Recreation Centre and are owned and operated by the CRD. Four courts are on School District land at Parkland Secondary School.

10 Three playgrounds are District owned at Jubilee Park, Balsam Park, and Denham Till Park. One is located at Panorama Recreation Centre which is owned and operated by the CRD. Four are located on school land.

6.3 Key Findings for Parkland and Recreation Analysis

Parkland and Accessibility

1. North Saanich has an abundance of parkland per resident, surpassing the provincial average, though gaps exist in walking access to parks, especially at the neighborhood level.
2. Many community parks do not fall within a 400 or 800m walking distance from homes, largely due to the district's rural character and large area relative to its population.
3. The district has few designated neighborhood parks, but functions like play areas and walking spaces are provided by shoreline access parks and school sites.
4. North Saanich has a high supply of nature parks, which offer access to green spaces and nature experiences, though they do not provide the same recreational amenities as other park types.
5. The overall percentage of land dedicated to parks is relatively low compared to other BC jurisdictions, primarily due to the district's rural, agricultural land use and low population density.

Outdoor Recreation and Amenities

6. Outdoor recreation amenities in North Saanich are generally comparable to similar communities, with multi-use courts and tennis courts. However, the District has fewer grass soccer fields, but synthetic turf fields compensate for this. There is a shortage of baseball fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds.
7. Many existing playgrounds are aging and in need of replacement, representing an opportunity for improvement.
8. The community has expressed a desire for more washrooms, seating, picnic areas, upgraded playgrounds, a waterpark, and enhanced lighting in parks.
9. Limited boat ramps, accessible beach accesses, and parking at parks present challenges, particularly for those with mobility impairments or wheelchair users.

Specific Park and Facility Concerns

10. Residents have requested that Cy Hampson Park be designated as an off-leash dog park.
11. In the spring of 2024, the pickleball courts at Wain Park were closed. During preparation of the PMP, a lot of feedback was captured about this matter, from both impassioned residents against the closure and neighbourhood residents relieved by the decision. The District understands that pickleball is an important topic for the community that requires review.

Planning and Management

12. Additional planning measures are needed for the management and evaluation of donated parkland.

6.4 Parks Community Input Highlights

The following section contains key findings from the community engagement process, extracted from multiple surveys and open house activities. For additional information, please see the Phase 1 and 2 engagement summaries in **Appendix D**.

6.4.1 Popular Parks

Most Visited Community Parks

Patricia Bay Park, Wain Park, Dominion Brook Park, Cy Hampson Park, Denham Till Park

Most Visited Nature/Neighbourhood Parks

Scoter Trail, Woodcreek Park, Sycamore Park, Readings Park, Queen Mary Park

Most Visited Shoreline Accesses

Warrior Point, Moses Point Road, Tatlow Road, Downey Road, Norris Road.

6.4.2 Participation at the Parks

How People Access Parks

1. Walk
2. Use personal vehicle
3. Bike
4. Run
5. Roll

Why People Use the Parks

1. Walking
2. Nature/wildlife viewing
3. Walking dogs
4. Exercise
5. Other

Why People Use the Beach Access Parks

1. Beach walks
2. Beach activities and swimming
3. Paddle sports
4. Use boat launch
5. Other

6.4.3 Satisfaction with Parks

Throughout community engagement, residents expressed a deep level of appreciation for North Saanich's natural beauty and a high level of satisfaction with current parks and amenities. Maintaining the District's rural and natural character emerged as one of the major themes, but engagement participants also provided concerns and opportunities for improvement.

Among the primary concerns were waste disposal, washrooms and recreation opportunities. There was desire for waste receptacles at parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses to improve cleanliness at these locations. Washrooms and washroom maintenance were also highlighted as important.

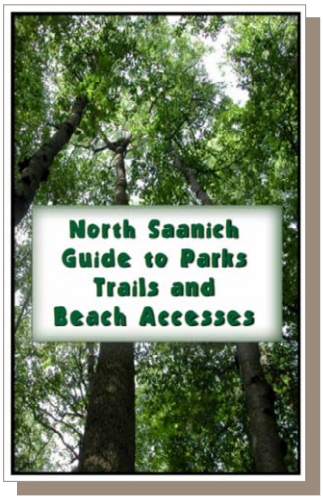
Needs for recreation opportunities emerged during the project, with many participants urging the District to provide more spaces to play pickleball and the inclusion of sound control. New amenities like outdoor yoga spaces, barbeque areas, and lawn bowling were proposed, indicating a desire for diverse recreational offerings.

Other concerns that emerged were parking challenges near beach accesses, steep stairways that are unsuitable for kayakers or paddleboarders, and considerations for equestrian activities during park planning.

6.4.4 Dogs in Parks

Residents provided significant feedback on dogs in North Saanich. Many appreciate parks and trails that accommodate dogs, particularly Cy Hampson Park, which is highly valued and attracts visitors from across the peninsula. There is a strong desire for more off-leash areas, especially in the northern part of the community. Concerns include potential new regulations similar to those in the District of Saanich and the need for better enforcement of existing dog policies to ensure safe and enjoyable spaces for both dogs and their owners.

6.4.5 Accessibility and Inclusivity in Parks



Community feedback highlighted the need for enhanced accessibility and inclusivity in parks. Key points include making parks and multi-use paths accessible where possible, providing parking, maintaining clear and barrier-free paths, offering accessible washrooms with extended hours, and including regular seating and accessible playgrounds. Additionally, lighting major pathways and addressing safety perceptions are crucial.

6.4.6 Wayfinding and Information Signage

During the community engagement process, there were specific comments made about wayfinding:

- There were many comments of appreciation for the park and trail guide and map document. Some residents expressed the desire for the document to be further developed and improved (e.g., online tool with digital trails noted) while an equal number of residents preferred that the resource remain as is.
- Many respondents expressed a desire for wayfinding signage at parks, trails, and beach access parks.
- There is a desire for interpretive signage to highlight natural, cultural, and historical significance in parks.

6.4.7 Priorities for Capital Improvements

Engagement participants identified specific priorities for North Saanich to focus its future implementation efforts.

Parks improvements

- Patricia Bay Park, Wain Park, Dominion Brook Park

Beach and shoreline accesses

- West end of Tatlow Road
- Access improvements (including ramps, stairs, pathways) at popular locations

Environmental enhancements

- Habitat enhancement projects, including
  - Planting drought-tolerant / climate adaptive species
  - Installing bird, bat, and bee boxes
- Naturalization initiatives ("letting nature be nature")

Recreation

- Local spaces for people to play pickleball
- Other recreation opportunities, including basketball court upgrades, lawn bowling, tennis, and walking soccer
- Family-friendly amenities, such as playgrounds
- Recreational boat launch, particularly for kayak and paddleboards

6.5 Parks Strengths and Challenges

The following is a summary of the overall strengths and challenges related to the existing North Saanich parkland.

Strengths	Challenges
• **Extensive parkland** North Saanich has a significant amount of parkland, including provincial and regional parks such as John Dean and Horth Hill. • **Extensive shoreline** The amount of shoreline available with community access is very high in comparison to other communities on the Peninsula. • **Unique parkland** North Saanich's park assets are unique. There is a high amount of natural area, mature and unique species of trees, and shoreline access. • **Supportive residents** The community of North Saanich has strong values around access to natural spaces. The District has been gifted many parcels of land to be used for park space. • **Place-based** Signs created by local residents have an agrarian feel and character. • **Heritage** There is lots of history and heritage value within park spaces. • **Ecological diversity** The parks system hosts a variety of ecosystem types.	• **Lack of management plans for the parks** There are no individual plans that seek to manage the parks, assets, and future development of them. • **Maintenance and administration** The District has limited capacity to maintain existing and future parks. • **Extensive grass mowing requirements** The District currently provides lawn mowing for an area of 16.45ha. • **Future development** Population in the Saanich Peninsula is estimated to increase by 12.6% by 2036 which may require more developed community/neighbourhood parks. • **Increased use** As the population of the peninsula grows, increased use of parks will require more maintenance and infrastructure. • **Low park infrastructure** Many parks lack amenities such as waste receptacles, water fountains, and washrooms. • **Aging infrastructure and low play value** Some parks within the District have aging playgrounds. There are also newer facilities with limited play value. • **Invasive vegetation** Many parks face an ongoing threat of invasive plants. • **Fragmentation** There is a lack of connectivity between parks, which has ecological as well as accessibility impacts. • **Inaccessible infrastructure** Most beach accesses as well as washrooms are inaccessible to people with diverse mobility needs. A lack of vehicle parking at parks contributes to their inaccessibility. • **Parkland acquisition** There is a lack of clarity and strategy for parkland acquisition.



7.0

Trails

7.1 Trails Inventory And Analysis

The following provides a description of the trail classifications for North Saanich park system. Classifying trails is crucial for safety, planning, and management. It helps users select routes that match their skill levels, ensuring a safer and more enjoyable experience. Proper classification also supports effective trail maintenance and environmental protection by guiding appropriate usage and preserving natural areas.

Distinction Between Trails and Linear Parks

Linear parks and trails both provide recreational opportunities, but they differ in their primary functions and design. Linear parks are elongated green spaces with amenities for various activities and community use, while trails are specifically designed paths for activities like hiking and biking, focusing on connecting with nature and providing immersive outdoor experiences.

7.1.1 Trail Classification Types

In North Saanich, trails provide connections throughout the District and serve as a recreation amenity for residents and visitors. The trail system is used by pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians and is divided into three trail classification types as shown on the following pages.



Table 10. Multi-Use Path Trails Classification

Width and Materials	Corridor Width	Typical Trail Infrastructure	Purpose/Considerations	Examples
• Preferred width 3.0m • Minimum width 2.4m • Paved or compacted gravel • No steps **Longitudinal Slope:** • Maximum 8% where possible, otherwise maximum 15%	Min. 6m where between properties or from road edge to property line	• Benches and rest areas, occasional points of interest, staging areas with parking, interpretive and wayfinding signage, pedestrian lighting where appropriate, waste receptacles	• High use • Major routes • Uses include commuter and recreational cycling, walking, horse riding, jogging, mobility aids. • Universal design standards. • Can exist on a roadside or elsewhere	Flight Path (operated by YYJ), McDonald Park Road Multi-use Path



Table 11. Neighbourhood Connector Trails Classification

Width and Materials	Corridor Width	Typical Trail Infrastructure	Purpose/Considerations	Examples
• Preferred width 2.0m • Minimum width 1.0m • Loose aggregate gravel or compacted soil **Longitudinal Slope:** • Maximum 8% where possible, otherwise maximum 15%	Min 5m between property lines, 6m preferred	• Occasional benches, interpretive and wayfinding signage, waste receptacles	• Low to moderate use • Uses may include walking, jogging, horse riding, cycling, mountain biking • Provides connections between cul-de-sacs and neighbourhoods • May have amenities such as benches and signs.	Cascara Crescent to Hedgerow Drive, Hillgrove Road connector

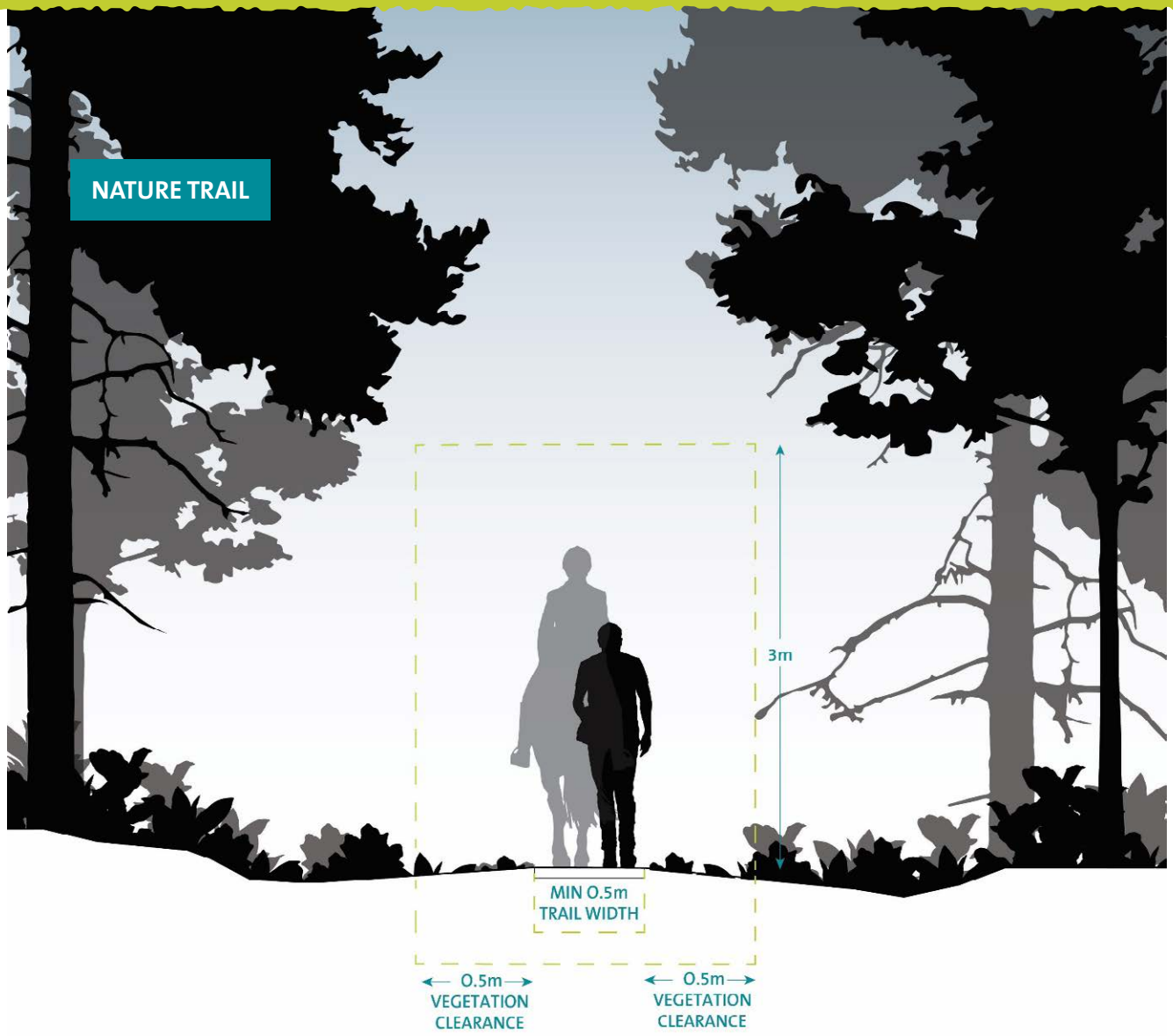


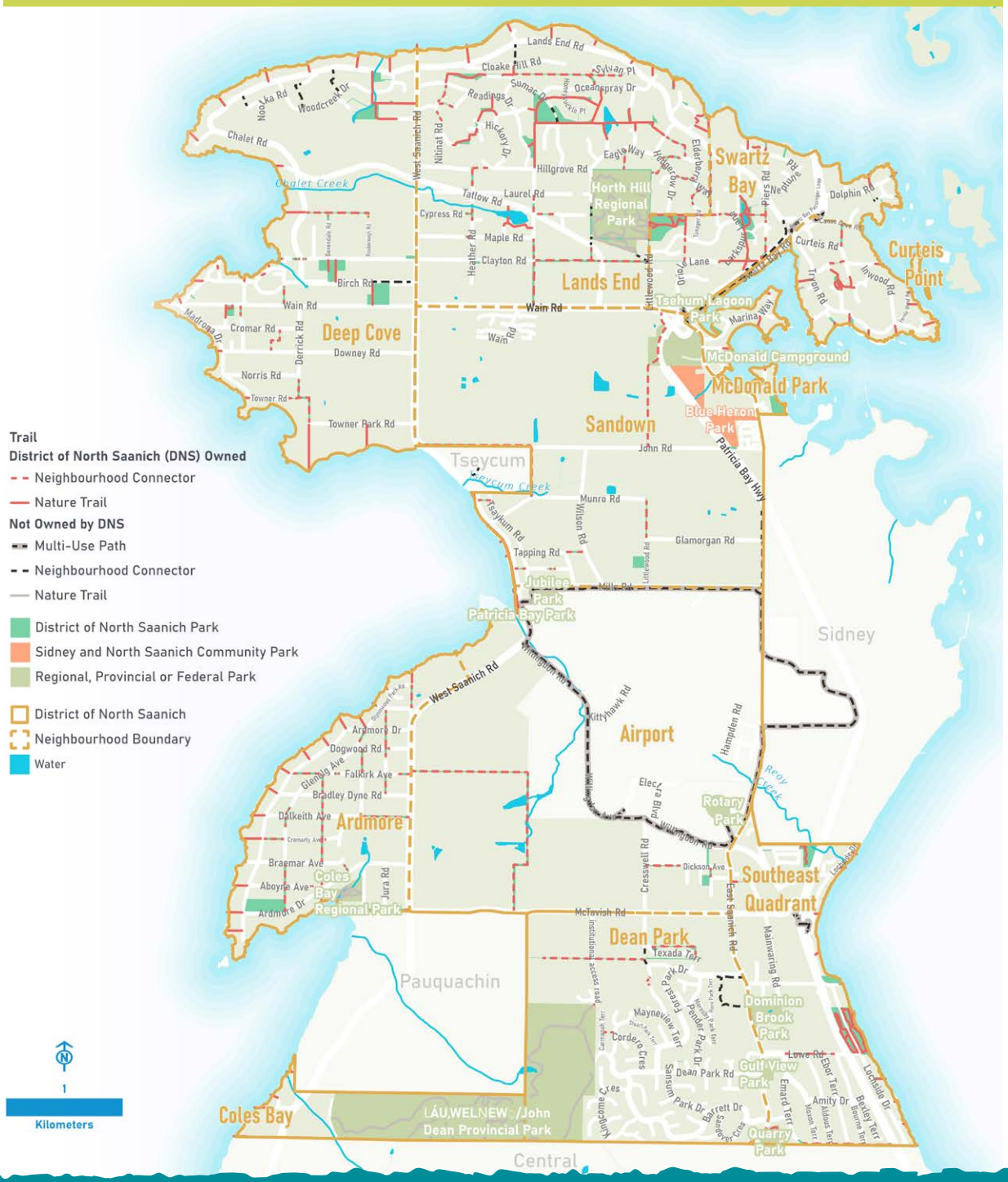
Table 12. Nature Trails Classification

Width and Materials	Corridor Width	Typical Trail Infrastructure	Purpose/Considerations	Examples
• Min 0.5m width • Loose gravel or compacted soil **Longitudinal Slope:** • Maximum 20% (1:5) for hiking/ walking only • Mountain biking, maximum 15% (1:7)	N/A	• Wayfinding and interpretive signage, waste receptacles, structures for slopes over 20%, e.g. steps/ramps, landings, railings	• Low to moderate use • Uses may include walking, jogging, mountain biking, horse riding • Often exist within parks	Kanishay Park Trails, R.O Bull Park Trails

7.1.2 Trail Classification Locations

The following maps illustrate the locations of all the trails within the community.

Figure 9. Trail Classification Overview



7.1.3 Trails Inventory

Table 13. Trails Inventory

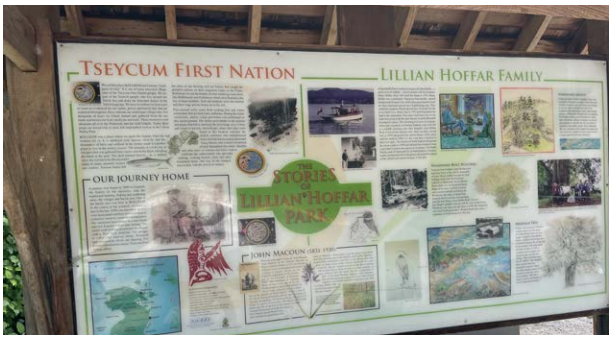
Trail Type	Length (km)
Multi-Use Path	0
Neighbourhood Connector	22.5
Nature Trail	20.3
Total DNS Trails	**42.8**

7.1.4 Trail Signage

Although North Saanich lacks developed urban trail infrastructure such as separated bike lanes, signage, and bollards, this absence contributes to preserving the district's rural character. Currently, discreet trail markers are used to guide users through the trail network, but many people in the community have expressed the desire to see the wayfinding and trail signage be improved.

Efficient wayfinding and signage systems help trail users to navigate trail networks smoothly and safely. These systems serve as visual guides, reducing potential conflicts and enhancing user experiences. Wayfinding signage can also communicate important details on the intended use and difficulty of certain trails. It can also remind users of the etiquette they should be following so they know when to give way to more vulnerable users. Coordination with others including Central Saanich and Sidney, provincial authorities and private landowners is crucial to ensure seamless integration of wayfinding systems. Collaboration during signage implementation is key to achieving this cohesion.







7.1.5 Trail Amenities for Dog Walkers

Dog walkers make up a significant portion of trail users, and the insufficient waste facilities pose a challenge. Providing more waste bins along these trails could effectively address this issue, ensuring a cleaner and more enjoyable experience for all trail users. There is an operations cost so it will be important to target the trail heads with the highest dog use.

Desired amenities include waste/recycling bins, signage and dog waste bags where dogs are permitted. These would provide a basic level of service at trailheads that could be easily implemented. At popular multi use areas, different amenities could be considered. Amenities for specific user groups could be considered upon consultation. One method for supplying new amenities at trail heads could be through a donation program such as the bench donation program.

7.1.6 Natural Corridors

Some trails in North Saanich serve as recreational paths and as ecological corridors that facilitate the movement of various species across the landscape. From an ecological perspective, corridors are essential for wildlife conservation as they often work to link fragmented habitats, which is crucial for biodiversity, particularly in the face of climate change. Corridors can provide safe passages for animals through urban areas, reducing the risks associated with habitat fragmentation and genetic isolation. Corridors benefit plants by aiding in the dispersal of seeds and facilitating pollination. Trails can also serve as vectors for invasive species movement throughout a landscape when they are inadequately maintained.

In North Saanich, the extensive trail network plays a vital role in supporting the ecological health of the environment. Evaluating how these trails connect important habitats enhances the parks and trails system's ability to contribute to environmental sustainability. This connection between ecological health and human well-being underscores the importance of designing trails that benefit both nature and the community.

7.2 Trails Community Input

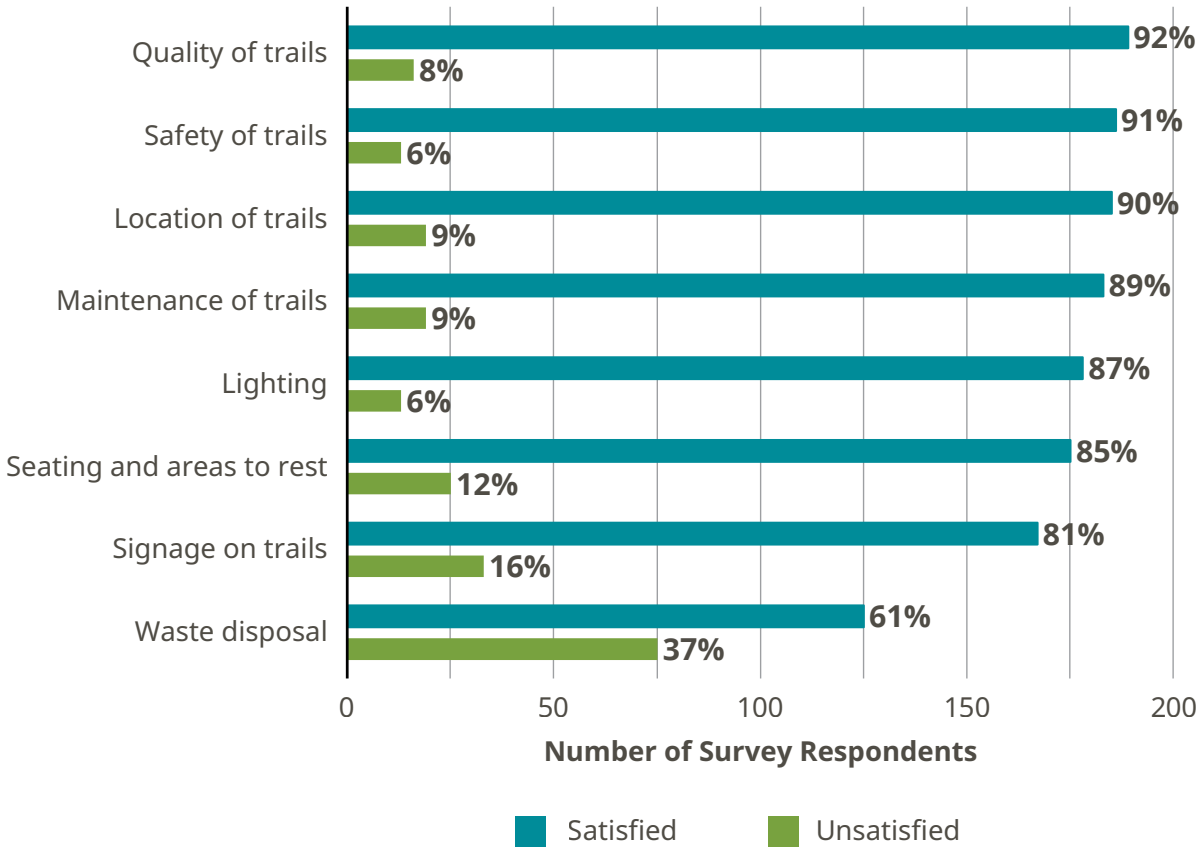
Survey participants are generally very satisfied with the trails. They expressed a need for improved waste disposal options, including provision of dog waste bags. Other considerations voiced by participants included connecting parks to the trail network, preserving natural areas, and providing accessibility and amenities for equestrians.

7.2.1 Participation at Trails

1. Walk, hike, jog
2. Walk dog(s)
3. Bike on paved or gravel trail

7.2.2 Satisfaction with Trail Features

Figure 10. Survey Results on Satisfaction with Trail Features



7.3 Trails Strengths and Challenges

Strengths	Challenges
• **Extensive Trail System** North Saanich has a high number of trails that create connectivity between neighbourhoods. • **Rural Character** Trails in the District largely have a rural character that is congruent with residents' desire for natural experiences on trails. • **Supportive Residents** The community of North Saanich has strong values around access to natural spaces and trail use. • **Well-Marked** Trails in North Saanich are well marked with low profile signage that suits the rural character of the District. • **Well-Utilized** A high number of residents in North Saanich use the trails for walking, cycling and horse riding. • **Community Support** Residents are generally satisfied with the maintenance, quality and location of trails within the District.	• **Maintenance and Administration** The District has limited capacity to maintain existing and future trails. • **Increased Use** As the population of the peninsula grows, increased use of trails will require more maintenance and infrastructure. • **User Conflicts** Trails are used by a variety of user groups including walkers, cyclists and equestrians. In some instances, these groups have different design, maintenance and enforcement needs. • **Waste Facilities** Many trails lack garbage facilities, which can be problematic, particularly with the high number of dog walkers. • **Invasive Vegetation** Many trails face an ongoing threat of invasive plants and trails can act as vectors for invasive plants throughout the region. • **Fragmentation** There is a lack of trail connectivity between some parks, trails, beaches and other key destinations which has ecological as well as accessibility impacts. • **Inaccessibility** Most trails are not well suited to people with diverse mobility needs. • **Equestrian Compatibility** There is a desire from the equestrian community to add more amenities for horses on trails including hitching posts, wide trails, and appropriate surface materials • **Trail Surfacing** Gravel on trails is noted by some as being dangerous and slippery when loose • **Signage** There is a lack of signage and public information on how to share the trails with multiple modes, especially between cyclists and equestrians. • **Mapping** There are currently no maps at trail heads or online identifying user location within the trail system.

7.3.1 Proposed Connections

North Saanich has a large network of trails that are an important component of the District's rural character. Residents use this network for commuting and recreation. There are opportunities on existing roads that do not currently have trails, sidewalks or bike lanes on them, to improve the connectivity of the trail network and the parks system. By strategically adding connections between existing trails, the District can create more seamless access for walkers, cyclists, and equestrians. Identifying this network and the missing links within it outlines opportunities for the District to expand its trail system. Map 5 shows proposed trail network additions. It also includes both existing and proposed bike lanes and multi-use pathways from the 2021 Active Transportation Plan.

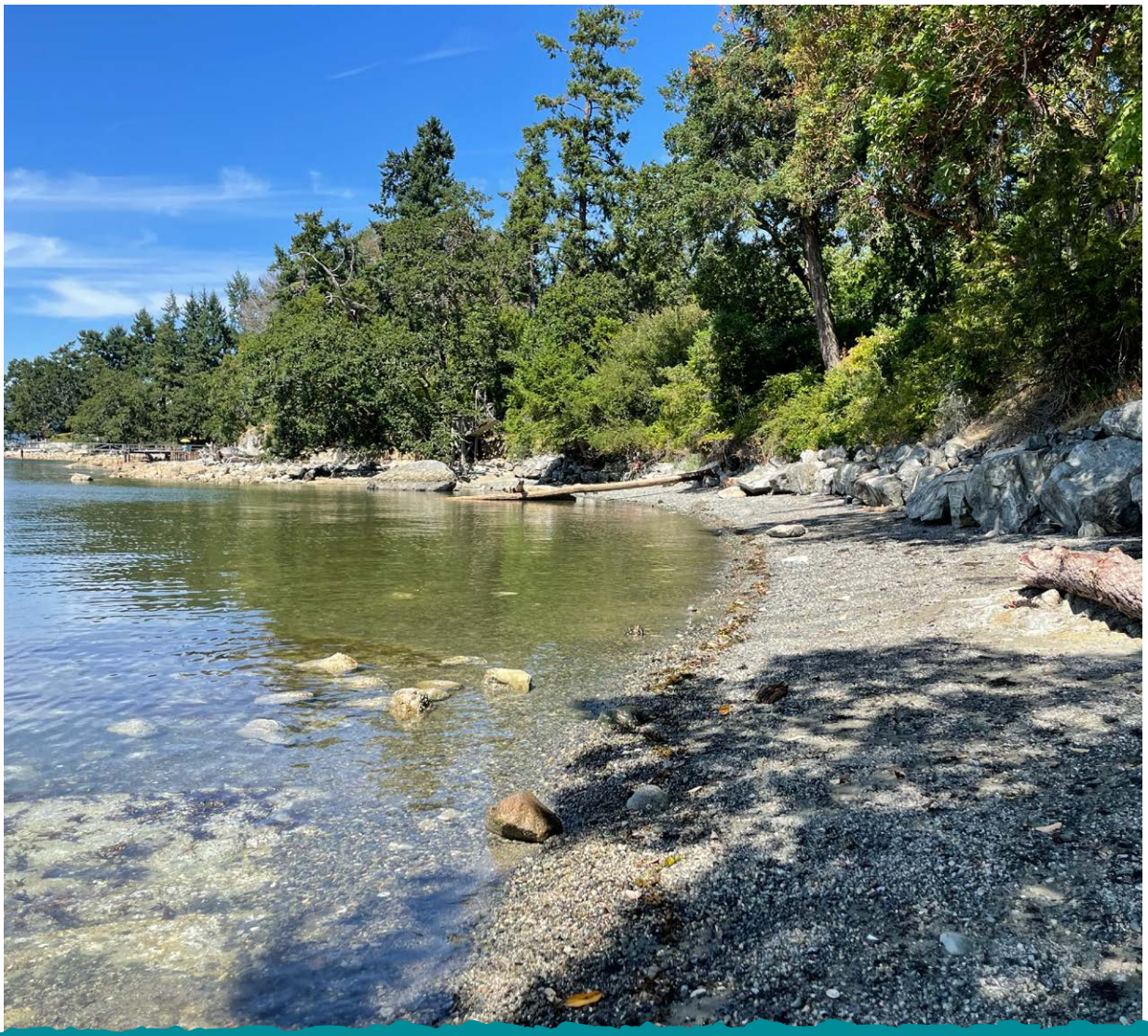
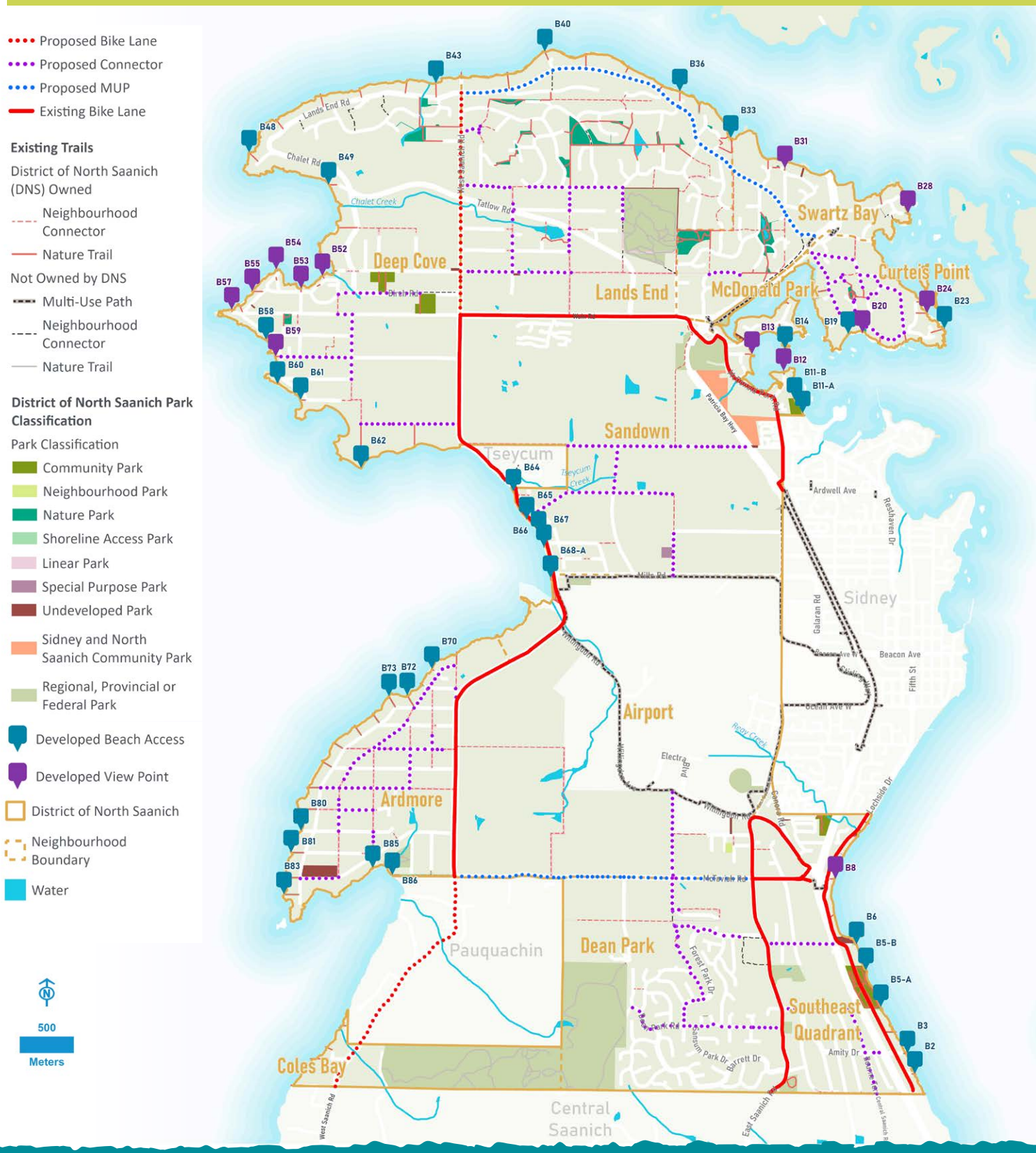
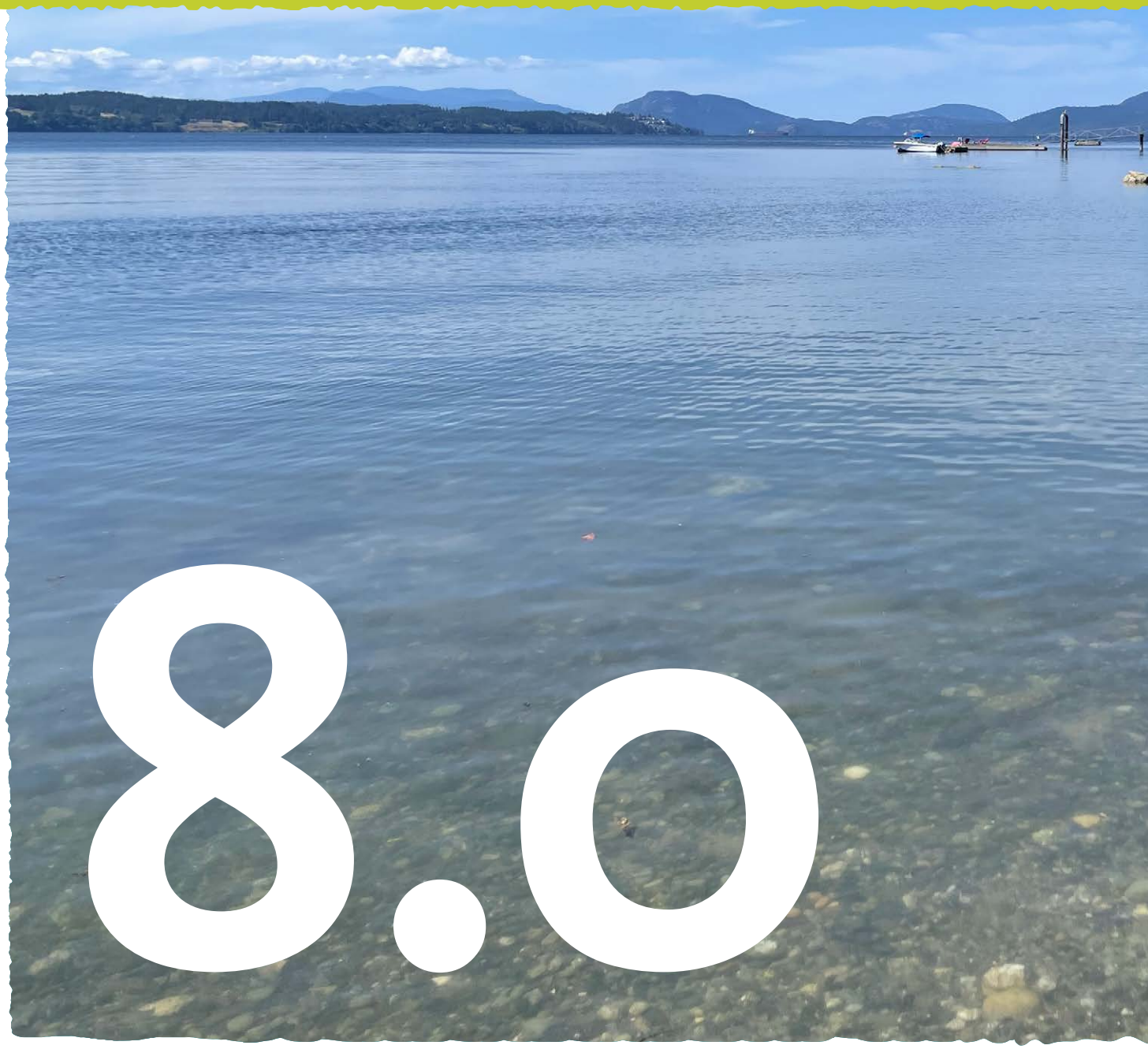


Figure 11. Proposed Trail Connections Map





8.0 Parks Management and Operations

8.1 Park Management Analysis

8.1.1 Park Department Functions

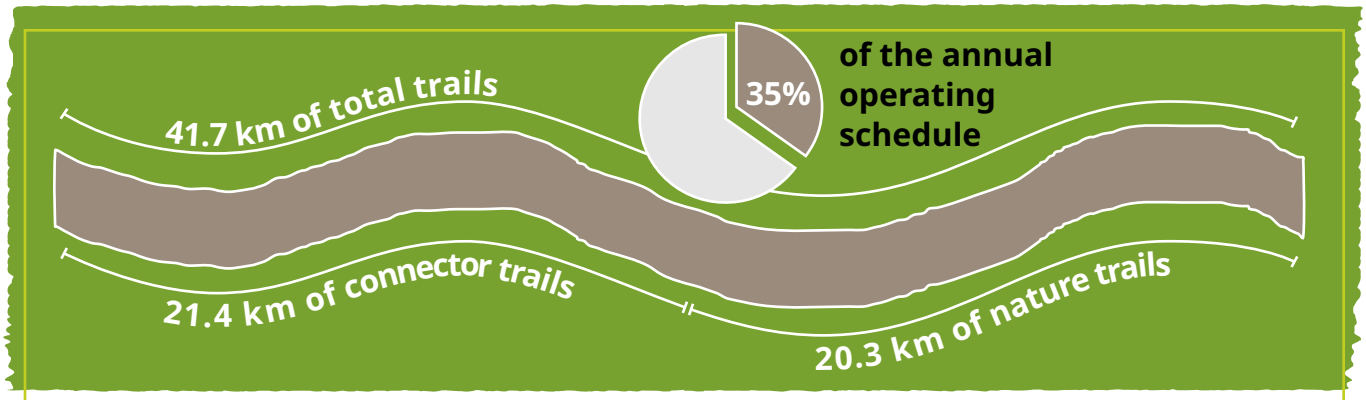
The primary objectives of operations and maintenance in District parks are to support the park functions and public safety. The District's Parks Department has five full-time staff that perform the following maintenance and operations activities throughout the year:



16.5 ha of grass receives regular mowing between the months of March to October, which consumes approximately 50% of the Parks staff's annual operating schedule.

79.5 ha are managed and maintained by District Staff. This excludes parks classified as undeveloped shoreline access parks, undeveloped parks and other parks and lands such as cemeteries and school sites. Maintenance of these assets includes the following tasks:

- Turf and dry-land mowing
- Pruning of trees
- Forest management (where required for wildlife risk management)
- Invasive plant management (where required for safety or adjacent trees/ creek health)
- Trimming, weeding and mulching of shrubs and perennial planting beds
- Trail maintenance
- Building Facility maintenance
- Pest control
- Snow removal



41.7 km of trails (21.4 km connector trails and 20.3 kms nature trails) This includes path and vegetation maintenance, which is the second greatest resource commitment for Parks staff, consuming approximately 35% of the annual operating schedule.



Operations and maintenance support for District-owned facilities including Municipal Hall and some boulevards, medians, and cul-de-sac roundabouts.



Hazard repairs such as failing stair treads, hand railings, drainage issues, erosion control, and trail surfacing.



Maintenance of amenities including play structures, waste receptacles, signage, porta potties, parking areas, and other parks infrastructure and building maintenance, which often surpass the District's capacity.



Maintenance of District owned buildings and facilities.

8.1.2 Park Department Planning

With the abundance of parkland to manage, implementing procedures for park improvement planning has been a challenge in North Saanich. Creating procedures and policies to ensure that resources are available will lead to more effective park development efforts overall. Without clear procedures, decisions about how, when, and who should undertake park enhancements are ad hoc and inconsistent. While minor repairs may be handled internally, larger projects often require third-party consultants for regulatory compliance and technical expertise. Without established guidelines, uncertainty and budget constraints may impede effective decision-making. Thus, implementing procedures to determine when to engage consultants, versus using in-house resources, is essential for efficient and strategic park planning.

Capital Planning Guidance

Refer to the following guidelines:

- Create a policy and guidelines that makes clear the planning and improvement process for park upgrades.
- Improvements such as new site furnishings or replacement, regulatory signage, repairs and upkeep is usually handled internally by park maintenance staff with reduced costs.
- Improvements that include new trails, park features and amenities (playgrounds, sport courts, community wide wayfinding, new stairs) are typically planned and designed by consultants such Landscape Architects, Civil Engineers, and other allied professionals. The consultants should be licensed to provide services in the province of British Columbia. The capital improvement value is typically higher.
- If there is uncertainty or budgetary constraints, the following questions and information can be used as guidance for determining who might be best to conduct the planning work.
    - What are the technical requirements?
    - What is the park classification type where the improvements are planned? Typically, Landscape Architects are involved in community park planning and nature park forest management plans.
    - Do the planned improvements change the park uses, services and amenities? Will the surrounding community experience sound and visual changes?

8.1.3 Park Management Plans Typical Scope of Work

An individual park management plan focuses on the specific needs and characteristics of a single park. It typically includes detailed, site-specific information such as environmental considerations, topography, vegetation, and wildlife. These plans address how to manage unique features, such as sensitive habitats, drainage, or heritage elements, while balancing recreational use. The goal is to provide tailored strategies for conservation, development, and daily management that suit the park's unique landscape and community needs.

Park management plans typically include the following:

1. **Introduction & Overview**
   - ☐ Project background
   - ☐ Purpose and objectives of the park management plan
2. **Site Analysis**
   - ☐ Detailed topography
   - ☐ Environmental conditions (flora, fauna, water resources)
   - ☐ Land use and zoning
   - ☐ Historical or cultural significance
3. **Public Engagement**
   - ☐ Stakeholder consultation plan
   - ☐ Community needs assessment
   - ☐ Public feedback and integration
4. **Recreational Use & Facilities Assessment**
   - ☐ Current park usage patterns
   - ☐ Facility inventory and condition
   - ☐ Accessibility evaluation
5. **Environmental Considerations**
   - ☐ Habitat preservation strategies
   - ☐ Invasive species management
   - ☐ Stormwater management
   - ☐ Climate resilience planning
6. **Maintenance & Operations**
   - ☐ Maintenance requirements
   - ☐ Operational strategies and staffing needs
   - ☐ Safety and risk management
7. **Design Guidelines & Recommendations**
   - ☐ Proposed improvements and development
   - ☐ Sustainability and eco-friendly designs
   - ☐ Landscape architecture considerations
8. **Budget & Funding Sources**
   - ☐ Cost estimates for capital improvements and maintenance
   - ☐ Potential funding or grants
9. **Implementation Plan**
   - ☐ Phasing and timeline for improvements
   - ☐ Monitoring and adaptive management strategies
10. **Evaluation & Performance Measures**
    - ☐ Criteria for assessing plan effectiveness
    - ☐ Reporting and updates

8.1.4 Vegetation Management Plan Typical Scope of Work

A vegetation management plan typical includes the following:

1. **Environmental Condition Assessment**
   - Wildlife: Document local wildlife and habitats.
   - Species at Risk: Identify endangered or threatened plant species.

2. **Environmental Sensitivity: Assess areas requiring special protection**
   - Wildfire Risk: Evaluate potential wildfire hazards.
   - Connectivity: Analyze ecological corridors and habitat links.

3. **Public Engagement**
   - Community Input: Gather feedback from residents and stakeholders.
   - Stakeholder Consultations: Engage with local organizations and experts.

4. **Site Plan**
   - Trail Locations: Map out trail routes.
   - Park Entrances: Plan park access points.
   - Wayfinding Signage: Position signs for visitor guidance.
   - Site Amenities: Locate seating, picnic areas, and other facilities.

8.1.5 Parkland Management Annual Budget Comparison

The following table shows a comparison between North Saanich and other communities including the number of parks and operations staff relative to the amount of parkland and annual operations budgets.

Table 14. Comparative Annual Budget Comparison

	Average	North Saanich	Sooke	Powell River	Summerland	Central Saanich
Population		**12,472**	**15,421**	**14,072**	**13,000**	**19,742**
Population Density per km²	**343**	**335**	272	455	175	478
Total developed parkland (ha)	**163.75**	**79.5**	215.3	164.4	278.9	80.65
Trails (km)	**60.9**	**41.7**	40	80	82	NA
Annual Operations Budget	**$1,180,000**	**$700,000**	$1,360,000	$1,200,000	$1,183,000	$1,464,000
Number of Parks Maintenance Staff (Full Time)	6	5	6	6	5	10
Number of Parks Maintenance Staff (Summer Auxiliary)	4	1	9	3	8	0

8.1.6 Park System Volunteers

Volunteers in North Saanich play an important role in maintaining the health and vitality of parks and trails. These efforts are primarily focused on invasive species management and environmental restoration. Invasive species present an ongoing challenge for park systems globally, significantly contributing to environmental degradation. Once established, these species harm habitats by displacing native vegetation, limiting forage opportunities for wildlife, reducing biodiversity, interfering with ecological processes, and limiting Indigenous community access to traditional resources like foods and medicines. Effective management typically involves manual removal, although chemical treatment is sometimes necessary for specific species.

Volunteer interest groups provide maintenance services and foster stewardship and community building among residents. However, volunteers can face burnout and limitations in their capacity to fulfill the extensive work required. Despite their invaluable contributions, volunteers may also have differing agendas and values, which may not always align with the multifaceted priorities that District staff must balance. Collaborative efforts with volunteer groups, neighbouring municipalities, and various governmental bodies are vital for addressing this multifaceted challenge across jurisdictions.

8.1.7 Conservation of Natural Areas

Many residents of North Saanich are passionate about environmental stewardship and view parks and trails as intrinsically valuable components of the District's natural ecology. District staff, interest groups, environmental organizations, community organizations and Indigenous communities contribute to the conservation of natural areas in North Saanich.

The presence of environmental corridors through parks and trails underscores the need for management strategies that enable recreation, while at the same time protecting, promoting, and enhancing ecosystems. Better understanding of the habitats and species that exist in the parks system is needed to support the delivery of proper conservation work. This is typically achieved through site-specific environmental assessments. The knowledge of First Nations, environmental groups, and other locals can be leveraged to gather this information.

Getting support from qualified professionals for the removal of invasive plant species is crucial because they have the expertise to properly identify the species, understand their impact on local ecosystems, and apply effective removal techniques. Without professional guidance, removal efforts can inadvertently harm native plants, spread the invasive species further, or fail to address the root cause of the invasion. Professionals ensure that the removal is done safely and sustainably, helping to protect biodiversity and restore ecological balance.

Professionals involved in invasive plant removal include ecologists, botanists, arborists, and landscape restoration specialists. They ensure accurate plant identification, safe removal techniques, and the protection of native ecosystems. Conservation biologists assess ecological impacts, and herbicide specialists manage chemical treatments when needed. Together, they provide effective and sustainable solutions for restoring biodiversity.

North Saanich has been working in collaboration with neighbouring jurisdictions to create a shared vision for sustainable conservation practices. Within the broader context of the Saanich Peninsula, conservation efforts that emphasize the importance of regional cooperation within these contiguous and interconnected ecosystems is highly important.

The following provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities for management of natural areas in North Saanich.

Climate Change Mitigation

A primary challenge for conserving natural areas in all communities is the impact of climate change. In our region, we're experiencing milder and more variable winter conditions, which include extremely wet or dry periods, and longer summers. This pattern is leading to increased occurrences of droughts, flooding, and other extreme environmental events. In the context of parks and trails, mitigation strategies that adapt to the changing environmental context and work to reduce the impacts of climate change are important. This includes climate adapted plant species, more emphasis on providing shade and rest areas for park users, and stormwater management solutions that collect and utilize rainwater.

Sea Level Rise

For all coastal communities, sea level rise is one of the primary concerns resulting from climate change. More extreme high tides, particularly when paired with extreme storm events, are resulting in increased erosion of shoreline areas. North Saanich has many parks and trails along the shoreline meaning that mitigation techniques are needed that protect the parks and the natural environment.

Historically, erosion of shorelines has been managed through the practice of shoreline hardening with the building of seawalls. Unfortunately, these walls have many negative consequences for the environment such as amplifying wave impact, causing toe erosion along the shoreline, and damaging or removing important intertidal habitats. Throughout the peninsula there has been a shift towards more nature-based solutions such as the Green Shores program.

Changing Ecosystems

Another result of climate change in North Saanich's parks is changing environmental conditions. The ecological communities that have adapted to the previous climactic context are increasingly at risk and many species are not able to survive. Important plant species are challenged, including Western Redcedar and Arbutus, which have important ecological and cultural roles. This loss can be addressed by managing the conditions to support these trees and by planting new climate-adapted plant species. North Saanich has already started this practice by planting species native to more southern coastal climates, such as California Redwood. This experimental practice will test and support pre-emptive strategies for climate mitigation.

Shorelines

North Saanich's shoreline parks are prized for their ecological and cultural significance, offering a unique coastal experience for visitors. Managing these areas requires special attention to preserve their ecological health. Numerous organizations in North Saanich support research, advocacy, and volunteer efforts for shoreline conservation. Healthy shoreline ecosystems rely on the interplay between land and sea habitats.

While provincial jurisdiction covers areas below the high tide line, managing stormwater, erosion, and plant communities is essential for ecological balance. Tailored park design and maintenance, such as erosion-reducing trail planning, are crucial for environmental preservation. Interpretive signage can also educate visitors about the importance of specific management practices for shoreline parks.

In addition to the measures taken on shore, other regulations may help to further support shoreline environments. Pressures on the shoreline due to increased boating and live-aboard activity are impacting shoreline parks and will require creative solutions to address pollution and habitat degradation. Sidney has adopted a 300m marine zone designation. North Saanich is proposing the designation with the OCP to protect the shoreline.

Streams and Wetlands

Waterways and wetlands are vital features of North Saanich's parks, serving as biodiversity hubs and essential wildlife corridors. They offer crucial ecosystem services like flood control, water purification, and carbon storage. Some are home to salmon, protected by provincial and federal laws due to their ecological importance. These areas require careful stewardship and conservation efforts. Organizations like the Peninsula Stream Society work to restore degraded habitats, monitor water quality, and engage the community in stewardship initiatives.

Forested Areas

North Saanich is rich in forested areas, home to diverse tree species like Douglas-fir, Western Redcedar, and Hemlock. Despite centuries of logging, these forests remain vital habitats for endangered species. They also play a crucial role in absorbing greenhouse gases and mitigating climate change effects, acting as buffers against disasters. Beyond ecology, spending time in forests positively impacts human health. Preserving and restoring these areas is essential for both environmental sustainability and the well-being of North Saanich residents.

Wildfire Risk Management

The competing priorities of parks and trails management and wildfire risk reduction present both opportunities and challenges for North Saanich. With the extensive park and trails system to maintain, balancing these priorities can be complex. Residents have raised concerns about the district's practices not aligning with recommended wildfire risk management strategies. While it may not be feasible to fire smart the entire network, a potential compromise could involve chipping branches or trees removed by the District. Debris management is a critical aspect of fuel treatments, requiring careful planning to avoid increasing risk and treatment costs. Various methods such as, chipping, and cut-and-scatter can be employed, but careful consideration and planning are necessary to ensure effective wildfire risk reduction while minimizing environmental impact. Partnerships with community interest groups who are interested in trail building could assist with debris removals as well.

Naturalization

Implementing naturalization in parks presents opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience but also poses challenges in mitigating fire risk. Naturalized areas can provide habitat for wildlife, improve soil health, and enhance aesthetic appeal. However, the presence of dense vegetation in these areas can increase fuel loads and wildfire risk if not managed properly.

Solutions to address this dual objective include strategic thinning of vegetation to reduce fuel accumulation, creating fire breaks or defensible space around naturalized areas, and utilizing fire-resistant plant species in landscaping. Regular monitoring and maintenance are essential so that naturalized areas remain healthy and resilient while minimizing fire hazards. Collaboration with fire management experts and community engagement can help develop effective strategies tailored to local conditions and priorities.

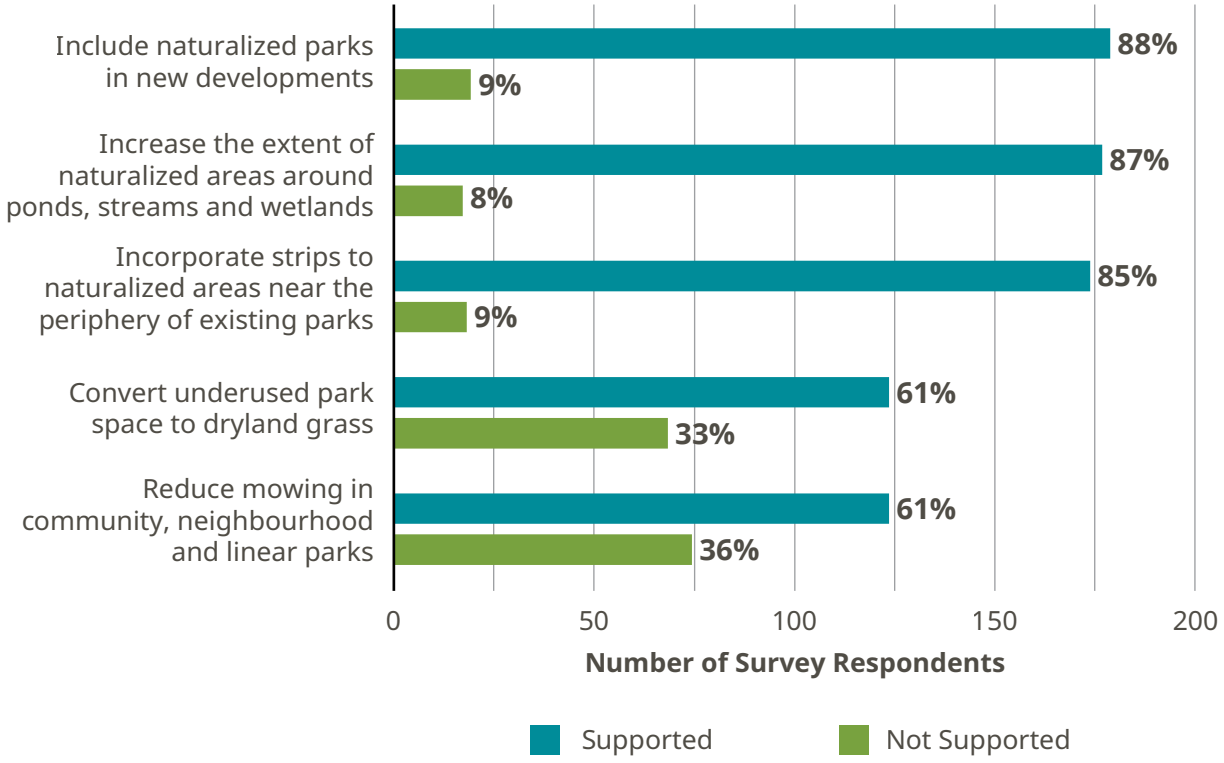
8.1.8 GIS Mapping Management

- Establish a standardized format for asset IDs to ensure uniqueness and consistency through all datasets.
- Implement standard data governance practices to enforce the assignment and use of asset IDs.
- Define clear data standards for attributes, including naming conventions and data format requirements, to ensure consistency across datasets.
- Regularly validate and update attributes to ensure they remain accurate.
- Implement automated checks and validation processes.
- Maintain comprehensive documentation for each dataset, including attribute definitions, update schedules, and responsible parties, to track changes and facilitate data transparency.
- Develop and implement a structured data maintenance plan that includes periodic reviews, updates, and quality checks.
- Verify spatial locations, feature assets, conditions, and attributes for all park amenities.
- Identify ownership and extents of all land that include trails within the District's dataset.

8.2 Park Management Community Input

8.2.1 Support for Alternative Maintenance Approaches

Figure 12. Survey Results on Support for Alternative Maintenance Approaches



8.2.2 Support For Environmental Protection

- Desire for more management of invasive species through maintenance strategies and staff resources and expertise.
- Appreciation for the volunteer organizations that remove invasive species.
- Support for naturalizing parks and open spaces to protect the environment and reduce maintenance burden.
- Interest in interpretive materials and signage to inform the public about natural systems.

8.3 Parks Management and Operation Strengths and Challenges

Strengths	Challenges
• **Volunteer Support** North Saanich has a high level of support from volunteer groups for maintenance challenges such as invasive plant management and restoration efforts.	• **Maintenance capacity** North Saanich has limited capacity to provide maintenance for the breadth of land and amenities within its responsibility. • **Aging amenities** Many of the amenities within the District are aging and require updating or replacement. • **Invasive plant management** Invasive plants are present in natural spaces throughout the Saanich Peninsula and pose a threat to the ecological vitality of park spaces. • **Public expectations** There is an increasing expectation for the District to provide a greater level of service (e.g., maintenance for aesthetic purposes as opposed to maintenance for function and public safety). There is also an expectation for the District to perform services on lands owned and operated by other jurisdictions (e.g., debris and garbage cleanup from beaches and the foreshore that is under provincial jurisdiction). • **Wildfire protection** There is an increasing expectation for wildfire protection, which could impact mowing operations and debris removal. • **Ecological impacts of mowing and debris removal** The removal of vegetative debris has an ecological impact on the vitality of park spaces and mowing removes habitat for ground nesting birds, as well as nesting and foraging habitat for a variety of ecologically important insects.



Section C.
Recommendations

Part C of the PMP includes the recommendations that align with the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan. Following the public consultation process, the recommendations have been organized into short (0-3 years), medium (4-6years) and long term (7-10 years) phases to align with planning and annual park budgets.



9.0

Parks and Trails Planning & Policy Recommendations

9.1 Parks and Trails Planning and Policy

The following are recommendations for planning and policy activities that will support the implementation of this plan. This section also includes partnership and communications park recommendations.

P1. Prepare park management plans for community parks

1. Prepare park management plans for the following community parks as the highest priorities:
   - Patricia Bay Park
   - Wain Park
   - Dominion Brook Park
   - Denham Till Park
   - Cy Hampson

The park management plans for the key community parks include location-specific recommendations for planning, capital improvements, partnerships, and communications. Consider the following suggestions within the scope, but note they are not exhaustive.

Patricia Bay Park

1. Engage with the Victoria Airport and the Coastguard to explore opportunities for a recreation boat ramp.
2. Prepare a plan and cost estimate for accessible washrooms.
3. Prepare a plan and cost estimate, beach tread mats for wheel access.

Wain Park

1. Determine best uses of decommissioned pickleball court. Consider mixed-use courts such as handball, volleyball, and ball hockey.
2. Improve the pavement surface of the basketball court and replace basketball net.

Dominion Brook Park

1. Continue to support and leverage opportunities with community group volunteers for conservation, classification as an arboretum, and creation of an accessible research database on the park.

    - Prepare site-specific conservation guidelines based on the Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places in Canada.
    - Consider an application for this park to become a National Historic Site, potentially classified as an arboretum.
    - Explore opportunities to make the existing inventory of tree and plant assets at Dominion Brook Park publicly available, with options including a searchable database, interactive map, printed map, and plant labels.

2. Contract a qualified landscape architect, hydrologist and/or QEP to determine solutions for the failing pond, creek, and fencing near the pond.
3. Implement improvements to repair the pond and creek infrastructure.

Jubilee Park

1. Improve and expand the parking lot to provide additional parking spaces.
    - Design the parking lot to provide safe and universally accessible pathways.
2. Plan for and install public washrooms.

Cy Hampson

1. Make Cy Hampson an official dog off-leash park.
2. Install dog regulatory and use signage, new fencing, access gates, dog amenities (e.g. waste bags), seating areas, and dog play features.

Denham Till Park

1. Replace the playground equipment.
2. Remove or upgrade the old shed/structure.
3. Install new park features per the park management plan, potentially including a paved parking lot and public washroom.
4. Prepare an orchard tree inventory to recognize the heritage values of the park.

P2. Prepare vegetation management plans for nature parks

1. Prepare park vegetation management plans for key nature parks as the highest priorities:
   - Woodcreek Park
   - Sycamore Park
   - Readings Park
   - Queen Mary May Park
   - Quarry Park

Focus vegetation management plans on the nature parks that have valued ecosystem components such as rare species occurrences, fish- bearing streams, sensitive ecosystems, and older growth forest as identified on the Environmental Review map. These are mostly in the Lands End neighbourhood. Consider donated lands and potential wildfire risks.

P3. Analyze and prepare park management plans for shoreline access parks

1. Name all the developed shoreline access parks, considering names that reflect neighbourhoods, street names, or Indigenous names.
2. Conduct a comprehensive shoreline access park study.

   - Attend a site visit to analyze all the developed and undeveloped shoreline access parks.
   - For those deemed unsuitable for recreation, designate them as nature parks.
   - For the shoreline access parks with challenges difficult to surmount, such as high erosion or costly/failing infrastructure requirements, these should be decommissioned as shoreline parks and designated as nature parks.
   - Prepare a parking management plan for the shoreline access parks that clarifies where parking is permitted / not permitted, including time restrictions.
   - For the developed shoreline parks, consider opportunities for amenity upgrades, such as benches, handrails, stairs, accessible access.

3. Plan for improvements, with cost estimates, for the most popular developed shoreline access parks:
    - B49-the west end of Tatlow Road
    - B62-Warrior Point, B48-the west end of Moses Point Road
    - B 59-the west end of Downey Road
4. Conduct a feasibility analysis for a new boat launch appropriate for motorized and non-motorized recreational boats beginning with Patricia Bay as a priority location.

P4. Prepare climate adaptive restoration plans at beaches

1. Support the initiative to develop shoreline climate-adaptive restoration trials including:
    - Tyron Beach
    - Nymph Point Park
    - Lillian Hoffar Beach
2. Implement nature-based solutions such as living shorelines and stormwater management solutions.
3. Use the Green Shores for Shoreline Development program for the design and development for all new interventions and improvements at shoreline parks.

P5. Prepare plans and policies for donated lands

1. Establish criteria for acceptance of donated lands as parks.
    - Develop criteria and evaluate all potential lands to determine their suitability as parks, considering needs for capital investment, management, and operations. Include potential liabilities and costly impediments, such as unsafe structures, utilities, or environmental contamination, in the evaluation criteria.
    - Require input from landowners during the evaluation process.
    - Determine the appropriate park classification for any parks deemed suitable for donation (e.g., natural area or nature park.)

2. Plan for management and potential improvements, and with cost estimates, for the undeveloped and donated lands that are already within the District responsibility:
    - Wolf Orchard Park
    - Bazan Bay Park
    - Forested parcel on Ardmore Road
    - Noble Gardens

P6. Prepare a linear park plan

1. Create a linear park plan. Look for opportunities to develop additional linear parks on District land. Reference the proposed trail network connections map (Figure 11 in the report).
    - Focus efforts on linear parcels that could provide pedestrian, cycling, and equestrian connections to other trails and parks.
    - Collaborate with adjacent neighbours and landowners where property infringement has occurred.
    - Engage the community in trail planning processes to gather input and feedback on the proposed trail network. Organize public workshops, surveys, and focus groups to involve residents, interest groups, and user groups in decision-making processes.
    - Engage the equestrian community in planning for equestrian access at linear parks.
2. Integrate off-road trails with the active transportation network to enhance connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and multi-modal transportation options.
3. Identify opportunities for amenities such as benches, picnic sites, signage, bike racks, waste and recycle receptacles in areas where linear parks make up most of the community's park space.
4. Encourage and support environmental stewardship initiatives along trails to protect and enhance natural areas, e.g., Adopt-A-Trail program.
5. Promote responsible trail uses to minimize ecological impacts and preserve sensitive habitats with interpretive signage.
6. Foster partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies to support trail development and maintenance efforts.
7. Collaborate with other organizations on funding, resources, and volunteer programs to leverage collective expertise and enhance trail infrastructure. (e.g. Equestrian amenities).

P7. Prepare plans for environmental protection

1. Collaborate with other jurisdictions across the peninsula to address environmental protections, invasive management and improvements between jurisdictional parks.
2. Prepare an invasive species management strategy, including;

    - Support for a peninsula-wide program for invasive species management in parks in collaboration with interest groups.
    - Work with community interest groups interested in North Saanich, Sidney and Central Saanich. Support the groups in resource sharing, volunteer resources, knowledge, tools, and community outreach.
    - Explore hiring a qualified professional to train volunteers and members of the public on invasive plant removal management.

3. Prepare a naturalization strategy including;

    - A process for public engagement including collaboration with the community and partners.
    - Identify naturalization priority locations.
    - Review design criteria including review process and operational requirements including staff allocation, and sources of funding.
    - Consider implementing some small pilot projects to test naturalization methods in collaboration with the community.
    - Encourage and support community volunteer projects such as constructing bird houses and mason bee boxes.

4. Continue to explore the ratification of the 300m marine zone designation that Sidney has adopted.

P8. Prepare a park wayfinding and signage strategy

Prepare a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan for parks and trails in collaboration with surrounding communities.

- Consider guidelines from other sources:
  - Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) wayfinding and signage tools that includes standard and recognizable icons for intended uses, ratings, and regulations. Trail Signage Generator | Recreation Sites and Trails BC (bc-trails.vercel.app).
  - CRD Cycling Destination Wayfinding Guidelines.
- Consider the potential for trail connections to neighbouring jurisdictions.

Collaborate with Central Saanich and Sidney to create a consistent approach for trail difficulty ratings, classifications, uses, and regulations.

P9. Prepare a park volunteer and community engagement strategy and policy

1. Create a park volunteer and community engagement strategy and policies to address the following;
   - Encourage neighbourhood associations to partner and assist in fund-raising for new playground equipment and park amenities.
   - Support the efforts of local not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for park improvements by contributing time and resources where appropriate.
2. Work in partnership, government to government with First Nation communities.
3. Coordinate with partners. Continue to work with partners for the continued provision of sport and recreation facilities (e.g., Blue Heron Park, Panorama).

P10. Establish policy and procedures for park capital improvements

1. Establish policy and procedures to determine when to engage third-party consultants or rely on in-house resources for capital improvements, planning, and design services within the park system.

P11. Create a park and trails maintenance plan and standards

1. Establish levels of service standards based on the park classification types. Community parks typically include the highest level of service and maintenance, while linear parks require lower levels.
    - Define clear standards for park maintenance, amenity condition, and levels of cleanliness within parks and trails.
    - Match staff resources to align with the levels of service for maintenance needs.
    - Increase the frequency of waste collection, install additional waste receptacles, and implement regular maintenance schedules in the standards.
    - Prioritize safety and accessibility for users of all ages and abilities.
    - To the extent possible, employ maintenance strategies that are environmentally conscious. This should include removing the use of pesticides.
    - Plan to regularly inspect trails for hazards and perform routine maintenance tasks.
2. Consider staff resources to implement the current and proposed levels of service in the parks and trails.

P12. Update and populate data set

1. Update all mapping and processes for GIS data management for the park system including park properties, park amenities, and asset management data.

P13. Create a park asset management plan

1. Complete an asset condition assessment for all hard assets in the park system and develop an improvement/replacement plan.

9.2 Capital Improvements

The following are capital improvement recommendations that include the specific planning required, recognizing that major planning initiatives are listed above.

C1. Improve existing community parks per park management plans

1. Key community parks have been identified for park management plans, which will include new playground structures, fencing, new parking areas, public washrooms and site furnishings. The capital costs for each park will vary.
    - Patricia Bay Park
    - Wain Park
    - Dominion Brook Park
    - Denham Till Park
    - Cy Hampson
2. In addition to the above list, Balsam Park has aged out playground equipment that should be replaced. Balsam park does not require a park management plan. Plan for all new playgrounds with the following considerations:
    - Consider the warranty timelines of the materials and equipment.
    - Maintenance and staff resources required for inspection and upkeep.
    - Typical replacement cycles of 10-15 years.

C2. Improve nature parks per vegetation management plans

1. Key nature parks have been identified for vegetation management plans, which will include capital improvements like signage, new trails or upgrades to existing ones, site furnishings, invasive species management, and fire safety initiatives. The capital costs for each park will vary.
    - Woodcreek Park
    - Sycamore Park
    - Readings Park
    - Queen Mary May Park
    - Quarry Park

C3. Improve shoreline access parks per management plans

1. The following shoreline access parks have been identified for capital improvements. These plans will include enhancements such as signage, infrastructure like stairs or ramps, site furnishings, invasive species management, and fire safety initiatives. The capital costs for each shoreline park will vary.

    - B49-the west end of Tatlow Road
    - B62-Warrior Point
    - B48-the west end of Moses Point Road
    - B 59-the west end of Downey Road

C4. Implement climate adaptive restoration plan at beaches

1. The following beaches have been selected for capital improvements, including nature-based solutions and stormwater management. The costs will vary for each park.

    - Tyron Beach
    - Nymph Point Park
    - Lillian Hoffar Beach

C5. Implement park plans for existing donated lands

1. The following donated lands are set for capital improvements, including fencing, overhead structures, community garden beds, and stormwater management. Costs will vary for each park.

    - Wolf Orchard Park
    - Bazan Bay Park
    - Forested parcel on Ardmore Road
    - Noble Garden

C6. Implement linear park plan and trail improvements

1. Improvements include purchasing additional land to link existing trails, building additional trail connectors on District land or improved facilities such as stairs and equestrian amenities.
2. Provide additional site furnishing and services including waste receptacles, seating and rest areas including benches, fencing and gateway elements at key trail locations. Focus efforts for these at trail entrances.
3. Install wayfinding and interpretive signage. Include information about local flora and fauna, cultural heritage, and points of interest.

C7. Implement invasive species management strategy

1. Implement the invasive species management strategy, through collaboration with volunteers. This may include the following implementation actions.
    - Assessment, monitoring, and ongoing evaluation.
    - Prevention measures.
    - Early detection and rapid responses measures.
    - Control, eradication and restoration measures.
    - Engagement and collaboration, including supports for park volunteers.
    - Policy and enforcements.
2. Explore hiring a qualified professional to train volunteers and members of the public on invasive plant removal management.

C8. Provide additional amenities at parks and trails

1. Integrate more cultural amenities, uses, and placemaking into parks W̱SÁNEĆ place names, public art, interpretive signage.
2. Install wayfinding and interpretive signage in parks and trails. Install additional signage related to waste disposal and conduct community outreach to stress the importance of the community participating in pack-in/pack-out at locations with no waste receptacles.
3. Install more equestrian amenities (hitch post, steps/platforms, signage).
4. Provide additional park furnishings, including;
    - Additional rest areas including benches, picnic tables, and sittable boulders or logs at key locations within parks and along trails.
    - Dog waste bag dispensers, regulatory signage, and information related to off-leash dog opportunity areas.





10.0

Implementation Plan

The implementation plan outlines the recommendations for enhancing and developing the park system in North Saanich. The following implementation table categorizes projects into short, medium, and long-term priorities.

The implementation plan for new park features, determined through community consultation, is distributed over a 10-year period. The strategy is based on planning needs, existing facility conditions, community requirements, alignment with the PMP vision and goals, funding, and community input on priorities. The PMP focuses on high-level recommendations and relative costs, with the understanding that detailed budgets will be compiled by District staff during budgeting processes. The plan assumes each recommended park planning initiative will lead to the suite of capital upgrades that the community supports. However, as each park plan is developed, it is anticipated that only some capital upgrades will ultimately be approved by Council.

Implementation Plan: Planning & Policy

No.	Recommendation	Timeline			Comments
		Short 0–3 years $	Medium 4–6 years $	Long 7–10 years $	
P1.	**Prepare park management plans for key community parks**				
P1.1	Patricia Bay Park	$20,000			
P1.2	Wain Park	$20,000			
P1.3	Dominion Brook Park		$30,000		
P1.4	Cy Hampson Park		$20,000		
P1.5	Denham Till Park			$20,000	
P2.	**Prepare vegetation management plans for key nature parks**				
P2.1	Woodcreek Park- 0.78 ha		$10,000		
P2.2	Sycamore Park-0.51 ha		$10,000		
P2.3	Readings Park- 1.37 ha		$10,000		
P2.4	Queen Mary May Park- .08 ha		$10,000		
P2.5	Quarry Park- 2.13 ha		$10,000		

No.	Recommendation	Timeline			Comments
		Short 0–3 years $	Medium 4–6 years $	Long 7–10 years $	
P3.	**Analyze and prepare park management plans for shoreline access parks**				
P3.1	Name all the developed shoreline access parks	$10,000			
P3.2	Conduct a comprehensive shoreline access study	$20,000	$20,000		
P3.3	Create shoreline park plans for: • B49-the west end of Tatlow Road • B62-Warrior Point, B48-the west end of Moses Point Road • B 59-the west end of Downey Road	$45,000			$15,000/ park
P3.4	Conduct a feasibility analysis for a new boat launch	$20,000			
P4.	**Prepare climate adaptive restoration plans at beaches**				
P4.1	Support planning and design efforts for shoreline climate-adaptive restoration (green shores) at the following beaches: • Tyron Beach • Nymph Point Park • Lillian Hoffar Beach	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000/ park
P5.	**Prepare plans and policies for donated park land**				
P5.1	Establish a policy for acceptance of donated lands as parks	$5,000			
P5.2	Develop park plans including cost estimates, for the undeveloped and donated lands that are already within the District's responsibility: • Wolf Orchard Park • Bazan Bay Park • Forested parcel on Ardmore Road • Noble Gardens	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000/ park

No.	Recommendation	Timeline			Comments
		Short 0–3 years $	Medium 4–6 years $	Long 7–10 years $	
P6.	**Prepare a linear park plan**				
P6.1	Develop a linear park plan and capital improvements plan		$25,000		
P7.	**Prepare plans for environmental protection**				
P7.1	Collaborate with other jurisdictions across the peninsula to address environmental protections, invasive management and improvements at parks	$10,000			
P7.2	Create an invasive species management strategy	$20,000			
P7.3	Prepare a naturalization strategy	$20,000			
P8.	**Prepare a park-wide wayfinding and signage strategy**				
P8.1	Prepare a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan for parks and trails		$15,000		
P9.	**Prepare a park volunteer engagement strategy and policies**				
P9.1	Create a volunteer engagement strategy and policy	$15,000			
P10.	**Establish policy and procedures for park capital improvements**				
P10.1	Create a policy to guide capital park improvements	$5,000			
P11.	**Create a park and trail maintenance plan and standards manual**				
P11.1	Create a park and trail maintenance plan and standards		$15,000		
P12.	**Update and populate data sets**				
P12.1	Update and populate GIS data for parks system	$50,000			
P13.	**Create a park asset management plan**				
P13.1	Complete an asset condition assessment for all hard assets in the park system and develop a improvement/ replacement plan	$40,000			
	Total Costs	**$335,000**	**$210,000**	**$55,000**	
	Aggregate Costs Per Year	**$111,667**	**$70,000**	**$18,333**	

Implementation Plan: Capital Improvements

No.	Recommendation	Timeline		
		Short 0–3 years $	Medium 4–6 years $	Long 7–10 years $
C1.	**Improve existing parks per park management plans**			
C1.1	Capital cost will vary depending on approved park management plan. Improvements could include new play structures, fencing, parking, washrooms, etc. Capital cost estimates range from $50-350,000/park. (Pat Bay, Wain, Dominion Brook, Cy Hampson, Denham Till, Jubilee, Balsam)	$50–350,000/park		
C2.	**Improve nature parks per vegetation management plans**			
C2.1	Capital cost will vary depending on approved vegetation management plan. Synergies with FireSmart and volunteer groups would reduce costs. Capital cost estimates of $25,000/park (Wood Creek, Sycamore, Readings, Queen Mary, Quarry)	$25,000/park		
C3.	**Improve shoreline access parks per plans**			
C3.1	Capital cost will vary depending on approved park plan. Improvements could include shoreline protection, access improvement, non-motorized boat launch facility, etc. Capital cost estimates of $25-100,000/park (B49-the west end of Tatlow Road, B62-Warrior Point, B48-the west end of Moses Point Road, B 59-the west end of Downey Road)	$25–100,000/park		
C4.	**Implement climate adaptive restoration plans at beaches**			
C4.1	Support the initiative to develop shoreline climate-adaptive restoration at the following beaches including: • Tyron Beach • Nymph Point Park • Lillian Hoffar Beach	$75,000/park		
C5.	**Implement park plans for existing donated parks**			
C5.1	Capital cost will vary depending on approved park plan. Improvements could include parking, fencing, gazebo, drainage, community garden, etc. Capital cost estimates of $50-300,000/park. (Wolf Orchard , Bazan Bay, Pavelic, Noble Gardens)	$50–300,000/park		

No.	Recommendation	Timeline		
		Short 0–3 years $	Medium 4–6 years $	Long 7–10 years $
C6.	**Implement linear park plans and trail improvements**			
C6.1	Capital cost will vary on approved linear park plan. Improvements could include purchasing additional land to link existing trails, building additional trail connectors on District land or improved facilities such as stairs. Capital cost estimates of $30-150,000/trail segment.	$30–150,000/trail segment		
C7.	**Implement invasive species management strategy**			
C7.1	Collaborate with volunteers to implement the invasive management strategy. Capital estimates of $20,000/year	$20,000/year		
C8.	**Provide additional amenities at parks and trails**			
C8.1	Integrate more cultural amenities, uses, and placemaking into parks W̱SÁNEĆ place names, public art, and interpretive signage. Capital costs estimate of $5,000/year	$5,000/year		
C8.2	Install wayfinding and interpretive signage on trail network. Capital cost estimate of $50,000 for entire trail system.	$50,000		
C8.3	Install more equestrian amenities (hitch post, steps/platforms, signage). Capital cost estimate of $5,000/year	$5,000/year		
	Total Capital Costs	**$1,170,000**	**$950,000**	**$450,000**
	Capital Costs Aggregate Costs Per Year	**$390,000**	**$316,667**	**$150,000**

Over the 10-year period, a total of $600,000 is allocated for planning improvements and $2.57 million for capital upgrades. For context, the District has spent $2.2 million, or an average of $220,000 per year, on parks capital projects over the last 10 years.

10.1 Asset Management Costs

The North Saanich parks system has 'hard' assets totaling a replacement value of approximately $4.1 million. The remaining service life of these assets varies with some requiring annual maintenance to keep operational, while other assets are in fair to good condition.

Currently, the condition of our Parks 'hard' assets are largely unknown. Recommendation #P13 of the PMP suggests that a park asset management plan be prepared in years 1–3 at a cost of $40,000. With the park reserve currently at ~$1.1 million, it is suggested to maintain the current annual reserve allocation of $245,000/year, which was initiated in 2024, until the park asset management plan and condition assessment is complete and a better understanding of the remaining service life of our existing assets is understood.

10.2 Budget Recommendations

Staff are recommending that with the adoption of the PMP only the recommended planning improvements be supported at an average annual cost of approximately $600,000/10 years = $60,000/year. As individual parks plans are adopted the specific capital costs related to each park improvement will be better understood and requested from Council at that time. This recommendation would result in the total annual allocation to our parks system to be as follows:

Planning Improvements	$60,000/year
Capital Improvements	TBD each year based on park capital plans
Total	$60,000 + approved budget for park specific improvements


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11.0

Funding Sources

The District finds itself in a unique position due to its ample parkland that has been continuing to expand because of land donations. Several linear parcels owned by the District could be developed to improve the trail-to-park connections. Through the public consultation process, the community's primary interest lies in enhancing and expanding the existing park system rather than acquiring new land or constructing additional parks. To provide these enhancements, the District will need to employ a combination of municipal funding, amenity contribution funds, and local, provincial, and federal partnerships and grants.

The following presents a list of potential funding strategies that could be employed.

Community Amenity Contribution Fund

A community amenity contribution (CAC) fund refers to a financial contribution provided by developers to local governments or municipalities during the development approval process. These funds are allocated to support the creation or enhancement of public amenities and infrastructure for the benefit of the community. Examples include parks, public art, recreational facilities, and transportation improvements. CAC's are not administered by the province, but rather, are administered through municipalities.

In North Saanich, the amenity contribution policy (No. COU-146), provides guidance to staff and developers in preparing amenity contribution packages for residential rezoning applications. This policy aims to ensure that rezoning efforts, which increase land value and demand for community services, are accompanied by contributions that support essential community amenities in the District of North Saanich. For parks and recreation, the amenity contributions can be applied to the following;

- Off-site Parks and trails development
- Expansion of recreational facilities
- Development of marine recreation facilities (i.e. new beach accesses, public dock or pier)
- Off-site cycle lanes and cycle paths
- Other projects identified in the Parks and Trails Master Plan and Active Transportation Plan

Development Cost Charges

Development Cost Charges (DCCs) help communities recover the costs of off-site infrastructure needed to support growth for core infrastructure. They are based on the principle that infrastructure costs should be paid by those who will benefit from it (i.e., growth pays for growth). They are regulated by the Province through the Local Government Act (Part 14, Division 19) and the DCC Best Practices Guide.

They support park acquisition and park improvement projects. Park improvement projects may include:

- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Drainage and irrigation
- Trails
- Restrooms
- Changing rooms
- Playground equipment
- Playing field equipment

They cannot be used for:

- Deficiencies, renewal, replacement, O&M costs, or any projects that are needed to support the existing population
- Off-street parking facilities
- Sports field lighting
- Artificial turf
- Sport courts
- New recreation buildings – eligible for collection under ACCs

Although North Saanich does not have a DCC program, it may consider establishing one if the community experiences growth and densification.

Amenity Cost Charges

Amenity Cost Charges (ACC) are a provincially regulated funding tool under the Local Government Act (Part 14, Division 19.1) that helps communities recover costs for amenities supporting livable communities. Like DCCs, ACCs are developed and administered through bylaws but focus on amenities rather than core infrastructure.

ACCs fund facilities or features that provide social, cultural, heritage, recreational, or environmental benefits, such as: community, youth or seniors' centres; recreation or athletic facilities; libraries; daycare facilities; and public squares.

Key considerations for ACCs:

- Costs for an amenity can only be recovered once (per s. 570.95 of the LGA). If funding for an amenity is identified in another development finance tool, like DCCs or the Community Amenity Policy, the same cost cannot be included in an ACC bylaw.
- ACCs cannot cover infrastructure eligible under DCCs.
- Park development components ineligible for DCC funding are expected to be eligible for ACCs. Due to the strict limitations of DCCs on eligible park projects, ACCs may provide a valuable alternative for recovering capital costs for park improvements that do not qualify under DCC regulations (e.g., pickleball courts, artificial turf).
- Unlike the Community Amenity Policy, in which contributions are voluntary, ACCs are provincially regulated and imposed by the Local Government.

User / Community Groups

Groups with an interest in or a passion for specific initiatives or causes are often prepared to materially support their realization. Sport clubs and leagues may contribute to the development of sport facilities, environmental groups to habitat and natural area protection or enhancements, and those with a stake in the tourism industry to civic beautification or improvements to waterfront access.

Individuals may also donate to small improvements, such as park benches, picnic tables and water fountains, as memorials or contributions (municipal governments can issue tax-deductible receipts for voluntary donations on the same basis as federally registered charities). One advantage of working through partnerships is that non-profit agencies and community groups are often able to access funding that municipalities are ineligible for or are unlikely to receive. These include lottery funds, foundation grants and some private sector donations.

Public Agency Joint-Ventures

The mandate and interests of the City overlap with those of other institutions, non-profits and other public agencies such as the Regional District, the School District, and Vancouver Island Health Authority, to name a few. Cooperative ventures can include co-location and space sharing of facilities and program co-sponsorship, which can greatly reduce both capital and operating costs.

Grants/Funding Opportunities

In British Columbia and Canada, there are several grants and funding opportunities available to support parks and recreation initiatives. These programs tend to support conservation efforts, recreation and tourism enhancements, and community engagement. Below are some key options:

Provincial Funding:

- **BC Recreation and Parks Association:** Provides a list of grants and funders to support recreation and parks in BC.
  - Green Municipal Fund: To support development of climate adaptation plans
  - Disability Alliance of BC Accessibility Funding
- **Heritage BC:** Supports heritage conservation across British Columbia through the Heritage Legacy Fund (HLF).
- **Island Coastal Economic Trust:** The Island Coastal Economic Trust invests its funds primarily through two grant programs: DIVERSIFY – Capital and Innovation Program and the THRIVE – Small Capital Program. Eligible applicants include local governments, non-profits, and First Nations
- **Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Grant (REDIP):** Grants available for economic diversification, resilience, clean growth opportunities, and infrastructure development.

National Funding:

- **Canada Healthy Communities Initiative:** To transform public spaces into safe and vibrant public spaces that are inclusive for all people.
- **Park People Grants:** Available for parks and trails planning projects from Park People Canada.

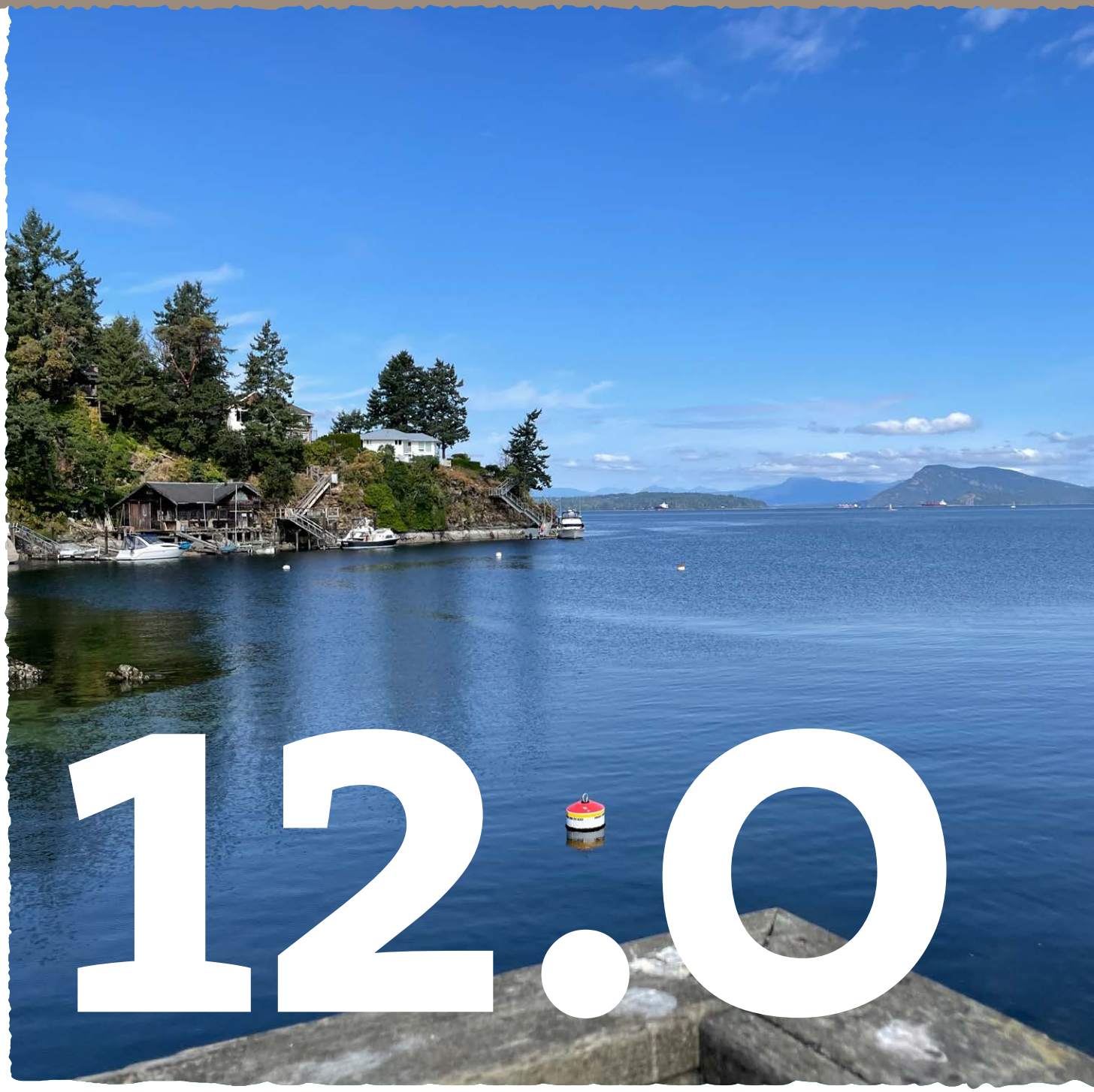
Donations

Residents sometimes wish to provide donations to park and trail projects. Opportunities include donations to memorials such as benches, trees, park interpretive signage or art. The District should continue to foster these programs.







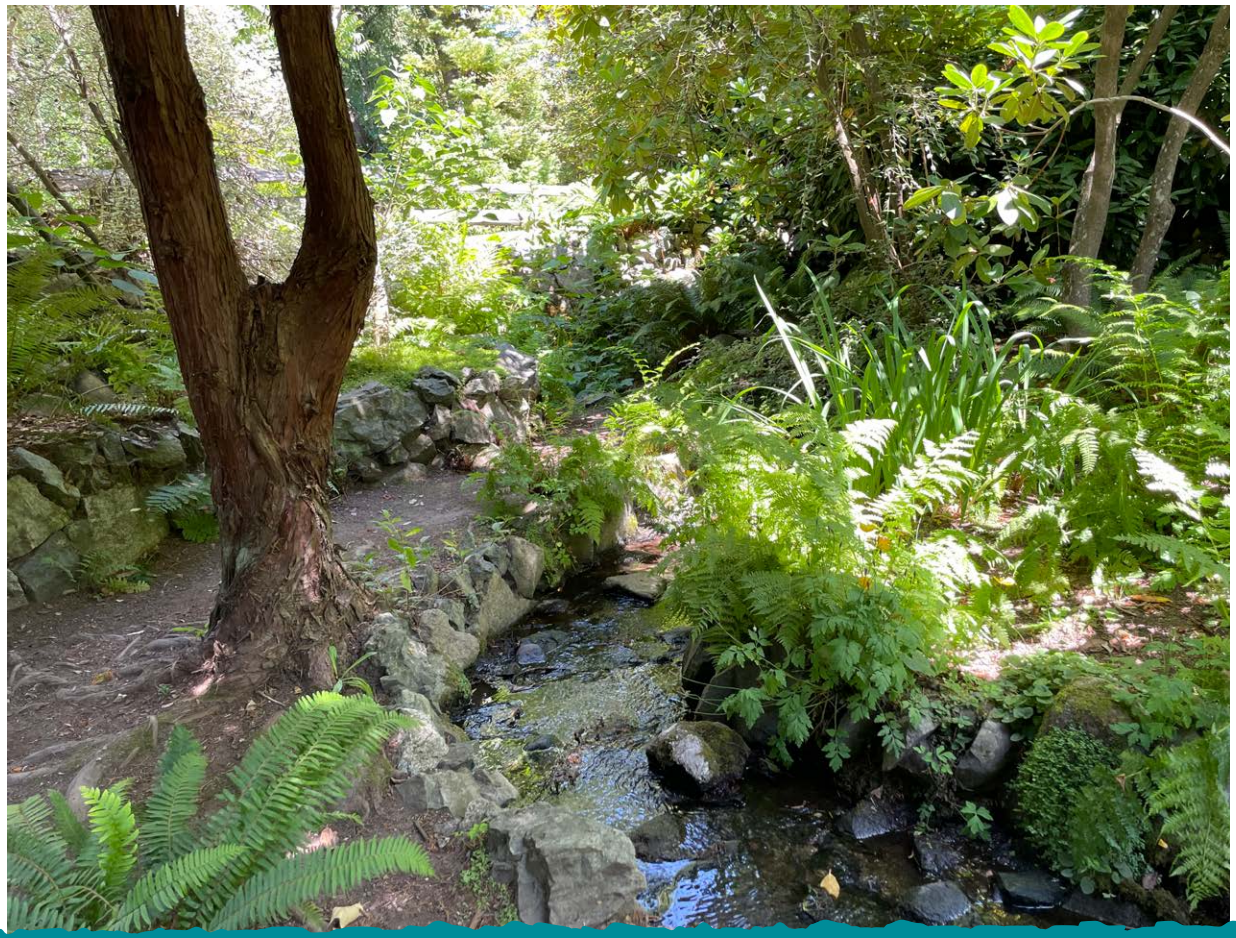


12.0 Closing and Next Steps

The Parks Master Plan (PMP) will be implemented in phases, thoughtfully based on community needs, funding opportunities, the District's capacity, and the evolving priorities of the Council over the next ten years. The PMP offers a comprehensive framework for enhancing park and trail amenities and expanding services, driving towards a future where our public spaces are more vibrant and inclusive.

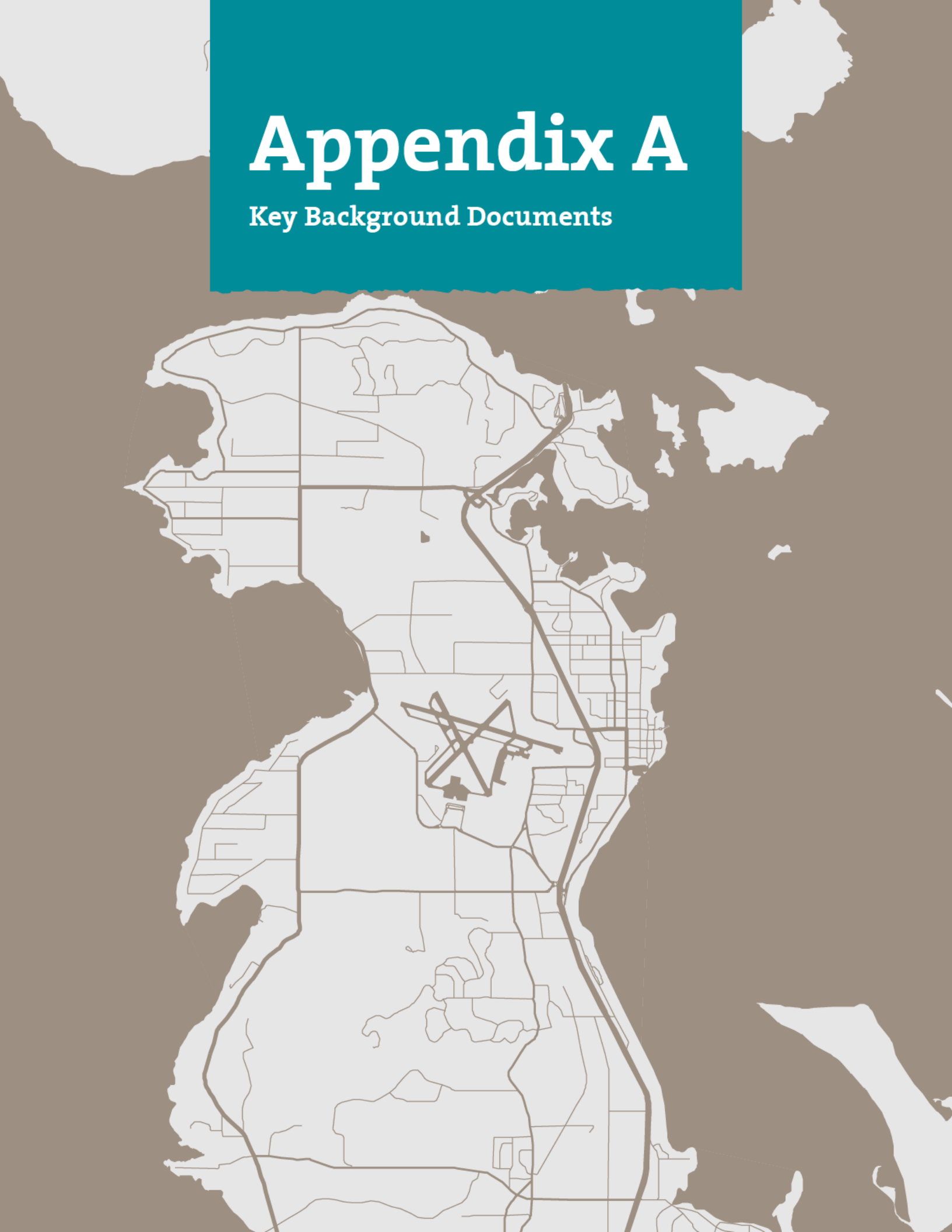
While the plan outlines an inspiring vision for the next decade, it remains a flexible and living document, ready to adapt as necessary to meet the dynamic landscape of funding, Council priorities, partnerships, and community involvement. Each proposed project within the PMP will require Council's approval, ensuring that every step taken aligns with our collective goals and aspirations.

The District of North Saanich is committed to working closely with all stakeholders to bring these projects to life. Together, we can create a network of parks and trails that not only meet the needs of our current residents but also inspire and serve future generations. Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we embark on this transformative endeavor.



Appendix A

Key Background Documents



Key Background Documents

Official Community Plan Update

Following a pause in 2023, the Official Community Plan (OCP) is now undergoing an update, guided by the Mayor, Council, and District staff. The process will begin with community engagement in spring of 2024, followed by the drafting of the OCP. This draft will be released and discussed in open house engagement events. The expectation is that the OCP will be presented to the Council for approval in early 2025.

The OCP update process in 2021/2022 involved public engagement. During the initial stages of this engagement, several desires for the parks in North Saanich were identified:

- Boat launch area.
- More beach accesses.
- New playgrounds/spaces for children.
- More soccer fields.
- More pickleball courts.
- Improved kayak/canoe access.
- Waste/recycle receptacles.
- More parking at trail heads including beach access.
- More horse friendly trails, more multi-use trails.
- More connectivity.
- More washrooms.
- More seating areas and places to gather.
- More protection of the environment.
- Invasive plant management - scope of the issue, regional role and guidance on DNS involvement.
- Use of native species in plantings, particularly species of interest to First Nations and development of traditional/medicinal gardens with First Nations.
- Protection of First Nations cultural sites.
- Use of First Nations language/place names.
- Consider First Nations art in community.
- Climate change resiliency in terms of summer drought protection.
- Integration of climate-friendly maintenance practices such no mow May, which allows pollinator plants to bloom or 'leave the leaves' to aid in moisture retention.
- Wildfire protection.

District of North Saanich Parks Plan (2011–2015)

The Parks Plan was prepared and submitted to North Saanich Council by the North Saanich Parks Commission in late 2010. The document provides an overview and analysis of the parks system including a list of goals, policy and operational recommendations, budget and funding requirements, and specific capital upgrades for moving forward. The plan does not classify parks, rather it categorizes North Saanich into seven neighbourhoods and analyzes park holdings including infrastructure and amenities on a neighbourhood scale. Though the plan was never formally adopted by Mayor and Council, North Saanich staff used the plan over the years as a guide for improvements.

To date, the District has completed the following capital upgrades:

- New trail at Falkirk ROW to Ardmore.
- Trail access at Dunsmuir Lodge property to John Dean Park.
- Reopen beach access at west end of Downey Road.
- 'Share the Road' signs installed.
- Tennis courts rebuilt at Wain Road.
- Cycling lanes on West Saanich McTavish to Wain Road.
- Repair of north section of Scoter Trail.
- Beach access B23 on Kirkpatrick Road.

North Saanich Active Transportation Plan (2021)

The North Saanich Active Transportation Plan provides an inventory of the District's existing active transportation network and provides opportunities, recommendations, and direction for improvements. The plan calls for increases to the active transportation network and a variety of safety measures that should be considered when developing parks and trails plans.

Bioregional Framework For The Saanich Peninsula (2021)

An outcome of the Sidney Summit on Habitat and Environment in 2018, this report outlines a holistic approach to the environmental health and management of the Saanich Peninsula. Though the PMP will address the needs of parks within North Saanich, the principles outlined by the Bioregional Framework are useful in achieving the District's environmental concerns and goals within its parks system. It is very important to consider the connections and opportunities across the peninsula including across municipality boundary streams, trail connectivity and beaches.

District Of North Saanich Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2021)

This document provides a framework to review and assess areas of identified high fire risk within the District. It includes 39 recommendations that provide options to local government and residents to help reduce the wildfire threat to the North Saanich community. With significant forest lands within the District's parks and trails system and the sometimes-conflicting priorities between wildfire management and ecological best practices, these recommendations are highly relevant to parks management within North Saanich.

Capital Region Coastal Inundation Mapping Project Summary – Version 2.0 (2021)

This document provides a summary of a mapping exercise done within the Regional Coastal Flood Inundation Project to better understand regional impacts from coastal flooding due to sea-level rise and tsunamis. In response, the District of North Saanich conducted a study that indicated site specific conditions such as wave exposure and shoreline type leading to recommendations regarding the District's marine policies within the OCP.

Tseycum Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Overview (2022)

This document provides a summary of the Tseycum Creek Watershed Integrated Stormwater Management Plan including draft recommendations for the drainage infrastructure within the watershed. Recommendations are largely focused on improving infrastructure such as culverts, ditches and storage ponds as well as improving policy and land use practices to protect and enhance Tseycum Creek.

Drainage Master Plan (2022)

This report provides an explanation and analysis of North Saanich's stormwater features and outlines goals and recommendations for the District moving forward. Recommendations include establishing Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas for all eligible waterbodies and streams within the District and the enlargement of several detention areas and ditches.

Briarwood Beach Access Review (2022–2023)

This document summarizes the outcomes of the spring 2023 engagement process, which had 183 survey participants comment on their use, desires, and concerns for Briarwood Beach Access. The access point is a recreation site with year-round visitation primarily by locals who live nearby. Key uses include walking, relaxing, swimming, and non-motorized boat launching. Concerns included limited parking, trespassing on adjacent properties, littering, and environmental impact from visitation. The review included recommendations for improvements and at the September 11th, 2023, meeting, Council approved the recommended parking improvements and deferred the recommended beach access amenity improvements for inclusion in the PMP engagement effort.

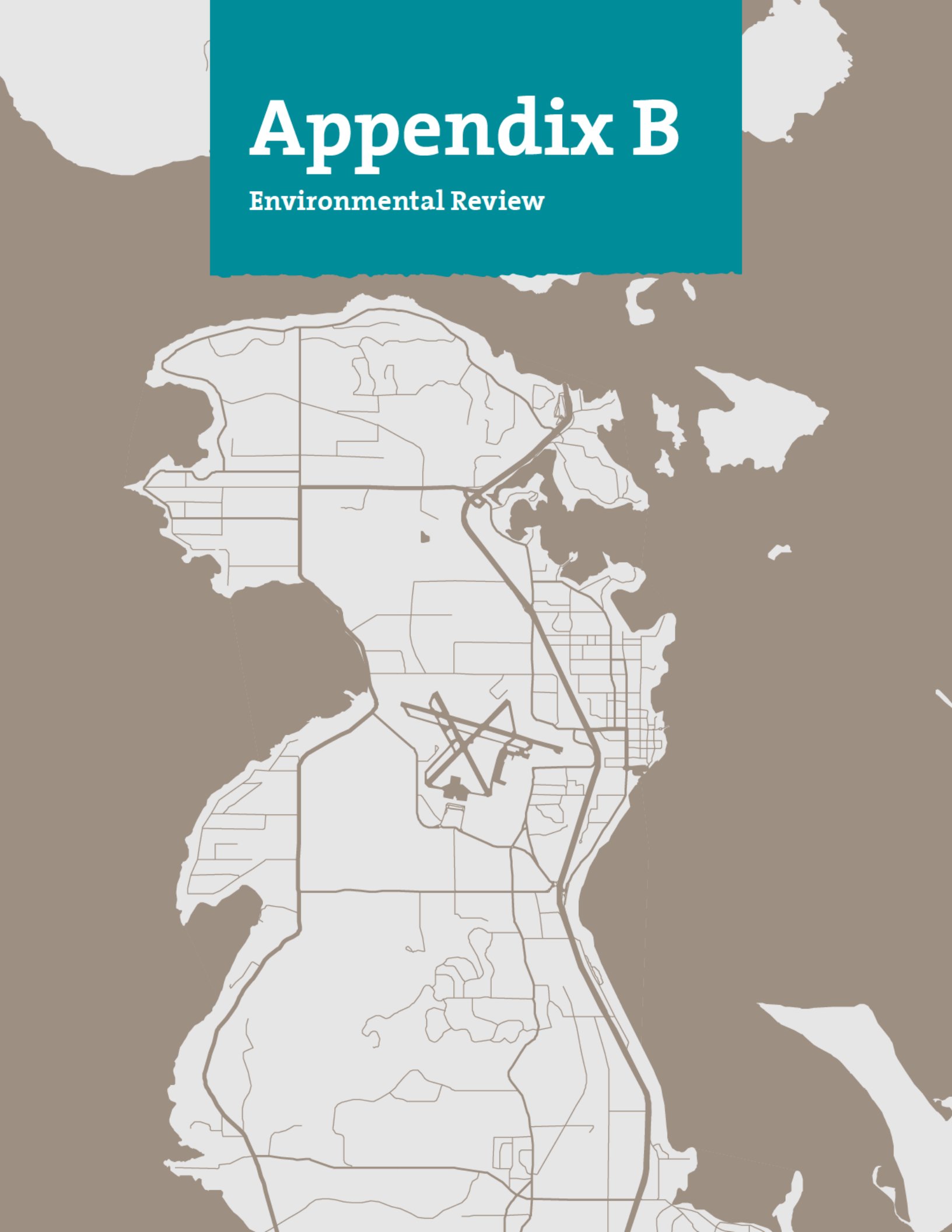
Tree Protection Bylaw (2022)

The District of North Saanich knows that tree canopy plays a very important role in the health and well-being of the residents, the animals and ecosystems and natural areas environment. For development work where trees are present, the tree protection bylaw requires an application for a tree permit. The permit provides criteria and standards for removals, protections, and replacements. It also provides detailed information for the process to be undertaken if there are proposed changes within Environmental Protection Areas.

A gap analysis reveals that procedures and related submission standards for development permit and building permit applications require updates so that the tree protection bylaw can be sufficiently carried out. For example, building permit applications standards should be updated to ensure that the applicant includes a topographic and site features survey and includes a tree protections and removal plan. While this has no direct impact on the PMP, this gap does have impacts on natural area conservation and overall tree canopy coverage across the community, thereby increasing pressure on parks.

Appendix B

Environmental Review





NORTH SAANICH PARKS MASTER PLAN LIMITED DESKTOP ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

October 23, 2023

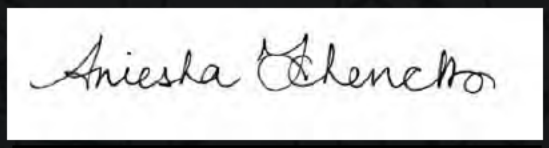
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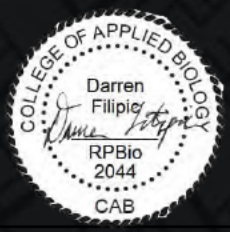
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File: 1706.0007.01

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The District of North Saanich has hired Urban Systems Ltd. (USL) to help create a new Parks Master Plan for the community. This plan will place significant emphasis on protecting the environment and maintaining the rural and forested character of North Saanich.

Parks, green spaces, and the urban forests play a vital role in providing benefits like wildlife habitat, preventing erosion, improving water quality, addressing climate change, and enhancing the quality of life for people. To make this plan work, it's essential to understand the current state of these natural areas and the environmental rules, regulations, and protection measures that should be utilized.

At the same time, as the North Saanich community grows and changes, there will be more pressure on the parks system to contribute to other priorities such as increased sport fields and courts, playgrounds, and trails. To help address this, Urban Systems has conducted a Limited Desktop Environmental Review to give a broad overview of the environmental aspects and considerations for the parks in North Saanich as part of their Parks Master Plan.

1.2 SCOPE OF LIMITED DESKTOP ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This desktop review of available environmental information was sourced from publicly available information and databases. It is intended to provide a high-level review of natural elements / environmental considerations for parks within the District of North Saanich in support of their Parks Master Plan. As part of the review, existing parks within North Saanich were investigated and more broadly, the District of North Saanich. These areas are referred to as the 'Study Area' throughout the review.

Components of the Limited Desktop Environmental Review:

- Regulatory considerations which include legislation and policies containing environmental direction and potential requirements that may be relevant to the Study Area.
- Desktop review of natural elements / environmental considerations that may be relevant to the Study Area.
- Recommendations for value component opportunities within the Study Area.
- Future considerations pertaining to environmental components prior to development activities.

1.3 DESKTOP REVIEW SOURCES

The following databases were reviewed:

- BC Bird Atlas - Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia
- BC Conservation Data Centre - BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer
- BC Habitat Wizard Web Application – Stream Report
- BC iMap Web Application
- BC Invasive Alien Plant Program Web Application
- BC Ministry of Environment – Fisheries Information Data Queries (FIDQ)
- BC Provincial Priority Invasive Species BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group – Priority List
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada - Assessment and Status Report on the Sharp-tailed Snake Contia tenuis in Canada

- Community Mapping Network – British Columbia Great Blue Herons Atlas
- Community Mapping Network - Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas Web Application
- District of North Saanich Community Profile - Official Community Plan Baseline Conditions Report
- District of North Saanich webpage - About North Saanich
- District of North Saanich webpage - District of North Saanich Bylaw No. 1548
- District of North Saanich webpage - District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130
- District of North Saanich webpage - What is an Official Community Plan?
- DFO Aquatic Species at Risk Map
- Google Earth Pro
- Government of Canada – Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS)
- Government of Canada Justice Laws Website - Migratory Birds Regulations (SOR/2022-105)
- Government of Canada – Nesting Calendars of Migratory Birds
- Government of Canada – Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- iNaturalist
- SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, Peninsula Streams Society and Saanich Inlet Protection Society - Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines
- Stewardship Centre for British Columbia - Green Shores Shoreline Development Program
- Stewardship Centre for British Columbia - Lands Near Water Riparian Restoration & Enhancement
- The Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition - A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich PeninsulaRecognition of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory.

2.0 REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and policies containing environmental direction and potential requirements relevant to the study area are outlined below.

2.1 FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

2.1.1 MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT, 1994 (S.C. 1994, C. 22)

Most migrating birds found in Canada are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). This Act and its complementary Regulations ensure the conservation of migratory bird populations by regulating potentially harmful human activities. Under the Migratory Bird Regulation (2022), prohibits the damage, destruction, removal, or disturbance of the nests of all migratory birds when there is a live bird or viable egg, or if the nest was built by a species that is listed in Schedule 1. Schedule 1 lists 18 migratory bird species whose nests are known to be reused in subsequent years by migratory birds. The nests of these 18 species are protected year-round until the nest remains unoccupied by a migratory bird for the period of time designated in Schedule 1 (*i.e.,* 12, 24 or 36 months, depending on the species).

The time clock for this waiting period starts on the day that Environment and Climate Change Canada receives the notification via the Abandoned Nest Registry. Nests for which a notification has been received continue to be protected against damage, destruction, disturbance, or removal during the designated waiting period.

A permit is not required under this Act provided that the nests of Schedule 1 birds are not disturbed, and the nests, eggs and young of all other migratory birds are not impacted.

The nesting season for most bird species on Vancouver Island is late March – mid August. Species, including raptors, owls and great blue heron commence nesting earlier. By conducting vegetation and ground disturbance activities outside of the nesting season for birds, a proponent is often able to maintain compliance with the above regulatory considerations. Should tree / vegetation clearing, or ground disturbance activities occur during the nesting season, a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) should be engaged to conduct a site visit / bird survey prior to construction activities.

Refer to **Section 3.4** for more information on migratory birds within the Study Area.

2.1.2 SPECIES AT RISK ACT (S.C. 2002, C. 29)

The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) provides protection to endangered or threatened organisms and their habitats. This legislation applies to all federal land, to migratory birds and all aquatic species as defined in the Fisheries Act, wherever they are found. Although SARA prohibitions are automatically imposed on federal lands including First Nations lands, the intent of SARA also applies to provincial crown and private lands. SARA encourages provincial and First Nations governments to cooperate to protect wildlife in Canada.

Refer to **Section 3.3** for more information on potential sharp tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*) habitat within the Study Area. Sharp tailed snake are considered endangered under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

CRITICAL HABITAT

Critical habitat is identified for species listed as Endangered or Threatened under SARA and is defined under section 2 of the Act as: "the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species' critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species".

Under SARA, it is illegal to destroy any part of the critical habitat of any listed endangered species or of any listed threatened species – or of any extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of the species into the wild in Canada if:

a) the critical habitat is on federal land, in the exclusive economic zone of Canada or on the continental shelf of Canada;
b) the listed species is an aquatic species; or
c) the listed species is a species of migratory bird protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Refer to **Section 3.1** for more information on critical habitat for federally listed Species at Risk within the Study Area.

2.1.3 FISHERIES ACT (R.S.C., 1985, C. F-14)

The Fisheries Act provides a framework to manage and control Canada's fisheries, as well as to conserve and protect fish and fish habitat, including pollution prevention. Under the Act, activities other than fishing that result in the death of fish and/or activities that may result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat are prohibited.

Projects with the potential to adversely impact fish and/or fish habitat and with a project scope that is not covered under the standards and codes of practice should be reviewed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) through the Request for Review process. This applies to work in or near water bodies that are frequented by fish and any other areas which fish depend on directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes, including spawning grounds, nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas, including any waterbody that is connected

to fish-bearing waters at any time of the year. A further review will determine if the project requires an Authorization under the Fisheries Act.

Refer to **Section 3.6** for more information on fisheries resources within the Study Area.

2.2 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

2.2.1 BC WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT AND REGULATIONS (SBC 2014, C 15)

All water in BC, including land below the high-water mark of a watercourse, is managed by the Crown on behalf of the residents of the province. For any changes in and about a stream, an application under Section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) is required.

Water Sustainability Regulation

The Water Sustainability Regulation addresses the requirements for the allocation of both ground and surface water (e.g., application requirements) and identifies the requirements for using water or making changes to a stream.

2.2.2 BC RIPARIAN AREAS PROTECTION REGULATION BC REG 178/2019

The Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) was enacted under Section 12 of the Fish Protection Act in July 2004. The Fish Protection Act was subsequently re-titled the Riparian Areas Protection Act in February 2016. The RAPR calls on local governments to protect riparian areas during residential, commercial, and industrial development by ensuring that a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) conducts a science-based assessment of proposed activities. The purpose of the regulation is to protect the many and varied features, functions and conditions that are vital for maintaining stream health and productivity, including:

- Sources of large organic debris, such as fallen trees and tree roots
- Areas for stream channel migration
- Vegetative cover to help moderate water temperature
- Provision of food, nutrients and organic matter to the stream
- Stream bank stabilization
- Buffers for streams from excessive silt and surface run-off pollution

2.2.3 BC WILDLIFE ACT (RSBC 1996, C. 488)

The BC Wildlife Act (BC WA) governs the protection and management of wildlife in BC. The Act defines wildlife as all native and some non-native amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and fish. The Wildlife Act protects virtually all vertebrate animals from direct harm, except as allowed by regulations (e.g., hunting or trapping). In BC, 152 wildlife species and sub-species are considered candidates for endangered, threatened, or vulnerable status. The Act deals with the protection and maintenance of suitable habitat and the conservation of wild species, those species that may be at risk of extinction, as well as nesting birds, their nests, and their eggs. Section 34 of the Wildlife Act prohibits possessing, taking, or destroying (i) a bird or its egg, (ii) the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron, or burrowing owl, or (iii) the nest of a bird not mentioned in (ii), when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg unless authorized under permit. By conducting vegetation and ground disturbance activities outside of the nesting season for birds, a proponent is often able to maintain compliance with respect to Section 34 of this Act. In addition, ensuring construction activities do not harm vertebrate animals will help maintain compliance with this Act.

Refer to **Section 3.4.2** for more information on known great blue heron colonies, bald eagle nests and osprey nests protected under the BC WA within the Study Area.

2.2.4 BC LIST OF SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS WITH PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION STATUS

The BC Conservation Data Center (CDC) tracks and categorizes species and ecological communities according to their provincial conservation status in BC. Provincially, the CDC assigns a provincial rank or listing of 'Red' or 'Blue' or 'Yellow' to a species based on its status within BC. The rankings or provincial listing categories described below highlight the wildlife and plant species as well as natural plant communities that require special attention. **The CDC listing is an advisory and management tool and is not a legal designation in the province.**

- **Red:** any indigenous species, subspecies or plant community that is extirpated, endangered, or threatened in BC. Extirpated elements no longer exist in the wild in BC but do occur elsewhere. Endangered elements are facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened elements are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.
- **Blue**: any indigenous species, subspecies or community considered to be vulnerable (special concern) in BC. Vulnerable elements are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events. Blue-listed elements are at risk, but are not extirpated, endangered, or threatened.
- **Yellow**: indigenous species which are not at risk in British Columbia.

Refer to **Section 3.2** for more information on mapped occurrences of provincial species and ecosystems at risk and **Section 3.3** for more information on potential sharp tailed snake (Contia tenuis; BC Red listed) habitat within the Study Area.

2.2.5 BC HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT (RSBC 1996, C187)

All archaeological sites in BC are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act and must not be damaged or altered without a Provincial heritage permit issued by the BC Archaeology Branch. This protection applies even when archaeological sites are previously unidentified or disturbed and applies to sites located on public and/or private land. Protected archaeological sites may not be altered or changed in any manner without a permit.

Projects involving excavation or land-altering activities should include the services of a registered professional archaeologist in order to ascertain any potential impacts to archaeological resources. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) may be recommended if archaeological sites are present within the general project area. If a permit is required, the permit application and issuance process take 15 to 35 weeks. The permit application process includes referral to Indigenous communities and subsequent engagement with Indigenous communities.

Refer to **Section 3.9** for more information on cultural resources and archaeological sites within the Study Area.

2.2.6 BC AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION ACT

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Farming / ranching of ALR land is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are regulated.

As listed in the District of North Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP), there are 1284 hectares of Agricultural Land Reserve land within the District, of which 59 hectares are federally owned (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP '[Figure 1: Agricultural Land Reserve]' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**).

There are several small parks and numerous trails within the ALR as well as parks and trails adjacent to the ALR within the District of North Saanich.

Parkland within the ALR includes:

- Kanishay Road Park
- Rotary Park
- Reay Creek Park
- Dominion Brook Park
- Cy Hampson Park
- Some Undeveloped Greenspace

Refer to **Section 2.3.1** 'Policies for Agriculture' for more information on land classified under the agricultural land reserve within the Study Area.

2.2.7 WEED CONTROL ACT

The Weed Control Act provides a schedule of noxious weeds that must be controlled by the occupier of that land or premises.

Refer to **Section 3.8** for a list of invasive plant species within the Study Area.

2.3 LOCAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

2.3.1 DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN, POLICIES, AND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS, BYLAW 1130, 2007

The content below references the District of North Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP) and uses the listed resources below. These resources were selected based on their relevance to environmental considerations (District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130, 2007; What is an Official Community Plan?, 2023). It should be noted that all development permit areas identified within the OCP are under review. Therefore, existing policy is described in general terms and not to constrain the Parks Master Plan as all the Development Permit Areas may change in terms of both policy and mapped areas.

There are also regional bylaws, such as the Capital Regional District's Bylaw No. 4168, Saanich Peninsula Stormwater Source Control, regulate storm drain maintenance and restrict certain substances from being released into storm drains.

District of North Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP) relevant resources to environmental considerations within the Study Area:

- **Figure 1**: Agricultural Land Reserve
- **DPA No. 1**: Marine Uplands and Foreshore
- **DPA No. 2**: Creeks, Wetlands, Riparian Areas, And Significant Water Resources
- **DPA No. 3**: Identified Sensitive Ecosystems
- **DPA No. 4**: Steep Slopes
- **Schedule B**: Land Use Designations
- **Schedule F**: Significant Trees & Heritage Sites
- **Schedule G**: Foreshore, Major Creeks, Watercourses and Shoreline Components

Local Legislation and Policies which are relevant to environmental considerations within the Study Area include five (5) policies, four (4) Development Permit Areas, and one (1) bylaw. These include:

- Policies for Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Policies for Marine Areas
- Policies for Agriculture
- Policies for Parkland Dedication
- Policies for General Development
- DPA No. 1 Marine Uplands and Foreshore
- DPA No. 2 Creeks, Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Significant Water Resources
- DPA No. 3 Identified Sensitive Ecosystems
- DPA No. 4 Steep Slopes
- Tree Protection Bylaw, No. 1548

Development Permit Areas (DPAs) are pursuant to Section 919.1(1)(a) of the Local Government Act. Section 919.1(1)(a) authorizes local government to designate development permits where protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity is desired and can be justified.

"Development" means any activity referred to in Section 920(1) of the Local Government Act and includes alteration or development of land for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, service, or utility uses or activities, or ancillary uses or activities, to the extent that these uses or activities are subject to local government powers under Part 26 of the Local Government Act.

Examples of activities that could require a Development Permit are:

- removal, alteration, disruption or destruction of vegetation;
- removal, deposit or disturbance of soils, as defined in the District's Bylaw; construction or erection of buildings and structures as defined by the District's Building Bylaw;
- creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces;
- flood protection works; construction of roads, trails, docks, wharves and bridges;
- provision and maintenance of sewer and water services;
- development of drainage systems;
- development of utility corridors; and
- subdivision, as defined in the Local Government Act.

Policies for Environmentally Sensitive Areas

As part of the OCP, the District has established DPAs and large tracts of parkland to protect natural features which set out guidelines for protection of environmentally sensitive areas including key water resources, waterfowl habitat and other special environmental areas. Similarly, the District has established large lot sizes for residential development as a means of limiting density and encouraging retention of trees. The Tree Preservation Bylaw (**Section Tree Protection Bylaw, No. 1548**) will assist in preventing unnecessary clearing and enhancing erosion control. Plan policies support and strengthen these initiatives.

The District has pressing reasons to protect its natural environment: the area has many high quality features and habitats including marine birdlife, shellfish areas, marshes, ponds, streams, hedgerows and rich plant communities in many wooded areas and at high elevations. As the Official Community Plan supports agricultural activities, this implies that a strong commitment to the land base, its water resources and overall ecology is required. The policies in the OCP are intended to ensure that future land and waterfront development is compatible with the physical nature, resources and limitations of the land base, and growth is planned to ensure a high level of protection for the environment.

Policies for environmentally sensitive areas:

- Recognize ecologically sensitive areas by identifying and conserving special wildlife, plant, and marine shore environments (such as pocket beaches) in their natural state. These are outlined on Schedule G in the OCP and identified through the various development permit requirements.
- Provide for density controls through the amenity bonusing provisions of Section 904 of the Local Government Act in order to retain significant open space and to preserve significant landscape features and natural habitat.
- Encourage all residents and developers to utilize environmentally sensitive lot clearing, drainage and individual water supply and effluent disposal systems which recognizes these systems are inter-related.
- Promote the use and retention of hedgerows and native vegetation to preserve natural biological diversity, and to conserve water.
- If any development occurs in these areas, it must be consistent with the protection of watercourses, wetlands, riparian areas, aquifers, and sensitive ecosystems. Where possible, watercourses and natural drainage channels should be preserved in their natural state and, where feasible, developed as drainage rights-of-way.
- For the protection of wetlands and riparian areas, a buffer zone shall be designated and there will be no development within this buffer zone, except in accordance with this Plan.
- If development occurs in environmentally sensitive areas, erosion is to be addressed and, if possible, prevented in areas of steep slopes by leaving slopes uncleared, retaining areas of mature tree cover, and preserving other natural features.
- Development near any watercourse, stream, creek, or wetland is subject to the Fish Protection Act, which will be used to identify the streamside protection and enhancement areas, and any applicable requirements for protection of these areas and fish protection measures.
- For development in environmentally sensitive areas, the developer must consult and implement the guidelines found in the most recent edition of the Environmental Best Management Practices for Urban and Rural Land Development document published by the Ministry of Environment.

Policies for Marine Areas

As part of the OCP, the District has provided guidance for the allocation of uses in foreshore areas through Official Community Plan policies and Zoning Bylaw regulations. If the shoreline is not adequately protected, there could

be a loss or interruption in wildlife habitat, and increased pollution from spills of gasoline, diesel, paint, and other chemicals. Groynes and breakwaters can interrupt the tidal flow resulting in disruption of silt movement.

Demand for Foreshore Uses:

The extensive marina developments on the east coast of the Peninsula reflect the importance of recreational boating in the region. As areas physically suitable for marinas become less available in the region, there is increasing demand to alter physical environments through dredging and breakwaters to create or expand marina developments. Generally, these sheltered environments are also the most environmentally sensitive areas, and boating facilities may have negative effects on fish, bird, or wildlife habitat.

Some types of foreshore structures may conflict with the recreational uses of the shoreline and nearshore. Recreational uses include access to the shoreline for walking and viewing of wildlife and shore birds, and use of the nearshore areas for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

The District does not have extensive beach access with high recreation potential in the classic sense of walkable beaches. Much of the coastline is rugged and steep and difficult to traverse even at low tide. For this reason, the small pocket beaches, and areas where limited walking can take place are becoming particularly valuable. To protect and enhance the marine, inter-tidal and upland habitats of the District, all areas of the District foreshore extending 300 metres from the shore shall be designated as a Marine Area as shown on Schedule B of the OCP.

The marine shoreline of the District can be classified into three major types of shores (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP 'Schedule G: Foreshore, Major Creeks, Watercourses and Shoreline Components' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**):

- **Rocky Shores** which consist primarily of rock platform and may include steep cliffs or shelves overlain with beach veneer of boulders, gravel, or rubble.
    - The extensive rock platform shoreline of the District, although less environmentally sensitive than other shorelines, provides habitat for diverse varieties of shellfish, birds and other species such as starfish and anemones.
- **Beach Shores** (*i.e.,* Drift Sector Beaches and Pocket Beaches) which may consist of broad silty/sandy beaches or gravely/blocky rubble beaches or mixed rock with beach sediment and may be classified as either a drift-sector or pocket beach of Class 1, 2, or 3 rating.
    - Drift Sector Beaches: There are no Class 1 accretion beach shores in the District. There are Class 2 and Class 3 erosion beaches which provide limited walkable backshore, and which are the source of beach materials for other sections of the drift sector.
    - Pocket Beaches: There are numerous pocket beaches along the District shoreline. These beaches are generally Class 2 or Class 3 erosion or marginal erosion beaches at the base of bluffs or cliffs. Although they offer little or no walkable beach area at high tide, they do have recreational value at low tide and offer sheltered environments for birds and shellfish.
- **Lagoon Ecosystems** which include both mudflat and delta areas and are generally highly sensitive and productive natural areas.
    - The sheltered inner mudflat and marsh areas of Tsehum Harbour are a highly valuable and productive waterfowl habitat, forming a lagoon ecosystem separated from the outer harbour areas. These areas also have high recreational value for viewing of wildlife. Other smaller delta areas identified are sensitive to disruption of waterflows and shoreline processes if structural

intrusions occur. Generally, these shallow shore types require considerable dredging and alteration and are not considered suitable for any type of development.

Policies for Agriculture

As of the date of adoption of the OCP, there were 1284 hectares of Agricultural Land Reserve land within the District, as shown on Figure 1 of the OCP, of which 59 hectares are federally owned.

Retaining the viability of these lands is important in terms of providing local food security and economic diversity, but also in terms of preserving valuable rural landscapes for the community. Since support of agricultural activities and land uses is a primary goal of the OCP, agricultural policies are aimed at protecting the land base for current and potential agriculture, ensuring that the agricultural potential of farmland is not diminished by placement of utilities, public works facilities or community facilities, and reducing potential conflicts with non-farm uses. The District seeks to reduce residential and commercial impacts on agricultural activities through the appropriate use of buffers, large lots and the setback of structures on the non-agricultural areas.

There are two general types of agricultural land in this Plan:

- **Agricultural**: lands designated as Agricultural on the Long-term Land Use Plan map, Schedule B, include areas with potential for a wide range of agricultural production, and shall include land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).
- **Rural:** The general purpose of lands designated as Rural is to provide a buffer between residential development and agricultural land use. Rural areas not within the ALR are intended to accommodate hobby farms, small-scale farm operations and small acreage residential uses within an agricultural setting. Along Wain and Tatlow Roads between Heather and Littlewood Roads, land in the ALR has been given a Rural designation. Agricultural use of this ALR land is encouraged regardless of soil capability with agricultural activities that are less reliant on soil capability strongly supported.

Refer to **Section 2.2.6** for a list of parks and trails within the ALR as well as parks and trials adjacent to the ALR within the District of North Saanich.

Policies for Agricultural and Rural Areas:

- Lands designated Agricultural on Schedule B of the OCP have the capability for agricultural use.
- The District does not support any commercial or non-agricultural development on land located within the Agricultural Land Reserve unless it meets the rural philosophy of North Saanich and is approved by the Agricultural Land Commission.
- To protect ALR land from uses that are incompatible or inconsistent with agricultural use, proposed development adjacent to Agricultural and Rural areas may only be supported in accordance with the following criteria:
    - the development will have minimal impact on the existing man-made and natural physical features of the area; and
    - There must be a buffer zone used between the proposed land use and the agricultural parcels of land, on the non-farm side of the agricultural area.
- All types of crop and livestock-based agricultural activities are supported on agricultural lands.
- Further work will by done by the District on edge planning and the development of a buffer strip for the protection of agriculture.
- Only those outdoor recreational uses permitted by the Agricultural Land Commission Act Regulation 171/2002 will be allowed on lands in the ALR.

- The inclusion requirement in Section 5.11 of the OCP does not apply to land that has been approved by the ALC for non-farm uses since 1975, and that is used solely for public recreation and community uses.
- To ensure the sustainability of the District's farm community as an integral part of agriculture on the Saanich Peninsula, agricultural activities, ancillary agriculture uses such as agri-tourism and the uses outlined in the Agricultural Land Commission Act Regulation 171/2002 Section 2(1) are encouraged on lands in the ALR.
- For land located within the ALR, this bylaw is binding only insofar as it is not contrary to the Agricultural Land Commission Act, the Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act and the Agricultural Land Reserve Land Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation 171/2002.

DPA No. 1 Marine Uplands and Foreshore

The purpose of DPA No. 1 is to regulate development along the shoreline, foreshore, and uplands to provide long-term protection for the ecological values of these areas and guard against their deterioration and contamination.

The marine areas surrounding the District of North Saanich have been noted in the OCP for their high wildlife habitat values and scenic beauty. Tsehum Harbour and the lagoon have been designated as a migratory bird sanctuary providing important wintering habitat to thousands of waterbirds. In addition, a unique variety of marine plants and animals are found here.

The Gullhaven area also supports a rich variety of marine habitat, which includes habitat for several great blue herons. Residential development and potential demand for private boat docks and other structures may threaten the integrity of the foreshore and valued upland habitats. A development permit is required in order to balance development opportunities with conservation of the ecological and scenic values of the shoreline and minimize any impact to wildlife habitat.

DPA No. 1 consists of the following areas (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP '*DPA No. 1: Marine Uplands and Foreshore*' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**):

- Upland areas extending 15 metres inland from the high water mark (shaded red)
- Deep Cove Chalet Property (shaded purple)
- Queen Mary Bay (shaded yellow)
- Gullhaven Area (shaded pink)
- Tsehum Harbour and Lagoon (shaded green)
- Marinas and Yacht Clubs (dotted)

Guidelines for development within areas of the DPA No. 1 include:

- No site alterations shall be permitted in a foreshore area, as designated in section 14.3 of the OCP, except those allowed in a development permit or subject to the general exemptions outlined in section 14.2 of the OCP.
- Existing trees and vegetation on the upland area and adjacent to the foreshore must be retained in order to maintain the existing habitat and to control erosion.
- No habitable buildings or other structures requiring foundations will be constructed and no sewage disposal system will be installed in these Development Permit Areas except those allowed in a development permit or subject to the general exemptions outlined in section 14.2 of the OCP.
- Modification of channels, banks or shores which could result in environmental harm or significantly alter local hydrological conditions will not be permitted.
- Development must be designed so as to maintain the quality of any stormwater flowing toward or into the ocean and to prevent any increase in volume and peak flow of runoff.

- Proposed development must be designed to avoid any increase in runoff and to prevent any effluent or storm water discharge that could have a detrimental effect on the environment. Controls are required on surface-water drainage to prevent pollutants from entering water features.
- Intensively landscaped areas and other related activities should be sited so as to prevent nutrient-rich water from entering natural water features.

DPA No. 2 Creeks, Wetlands, Riparian Areas, And Significant Water Resources

The purpose of DPA No. 2 is to regulate development in these areas in a manner such that natural watercourses are conserved and protected, erosion into watercourses is limited, wetlands are preserved in their natural state and the significant water resources are not negatively impacted by development.

Wetlands are important because of their capacity to retain stormwater runoff, maintain water quality by reducing the levels of sediment, nutrients, and toxic chemicals in outflow water, provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of biota and provide additional greenspace that enriches a rural environment.

Riparian areas are those sections of land that border streams and rivers and include the floodplain. They maintain water quality by filtering chemicals and water-borne sediments, provide wildlife corridors and habitat, provide additional greenspace, and may assist in flood protection and prevention of erosion.

Removing vegetation from these riparian areas may increase erosion and destabilize the bank and permit the introduction of deleterious substances into the watercourse. Increased development on riparian areas provides less surface area for filtration which may affect fish habitat and reduce water storage capacity.

Building of structures or roads, or substantial land clearing or disturbance in these areas could harm the vitality of creeks, wetlands, watercourses, and riparian areas. A development permit is required to ensure that the ecological value of streams, including the preservation of fish habitat, has been considered prior to development, and that measures will be taken to mitigate damage to these ecosystems.

DPA No. 2 consists of the following areas (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP '*DPA No. 2: Creeks, Wetlands, Riparian Areas, And Significant Water Resources*' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**):

- All the various creeks located in North Saanich shaded blue, pink, and orange.
- All the Riparian Areas either within 30 metres (98.4 ft) of the top of bank of the following creeks and shaded pink or within 15 metres (49.2 ft) of the top of bank of the following creeks and wetlands and shaded orange:
    - Tatlow (Chalet) Creek and Gardner Pond
    - Towner Creek
    - Blue Heron Creek
    - Tseycum Creek
    - Reay Creek
    - West (Airport) Creek
    - Unnamed creek flowing into Coles Bay
    - Unnamed creek flowing into Tseycum Lagoon
- All of the Significant Water Resources Areas shaded red.
- All of the Wetlands shaded purple, and all of the Wetland Ecosystems shaded green.

Guidelines for development within areas of the DPA No. 2 include:

- No habitable buildings or other structures requiring foundations will be constructed and no sewage disposal system will be installed in these DPAs except those allowed in a development permit or subject to the general exemptions outlined in Section 14.2 - Development Permit General Exemptions of the OCP.
- Modification of channels, banks or shores which could result in environmental harm or significantly alter local hydrological conditions will not be permitted.
- Development must be designed so as to maintain the quality of any stormwater flowing toward or into identified water features. Any detrimental effects on the environment from effluent or stormwater discharge must be avoided.
- Proposed development must be designed to avoid any increase in volume or peak flow of runoff.
- Controls are required on surface-water drainage to prevent pollutants from entering water features including aquifers.
- Intensively landscaped areas associated with the new development should be sited so as to prevent nutrient-rich water from entering natural water features.
- Vegetation appropriate to the site, preferably indigenous, may be required to be planted on the site to reduce erosion risk, restore the natural character of the site, improve water quality, or stabilize slopes and banks.
- Development permits issued with regard to road and driveway construction in these areas will ensure that:
    - Watercourse crossings are located so as to minimize disturbance of water feature banks, channels, shores, and existing vegetation ;
    - wherever possible, bridges are used instead of culverts for crossings of fish-bearing watercourses;
    - culverts are sited to allow unrestricted movement of fish in both directions. Where desirable, culverts may be designed to retard low flows and encourage in-stream storage of water.

DPA No. 3 Identified Sensitive Ecosystems

The purpose of DPA No. 1 is to regulate development in a manner that preserves and protects these environmentally sensitive areas and to maintain and protect habitat for wildlife and biodiversity values.

DPA No. 3 consists of the following areas (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP '*DPA No. 3: Identified Sensitive Ecosystems*' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**):

- All the various mapped locations in North Saanich shaded green, brown, and orange.

Guidelines for development within areas of the DPA No. 3 include:

- Disturbance of mature vegetation and understorey plants will be minimized.
- The development permit may designate and specify where necessary a buffer zone within which land alteration or structures will be limited to those compatible with the characteristics of the sensitive ecosystem.
- Planting of invasive non-native vegetation adjacent to or in sensitive ecosystems will be discouraged.

DPA No. 4 Steep Slopes

The purpose of DPA No. 1 is to manage development in steep slope areas in a manner that reduces the risk to life and property, prevents erosion and potential risks to down-slope properties, prevents destabilization of slopes and protects the aesthetic quality of the slopes. To ensure public safety and prevent damage to property from lands considered to contain or that exhibit hazardous conditions. To prevent erosion, if possible, in areas of steep slopes by leaving slopes uncleared, retaining areas of mature tree cover, and preserving other natural features.

Steep topography and thin soil cover make some areas of North Saanich susceptible to erosion and damage from windthrow. Site disturbance, such as land clearing, road construction, changes in slope profiles or construction of buildings could increase the risk to life and property and harm the environmental value of the slopes.

DPA No. 4 consists of the following areas (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP '*DPA No. 4: Steep Slopes*' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**):

- All the various mapped locations in North Saanich shaded orange.

Guidelines for development within areas of the DPA No. 4 include:

- There shall be no site disturbances on a steep slope other than those allowed in a development permit or subject to a general exemption as outlined in section 14.2 of the OCP.
- To ensure that development is accessible to fire protection services, new development will be required to provide access for fire protection vehicles at a grade not more than 10 percent (10%).
- Excluding trees that present a safety hazard, no disturbance of vegetation or movement of substrate will be allowed where there is any potential for erosion, except as allowed in a development permit.
- Any development must be designed to avoid stormwater runoff that could destabilize the slope or cause damage to neighbouring properties.
- Removal of vegetation should be minimized to allow only for building sites, sewage disposal systems, driveways, landscaping, and other permitted uses.

Tree Protection Bylaw, No. 1548

The purpose of the Tree Protection Bylaw is to preserve and protect Trees within the Municipality by prohibiting and regulating their cutting and removal and require their replacement. As well as to deter logging and the clear-cutting of treed lots of land, except where such logging and clear-cutting of treed lots is otherwise permitted, and to provide for the protection, preservation, regulation, and replacement of a target density of Trees within the municipality (District of North Saanich Bylaw No. 1548, 2022).

Trees provide a variety of individual and community wide benefits such as stormwater management, carbon absorption, air quality, heating and cooling, aesthetic, wildlife habitat, cultural, quality of life and health.

The Tree Protection Bylaw pertains to all lands under jurisdiction of the District. Prior to cutting, damaging, or removing a tree or a protected tree, applicants must apply to the District for a Tree Permit using the prescribed application form.

3.0 DESKTOP REVIEW

3.1 CRITICAL HABITAT FOR FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AT RISK

A Species at Risk (SAR) screening was not included within the scope of work for this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. However, a desktop review of known critical habitat for SAR was conducted below. If relevant to future works, a habitat suitability assessment may be required to determine the presence of biophysical attributes required by species identified in the critical habitat search.

3.1.1 TERRESTRIAL CRITICAL HABITAT

A search of iMapBC, using the 'Critical Habitat for Federally listed Species at Risk' layer, was conducted on July 10, 2023. The results of the search revealed four (4) species polygon(s) (i.e., two polygons were for barn owl and one each for phantom orchid and Howell's triteleia) with SARA identified terrestrial critical habitat within the Study Area and two (2) additional species polygon(s) within proximity to the Study Area with the potential to occur with the Study Area (BC Conservation Data Centre: BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer, 2023; iMapBC Web Application).

SPECIES WITH SARA IDENTIFIED TERRESTRIAL CRITICAL HABITAT WITHIN THE STUDY AREA INCLUDE:

- Barn owl western population (Tyto alba)
    - Bird – Threatened
- Phantom Orchid (Cephalanthera austiniae)
    - Plant - Threatened
- Howell's triteleia (Triteleia howellii)
    - Plant - Endangered

SPECIES WITH SARA IDENTIFIED TERRESTRIAL CRITICAL HABITAT WITHIN PROXIMITY OF THE STUDY AREA INCLUDE:

- Marbled murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus)
    - Bird – Threatened
    - Adjacent to the boundary of the Study Area
- Western painted turtle Pacific Coast population (Chrysemys picta bellii)
    - Reptile – Threatened
    - ~2.3 km (in Central Saanich) south of the Study Area

Locations of the federal Species at Risk with mapped terrestrial critical habitat is illustrated on **Figure 3.1.**

3.1.2 AQUATIC CRITICAL HABITAT

A search of the federal aquatic Species at Risk map, for critical habitat, was conducted on July 10, 2023. The results of the search indicated that there is no mapped critical habitat for aquatic Species at Risk within the Study Area and sixteen (16) aquatic Species at Risk with mapped critical habitat adjacent (in the Saanich Inlet, Satellite Channel and Sidney Channel) to the Study Area (Aquatic Species at Risk Map Application, 2023; BC Conservation Data Centre: BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer, 2023).

Federal Species at Risk with mapped aquatic critical habitat within proximity of the Study Area are listed in **Table 3.1.**

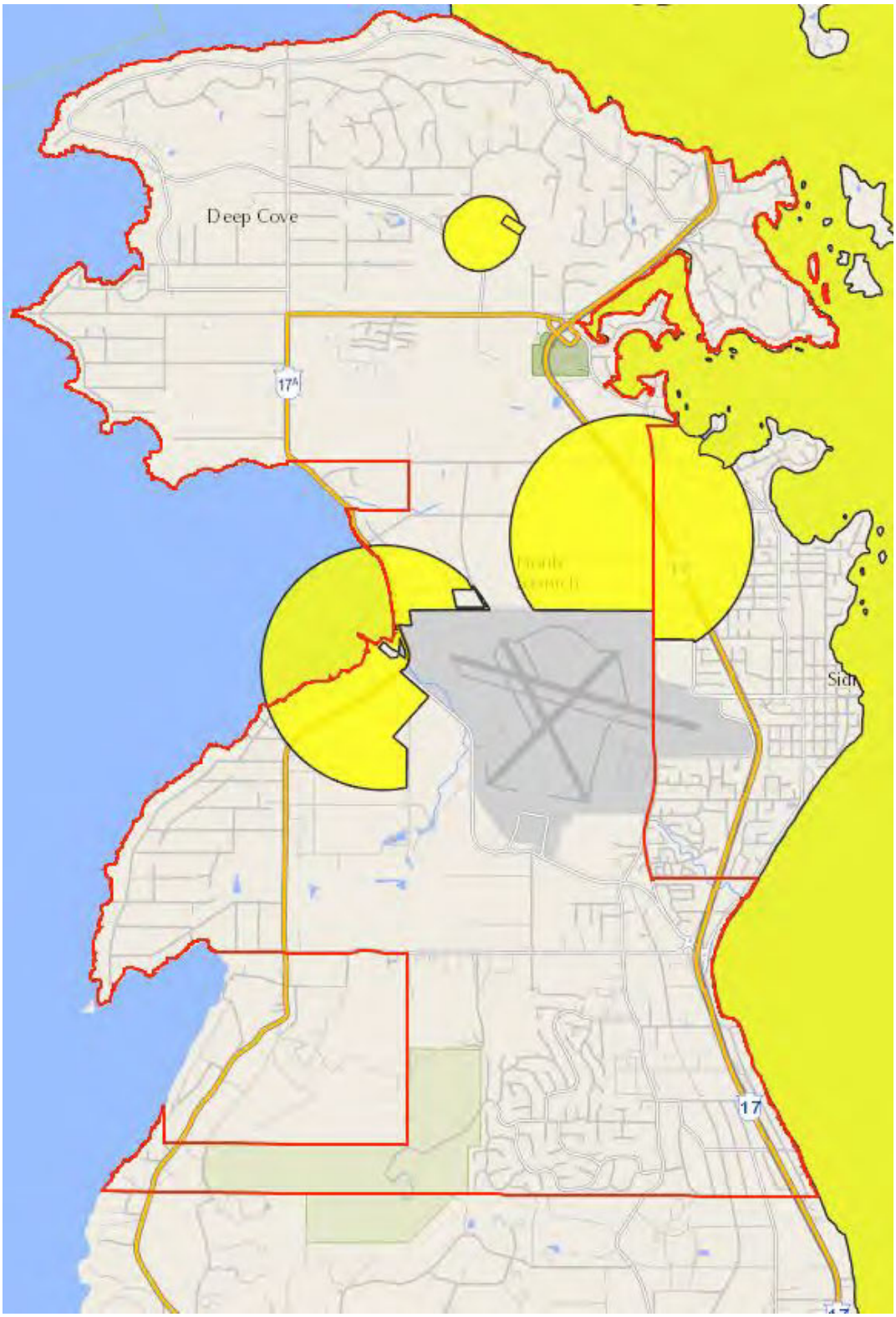


Figure 3.1 Location of Federal Species At Risk with mapped terrestrial critical habitat polygons (*i.e.*, yellow polygons) within the District of North Saanich (iMapBC Web Application).

Table 3.1 Federal Species at Risk with aquatic critical habitat adjacent to the Study Area (*i.e.*, in the Saanich Inlet, Satellite Channel and Sidney Channel).

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	FEDERAL STATUS UNDER SARA
Basking Shark, Pacific Population	*Cetorhinus maximus*	Endangered
Bluntnose Sixgill Shark	*Hexanchus griseus*	Special Concern
Green Sturgeon	*Acipenser medirostris*	Special Concern
Grey Whale, Eastern North Pacific population	*Eschrichtius robustus*	Special Concern
Harbour Porpoise, Pacific Ocean population	*Phocoena phocoena vomerine*	Special Concern
Humpback Whale, North Pacific Population	*Megaptera novaeangliae kuzira*	Special Concern
Killer whale, Northeast Pacific offshore population (pop. 2)	*Orcinus orca*	Endangered
Killer Whale, Northeast Pacific southern resident population (pop. 5)	*Orcinus orca*	Threatened
Leatherback Sea Turtle, Pacific population	*Dermochelys coriacea*	Endangered
Longspine Thornyhead	*Sebastolobus altivelis*	Special Concern
Northern Abalone	*Haliotis kamtschatkana*	Endangered
Rougheye Rockfish type I	*Sebastes sp. type I*	Special Concern
Rougheye Rockfish type II	*Sebastes sp. type II*	Special Concern
Stellar Sea Lion	*Eumetopias jubatus*	Special Concern
Tope	*Galeorhinus galeus*	Special Concern
Yelloweye Rockfish, Pacific Ocean outside waters population	*Sebastes ruberrimus*	Special Concern

3.2 BC LIST OF SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS WITH PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION STATUS

A search of iMap BC for BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) mapped occurrences of provincial species and ecosystems at risk was conducted on July 13, 2023. Mapped occurrences are identified on a large scale and as such, can include areas that do not meet the species' habitat needs. Therefore, prior to future works, a review of the specific biophysical attributes of habitat needs for each species is recommended to be reviewed to confirm the presence of habitat needs within the Study Area.

The results of the search revealed seventeen (17) species and / or natural plant communities at risk with BC CDC mapped occurrences within the Study Area. Additionally, one (1) 'masked species' polygon with secure data were identified within the Study Area.

Details of the provincial species and ecosystems at risk with BC Conservation Data Centre mapped occurrences within the Study Area is provided in **Table 3.2** and a map of their locations is included in **Figure 3.3.**

'MASKED SPECIES' POLYGON WITH SECURE DATA

Masked species occurrences are associated with species at risk that are prone to persecution other intentional anthropogenic impacts; thus, the information is kept confidential by the province. A request for information from the Conservation Data Centre for masked species secured data was sent to the BC Conservation Data Centre on July 13, 2023. A response was received on July 20, 2023, from the CDC. The CDC reviewed the Study Area and determined that location of the masked species is not relevant to the Study Area or project.

Location of the provincial species and ecosystems at risk with BC Conservation Data Centre 'masked species' polygons are illustrated on **Figure 3.3**.

Table 3.2 Provincial species and ecosystems at risk with BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) mapped occurrences.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		BC LIST	FEDERAL STATUS UNDER SARA
Vesper sparrow, affinis subspecies	*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*	Bird	Red	Endangered
common ringlet, insulana subspecies	*Coenonympha california insulana*	Plant	Red	-
dense spike-primrose	*Epilobium densiflorum*	Plant	Red	Endangered
Howell's triteleia	*Triteleia howellii*	Plant	Red	Endangered
phantom orchid	*Cephalanthera austiniae*	Plant	Red	Threatened
twisted oak moss	*Syntrichia laevipila*	Plant	Blue	Special Concern
black cottonwood - red alder / salmonberry	*Populus trichocarpa - Alnus rubra / Rubus spectabilis*	Ecological community	Blue	-
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass	*Pseudotsuga menziesii / Melica subulata*	Ecological community	Red	-
Douglas-fir / arbutus	*Pseudotsuga menziesii - Arbutus menziesii*	Ecological community	Red	-
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape	*Pseudotsuga menziesii / Mahonia nervosa*	Ecological community	Red	-
Garry oak / California brome	*Quercus garryana / Bromus carinatus*	Ecological community	Red	-
Garry oak / oceanspray	*Quercus garryana / Holodiscus discolor*	Ecological community	Red	-
grand fir / three-leaved foamflower	*Abies grandis / Tiarella trifoliata*	Ecological community	Red	-
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape	*Abies grandis / Mahonia nervosa*	Ecological community	Red	-
red alder / slough sedge [black cottonwood]	*Alnus rubra / Carex obnupta [Populus trichocarpa]*	Ecological community	Red	-
Western redcedar / osoberry	*Thuja plicata / Oemleria cerasiformis*	Ecological community	Red	-
Western redcedar / vanilla-leaf	*Thuja plicata / Achlys triphylla*	Ecological community	Red	-

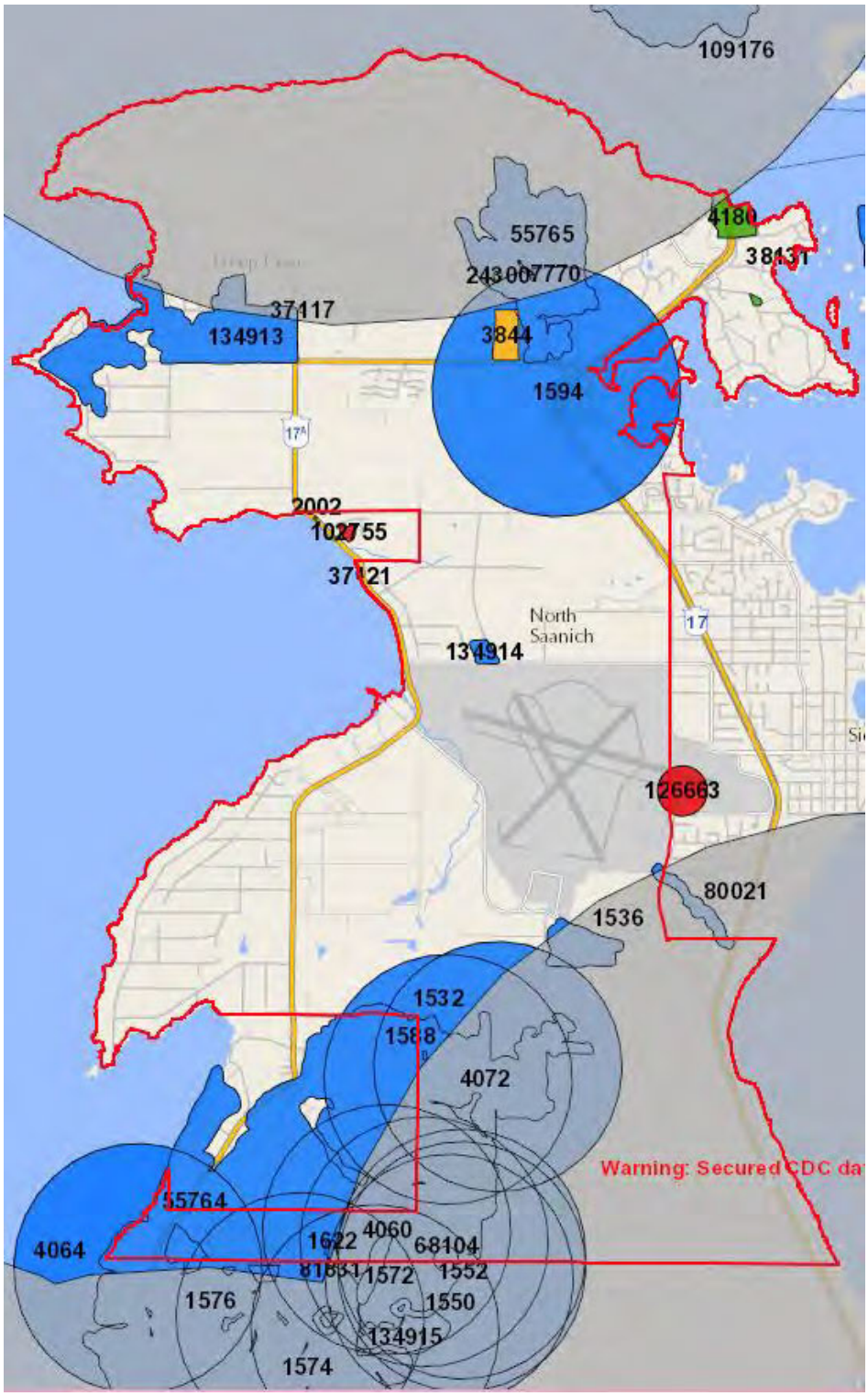


Figure 3.2 Locations of provincial species and ecosystems at risk with BC Conservation Data Centre mapped occurrences (i.e., species and ecosystem polygons in blue and 'masked species' polygons in grey) within the District of North Saanich (iMapBC Web Application; BC Conservation Data Centre: BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer, 2023).

3.3 SHARP TAILED SNAKE

The District of North Saanich provided the Urban Systems Ltd. project team with the 'Sharp-tailed Snake Potential (Suitable) Habitat' layer from the Recovery Strategy for the Sharp-Tailed Snake in BC, for use in this Limited Desktop Environmental Review (Layer: Potential Sharp Tail Snake Habitat (ID: 26), n.d.).The data are anticipated to be updated every 3 – 5 years and are copyrighted from the Habitat Acquisition Trust & Capital Regional District, 2011-01-07.

The data revealed that the Study Area does include areas of potential sharp-tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*) habitat. Sharp-tailed snake are BC red listed and have an endangered status under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). This identified potential habitat includes areas within John Dean Park and Horth Hill Regional Park. Sharp-tailed snake are designated as endangered due to being confined to a handful of isolated, small populations in southeastern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands of British Columbia. Most of these populations are threatened by development and may not be viable. Major threats include ongoing development, increasing human populations, off trail recreation, fragmentation by roads and stochastic effects on small populations (COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Sharp-tailed Snake Contia tenuis in Canada, 2009).

3.4 BIRDS SEARCH

3.4.1 PROTECTION UNDER THE MBCA AND SARA SCHEDULE 1

Migratory bird species with protection under the MBCA are expected to use the Study Area during the spring and summer months. **The Study Area falls within the A1 nesting zone, the nesting season for most bird species in this zone is late March to mid August** (Nesting Periods of Migratory Birds, 2018). However, species, including raptors, owls and great blue heron commence nesting earlier.

Under the MBCA, there are 18 migratory birds listed on Schedule 1 whose nests are protected year-round. A search of the BC Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, iNaturalist, and the Community Mapping Network's (CMN) British Columbia Great Blue Herons Atlas was conducted on July 13, 2023. Of those 18 species, five (5) have the potential to occur within or near the Study Area (The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2015; Justice Laws Website: Migratory Birds Regulations (SOR/2022-105), n.d.; Observations, 2023; British Columbia Great Blue Herons Atlas Web Application, n.d.).

BIRD SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN OR NEAR THE STUDY AREA:

- pileated woodpecker,
- great blue heron,
- green heron,
- pigeon guillemot, and
- rhinoceros auklet

Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (est. April 10, 1931) is located along the east side of the Study Area. It is comprised of 144 ha of sheltered bays and extensive intertidal mudflats which offers ideal habitat for numerous seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl during migration and through winter. The sanctuary, along with small islands and sheltered marine waters, is part of he Gulf Islands Biotic Area and continues into the Sidney Channel Important Bird Area (Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 2019).

According to the Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) inventory study, a mating pair of marbled murrelet were observed during the reporting periods especially near areas of observed sand lance / eggs / hatched larvae as sand lance are a source of prey for the marbled murrelet (Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines, 2011).

3.4.2 PROTECTION UNDER THE BC WILDLIFE ACT

A search for species protected under the BC Wildlife Act (BC WA) was not included within the scope of work for this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. However, a desktop review of known great blue heron colonies, bald eagle nests and osprey nests (protected year-round under the BC WA) was conducted below. If relevant to future works, a habitat suitability assessment may be required to determine the presence of biophysical attributes required by the species identified below.

A search of the Community Mapping Network's (CMN) British Columbia Great Blue Herons and Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlases for mapped nest locations of great blue heron, bald eagles and osprey was conducted on July 13, 2023. The search was conducted as a 1 km search radius of the Study Area. The results revealed thirteen (13) great blue heron colonies, three (3) osprey nests and nineteen (19) bald eagle nest locations found within the Study Area (British Columbia Great Blue Herons Atlas Web Application, n.d.; Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas Web Application, n.d.). Note that this desktop information cannot provide certainty of presence / absence of nesting for these species.

Mapped locations of the great blue heron colonies, osprey and bald eagle nests are provided in **Figures 3.5-3.7** respectively.



Figure 3.3 Colony locations of recorded great blue herons (*i.e.*, red triangles) within the District of North Saanich (British Columbia Great Blue Herons Atlas Web Application, n.d.).



Figure 3.4 Nest locations of recorded osprey (*i.e.*, blue triangles) and bald eagles (*i.e.*, "BAEA" symbol) within the District of North Saanich (Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas Web Application, n.d.)

3.5 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE

The District recognizes that trees and tree canopy coverage is important to the community of North Saanich. Trees contribute to the rural character, community infrastructure (*e.g.,* shading and cooling of streets and buildings, slope stabilization, and wind breaking), ecosystem functions (*e.g.,* rainwater capture to soils, carbon dioxide uptake and oxygen production, increased climate change resilience) and wildlife habitat connectivity.

Rising temperatures within the Capital Regional District of 3°C by the 2050s which is anticipated to triple summer days above 25°C from 12 – 36 days per year, a 69% decrease in the number of frost days and 5% increase in annual precipitation (especially in the fall months and during extreme weather events). Carbon emissions were reported as 45,201 tCO_2e in 2018 (a 17% decrease from 54,454 tCO_2e in 2007).

A map of the tree cover within the District of North Saanich '*Community Profile: Official Community Plan Baseline Conditions Report*' (2020) is provided in **Appendix A.**

3.6 SURFACE WATER AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

3.6.1 SURFACE WATER RESOURCES WITH UNKNOWN FISHERIES RESOURCES

Several creeks flow within North Saanich, including Tatlow (Chalet) Creek and Gardner Pond, Towner Creek, Blue Heron Creek, Tseycum Creek, Reay Creek, and Ten-Ten Creek. Refer to **Section 3.6.3** below for more information on fish bearing streams (*i.e.,* Tseycum Creek, Reay Creek, and Ten-Ten Creek).

3.6.2 STORM DRAINAGE

The District's drainage system consists of creeks, ponds, ditches, swales, and pipe. In total, there are approximately 2,700 culverts, 170 km of ditches, 13 km of swales, and 70 km of pipe **(Appendix B).**

3.6.3 FISH BEARING STREAMS

Regional fish timing windows and reduced risk work windows were not included within the scope of work for this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. A desktop review of known fish bearing streams was conducted below. If relevant to future works, a search for regional fish timing windows and reduced risk work windows may be required.

A search of iMapBC, Habitat Wizard and Fisheries Information Data Queries (FIDQ) for provincially known and recorded fish bearing streams and fisheries resources located within the Study Area was conducted on July 10, 2023. The results of the search indicate that there are three (3) fish bearing surface water resources located within the Study Area (iMapBC Web Application; Habitat Wizard Map Application, n.d.; Watershed Dictionary Query, n.d.). It is assumed that there are many other streams with fisheries resources within District lands.

Tseycum Creek (aka Pat Bay North Creek aka Wiskem Creek aka Sandown Creek):

- is a 2nd order stream with a length of 0.89 km.
- According to the District of North Saanich OCP and DPA No. 2, Tseycum Creek (where it passes through North Saanich) has a riparian buffer of 30 m from the high watermark of each bank (District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130, 2007).

Ten-ten Creek (aka Airport Creek):

- is a 2nd order stream with a length of 2.53 km.
- According to the District of North Saanich OCP and DPA No. 2, Ten-ten Creek (where it passes through North Saanich) has a riparian buffer of 30 m from the high-watermark of each bank (District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130, 2007).
- ȾTEN̲TEN (ts-ung-tin) Creek is considered an important salmon spawning creek by the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples which is a shortcut from the Saanich Inlet to the Salish Strait (A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula: Recognition of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory, 2019).

Reay Creek (aka Bazan Creek):

- is a 1st order stream with a length of 1.58 km.
- According to the District of North Saanich OCP and DPA No. 2, Ten-ten Creek (where it passes through North Saanich) has a riparian buffer (only along the mouth of Reay Creek where it flows into Bazan Bay) of 30 m from the high-watermark of each bank (District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130, 2007).
- ḴELSET (quell-sit), is the W̱SÁNEĆ name for the mouth of Reay Creek at Bazan Bay. It was storied to be full of purple and green sea urchins (XIW̱E [xhee-hwuh] and SQIȾI [squee-tsee]) (A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula: Recognition of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory, 2019).

Details of recorded fish species observed within Tseycum Creek, Ten-ten Creek and Reay Creek is provided in **Table 3.3.**

3.6.4 FORAGE FISH SPAWNING HABITAT

The District of North Saanich provided the Urban Systems Ltd. project team with data from the Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) inventory study, conducted between 2007 – 2009, for use in this Limited Desktop Environmental Review (Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines, 2011).

The SIPAS data revealed that the Study Area does include areas of potential sand lance (*Ammodytes americanus;* an important 'key lifecycle' species) and surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) spawning habitat along the majority of shoreline in the District of Saanich. This habitat includes areas of intertidal sandy / gravel substrate on beaches and in underwater vegetation (*e.g.,* eelgrass). Surf smelt, in particular, rely on coarse sand and pea gravel in the higher reaches of intertidal areas year-round and require over-hanging vegetation for shade during the summer months. These fish are important prey species for fish (they provide 35% of juvenile salmon diets and 65% of juvenile Chinook), birds (*e.g.,* Rhinoceros Auklet and Marbled Murrelets*)* and marine mammals (*e.g.,* southern resident killer whales, Stellar sea lions and harbour porpoises).

Details of SIPAS recorded potential sand lance and surf smelt spawning areas within the Study Area is provided in **Appendix C.**

3.6.5 BC CLAM BEDS

A search of the Government of Canada's Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS) for provincially known and recorded BC Clam Beds located along the Study Area was conducted on July 13, 2023. The results revealed six (6) clam beds along the shoreline of the Study Areaand one (1) within proximity to the Study Area (~85 m) (Clam Beds - Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS), 2023).

An acknowledgment of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory produced by the Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition, mentions that W̱SÍḴEM (hw-sigh-kem), known as Patricia Bay, was a village that used to be full of clams for harvesting which corresponds to the clam bed legacy data for beds #1360 and 1364 (A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula: Recognition of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory, 2019).

During the site visit on July 11, 2023, the project team reported sightings of clams beds along Lands End Road in Satellite Channel.

Details of recorded clam beds observed along the Study Area from the Government of Canada's '*Coastal Resource Information Management System'* (2023) is provided in **Table 3.4.**

3.6.6 EELGRASS BEDS

The District of North Saanich provided the Urban Systems Ltd. project team with data from the Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) inventory study, conducted between 2007 – 2009, for use in this Limited Desktop Environmental Review (Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines, 2011).

The SIPAS data revealed that the Study Area does include areas of eelgrass (*Zostera marina;* an important 'key lifecycle' species*)* beds along the majority of shoreline in the District of Saanich. Eelgrass meadows grow in muddy / sandy substrate and provide valuable ecosystem services such as refugia and nutrient rich nurseries to fish (80% of commercially important fish populations use eelgrass beds during some part of their life cycle), shellfish, birds (*e.g.,* great blue herons, rhinoceros auklets, cormorants and Western grebe) and faunal invertebrates, surface area for >350 species of macro algae and 91 species of epiphytic microalgae and serve as a water quality indicator.

Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (est. April 10, 1931) is located along the east side of the Study Area It is comprised of 144 ha of sheltered bays and extensive intertidal mudflats. The sanctuary, along with small islands and sheltered marine waters, is part of the Gulf Islands Biotic Area and continues into the Sidney Channel Important Bird Area. In the estuarine environment, biological productivity is particularly high. The area supports biologically productive mudflats with sea lettuce and eelgrass beds (Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 2019).

During the site visit on July 11, 2023, the project team reported sightings of eelgrass beds along Blaauw Pier in Saanich Inlet.

Details of recorded eelgrass beds along the Study Area from the '*Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines inventory study*' (2011) is provided in **Appendix D.**

Table 3.3 Fish observations within Tseycum Creek, Ten-ten Creek and Reay Creek.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS UNDER SARA	BC LIST	TSEYCUM CREEK	TEN-TENCREEK	REAY CREEK
Chum	*Oncorhynchus keta*	Not Listed	Not Listed	✓	✓	
Coho	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*	Not Listed	Not Listed	✓	✓	✓
Cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii*	Not Listed	Not Listed	✓	✓	✓
Threespine stickleback	*Gasterosteus aculeatus*	Not Listed	Yellow	✓		✓

Table 3.4 Clam bed legacy data.

CLAM BED ID	LOCATION	AREA (M2)	LENGTH (M)
1355	Saanich Inlet	6276.5	356.4
1355	Saanich Inlet	9553.4	396.3
1357	Deep Cove	59869.0	2030.5
1358	Towner Bay	44052.5	1187.4
1360	Patricia Bay	137404.5	2899.6
1364	Patricia Bay	29805.2	1473.6
1370	Coles Bay	25445.4	745.4

3.7 SHORELINE HABITAT

The District of North Saanich provided the Urban Systems Ltd. project team with data from the Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) inventory study, conducted between 2007 - 2009, for use in this Limited Desktop Environmental Review (Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines, 2011).

3.7.1 SHORELINE ECOLOGICAL RATING

A shoreline rating protocol to represent the overall ecological value of a shore unit was designed. The rating was based on five shore unit characteristics that were deemed to have significant ecological worth including intertidal features, habitat cover, wildlife feature, sensitive ecosystems, and key lifecycle species. The results of the data revealed that the dominant shoreline ecological rating within the District of North Saanich was moderate (34%), low (24%) or very low (22%).

Summary of SIPAS shoreline ecological ratings within the District of North Saanich:

- **very high** - 1604 m (or 5%) of shore units,
- **high** - 5713 m (15%) of shore units,
- **moderate** - 14,102 m (34%) of shore units,
- **low** - 8548 m (24%) of shore units and
- **very low** - 7576 m (22%) of shore units

Details of shoreline ecological rating criteria and shoreline ecological value information along the Study Area from SIPAS '*Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines Technical Report 2011*' (2011) is provided in **Appendix E.**

3.7.2 BACKSHORE LAND USE

Land use activities occurring in the backshore of each shore unit were recorded and categorized into eight possible land use classes within the SIPAS study area. The results of the data revealed that the District of North Saanich has 7 of the 8 types of backshore land use (*i.e.,* excluding agriculture) and the dominant backshore land use was residential, industrial, or a parking lot.

Dominant land use activity occurring in the backshore within the District of North Saanich:

- **Residential** ~28 413 m
- **Industrial** ~1 749 m
- **Parking lot** ~1 640 m
- **Natural** ~920 m
- **Commercial** ~808 m
- **Park** ~687 m
- **Vacant Open Space** ~623 m

3.7.3 HABITAT CLASS % COVER

A visual calculation of the percent cover of habitat types occurring within 15m of the backshore of each shore unit was documented. The results of the SIPAS data revealed that the District of North Saanich has 6 of the 7 types of habitat class studied along the shoreline (*i.e.,* excluding wetland).

Dominant habitat class % cover within the District of North Saanich:

- **Bare Ground** (varied from 50 – 100% cover per surveyed shore unit)
- **Coniferous** (varied from 25 – 90% cover per surveyed shore unit)
- **Cultivated Field** (40% cover in one surveyed shore unit)
- **Deciduous** (varied from 40 – 100% cover per surveyed shore unit)
- **Landscaped** (varied from 40 – 100% cover per surveyed shore unit)
- **Shrub** (varied from 30 – 90% cover per surveyed shore unit)

3.7.4 BANK EROSION

A visual judgment of any bank erosion occurring in the backshore was documented. The results of the SIPAS data revealed that the majority of bank within the District of North was given a mild or moderate erosion rating.

Bank erosion rating within the District of North Saanich:

- **Mild** ~9282 m
- **Moderate** ~5528 m
- **Severe** ~207 m (*i.e.,* object ID 341; small landslides noted in area)
- **N/A** ~3089 m

Details of bank erosion criteria along the Study Area from SIPAS '*Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines Technical Report 2011*' (2011) is provided in **Appendix F.**

3.7.5 SENSITIVE FEATURES

Sensitive features are ecosystems defined as fragile or rare. The results of the SIPAS data revealed that the shoreline within the District of North had sensitive features.

Sensitive features within the District of North Saanich:

- **Non-Visible** 34 - shore units
- **Garry Oak** - 10 shore units
- **Riparian Area** - 2 shore units

3.7.6 WILDLIFE FEATURES

Wildlife and Wildlife habitat activities were observed and documented in the field. Six checkboxes were available for areas that provided nesting, feeding, shelter, perching, and breeding. The results of the SIPAS data revealed that the majority of shoreline within the District of North had driftwood piles, no visible features or undercut shelters present.

Dominant wildlife features within the District of North Saanich:

- **Driftwood Pile** ~11 835 m
- **Non-Visible** ~7 807 m
- **Undercut Shelter** ~3 220 m
- **Rock Ledge** ~2 727 m
- **Wildlife Tree** ~2 261 m
- **Nesting Area** ~2 121 m
- **Artificial** ~827 m

3.7.7 ANTHROPOGENIC MODIFICATIONS

"Modified" shore units are those units where all or part of the unit has a seawall occurrence. The results of the data revealed that the District of North Saanich has 7 of the 9 types of sea walls present (*i.e.,* excluding sheet and creosote pilings) over ~9.8 km of shoreline and the dominant seawall type was rip-rap.

Dominant seawall types within the District of North Saanich:

- **Rip Rap** ~3 134 m
- **Mixed Materials** ~2 536 m
- **Concrete** ~1 840 m
- **Rock Masonry** ~1 132 m
- **Land Fill** ~905 m
- **Wooden** ~164 m
- **Boat Ramp** ~86 m

Details of modified shoreline (sea walls) along the Study Area from SIPAS '*Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines Technical Report 2011*' (2011) is provided in **Appendix G.**

3.7.8 SHORELINE HARDENING

Due to anthropogenic modification of the shoreline, shoreline 'hardening' occurs over time as sand is removed and hydrographic conditions are altered. Shoreline hardening affects sand lance and surf smelt spawning habitat as sand is washed away and eelgrass beds and overwater structures are altered. Shoreline hardening also affects eelgrass beds by altering shoot density, blade size, and limiting suitable growing at shallower depths as a result of changes in substrate, wave energy intensity, increased shading from development, increased sedimentation, increased plankton blooms (associated with increased run-off from anthropogenic sources) etc.

3.8 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Management categories developed by the BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group and the Provincial Government's Invasive Species Specialists are used to prioritize invasive species on a provincial scale using a science-based risk assessment process. Since this is based on a provincial scale, it does not take into consideration local or regional criteria. Nor does it include marine species. Management actions are further determined based on these priorities at a both Provincial and Regional scale and depending on available resources and treatment methods (Provincial Priority Invasive Species BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group, 2021).

Provincial Invasive Species Management Categories:

- **Prevent:** Species determined to be high risk to BC and not yet established. The management objective is to prevent the introduction and establishment.
- **Provincial EDRR:** Species is high risk to BC and is new to the province. The management objective is eradication.
- **Provincial Containment:** Species is high risk with limited extent in BC but significant potential to spread. The management objective is to prevent further expansion into new areas with the ultimate goal of reducing the overall extent.
- **Regional Containment / Control:** Species is high risk and well established, or medium risk with high potential for spread. The management objective is to prevent further expansion into new areas within the region through establishment of containment lines and identification of occurrences outside the line to control.
- **Management:** Species is more widespread but may be of concern in specific situations with certain high values *e.g.,* conservation lands, specific agriculture crops. The management objective is to reduce the invasive species impacts locally or regionally, where resources are available.

A search of the BC Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) web map for invasive **plant** species within the Study Area was conducted on July 14, 2023. The results of the search indicate that there are twenty-four (24) invasive plant species within the Study Area (Invasive Alien Plant Program Web Map, n.d.).

A search of the new InvasivesBC database for invasive **animal** species was conducted on August 2, 2023. InvasivesBC is replacing the Invasive Alien Plant Program (2005-2023). However, version 1 of the InvasivesBC only includes invasive plant forms (invasive animal forms will be released at a future date). The results of the search were the same as found in the IAPP database.

Details of recorded invasive plant species observed within the Study Area and provincial priority ranking are provided in **Table 3.5.**

Table 3.5 Invasive plant species.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CODE	PROVINCIAL PRIORITY RANKING
Bohemian knotweed	*Fallopia x bohemica*	BO	Regional Containment/Control
Bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	BT	-
Butterfly bush	*Buddleja davidii*	BD	-
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	CT	-
Common tansy	*Tanacetum vulgare*	TC	Regional Containment/Control
Curled dock	*Rumex crispus*	CD	-
Daphne / spurge laurel	*Daphne laureola*	SL	Management
English holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	HO	-
English ivy	*Hedera helix*	EI	-
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	GH	Provincial Containment
Giant knotweed	*Fallopia sachalinensis*	GK	Regional Containment/Control
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*	GO	Management
Herb Robert	*Geranium robertianum*	GR	-
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*	JK	Regional Containment/Control
Himalayan blackberry	*Rubus armeniacus*	HI	Regional Containment/Control
Milk thistle	*Silybum marianum*	MI	-
Parrot feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	PF	-
Poison hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	PH	Provincial Containment
Scotch broom	*Cytisus scoparius*	SB	Regional Containment/Control
Shiny geranium	*Geranium lucidum*	SG	Provincial EDRR
Teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*	TS	Regional Containment/Control
Queen Anne's lace / wild carrot	*Daucus carota*	QA	-
Wild chervil	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	WI	Provincial Containment
Yellow archangel	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*	YA	Regional Containment/Control

'-' refers to information that is not available from the Provincial Priority Invasive Species BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (2021).

3.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ARCHAEOLOGY

North Saanich exists on the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ (hw-say-nitch) peoples. Specifically, the BOḰEĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation and W̱SÍḴEM (Tseycum) First Nation (About North Saanich, 2023). W̱SÁNEĆ means the "emerging people (A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula: Recognition of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and territory, 2019).

The District of North Saanich provided the Urban Systems Ltd. project team with archaeological data for use on this project only. The data includes sensitive information that is to be used for planning purposes only and as such will not be listed in this report.

The District has a multi-use assessment archaeological permit process and has retained a professional archaeologist. However, additional interaction with local First Nations would be beneficial with identifying and understanding areas of cultural significance.

4.0 VALUED COMPONENT OPPORTUNITIES

Valued Components (VC) are elements of the natural and human environment that are considered to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance. VCs vary by project to reflect the nature of the project's potential effects.

For the purposes of this review, VCs are based on opportunities to enhance environmental values through the management of natural areas and naturalization of existing parkland as part of the District of North Saanich Parks Master Plan.

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL / MITIGATION

Invasive species out-compete native plants and destroy wildlife habitat that rely on native vegetation (Lands Near Water Riparian Restoration & Enhancement, 2018). Twenty-four (24) invasive plant species were identified to occur within the District of North Saanich including five (5) species of provincial containment, eight (8) of regional containment / control and two (2) of management control rankings with the province. Himalayan blackberry is one of the invasive plant species identified within the Study Area and which is a common problem especially near riparian areas. Additionally, plants poisonous to humans such as giant hogweed and poison hemlock were identified within the Study Area. Invasive species removal according to best management practices is recommended.

In future, invasive animal species information may become available for review within the Study Area. It is recommended to complete another search with InvasivesBC as the database is updated.

NATURALIZED RIPARIAN AREAS

Tseycum Creek, Ten-ten Creek and Reay Creek are fish bearing streams within the District of North Saanich, although there are assumed to be many others. The Stewardship Centre for BC recommends a minimum 30 m buffer in order to fully protect aquatic habitats from the impacts of adjacent land uses (Lands Near Water Riparian Restoration & Enhancement, 2018). According to the OCP and DPA No. 2, Tseycum Creek, Ten-ten Creek and Reay Creek have 30 m riparian buffers (except Reay Creek which only has a 30 m riparian buffer on the mouth of the stream near Bazan Bay) (District of North Saanich Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1130, 2007).

Stewardship Centre for BC riparian buffer maintenance & restoration methods (Lands Near Water Riparian Restoration & Enhancement, 2018):

- Appropriate native plant species should be maintained and / or planted (in the early spring or fall) along the stream (e.g., sun-loving, and early pioneering species such as willows, alder, roses, aspen, red osier dogwood and cottonwood do well).
- Removal of invasive plant species along the stream (avoid contamination to the water if using chemical treatments).
- Restoration of vegetation in ditches near streams reduces the chance of excess sediment, nutrients and chemicals infiltrating the stream.
- Installation of large woody debris (LWD) including uprooted tree stumps, downed logs and standing snags etc. LWD is used by numerous plant and animal species as habitat / refugia along streams. If LWD is placed within the channel an approval or authorization from federal or provincial authorities may be required. Prior to LWD placement, a professional engineer should be engaged to oversee the design specifications.
- Creation of pits or mounds (soils should be left loose and rough) to support complex landscape in riparian habitat. Pits hold water during wet periods and mounds dry out quicker than surrounding areas to provide a wide range of micro-habitats to support a broad range of species. Creation of pits and mounds can be done when placing LWD.
- Creating riparian wetlands where the water will cover the soil, or is near the surface, for parts of the year. Riparian wetlands can provide habitat for additional species and / or species in different life stages. For example, each of Tseycum Creek, Ten-ten Creek and Reay Creek have been observed to support cutthroat trout which have been known to move off-channel into wetlands to escape strong currents and predators in times of cold weather. Wetland restoration may require approval from regulatory agencies.

NATURALIZED SHORELINES

As part of the Parks Master Plan, the District has expressed a desire for prioritized beach access improvements for recreational use (*e.g.,* access to the shoreline for walking and viewing of wildlife and shore birds, and use of the nearshore areas for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing).

The District of North Saanich is surrounded by various types of marine foreshore (*i.e.,* classified as Marine Areas: rocky shores, beach shores and lagoon ecosystems) (refer to the corresponding North Saanich OCP 'Schedule G: Foreshore, Major Creeks, Watercourses and Shoreline Components' reference map listed in **Section 2.3.1**). As part of a shoreline naturalization process, the District may consider protecting and enhancing valuable nearshore marine resources such as the identified forage fish spawning habitat, clam beds, and eelgrass beds found throughout the majority of foreshore and intertidal areas along the Study Area (refer to **Sections 3.6.4, 3.6.5,** and **3.6.6**, respectively).

Green Shores is a program of the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia that promotes sustainable shoreline ecosystems for commercial, residential, institutional and park properties. The Green Shores program can be used as a guide for best practices to complete projects in a "shore friendly" way by enrolling shoreline projects in the program and using provided best practice guides / resources to achieve a Green Shores rating. The rating process demonstrates achievement of environmental goals and leadership in shoreline stewardship (Green Shores Shoreline Development Program, n.d.).

The program supports a broader vision for Canada's waterfront communities to increase capacity to minimize impacts of shoreline development and climate change while preserving or enhancing

shoreline ecology and ecosystem services. Climate change is expected to impact the rate and nature of change across Canada's shorelines and affect its ecosystems.

Green Shores guiding principles are to:

- Preserve the integrity and connectivity of shoreline processes;
- Maintain and enhance shoreline habitat diversity and function;
- Minimize and reduce pollutants to the shoreline environment;
- Reduce and reverse cumulative impacts to shoreline systems.

5.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

When considering development within the North Saanich Parks, it is understood that detailed Environmental Overview and Environmental Management Plans will need to be prepared prior to any excavation, land clearing and / or construction activities to address environmental considerations such as:

- specific regulatory considerations which include legislation, policies and any permits / approvals which may need to be acquired prior to works,
- reduced risk work windows (*e.g.,* for fish, wildlife, and birds) or retention of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP),
- site surveys as needed for terrestrial and aquatic species (*e.g.,* bird nesting survey, fish habitat assessment),
- mitigations for the spread of invasive plants,
- spill prevention / response protocols,
- fueling / re-fuelling protocols,
- erosion sediment controls,
- archaeological chance find procedures or retention of a registered professional archaeologist,
- wildlife encounter protocols, and
- backshore / shoreline protocols (*e.g.,* for forage fish spawning habitat, clam beds, eelgrass habitat).

However, it is recommended that these reports be more formalized and communicated to the public.

SPECIES AT RISK

A Species at Risk (SAR) screening was not included within the scope of work for this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. However, a desktop review of known critical habitat for SAR was conducted. Three (3) terrestrial SAR were identified with potential to occur within the Study Area. Two (2) terrestrial SAR and sixteen (16) aquatic SAR were identified within proximity of the Study Area. Additionally, a search for BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) mapped occurrences of provincial species and ecosystems at risk was conducted. Seventeen (17) species and / or natural plant communities at risk with BC CDC mapped occurrences were identified within the Study Area. If relevant to future works, a Species at Risk screening and habitat suitability assessment may be required to determine the presence of biophysical attributes required by the species identified in the critical habitat and BC CDC mapped occurrences search.

SCHEDULE 1 MBCA BIRD SPECIES

A detailed screening for Schedule 1 bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Convention Act (MBCA) was not included within the scope of work for this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. However, five (5) Schedule 1 species protected under the MBCA were identified to have potential to occur

within or near the Study Area. If relevant to future works, a MBCA Schedule 1 bird screening and habitat suitability assessment may be required to determine the presence of biophysical attributes required by the species identified in this review.

INVASIVE ANIMAL SPECIES

A desktop review of invasive plant species was conducted as part of the scope of work in this Limited Desktop Environmental Review. However, since the InvasivesBC database (version 1) was recently launched, it did not include information on invasive animal species. It is recommended to complete another search with InvasivesBC as the database is updated.

6.0 CLOSING

This Limited Desktop Environmental Review has been prepared as a high-level overview to help identify environmental considerations within the Study Area. Further environmental work will be required prior to any development on site.

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APPENDIX A:
TREE COVER

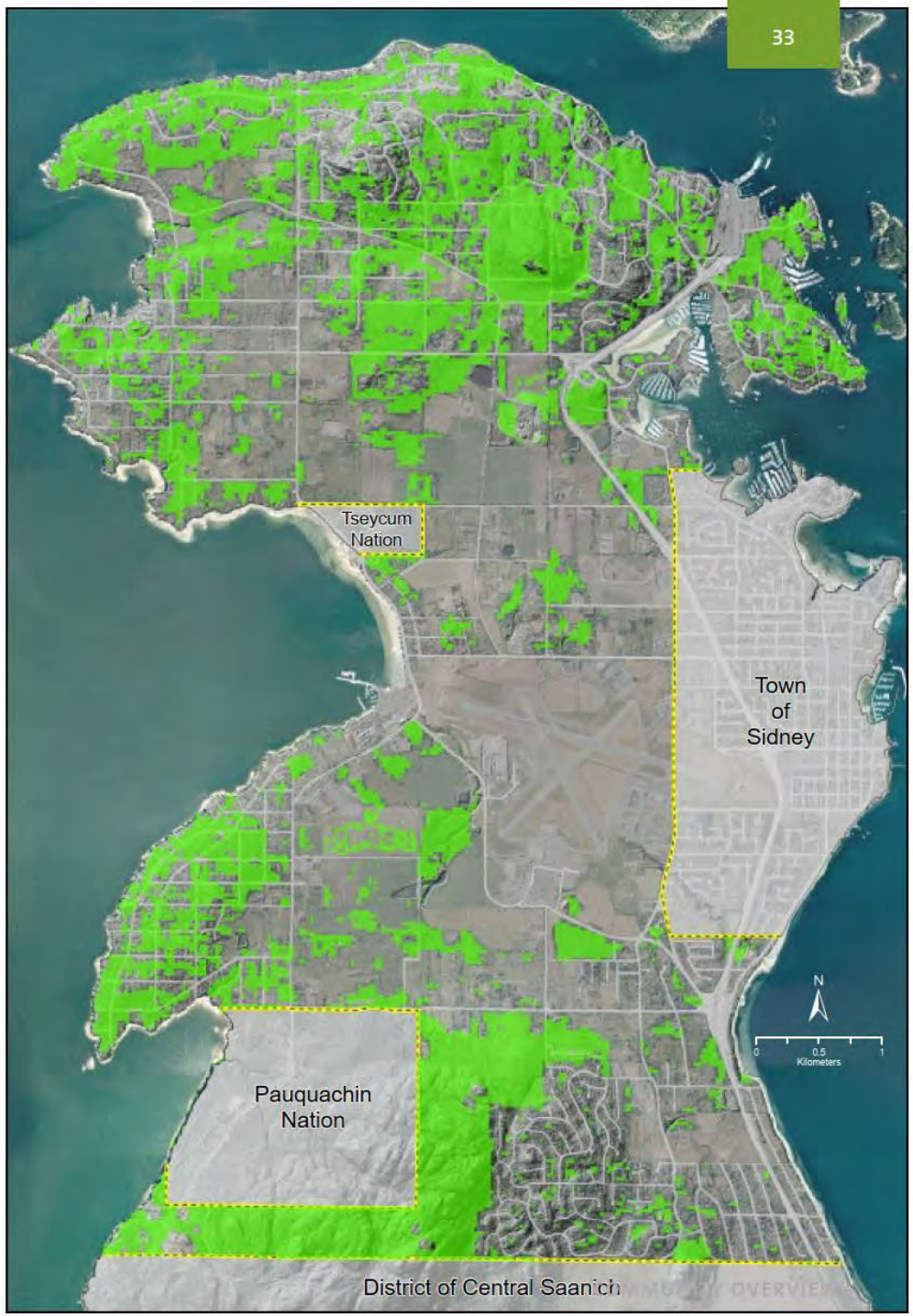
TREE COVER

Trees and treed environments are a valuable part of the rural character, community infrastructure and ecosystem functions and connectivity within North Saanich.

Trees help improve the quality of life in North Saanich while also capturing rainwater and returning it to the soil, cleaning the air, shading and cooling streets and buildings, stabilizing steep slopes and providing shelter from the wind.

Trees and greenspace contribute to the community's resilience to climate change and severe weather by mitigating urban heat, creating wind breaks, absorbing flood impacts and reducing the risk of landslides. They also capture carbon dioxide which is a key GHG leading to climate change.

The District is currently reviewing the Tree Protection Bylaw. Feedback from the Tree Protection Bylaw consultation process will be used to inform the OCP policy development. This project is anticipated to be concluded in early 2021.



Data Source: (Global Land Analysis & Discovery) lab at the University of Maryland, Google, USGS, and NASA 2020

APPENDIX B:

STORM DRAINAGE

STORM DRAINAGE

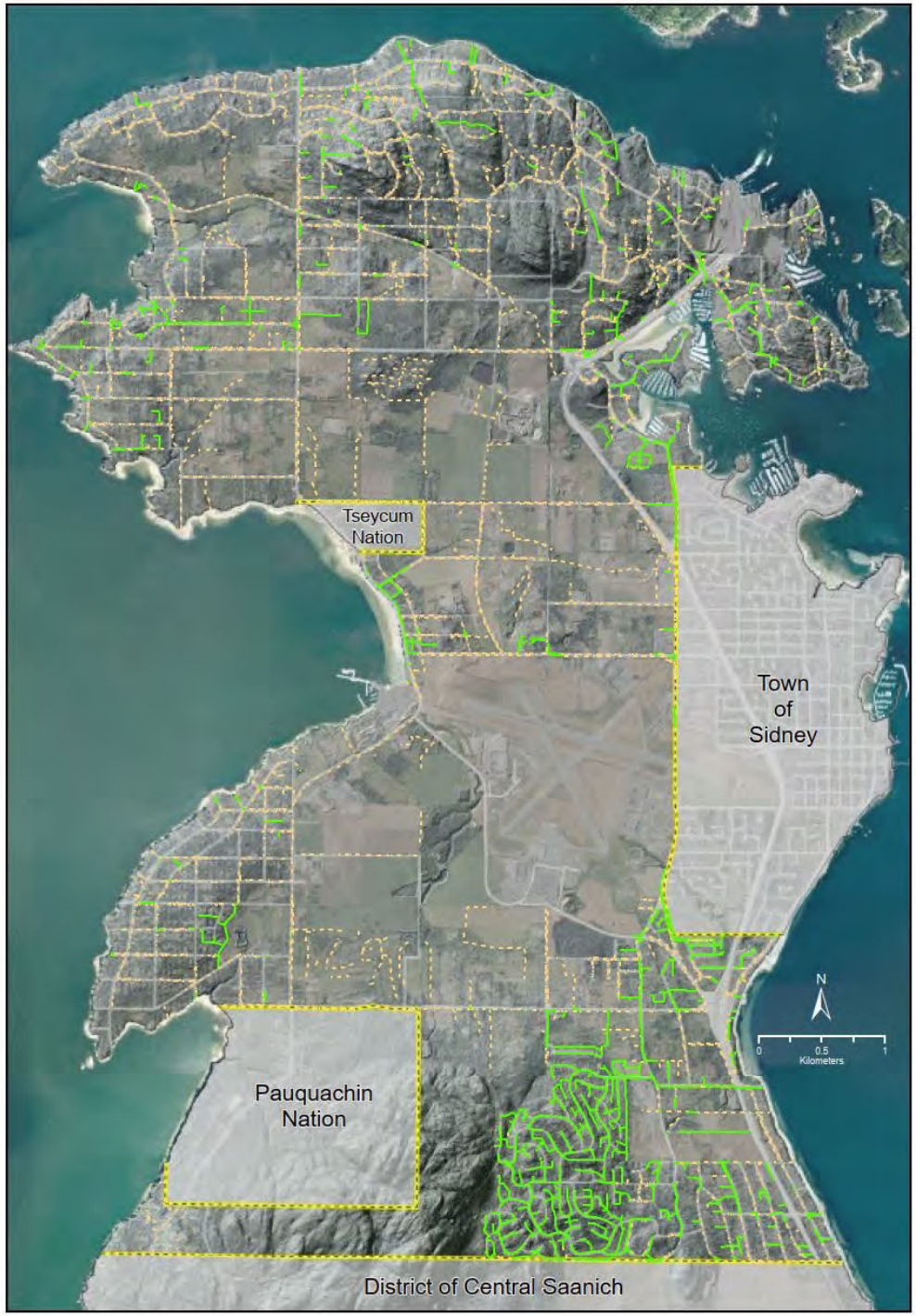
The District's drainage system consists of creeks, ponds, ditches, swales, and pipe. In total, there are approximately 2,700 culverts, 170 km of ditches, 13 km of swales, and 70 km of pipe. Several creeks flow within North Saanich, including Tatlow (Chalet) Creek and Gardner Pond, Towner Creek, Blue Heron Creek, Tseycum Creek, Reay Creek, and TenTen Creek.

SOLID WASTE

The District does not provide garbage services. Residents either obtain garbage collection service from local companies or drop off their garbage at the Heartland landfill.

RECYCLING

The District participates in the CRD's blue box program. Recycling depots accept additional items that the blue box program does not.



Storm Drain Network

- Pipe
- Ditch
- Municipal Boundary

Data Source: District of North Saanich - GIS 2020

APPENDIX C:

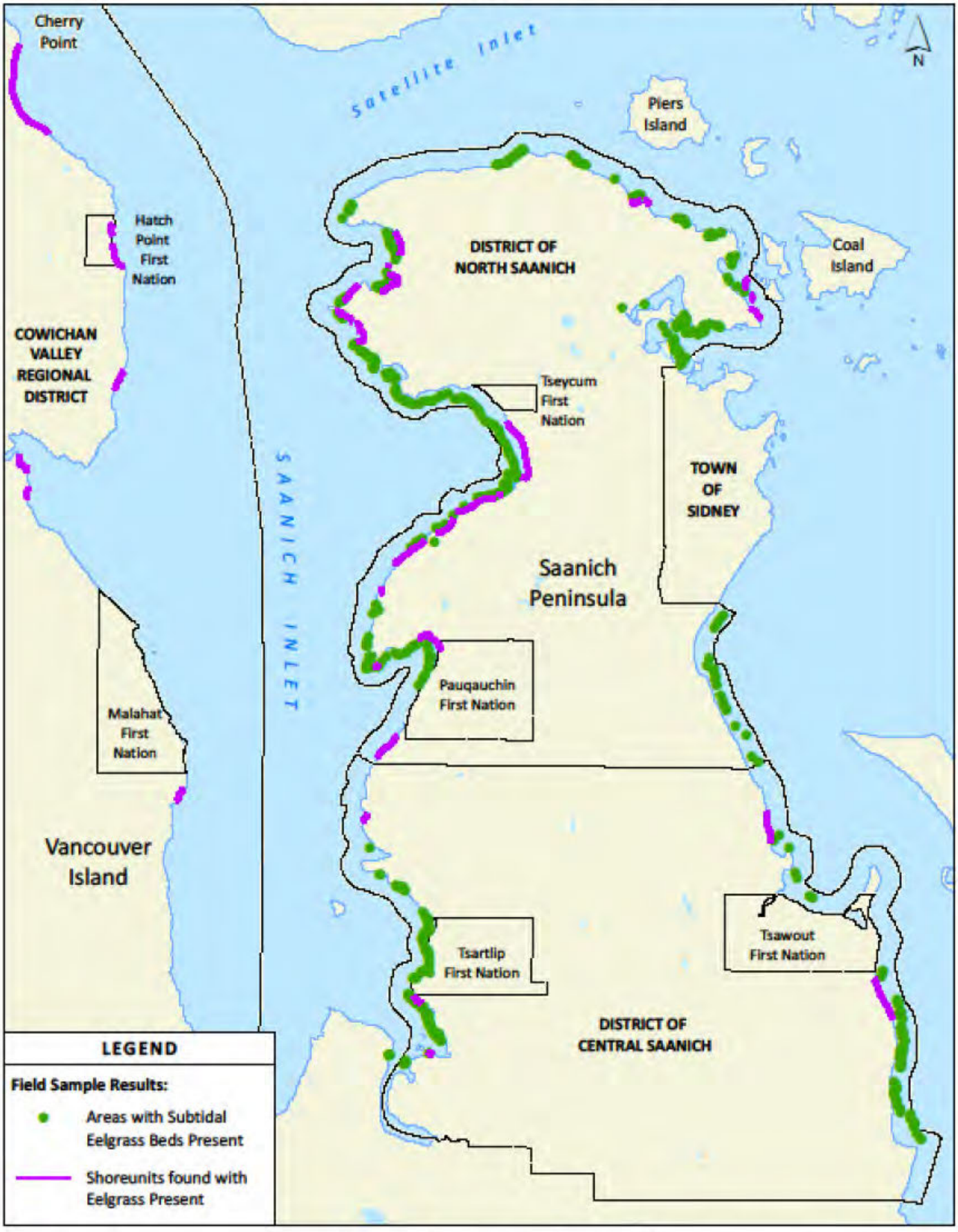
POTENTIAL SAND LANCE AND SURF SMELT SPAWNING AREAS

- FIGURE 5: Potential Sand Lance and Surf Smelt Spawning Areas -



PROJECT:	MAP SCALE:	REVISION DATE:	DRAWN BY:	Kilometers
Saanich Inlet & Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines	1:80,000	Dec 31, 2010	J.Thomson	0 0.5 1 2 3

- FIGURE 6: Eelgrass Distribution -



PROJECT:	MAP SCALE:	REVISION DATE:	DRAWN BY:	Kilometers
Saanich Inlet & Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines	1:80,000	Feb 15, 2010	J.Thomson	0 0.5 1 2 3

APPENDIX E:

SHORELINE ECOLOGICL RATING AND SHORELINE ECOLOGICL VALUE

4.5 Ranking the Shore Units using the SIPAS Data

A shoreline rating protocol to represent the overall ecological value of a shore unit was designed by SIPAS field crew, GIS staff and members of the Technical Committee. The rating is based on five shore unit characteristics that were deemed to have significant ecological worth. The criteria used to rate each shore unit is described in the following table.

Table 4. Shoreline Rating Criteria

Rating Class	Value Range	Criteria
Intertidal Features	0-5	If a shore unit has any of the five intertidal features (Sand lance spawning habitat, Eelgrass, Fucus, Clams or Oysters) present in any capacity it receives 1 point for each feature present. A shore unit can be awarded up to 5 points for this rating class.
Habitat Cover	0-10	If a shore unit has any percentage of habitat cover that falls under the Coniferous, Deciduous, Shrub or Wetland habitat class it receives one tenth of the percent value, ie. 50% Coniferous = 5; 20% Deciduous = 2, 30% Wetland = 3; Total =10. Any other habitat cover present (Landscaped, Bare Ground, Cultivated Field) receives 0.
Wildlife Feature	0-4 *(Note that although there are six possible wildlife features there was never a shore unit that had more than four of the possible six features.)*	If a shore unit has any of the six listed wildlife features present (Nesting Area, Rock Ledge, Undercut Shelter, Artificial, Driftwood Pile or Wildlife Tree) it receives 1 point for each feature present. A shore unit can receive up to 4 points for this rating class. If no wildlife features are present the unit receives 0.
Sensitive Ecosystems	0-1	If a shore unit is within 15 meters of an SEI polygon or has a riparian area or Garry oak community present the shore unit receives a value of 1. If the shore unit does not have any sensitive feature documented or adjacent, it receives 0.
Key Life Cycle Species	0-5	If a shore unit has abundant Sand lance spawning potential or Eelgrass habitat, it receives an extra 5 points; If a shore unit is within 25m of a documented sub tidal eelgrass bed it receives 5 points. A shore unit can only receive up to 5 points for this rating class.
Total:	**0-25**	A shore unit can receive a highest possible value of 25.

The numerical values resulting from the rating system are further simplified into an overall ecological value summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Shoreline Ecological Value

Value	Overall Ecological Value	Description
0-5.5	Very Low	Shore unit is significantly altered by land use activities; there is little sign of wildlife activities or marine beach life.
5.6-10.5	Low	Shore unit has been disturbed, little remains of the natural landscape of the unit. Shore unit has potential for some marine and land based wildlife activities.
10.6-15.5	Moderate	Shore unit is in a semi-natural state with some anthropogenic land use activities occurring. Potential for signs of wildlife and marine beach activities at this location. Potential for presence of key life cycle species.
15.6-20.5	High	Shore unit is likely in a natural or almost natural condition, signs of wildlife activity present, and potential for presence of key life cycle species.
20.6-25	Very High	There is presence of key life cycle species in shore unit as well as wildlife activity, marine life and natural vegetation.

The shore units in the SIPAS study area have been summarized in Table 5 in Section 5.1.



5.0 Results

The results pertinent to the objectives of this project are set out in the following sections. As the project progressed, it became evident that information based on governmental jurisdiction was necessary since decision makers needed data related to their area of responsibility. The shoreline rating summary tables of the municipalities and CVRD were run separately as a result. The database is being provided to the various jurisdictions so they may run their own queries according to their needs.

5.1 Conservation Ranking Results using TEM

The conservation ranking protocol as summarized in Sections 4.4 was applied to each shore unit in the study area, resulting in the following findings:

- 13.7km (22%) of the shore units were ranked as HIGH
- 16.0km (25%) of shore units were ranked as MODERATE
- 33.8km (53%) of shore units were ranked as LOW
- The average ranked value was 1.8 (MODERATE)

The results above are totals that have not been grouped and averaged for comparison to the shore units that fell within the categories for Overall Ecological Rating.

5.1 Overall Results using SIPAS Data

Following the rating protocol outlined in Section 4.6, the shore units in the SIPAS study area have been summarized in Table 1, reprinted below. Following the summary table for the entire study area are summary tables for shore units within political boundaries.

Table 1 repeated: Overall Ecological Rating, Summary Results for Entire Study Area

Overall Ecological Rating	% of total study area	Shore unit Count	Total Length (m)	Total number of seawalls present	Total length modified (m)	% modified based on category length	Average TEM Conservation Rank
VH – VERY HIGH	4%	14	2654	15	352	13 %	2.1 (Moderate)
H – HIGH	14%	49	9760	77	2678	27%	2.1 (Moderate)
M – MODERATE	39%	143	27815	188	6120	22%	1.9 (Moderate)
L – LOW	24%	88	16001	124	6465	40%	1.8 (Moderate)
VL – VERY LOW	19%	70	11141	87	5479	49%	1.6 (Low)
Totals	100%	364	67371	491	21094	31%	

APPENDIX F:
BANK EROSION

Table 10: Percent Cover Habitat Type in Backshore

Habitat Class	% Cover Habitat Types
Landscaped	35%
Coniferous	30%
Deciduous	17%
Bare Ground	8%
Shrub	8%
Cultivated Field	1%
Wetland	1%

5.5 Erosion

A visual judgment of any bank erosion occurring in the backshore was documented and is summarized in Table 10.

Severe erosion – Bare ground is evident across a significant change in elevation with gullies or undercutting evident.

Moderate erosion – Bare ground is evident across a significant change in elevation or undercutting of a narrower band of elevation is significant.

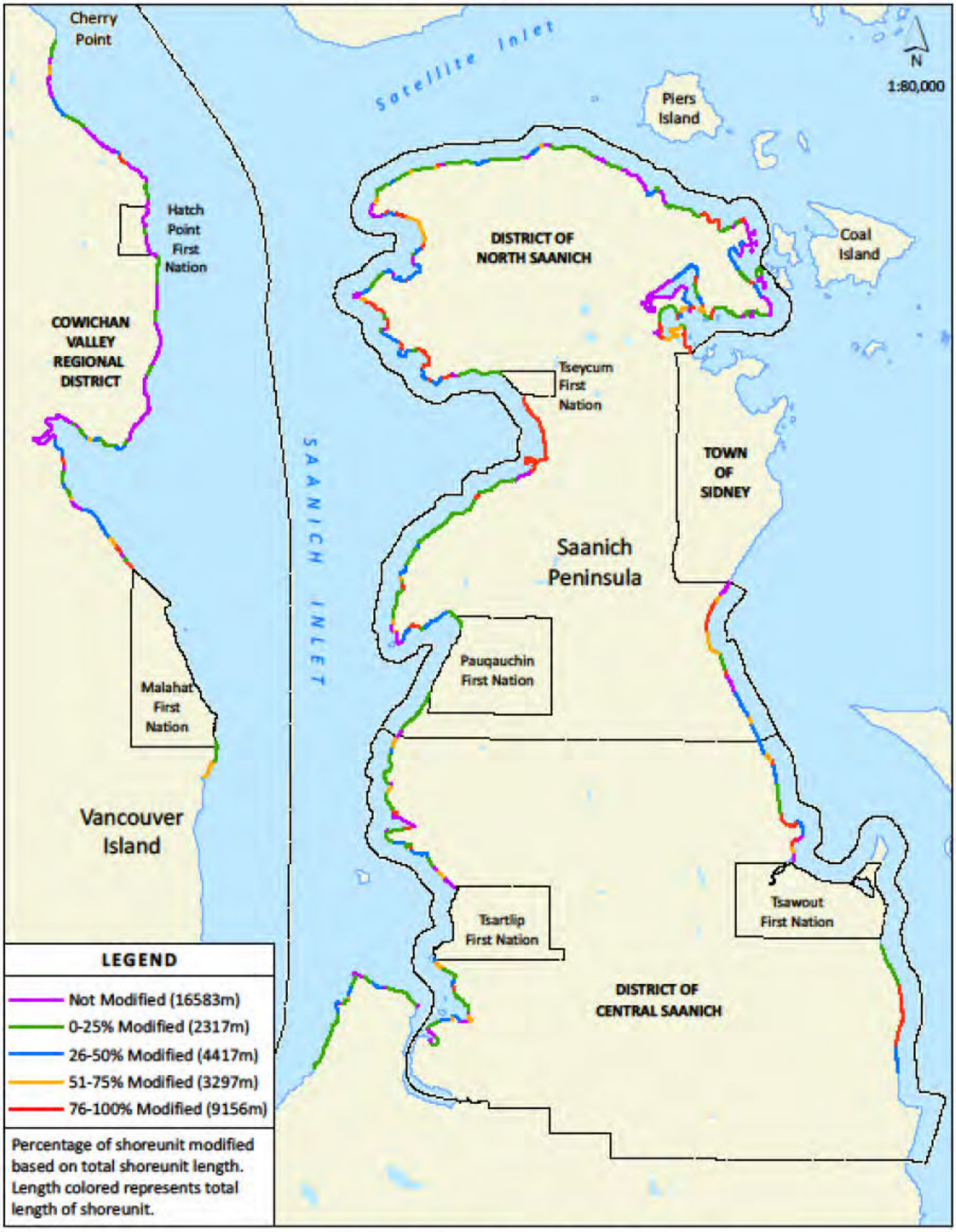
Mild erosion – Bare ground is evident along a particular elevation, often at the toe of a seawall.

Table 11: Degree of Erosion associated with % of Shore Units

Degree of Erosion	% of Shore Units	% of Seawall Occurrences
Severe	4%	2%
Moderate	13%	13%
Mild	23%	21%
None	60%	64%

APPENDIX G:
ANTHROPOGENIC MODIFICATIONS

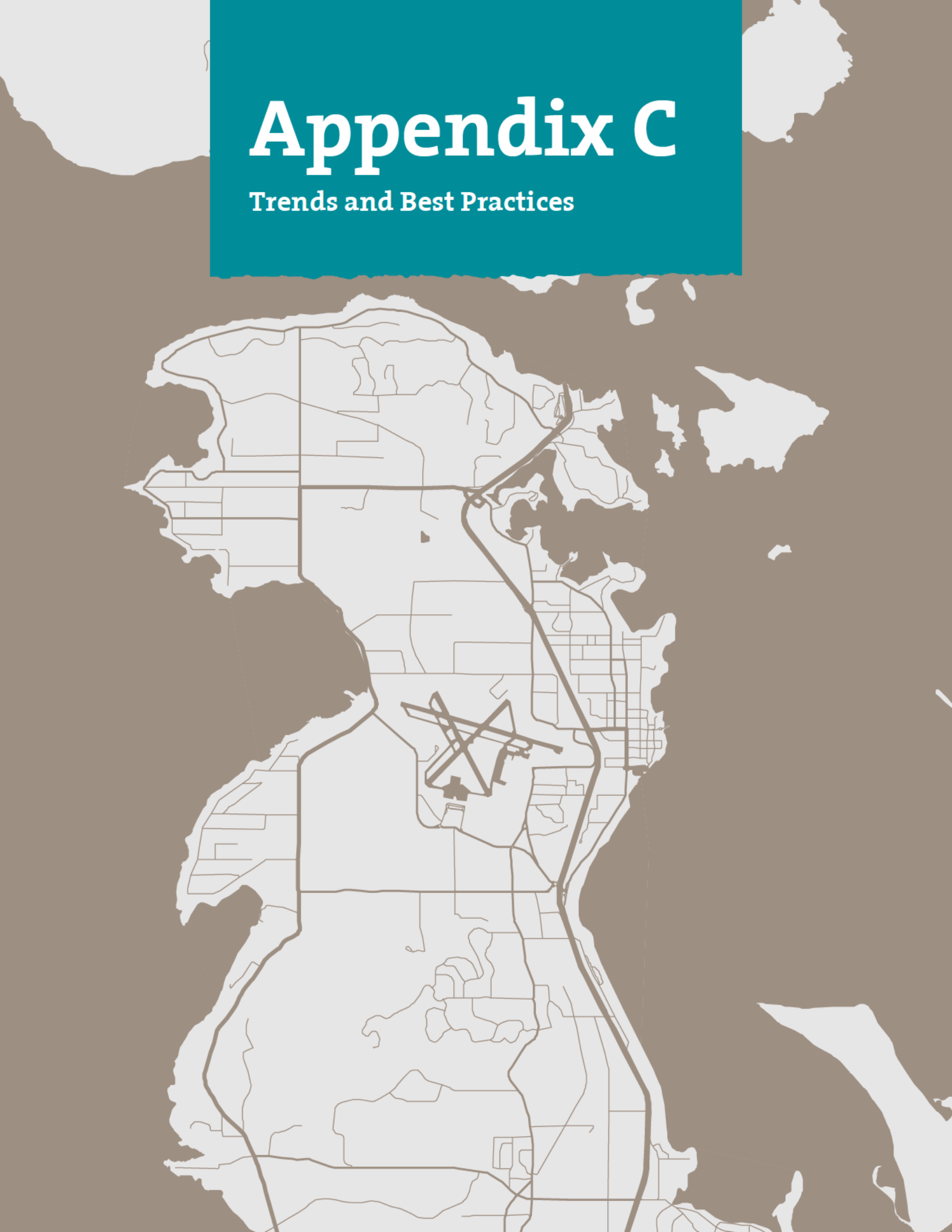
- FIGURE 4: Shore Units Modified -



PROJECT:	MAP SCALE:	REVISION DATE:	DRAWN BY:	
Saanich Inlet & Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines	1:80,000	Feb 15, 2010	J.Thomson	Kilometers 0 0.5 1 2 3

Appendix C

Trends and Best Practices



Examining trends and best practices in park planning offers insights for municipalities to manage their parks system. Highlighting successful approaches from various regions helps to identify opportunities for increased efficiencies, sustainable practices, and equity, among others. By leveraging this knowledge, the PMP works to meet current needs and anticipate and adapt to future demands.

The following sections provide the information below:

- **What Is It** – Describes the trend including technical and non-technical information.
- **Best Practices** – Includes examples from other cities, approaches, and planning considerations.
- **How It's Done** – Includes design considerations and guidelines that are recommended for North Saanich.

Park Naturalization

What is it?

Naturalization is an approach that allows for more nature within existing parks; it is gaining in popularity across Canada and the United States. Although we often perceive parks as natural environments, most parks are extensively maintained and designed to cater to human recreation activities and aesthetic preferences. The maintained parks in North Saanich have largely been designed to be manicured, ornamental, garden-like parks. These parks require a high level of human effort to achieve this appearance.

Naturalization transforms a cultivated landscape such as a lawn into a habitat that mimics a naturally occurring landscape in the area. Many municipalities in British Columbia and across Canada are transitioning some of their parks or portions of their parks into naturalized landscapes to improve their ecosystem services, biodiversity and reduce maintenance demands.

Naturalized areas are not zero maintenance, however they can reduce the level of upkeep and offer cost savings in operations. For instance, naturalized meadows typically include some mowing, usually once or twice annually compared to weekly or bi-weekly mowing required for manicured lawns. To support optimal results, a knowledgeable professional can help determine timing windows to support maximum germination of desired plants and minimal disturbance to the habitat of insects, birds and mammals. Additionally, specialized training for staff for maintenance of specific naturalized features, such as green infrastructure like bioswales and rain gardens can promote their optimal functionality.

Creating naturalized areas such as pollinator meadows involves more than just planting wildflowers

or native plants in an open space. It is a complex ecological process that requires time to remove existing mowed grass or other plants, and to establish a sustainable and functioning ecosystem. Plant establishment, including seed germination, root development, and plant maturity, is required to support pollinators effectively. Ecological succession plays a role, with plant communities evolving over time.

North Saanich staff and Council acknowledge that introducing more nature into parks sounds like a good idea to most people, but that the resulting appearance may be perceived as a lack of maintenance and care. There were some concerns expressed by the community that cutting back on mowing could increase ticks, reduce dog paths, and increase wildfire potential.

Public education and public relations outreach are key components to successful integration of naturalization techniques. Many municipalities across Canada have created public relations campaigns that include education sessions, media releases, pamphlets, online mapping of naturalized areas, walk abouts, and pilot project information sessions. The City of Edmonton and the City of Vancouver have had success using diagrams and graphics explaining what the public can expect the naturalized areas to look like over time.

Best Practices

The following are three examples of other communities that are working to include naturalization strategies.

City of Vancouver – Naturalized Meadows

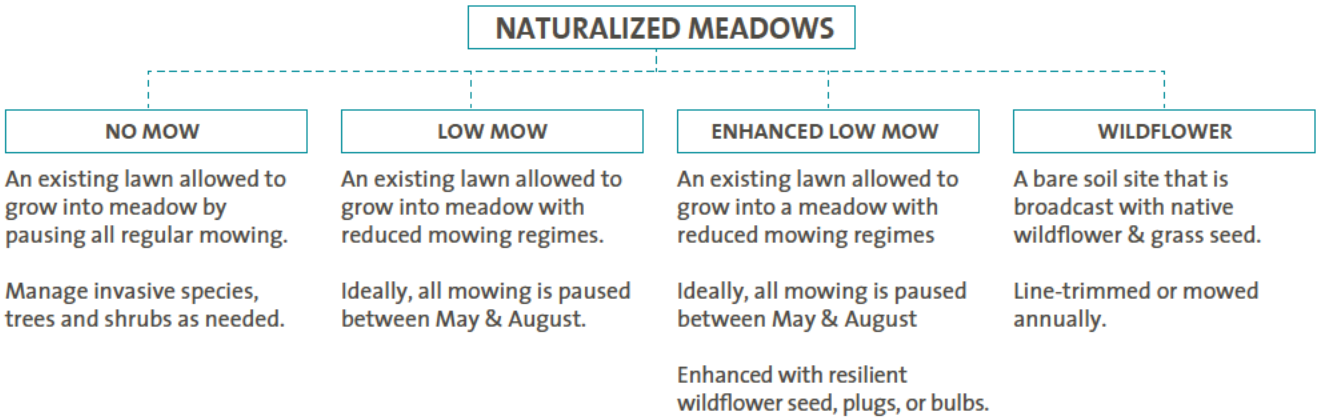
In 2020, the City of Vancouver began trialing a program to introduce pollinator meadows within the parks, boulevards, and golf courses in the community. As the program evolved, the Park Board developed a best management practices (BMP) document. The document guides design, service levels, and hazard prevention responses. It broadly defines the naturalized meadows into four categories. The following graphic depicts the categories and the general approach for each type.

Figure 13. Pollinator Meadow



Source: pollinator-meadow-1200px.jpg (vancouver.ca)

Figure 14. Types of Naturalized Meadows



Source: Vancouver-Park-Board-Best-Management-Practices-Cutsheets.pdf (cityparksalliance.org)

The BMP document includes a section referred to as the "Cues for Care". It includes strategies and visualizations to help maintenance staff improve the success of the meadows through careful and balanced maintenance approaches that reinforce public understanding and create inviting spaces and pathways through the meadows for people to enjoy. In addition, the BMP outlines a phased approach to respond to complaints and hazards such as garbage, cigarette butts, or glass.

The naturalized meadow program has met with mixed results from the public. Some people are eager and enthused that the meadows provide benefits for birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinator species. Others prefer the manicured lawns. The City of Vancouver has made a strong commitment toward environmental stewardship through its various policies including the Biodiversity Strategy, Bird Strategy and their Climate Action Plan.

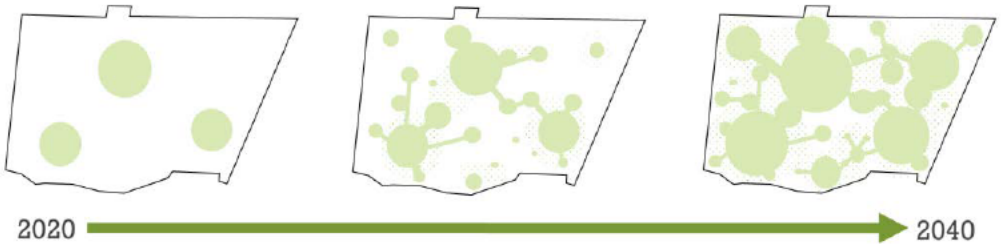
City Of Brampton – Eco Park Strategy

In 2020, the City of Brampton created a separate strategy from the Parks Master Plan called the Eco-Park Strategy. It prioritizes naturalization projects to achieve a well-connected and biodiverse community by 2040. The strategy contains principles for conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage. A scoring system is used to identify appropriate areas within parks for naturalization initiatives. This collaborative effort involves community stewards, adopt-a-park programs, public school programming, and partnerships across the community to achieve informed decision-making and support for naturalized solutions.

Figure 15. Bioswales and naturalized corridors interwoven into the park at Andrew McCandless Park.



Figure 16. Conceptual Image of Brampton Eco Park Evolution

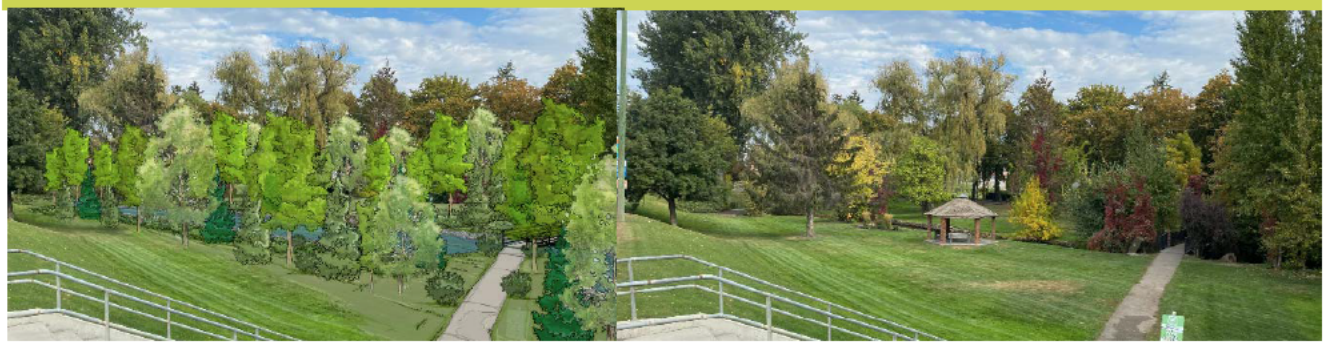


Source: Brampton_Eco_Park_Strategy_FINAL.pdf

City Of Vernon – Polson Park Naturalization

The City of Vernon is in the process of naturalizing Polson Park. The effort includes naturalization by removing the concrete channelized creek and installing a meandering channel with riffle pools and natural features such as boulders, logs, and native plantings placed strategically to allow for an increase in natural fish/spawning habitat. Reforestation along the creek banks will provide improved erosion control, water quality improvements, and increased habitat and biodiversity enhancements. Public outreach included the development of an interactive STORYMAP to help the community understand the project, the vision, and processes to be undertaken during the phased construction.

Figure 17. Source: Polson Park Naturalization (arcgis.com)



Before Naturalization Methods

Visualization of Naturalized Solution

How it's Done

The following are key factors for naturalized approaches:

1. **Create Awareness and Understanding BEFORE Implementation.** Conduct public education initiatives that raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of these concepts, highlighting the interconnectedness of plants, animals, and humans in natural environments. The advertisement of changes in maintenance approaches have a significant impact. For instance, the definition, location and type of naturalization method should be defined. The public should be able to clearly understand the difference between a 'no mow' area vs. a wildflower meadow because the maintenance approach and aesthetics will be different.
2. **Collaborate With Existing Volunteers and Stewards:** Foster relationships, provide education, and advance learning as a dynamic process between maintenance staff and the volunteers. This will instill a strong sense of ownership and understanding for everyone involved. The long-term sustainability of the naturalized areas requires the ongoing support and involvement of the community. Provide education and outreach so that knowledge and enthusiasm persist beyond the initial implementation phase, leading to continued maintenance, monitoring, and improvement of naturalized areas over time.
3. **Conduct Pilot Projects**: Pilot naturalization projects to serve as testing grounds for innovative ideas. This will allow municipalities to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of naturalization strategies on a smaller scale before broader implementation. Involve the community in these initiatives to foster a sense of ownership and pride among residents, strengthen social ties and enhance community resilience. Pilot projects provide learning opportunities for municipalities and partnering organizations, allowing them to gather feedback, refine approaches, and develop best practices for future naturalization efforts. Piloting naturalization projects allows municipalities to optimize resource allocation, minimize risks, and support the long-term success of their environmental initiatives while also building stronger, more sustainable communities.

Dogs in Parks

What is it?

In North Saanich, many residents and visitors own dogs that frequently enjoy the parks and trails for walks. Despite the large dog-owning population, the District lacks designated off-leash areas. Cy Hampson Park is a favorite spot for off-leash activities, though it isn't officially designated as a dog park. Managing dogs within parks can be challenging and with the growing populations of humans and dogs, conflicts among park users with and without dogs have increased.

Trends in dog management in communities recognize the social and physical benefits to people that come from embracing responsible use by humans and their dogs. Communities are planning destination and neighbourhood-level dog off-leash areas, and designating trails and water access points that welcome dogs. Providing adequate opportunities for dog owners and a clear and communicated dog management strategy can help to reduce the conflicts associated with dogs in parks. There is research showing that dogs can have significant negative effects due to trampling of vegetation within several metres of paths through natural areas. Most communities that allow dogs off-leash on trails locate these in the least environmentally sensitive locations and provide alternate trails where dogs must be on-leash.

Currently North Saanich has no bylaws surrounding dogs but requires them to be 'under control' within parks and trails. Some neighbouring communities require dogs to be on leash in most parks or have seasonal on-leash requirements.

Best Practices

To address an increase in dogs in parks and trails, many communities are integrating the following best practices as part of park planning:

Off-leash Dog Park Accessibility

Make off-leash areas universally accessible: Provide all residents and their pets appropriate access to enjoy the benefits of off-leash areas. At a minimum, design off-leash area entrances and entry pathways to be universally accessible.

Dog Park Types

Provide various types of off-leash dog areas and parks: This accommodates the widest variety of needs, which can vary among dog owners, their pets, and peoples' schedules. The following are common types of dog off-leash areas and parks:

- **Destination dog parks** – large off-leash areas with many amenities that attract dogs and owners from across the community. Types of amenities at destination dog parks vary, but generally include signage, watering stations, seating, shade (vegetation or shade structures), and dog waste bins. Other amenities may include washrooms, lighting, cleaning stations, water features, agility equipment, and designated fenced areas for large and small dogs. Destination dog parks have higher capital costs and maintenance requirements. Fenced destination dog parks often include areas designated for large and small dogs.
- **Neighbourhood dog parks** – smaller off-leash areas that meet the daily needs of the surrounding community. Municipalities offer a range of amenities in neighbourhood dog parks. The minimum requirements are typically dog waste bins and signage to define off-leash area extents. Fences are optional unless these parks are close to busy roads or private land, in which case fences are needed.
- **Off-leash trails** – trails where dogs are permitted to roam off-leash. Amenities vary, but dog waste bins and signage to define off-leash area extents are the minimum.
- **Dog relief zones** – designated areas within a public space where owners of dogs can bring their pets. These spaces are typically small, fenced locations within urban areas.
- **Off-leash areas** – areas with limited to no amenities where dogs are permitted to roam off-leash. At a minimum these areas should include signage that clearly delineates the extent of the off-leash area

How It's Done

Design Considerations

Appropriate surface treatment: Provide surfacing that reflects the intensity of use, site drainage, topography, and maintenance requirements: Mowed grass is commonly used in dog parks, but this surface is not ideal for areas of high use and poor drainage, particularly near dog park entrances. Other surfacing options such as wood chip mulch, engineered wood fibre, and aggregates can improve accessibility, durability, and reduce maintenance costs. Paving may also be used in limited areas such as entrances. It is important to evaluate the characteristics and maintenance requirements of surface types in relation to each site.

Identify off-leash areas: Defining boundaries of off-leash areas can reduce conflicts and improve comfort for all park users.

In some instances, natural boundaries such as forest edges, water bodies, or topography can delineate off-leash areas. Natural boundaries are appropriate in off-leash areas that do not border busy roads, incompatible land uses such as schools or sports fields, or environmentally sensitive areas. There are limited opportunities where natural boundaries can successfully delineate off-leash areas.

Low profile fencing options, such as chain link fences and post and beam with page wire, are commonly used for off-leash boundary delineation. Fencing should be a minimum of 1.2 metres tall, extend to the ground to prevent dogs from exiting under the fence, and have bottom wires crimped to reduce injury. Fences are expensive and visually intrusive so locate and design them per those considerations.

Signs can delineate unfenced off-leash areas in parks with relatively low use.

Provide clear, concise signage: Communicate expected behaviours for dogs and their owners to promote responsible use of dog off-leash areas. Post etiquette signage at the entrances of dog off-leash areas and parks. Signage can also integrate community messaging. Unfenced off-leash areas require frequent boundary signage that clearly delineates the extent of the off-leash area.

Location Considerations

Select dog park and off-leash locations that minimize potential impacts to sensitive ecosystems: Dogs can have detrimental effects on sensitive ecosystems due to their tendency to disturb vegetation and wildlife, as well as the potential for transmission of pathogens. Do not locate dog parks and off-leash areas within or directly adjacent to areas of high biological diversity, wildlife corridors, or seasonally important sites (e.g., nesting areas). Buffer zones and wildlife-friendly fencing can help mitigate impacts and benefit from the guidance of a professional biologist.

Minimize the risks associated with dog waste: Dog waste poses a risk to water quality due to the pathogens and nutrients it contains. When left on the ground near storm drains or surface water, dog waste can mix with runoff and transmit harmful pathogens to humans, fish, or wildlife. The nutrients in dog waste can also trigger algae growth in surface water, reducing water quality and ecosystem health. To mitigate these risks, do not locate dog parks and off-leash areas adjacent to water bodies or watercourses. Encouraging pet owners to dispose of dog waste is also key.

Avoid locations that front on arterial roads or highways: Locating off-leash areas and dog parks away from busy roads improves safety and the overall experience for dog park users. If there is exposure to an arterial road or highway, use fencing, and vegetation, if possible, to prevent dog and traffic conflicts.

Park Planning & Design

What is it?

Parks are important to communities, serving multifaceted roles in enhancing quality of life, promoting physical and mental well-being, and providing ecosystem services. However, their effectiveness hinges significantly on thoughtful planning and design. Engaging professionals, such as Landscape Architects and Qualified Environmental Professionals, from the early stages of planning so that parks are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the community and environment. While municipalities can handle minor enhancements internally, major interventions benefit from the expertise of planning and design professionals. Collaborative efforts between municipalities and these experts yield parks that optimize functionality, inclusivity, and sustainability, thereby maximizing their positive impact on the community.

Best Practices

Many communities across BC have design guidelines, procedures and standards that are part of their development requirements and application processes. These guidelines often include standardized details, technical specifications, and best management practices that provide municipalities with clear direction for planning and design initiatives. Some notable examples that can be referenced are New Westminster, Vancouver, and Lethbridge, Alberta.

How it's Done

Design Guidance for New and Upgraded Parks

Community Parks: For community parks, especially those containing multiple park amenities such as playgrounds and sport courts, engage a registered Landscape Architect to provide design solutions and include public engagement in the planning process. Look for opportunities to protect environmental and cultural resources, include naturalization, and add creative play and social features.

Neighbourhood Parks: For neighbourhood parks, consider inclusion of qualified design professionals to support new or upgraded facilities, especially those parks that include playground equipment or sports courts.

Nature Parks: For nature parks, engage the services of Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP) and Landscape Architects to provide vegetation management plans. A vegetation management plan typically includes inventory and assessment of vegetation resources, goals and objectives, strategies for vegetation management, measures for ecological considerations, protocols for monitoring and evaluation, interest group engagement strategies, compliance with regulations, risk management measures, and long-term planning. This comprehensive approach promotes sustainable use and

conservation of the nature park considering ecological, economic, and social factors.

Linear Parks: For linear parks, coordinate with active transportation plans to verify that appropriate trail surfacing treatments are applied and provide contiguous access throughout the trails network for multiple user groups. Consider including QEPs to provide habitat management plans, especially for linear parks that connect important habitat areas.

General Design Guidance for all Park Types

- Encourage parks to include gathering places, with seating and spaces appropriate for picnics and group activities according to the type and size of the park.
- For parks that include parking areas, design the parking efficiently, minimize the amount of hard (or gravel) surface, and keep the parking as close to the perimeter of the park as possible.
- For large parking lots, include trees, planting and rain gardens during upgrading projects or new construction.
- Plant trees in parks to the degree possible for shade and as a contribution to the urban forest.
- Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, balancing these with the need to protect and enhance habitats.
- For large parking lots, include trees, planting and rain gardens during upgrading projects or new construction.
- Plant trees in parks to the degree possible for shade and as a contribution to the urban forest.
- Use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, balancing these with the need to protect and enhance habitats.
- Design parks with the goal of increasing creativity and interest, e.g., more interactive play environments and equipment, allow children to experience more nature in parks, and provide options for all ages of children, youth and adults.
- Explore opportunities to integrate outdoor exercise equipment in or near playgrounds in community parks.
- When planning and designing new parks, consider life cycle cost analysis and water and energy consumption.
- Design parks with consideration for protection and enhancement of environmental resources.
- Celebrate local artists in parks, with more public art such as murals, mosaics, and sculptures.
- Celebrate and collaborate with local First Nation communities on park planning and design.

Levels of Service, Park Amenities, and Asset Management

What is it?

Levels of Service (LOS) encompass standards for park amenities, maintenance, operations, and asset management that guide the planning, development, and management of parks. These standards are developed to meet community needs and expectations and manage workflows and budgets. Many Canadian municipalities are defining their LOS intentionally to balance demands and available resources.

Best Practices

Park Amenities and Design

In this context, an amenity refers to any feature or facility within a park aimed at enhancing the well-being and satisfaction of visitors. While traditional park amenities like sports fields, play areas, and courts are crucial, evolving interests, designs, and technologies have led to newer amenities such as dog off-leash areas, pickleball courts, multi-use sport courts, and community gardens.

The following are some of the recent trends related to park amenities and design:

- **Applying an age-friendly lens to parks planning and management for the promotion of active aging** – The global population is aging, with a high percentage of people that are over the age of 60. To realize the potential for continued human development among older residents, municipalities are prioritizing older residents and their access to urban spaces, age-friendly park spaces and services. The concept of 'Active Aging' refers to a correlation between engagement in activities and health in later life. This can be achieved through creation of more natural/wild areas, additional opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature education, more walking paths that conform to universal design, more accessible washrooms, trail ratings and information to communicate difficulty level, and education sessions with seniors to help them understand more about park spaces.
- **Park features that encourage social cohesion and inclusion** – Communities are recognizing the values of parks in promoting social connections, inclusivity, and accessibility. There is growing recognition that needs vary widely, and amenities that reflect the community's needs help to enhance acceptance, understanding, and connection. Examples of park features that can bring people together and support multiple needs include varied types of seating and tables, diverse paths, flexible gathering spaces, public art opportunities for cultural expression, culturally diverse sports facilities, community gardens, washrooms, and accessible playgrounds and recreation amenities.

- **Nature-based park features** - The desire for nature-based parks reflects a growing need among urban residents to establish meaningful connections with the natural environment. The presence of natural vegetation can increase the presence of small mammals, birds, and pollinators, enabling children and families to appreciate and feel more attached to nature.
- **Spontaneous and unstructured play features** – Park features that support spontaneous opportunities for play and recreation are becoming more popular among park users. The ease of engaging in spontaneous play aligns well with the demands of busier schedules. These trends are translating to park spaces that are flexible and accommodating of multiple user groups and activities. There is also a growing understanding of the value in unstructured and "risky play" for children. Unstructured play fosters creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills. Risky play balances risk relative to a child's age, size, motor skills, and comfort level to create dynamic and exciting play opportunities.

Maintenance and Operations

Parks maintenance includes a wide range of tasks such as turf and dryland mowing, tree care, tree planting, boulevards maintenance, infrastructure repairs, integrated pest management (IPM), snow removal, ice monitoring, graffiti removal, irrigation, floral programs, and support for special events. Maintenance levels are highest for community parks and lowest for linear parks and nature parks.

Maintenance plays an important role in the perceptions of parks and resulting use. Many municipalities are experiencing tension between increasing park use and maintaining parks to expected standards in a context where resources are decreasing. Parks staff are striving to manage park spaces more efficiently and in more sustainable ways with the help of natural processes and improving technologies.

The following are some of the maintenance and operations trends:

- **Reduced mowing and watering** – Several alternatives to traditional mowing practices that promote sustainability, biodiversity, and resource efficiency are becoming more common as part of park maintenance. Many municipalities are reducing mowing and irrigated areas, adopting low or no mow strategies as part of naturalization efforts (see Section 5.1) or using alternatives to traditional turf maintenance methods, such as grazing animals e.g., goats have been used in several communities to provide grazing of long grass.
- **Integrated Pest Management** – Many municipalities across British Columbia have adopted integrated pest management strategies that consider local ecology and non-toxic methods to control pests, minimizing the use of chemical pesticides. In some communities, pesticides have been banned completely. North Saanich obtains guidance from the Provincial best management practices for pest and product measures.
- **Data driven maintenance** – Maintenance plans are now using data analytics to monitor park use, assess conditions, and optimize maintenance schedules for more efficient and cost-effective operations.

Asset Management and Green Infrastructure

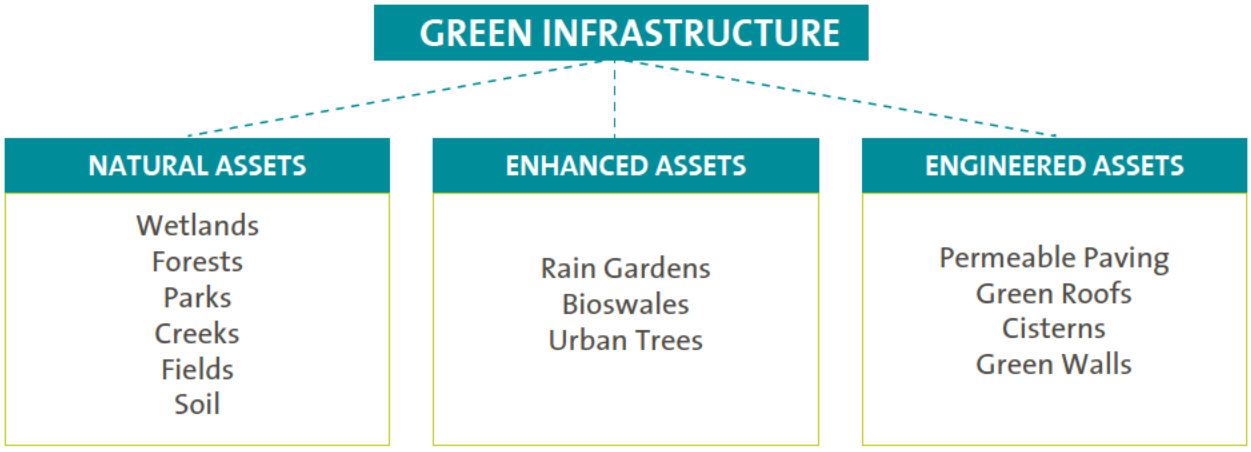
Parks Asset Management: Parks and the amenities within them are assets. Asset management programs in municipalities have been expanding in recent years. Whereas they began with a focus on roads and utilities, many municipal asset management programs now include park assets. Some communities are creating parks asset management plans that include a detailed inventory of all the assets, including lifecycle expectancy and asset replacement costs. This enables the condition, maintenance, and life cycle replacement of park assets to be included in the overall operations and capital budgeting processes. Assets in parks are considered individually where the overall park is in good condition, triggering upgrading or replacement of the amenity. As parks age, the condition of all or most amenities may need attention, in which case the park becomes a candidate for revitalization or redesign and construction.

North Saanich staff have compiled a preliminary inventory of their park assets. A next step is to develop a comprehensive list of all park assets, including their life cycle and cost considerations. Recommendations for asset management are described in more detail in Section 9 of the PMP.

Natural Asset Management: Another trend is natural asset management. Municipalities are beginning to recognize the value of natural assets by including wetlands, forests, parks, watercourses, heritage trees, cultural elements, and other natural features within the asset management system.

In some cases, this is further expanded by including enhanced assets and engineered green infrastructure assets such as bioswales, raingardens, and tree trenches.

Figure 18. Types of Green Infrastructure



Inclusivity

What is it?

Inclusivity in parks is the purposeful design and management of park space, amenities, and infrastructure to promote the equitable access of these valuable resources to all people. Inclusive parks and trails are essential for enabling people with unique needs to have access to the important services that they provide. Everyone should feel welcomed, included, and not discriminated against because of their ability, gender, age, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, cultural background, health, and/or socio-economic status.

Best Practices

Universal Design

Universal design guides the built environment to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities, regardless of any type of physical or cognitive impairment. It is a fundamental design principle that should be applied in all contexts but is especially important for designing paths and trails. Everyone passes through stages of life where access needs vary; many of us are “temporarily able-bodied”. By designing for this diversity, environments that are safer, easier, and more convenient for all can be created.

New Forms of Mobility

New forms of mobility, termed "micromobility" or "light mobility," are emerging as important alternatives for transportation, particularly along trails, offering accessibility without the need for a vehicle and boasting significant sustainability benefits. However, challenges arise due to speed differentials between walking and cycling or powered micromobility. The International Transport Forum's (ITF) Mobility Innovation Hub provides insights into developing innovative policies for evolving transport needs, emphasizing the importance of aligning national, regional, and local policies, assessing interventions, improving walking conditions, developing safe infrastructure, integrating collective transport, and promoting attitude changes through communication and education programs.

UBC's Research on Active Transportation Team (REACT) identifies 26 micromobility modes and recommends clustering non-automobile vehicles based on speed and comfort for effective design and policy implementation. Recommendations also include adjusting pedestrian thresholds on multi-use paths, restricting certain vehicles, and updating design guidelines to reflect real-world speeds. Safety regulations across provinces focus on power, speed, helmet use, and licensing requirements for micromobility modes.

The publication offers several recommendations that are relevant to the North Saanich PMP:

- Harmonizing policies to promote light mobility across the national, regional, and local levels.
- Evaluating potential interventions and tracking policy implementation to demonstrate effectiveness.
- Developing high-quality infrastructure for safe interactions between light mobility and other traffic.
- Integrating collective transport, pedestrian spaces, and light mobility infrastructure
- Implementing communication campaigns and educational programs to foster attitude and behavior changes regarding mobility.
- Adjusting volume thresholds to separate pedestrians from other travelers on multi-use paths and greenways accommodating new mobility devices, based on pedestrian discomfort.
- Prohibiting the use of sit-down electric scooters on off-street paths and cycling facilities due to their speed and comfort discrepancies.
- Updating active transportation design guidelines to reflect real-world speeds, especially for electric-assist bicycles and devices, with the recommended 30 km/hr design speed aligning with B.C. Active Transportation Design Guidelines.

Cultural Representation

In contemporary park planning, there's a growing emphasis on fostering inclusivity and representation within parks and trail systems. Recognizing that many park names and narratives reflect a colonial past, efforts are underway to rectify this and acknowledge the rich and diverse histories embedded within the landscape. This involves initiatives such as renaming parks and trails to reflect indigenous languages or important historical figures. Incorporating interpretive signage and educational programs that highlight the deeper historical and cultural significance of public spaces helps to promote a more nuanced understanding of the landscape and its history.

Parks for All People

Parks should be inclusive and welcoming spaces for everyone. Moving forward, it’s important to foster participation from a diverse range of community members to ensure that parks reflect the needs, experiences, and interests of all. By encouraging broader engagement, public spaces can be made more accessible and enjoyable for everyone in the community.

How it's Done

Design for New Parks and Trails

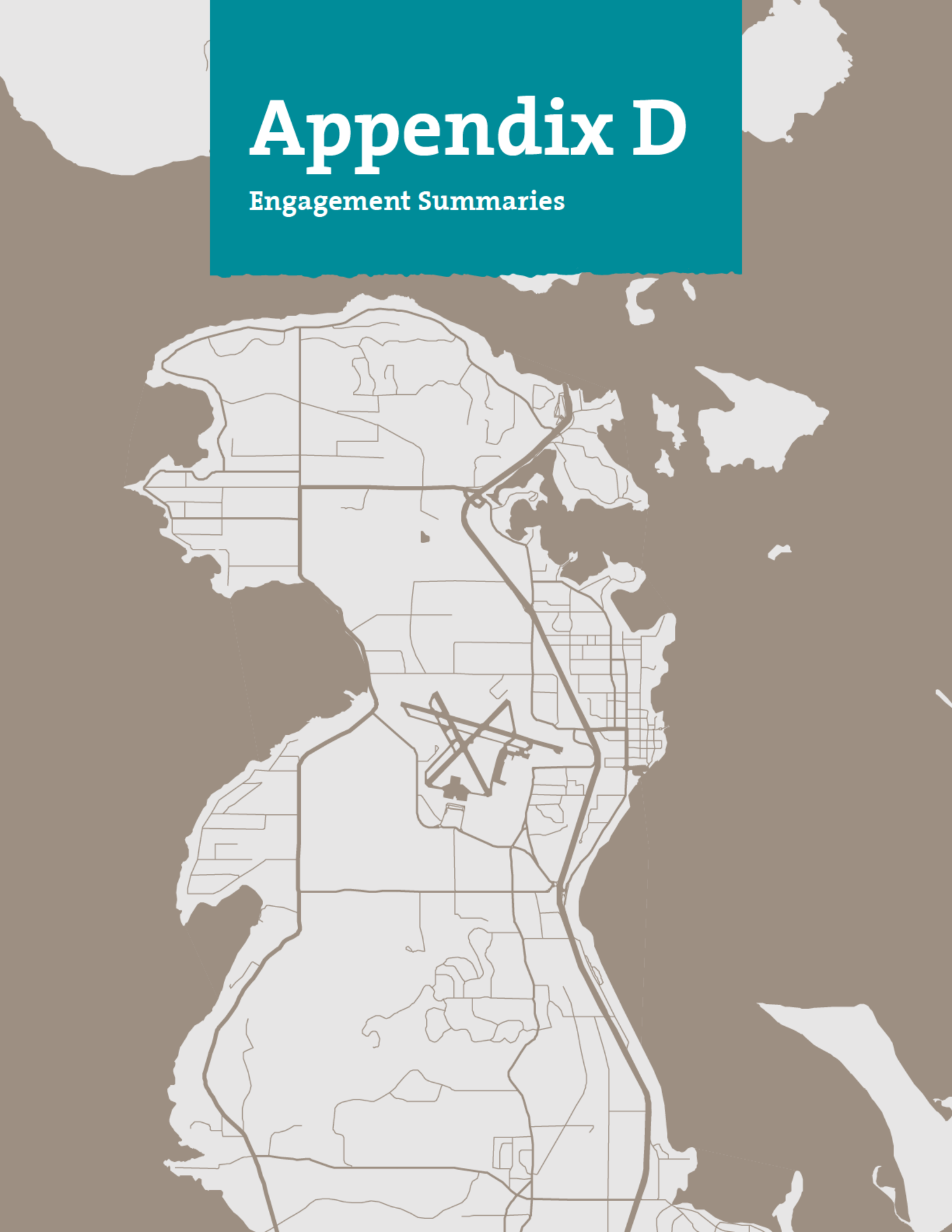
- Engage the public early in the process for any public space project. Include those who do not generally participate in parks planning processes (e.g. visit school children, nursing homes).
- Reduce barriers and challenges for engagement by offering multiple ways and places to contribute.
- Start every new project with inclusivity in mind – consider who the design targets.
- Prepare design guidelines for new parks and trails that include standards for inclusivity.
- Aim to provide physical elements that can be used and have value for multiple user groups, e.g., play elements, seating.

Maintenance of Existing Parks and Trails

- Evaluate the ways in which existing parks promote and obstruct inclusion – adjust practices as necessary.
- Maintain the physical elements within parks and trails to be accessible for those with various mobility and neurological needs.
- Evaluate the names, signage, and messaging in parks and trails, and consider if they are welcoming and inclusive.

Appendix D

Engagement Summaries





NORTH SAANICH PARKS MASTER PLAN

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

February 2024

Version 2- March 2024

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

WHO PARTICIPATED?



80 Open House Attendees
Six Stakeholder Sessions

209
Survey Participants

TOP 5 STRENGTHS

1. Variety and quantity of parks and spaces
2. Trail System
3. Natural Environment
4. Maintenance of the parks and trails with limited resources
5. Environmental impacts

TOP 5 CHALLENGES

1. Waste Disposal
2. Ecosystem protection and management
3. Insufficient signage
4. Availability of washrooms
5. Parking at beach accesses

TOP 5 SUGGESTIONS

1. Address waste disposal in parks
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment through invasive species management and naturalization of parks and open spaces
3. Expand wayfinding and interpretive signage at parks, trails, and beach accesses with similar online resources
4. Provide more washrooms
5. Improve parking and boat launch opportunites

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1. ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

1.1 ABOUT THE PROJECT

The District of North Saanich is preparing a Parks Master Plan to meet the needs of the community. The purpose of the project is to strategically guide staff work and Council decisions on parks policy, planning, capital improvements, and management over the next 10 years (2024-2034). The plan will guide the future planning, design, protection, and maintenance of existing and new park infrastructure and amenities.

The Parks Master Plan is being informed through a multi-phased engagement process to ensure the plan reflects the community's vision and meets local interests and needs. This document summarizes input gathered from the Phase 1 community engagement period, including contributor sessions, a public open house, and a community survey.

1.2 PROJECT PROCESS

The project began in spring 2023 with a project initiation and site visit to key parks, trails, and beach accesses in the District.



Preliminary findings were highlighted in a State of the Parks report. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the parks and trails within the District of North Saanich and offers insights into the District's natural assets, demographics, and environmental considerations that relate to the management and planning of the outdoor recreation spaces.

Phase 1 of community engagement began in fall 2023. Opportunities for engagement in Phase 1 included:

- Visioning Workshops with Staff, Mayor and Council, First Nations and Community Stakeholders
- Pop Ups
- Community Survey
- Open House

Findings from Phase 1 Engagement will be used to inform the draft Parks Master Plan, which will be presented in the next round of engagement in early 2024.

Phase 2 of community engagement will take place in the spring of 2024. Opportunities for engagement in Phase 2 will include:

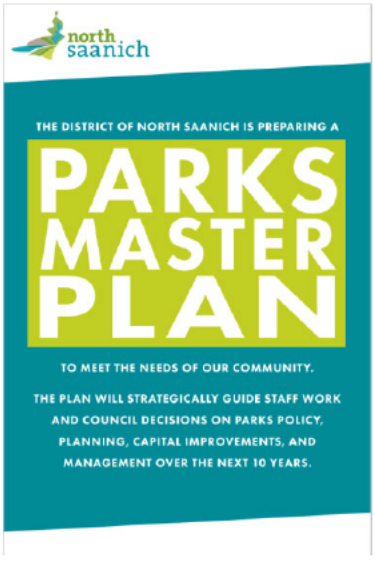
- Open House
- Community Engagement – Input to Draft Parks Master Plan

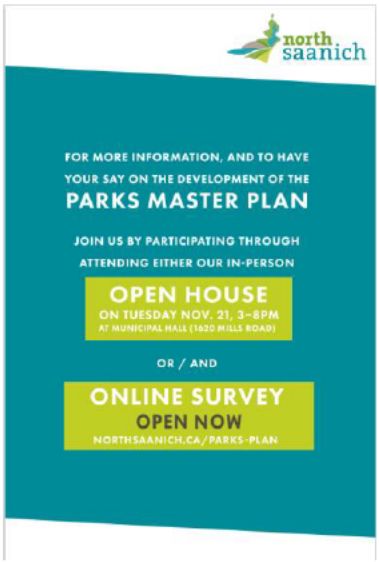
Following community review, a final Parks Master Plan will be prepared and presented to Council in spring 2024.

1.3 PROMOTION AND OUTREACH

Promotion of the engagement process was important to raise awareness and encourage participation. The following were the communication methods:

- **District Webpage:** a landing page on connectnorthsaanich.ca/parks-plan described project information, engagement events, and had a link to the community survey.
- **District of North Saanich social media platforms:** regular posts informed community members about the process through the District's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter).
- **Media Release:** advertising was issued to the local newspapers, including the Peninsula News Review to promote participation in the survey and open house.
- **Stakeholder Outreach**: The District used their existing contacts with stakeholders, staff, and neighbouring municipalities to participate and promote the engagement activities.
- **Community Posters**: Posters and signage were placed at key locations in the community including:
    - Municipal Hall lawn
    - Fickle Fig
    - St. John's Church
    - Deep Cove Market
    - Co-op gas station (Deep Cove)
    - The Roost
    - Wain Road pickleball courts
    - Pat Bay picnic area (bulletin board)
    - Panorama Recreation
    - All major North Saanich parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses





2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement approach provided a variety of opportunities to reach a broad audience of users and stakeholders in the community. The following were the engagement events.

2.1 ONLINE SURVEY

An online community survey was hosted on *Connect North Saanich* from November 7th to December 17th. There were **209 respondents** who answered 20 questions related to where and how respondents use parks and their satisfaction and interests for the future. The findings are summarized in **Section 3.2.**

2.2 OPEN HOUSE

A public open house was hosted on November 21, 2023 from 3 to 8pm at Municipal Hall. **Approximately 80 people attended.**

The open house included 10 poster boards with information on the project purpose and current state of the parks. Attendees were given opportunities to provide their input on the locations they frequently visit, the strength and challenges of the existing system, and ideas for the future.

Findings from the public open house discussed in **Section 3.3.**



2.3 VISIONING WORKSHOPS

First Nations and contributors were identified early in the project planning process, and they were invited to visioning workshops.. Six visioning workshops were hosted as follows:

1. **Tseycum First Nation** – November 15th

2. **Parks Advocacy Groups** – October 30th
   - Friends of North Saanich Parks
   - Friends of Dominion Brooks Park

3. **Environmental Organizations** – Nov 7th
   - Peninsula Streams Society
   - Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition

4. **Community Associations** (Group 1) – Nov 8th
   - North Saanich Residents Association
   - The Terraces Neighbourhood Association
   - Woodcreek Strata
   - Eagle Ridge Strata
   - Eaglehurst Residents Association
   - Bazan Bay Community Association
   - Dean Park Estates Community Association
   - Lands End Residents

5. **Community Associations** (Group 2) – Nov 14th
   - Save North Saanich
   - Property Responsibility on the Waterfront (PROW)
   - McTavish Neighbourhood Community Group

6. **Commissions** – December 5th
   - Planning Commission
   - Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee
   - Agriculture Commission
   - Stewardship Commission

7. **Mayor & Council** – February 26th

The following parties were invited to participate in visioning workshops but were unable to attend:

- Pauquachin First Nation
- Eagle Ridge Strata

Workshops were conducted virtually. The consulting team shared a brief presentation with information on the project purpose and key findings from the State of the Parks report. The presentation was followed by a facilitated discussion on the strengths and challenges of the current parks system, and objectives and ideas for the Parks Master Plan. Findings from the sessions are summarized in **Section 3.4**.

2.4 ENGAGEMENT POP-UPS

To promote the project and engagement activities, District staff facilitated community "pop-ups" at key locations in the community. Staff were equipped with a District banner and information cards that promoted the survey and open house.

Pop-ups were conducted at the following locations:

- The Roost – November 15th
- Fickle Fig – November 16th
- Deep Cove Market – November 17th
- Panorama Recreation Centre – November 18th

The information card that was distributed is shown below.



3. WHAT WE HEARD

This section describes what was heard from the community during the engagement, including key themes and input from the various sessions.

3.1 KEY THEMES

The key themes from community engagement activities are summarized below.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Desire for more management of invasive species through maintenance strategies and staff resources and expertise
- Appreciation for the volunteer organizations that remove invasive species

NATURALIZATION

- Support for naturalizing parks and open spaces to protect the environment and reduce maintenance burden
- Interest in interpretive materials and signage to inform the public about natural systems

"Put more resources toward eradicating invasive species from parks, and more towards greater public understanding of natural systems. Determine how parks can be used to help fight climate change."

WAYFINDING AND INFORMATION SIGNAGE

SIGNAGE

- Desire for more regulatory signage that identifies rules such as cyclist speeds, sharing the trail with cyclists and equestrians, cleaning up after dogs, and staying on the trail
- Desire for wayfinding signage at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Desire for interpretive signage to highlight natural, cultural, and historical significance

"Increasing use needs to account for all users - avoid conflicts through signage/education."

OTHER RESOURCES

- Opportunity for collaboration with First Nations providing information on cultural significance
- Desire for an interactive online map that provides information on the park and trail system, including jurisdictions and ownership
- Participants expressed the value of the District's existing *Guide to Parks, Trails and Beach Accesses,* and suggested that it be updated once the Parks Master Plan is complete

"Look for opportunities to educate park users about wildlife, natural features, park history, ecological concerns, etc. using signage, website, guided walks, etc."

WASTE DISPOSAL

- A desire for waste receptables at all parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses (though others expressed an opposing need for signage on pack in/pack out)
- A need for dog waste bags at trails and key parks to prevent dog waste and encourage owners to clean up

"Additional garbage cans so a) dog owners can dispose of doggie bags instead of leaving them hanging from a tree or dropped on a trail … b) citizens who find garbage on the trail can dispose of it easily".

DOGS IN PARKS

OFF-LEASH AREAS

- Many participants are dog owners and appreciate the District's parks and trails that are welcoming to dogs
- Cy Hampson Park is highly valued and used by dog owners, and people travel from across the peninsula to bring their dogs there
- Desire for more dog off-leash areas, specifically in the north of the District
- Dog owners are concerned about the regulation of dogs in public places being implemented in other communities, including the District of Saanich Dogs in Parks Policy, and expressed their concern for this type of regulation in North Saanich

"Cy Hampson [Park] has become a "de-facto" dog park, but is still considered multi-use. A designated, fenced, off-leash dog park would be nice".

ENFORCEMENT OF DOGS IN PARKS

- Desire for more enforcement of dogs in parks, including fines for leaving waste or having a dog off-leash in an on-leash area
- Some dog owners identified the need for better enforcement of on-leash dog policies to ensure their dogs have a safe place to walk

"Off-leash dogs are a problem, even when park signage states that dogs must be under control, they often are not. Given the massive increase in dog ownership, there needs to be a change in how dogs are controlled because the status quo is not working".

TRAIL EXPANSION AND CONNECTIVITY

- Many respondents use the trail network to avoid travelling on high-speed corridors that lack sidewalks
- Desire for expanding trails to connect with each other, parks, and other key destinations in the community
- As more types of users are on the trails, there is a desire for more separation through wider trails and multi-use pathways to ensure safety of users and to enable all types of users on the trail
- Desire from equestrian riders to continue to have access to trails
- Preference to implement boardwalks on trails where there are sensitive or saturated areas

"The trail system in North Saanich is one of the best features of the community. It needs to be kept up and expanded where possible".

ACCOMMODATING EQUESTRIANS

- Desire to protect existing park and trail access for equestrians and to acquire more such opportunities
- Interest in hitching posts at trail and park entrances
- Desire for more equestrian access to public beaches that are currently inaccessible to horses
- Desire for a public equestrian riding ring and allowing horse riding in unused park areas

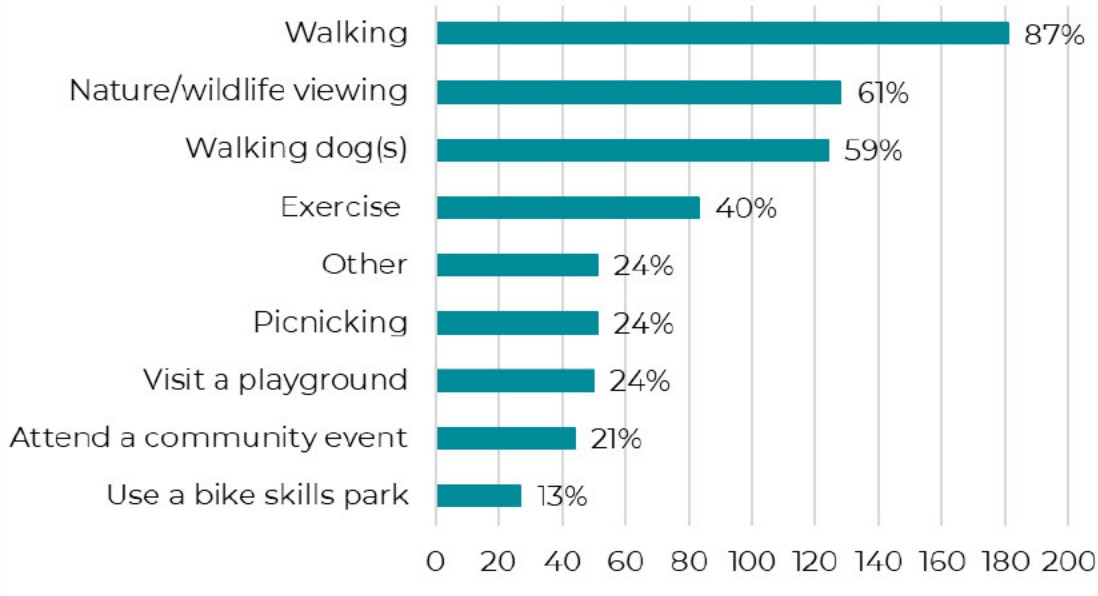
"Equestrian access to parks and trails is actively being eroded and restricted over time. Create parks and trails where equestrians can safely access, ride, hitch and water horses, and remount. Create trails that connect parks so equestrians and vulnerable road users alike, can commute and connect to amenities and other parks away from the paved road system where motorists speed".

3.2 SURVEY FINDINGS

The following pages summarize the input from the online survey. The x axis shows the number of respondents. For consistency, the percentages shown are of the total respondents. The "n" below the tables indicates how many people responded to that question.

3.2.1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

HOW PEOPLE USE PARKS IN NORTH SAANICH



n = 209

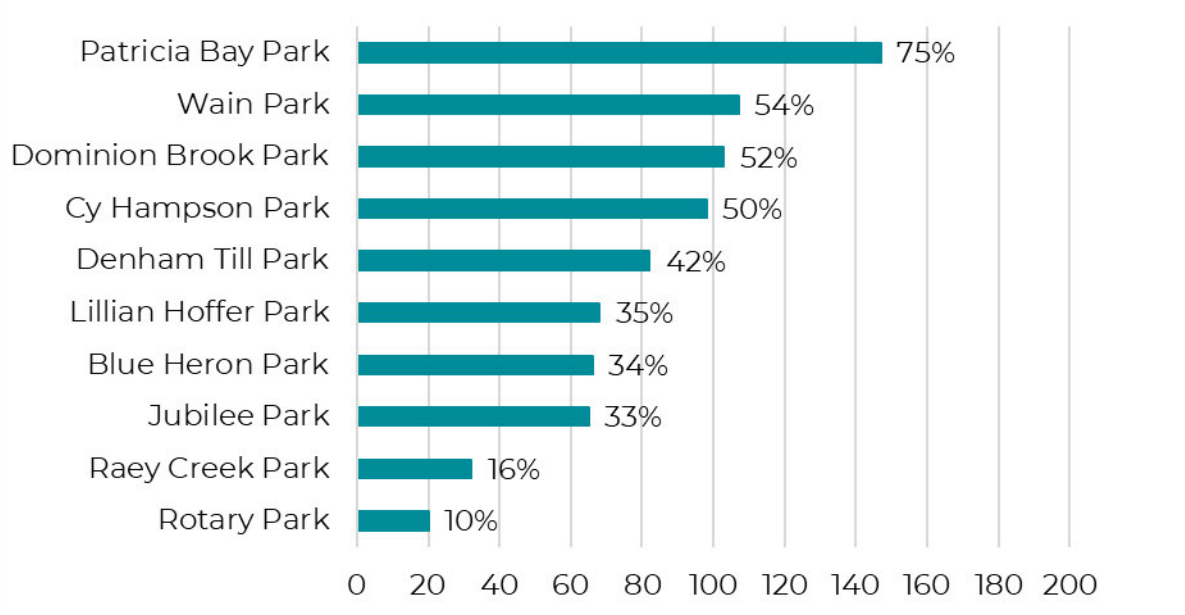
Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Most participants use parks to walk (87%), for walking dogs (59%) and nature and wildlife viewing (61%)
- Responses for "other" included forest bathing, socializing, horse riding, and volunteering

MOST VISITED COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are typically larger parks of at least one hectare that include several park amenities and facilities such as playgrounds, sport courts, trails, picnic areas, and open spaces.



n = 197

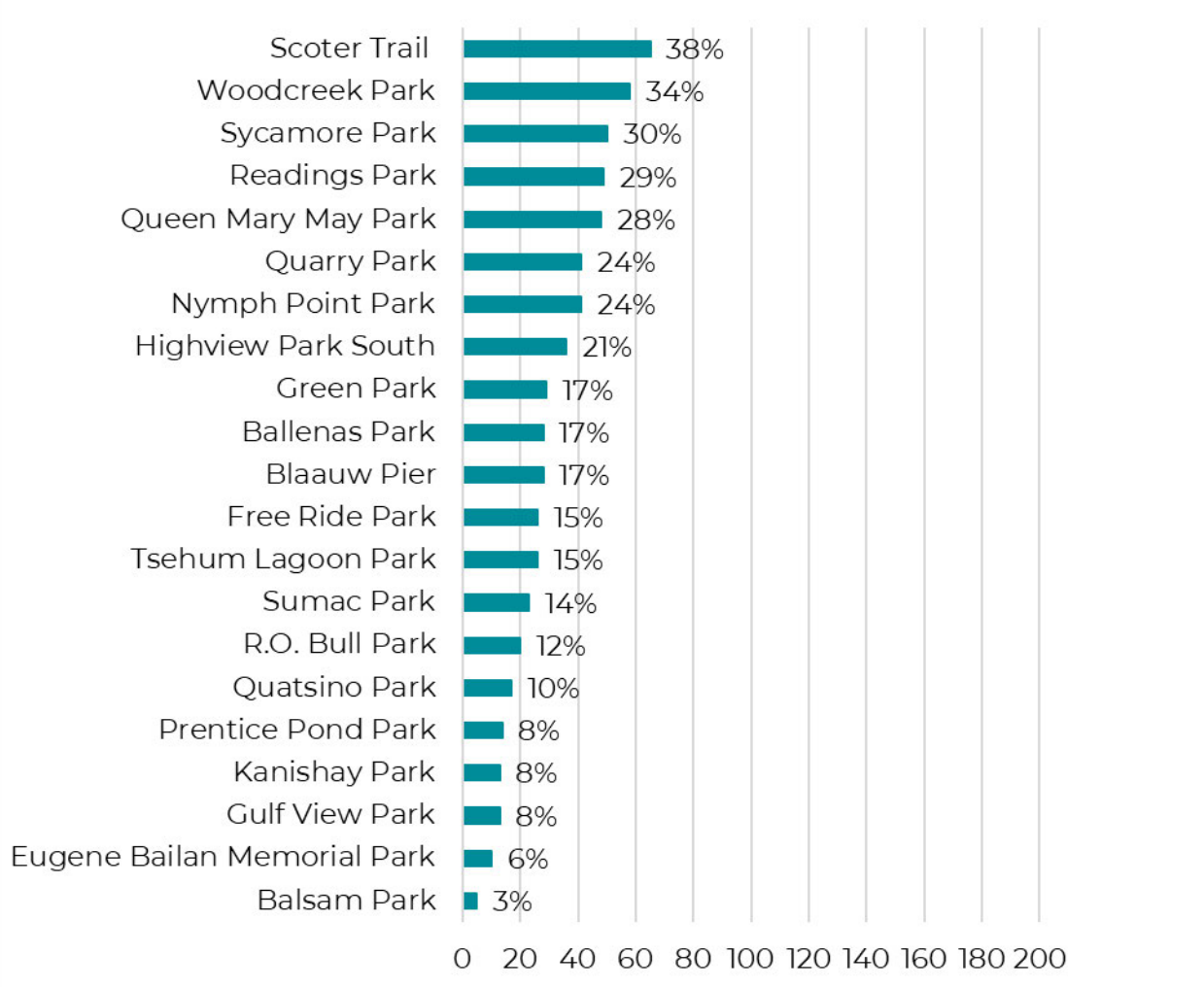
Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Patricia Bay Park (75%) is the most visited Community Park.
- Wain Park (54%), Dominion Brook Park (52%) and Cy Hampson Park (50%) are other frequently visited community parks.

MOST VISITED NATURE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Nature Parks are typically large parcels that are dominated by natural features such as forests and watercourses. Neighbourhood Parks are typically small parks that serve a small catchment area and provide limited park amenities.



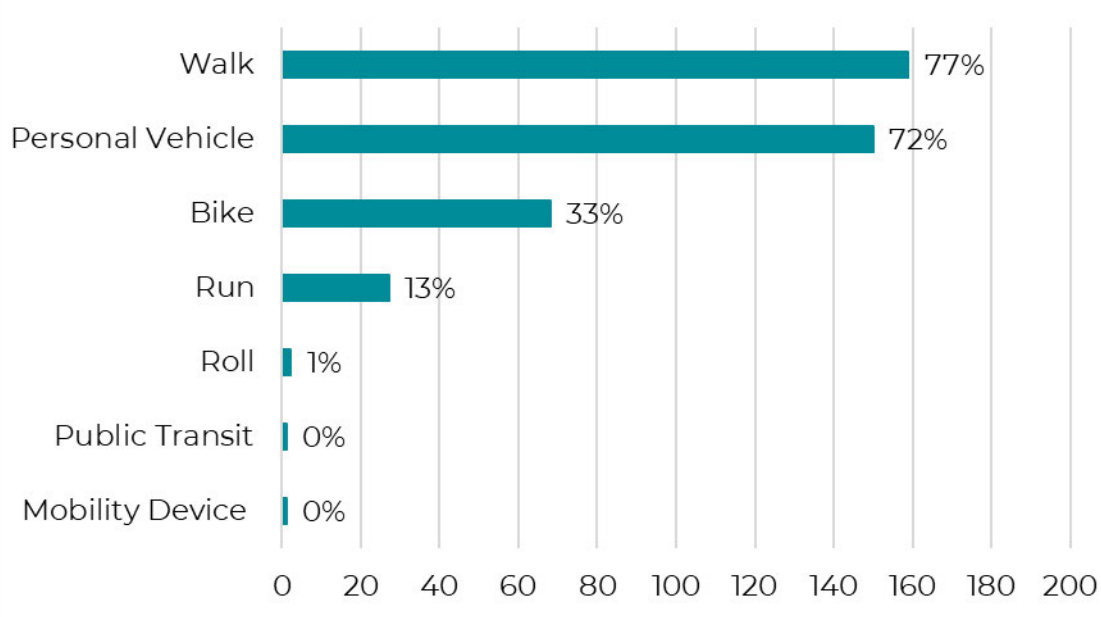
n = 169

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Scoter Trail (38%) is the most visited Nature Park.

MODES USED TO ACCESS PARKS



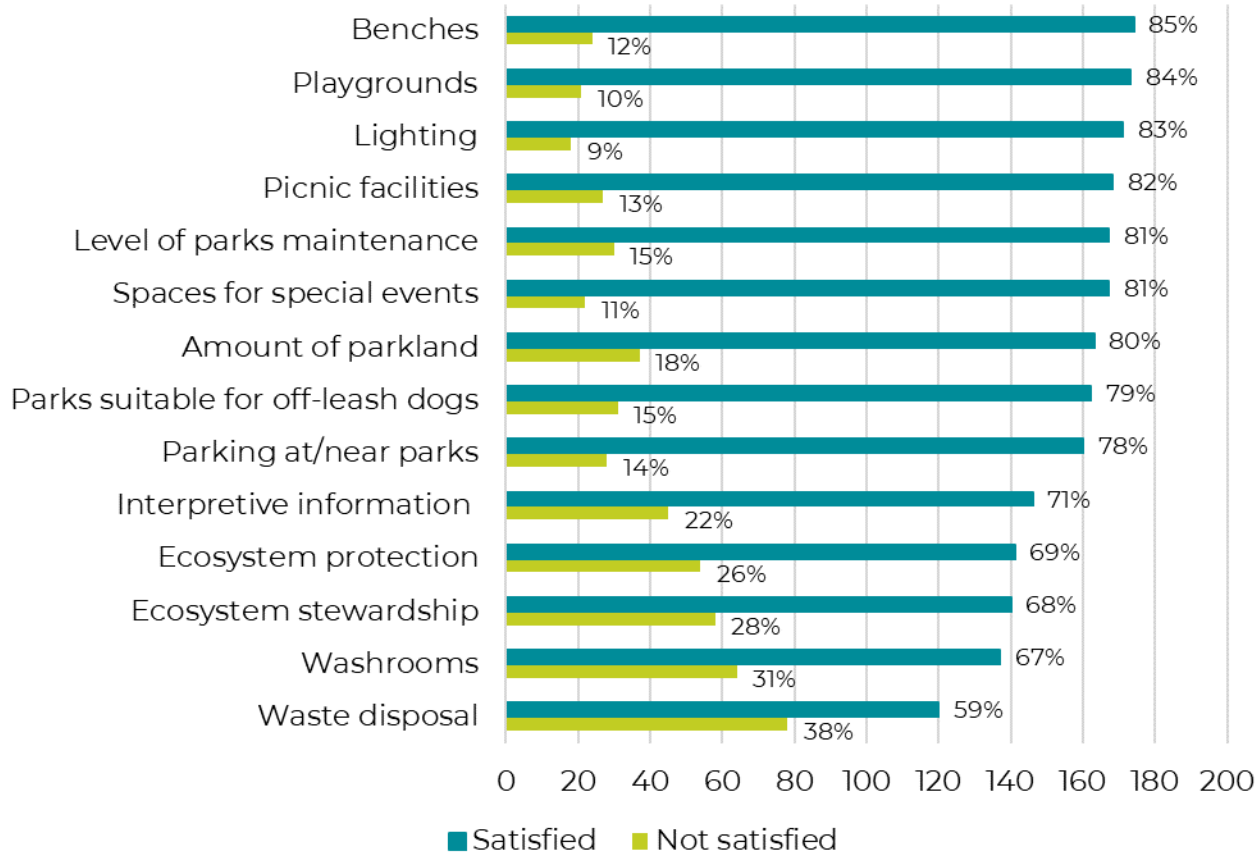
. *n*= 207

The 0% reflects one respondent since numbers are rounded

KEY FINDINGS

- Users predominantly walk (77%) or drive in a personal vehicle (72%) to access parks.

SATISFACTION WITH PARK FEATURES

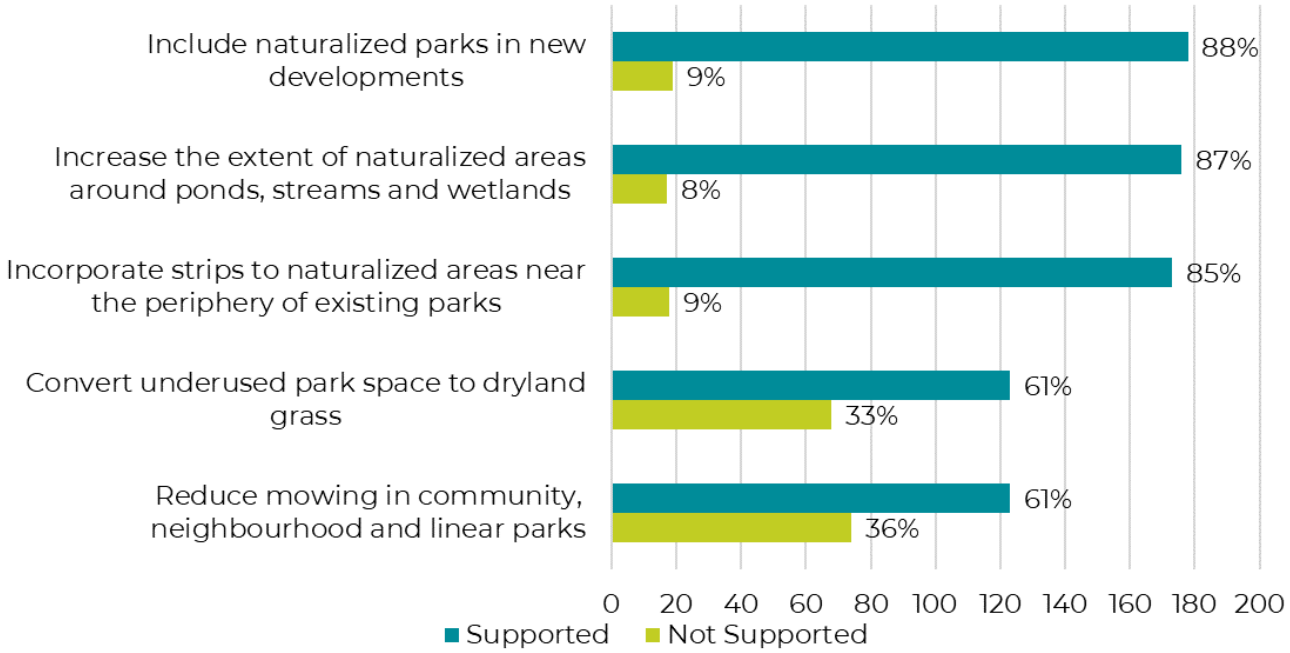


n = 205

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with most aspects of the parks and park amenities.
- Waste disposal in parks received the highest dissatisfaction at 38% and 31% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with washrooms.

SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE APPROACHES



n = 203

KEY FINDINGS

- Participants expressed high support for including naturalized parks in new developments (88%), increasing the extent of naturalized areas around ponds, streams and wetlands (87%), and incorporating strips of naturalized areas near existing parks (85%).
- Reducing mowing and converting underused park space to dryland grass received less support.

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, OR NEW FACILITIES FOR PARKS

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to parks improvements or additions. The following were the key themes of comments from five or more respondents.

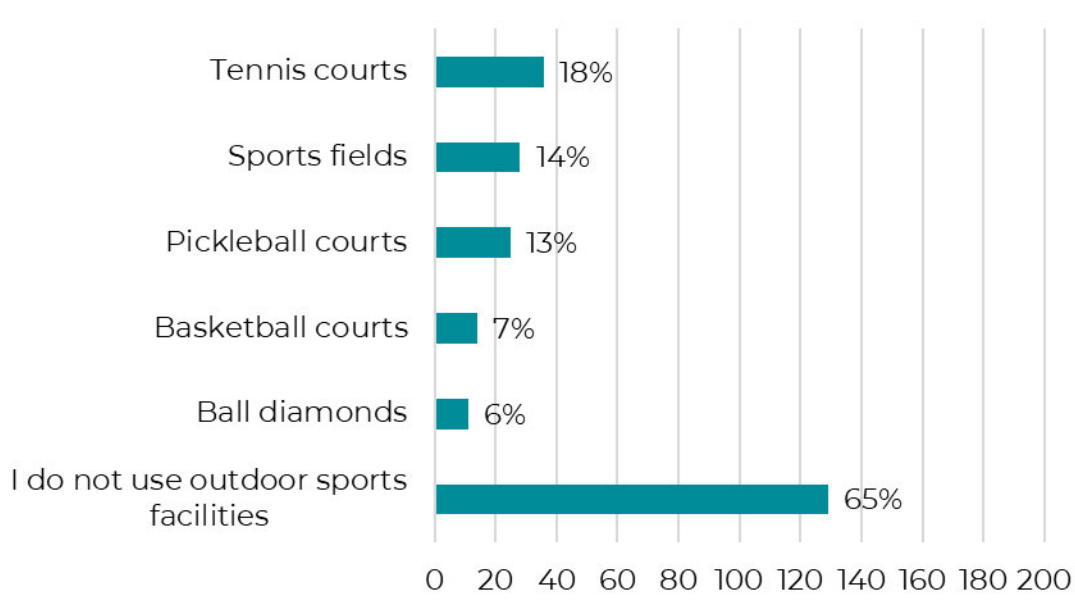
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Waste disposal	26
Park amenities and upgrades	24
Washrooms	17
Off-leash areas	17
Trail expansion and connectivity	16
Environmental protection	16
Equestrian amenities	15
Signage, wayfinding, and education	12
Invasive species management	8
Maintenance	7
Enforcement of dogs in parks	6
Vehicle parking	5
Naturalization	5

KEY THEMES AND COMMENT SUMMARY

- 26 participants expressed the desire for more waste disposal opportunities, including dog waste bags.
- 24 participants identified desires for upgrades to existing park amenities and new amenities – including more seating and picnic opportunities, upgraded playgrounds, a waterpark, and lighting.
- Keeping Cy Hampson as an off-leash dog park is important to many residents (17).
- More washrooms at parks are desired (17).
- Other considerations expressed by participants were connecting parks to the trail network, protecting the environment through the preservation of natural areas, and considering equestrians in park access and amenities.

3.2.2 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

USE OF OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES



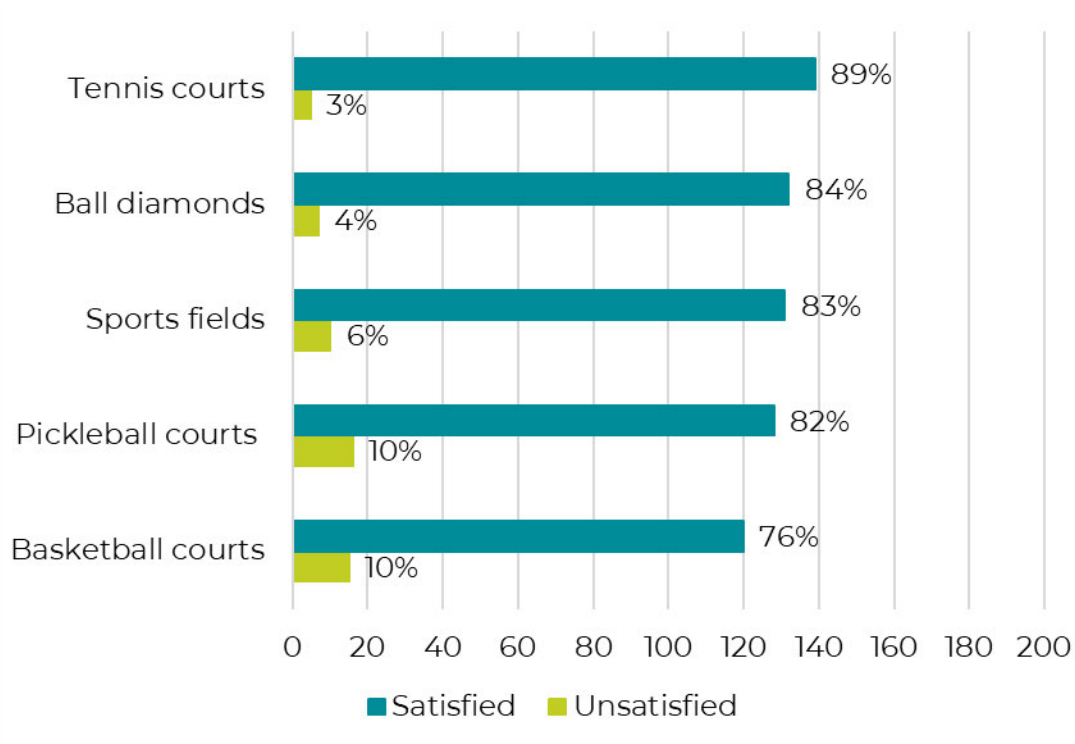
n = 19

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Relatively low numbers of respondents use the sports facilities
- 65% of respondents do not use the District's outdoor sports facilities

SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES



n = 157

Many participants rated satisfaction with facilities even though they indicated that they did not use the facilities.

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with the District's outdoor sports facilities.
- Basketball courts at Wain Park were identified by some participants as in need of an upgrade.

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, OR NEW FACILITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to recreation facility improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

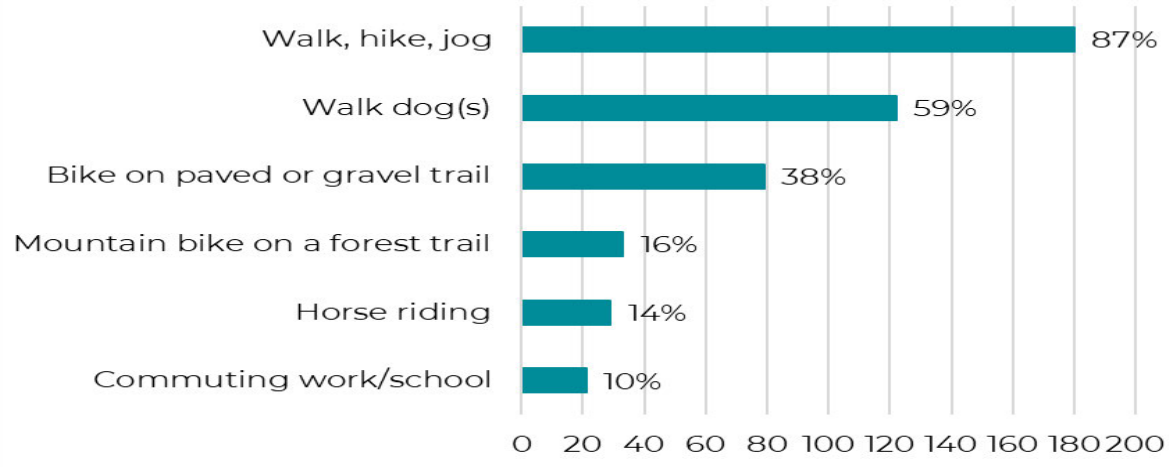
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Pickleball courts	23
Amenities and upgrades	20
Equestrian amenities	6
Washrooms	6

KEY FINDINGS

- 23 participants expressed the desire for more pickleball courts but indoors or sound controlled
- 20 participants identified new amenities or upgrades, including upgrading the basketball court at Wain Park and new amenities to accommodate outdoor yoga, track running, BBQs in parks.
- 4 participants identified the importance of preserving the natural environment and to refrain from using artificial turf

3.2.3 TRAILS

USE OF TRAILS



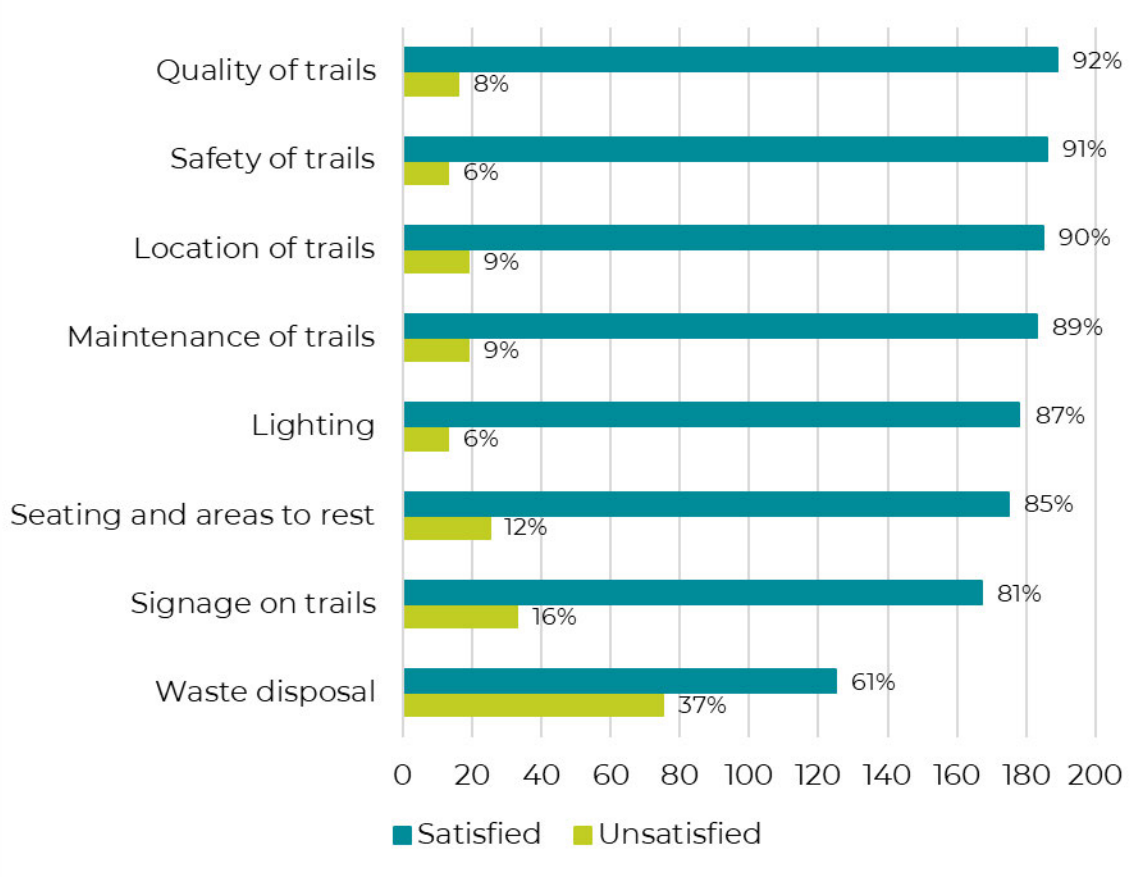
n = 208

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Most trail use is for walking, hiking, or jogging (87%) or walking dogs (59%)
- 14% of respondents were equestrians

SATISFACTION WITH TRAIL FEATURES



n = 205

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with the District's trail features, especially the quality (92%), safety (91%), and location (90%) of trails
- Waste disposal on trails had the highest dissatisfaction rate (37%)

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW FACILITIES FOR TRAILS

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to trail improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

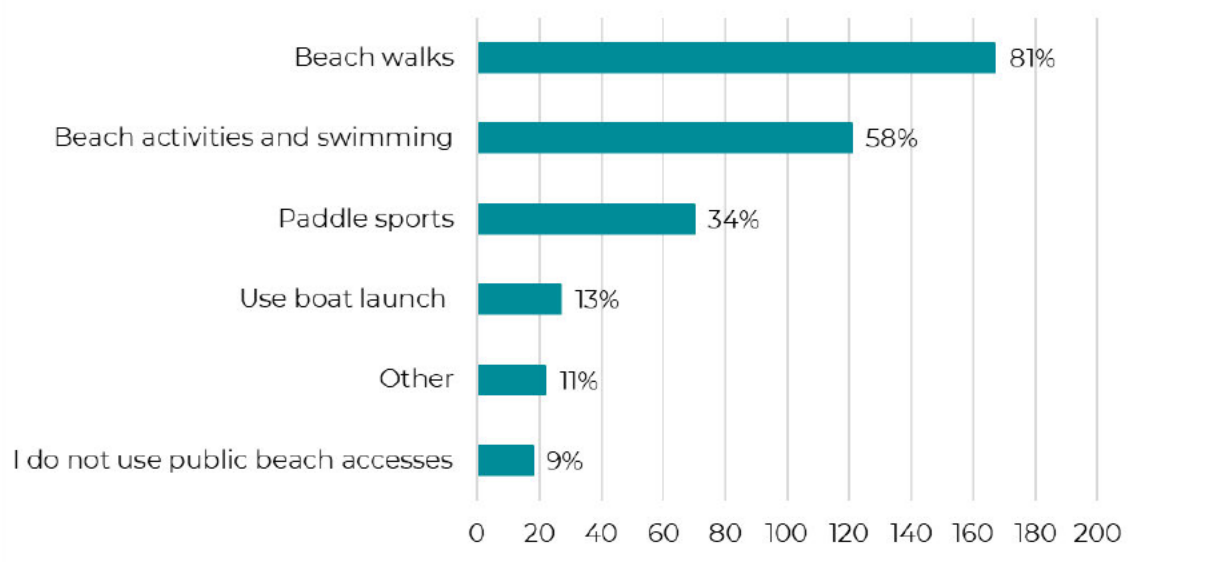
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Trail expansion and connectivity	38
Signage, wayfinding, and education	16
Equestrian amenities	12
Surface material	11
Maintenance	10
Waste disposal	9
Environmental protection	6

KEY FINDINGS

- 38 respondents expressed the desire for expanding the trail network to improve connectivity to parks, beaches, and key destinations.
- 16 participants expressed the need for signage and public information on how to share the trails with multiple modes, especially between cyclists and equestrians. Participants identified a desire for current trail maps online and at trail heads.
- 12 equestrians expressed the desire for accommodating horses on trails, including hitching posts, wide trails, and the surface material used.
- 11 participants discussed concern about the gravel material on trails, noting that it can be dangerous and slippery when loose.

3.2.4 BEACH ACCESSES

USE OF BEACH ACCESSES



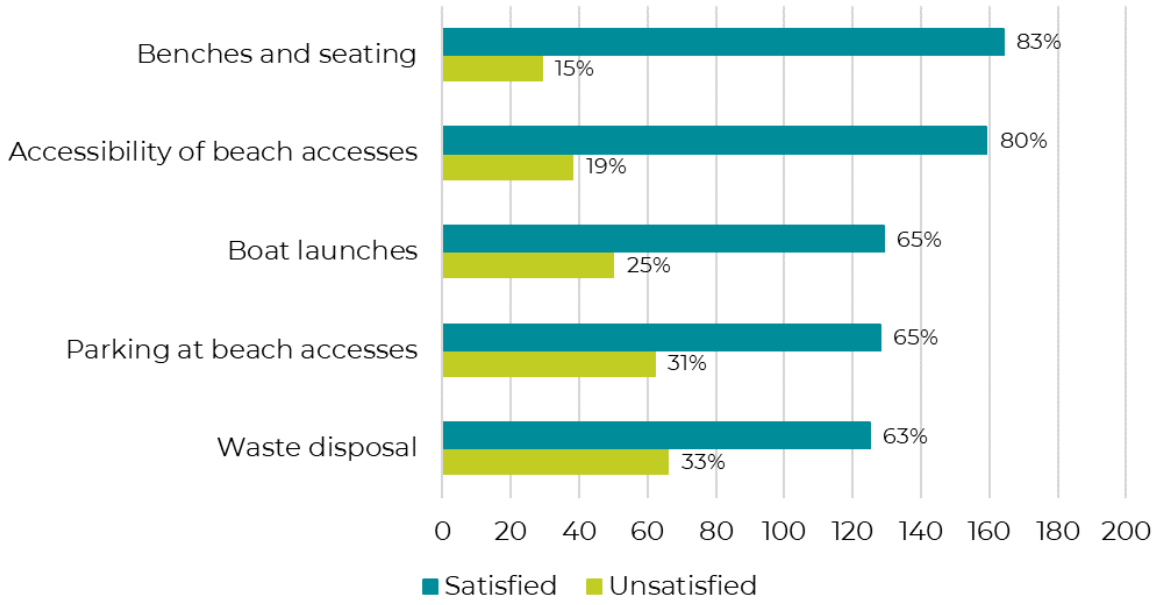
n = 207

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Beach accesses are predominantly used for beach walks (81%)
- "Other" uses were identified as watching wildlife, picnicking, horse riding and meditation

SATISFACTION WITH BEACH ACCESS FEATURES



n = 198

KEY FINDINGS

- Participants have high satisfaction with benches and seating at beach accesses (83%)
- Waste disposal, parking, and boat launches have the highest dissatisfaction

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW FACILITIES FOR BEACH ACCESSES

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to public beach improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Boat launch	24
Vehicle parking	18
Waste disposal	12
Accessibility	11
Watersport accommodations	8
Shoreline protection	6
Seating	5

KEY FINDINGS

- 24 participants identified the desire for a boat launch in North Saanich at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- 18 participants would like improved parking facilities at beach accesses, with some wanting larger vehicle parking for boat trailers
- 8 participants desire easier access to the water for paddle sports

FINAL COMMENTS ABOUT PARKS AND TRAILS IN NORTH SAANICH

Participants were invited to share any remaining input related to parks and trails in North Saanich. The following is a summary of themes expressed by five or more respondents.

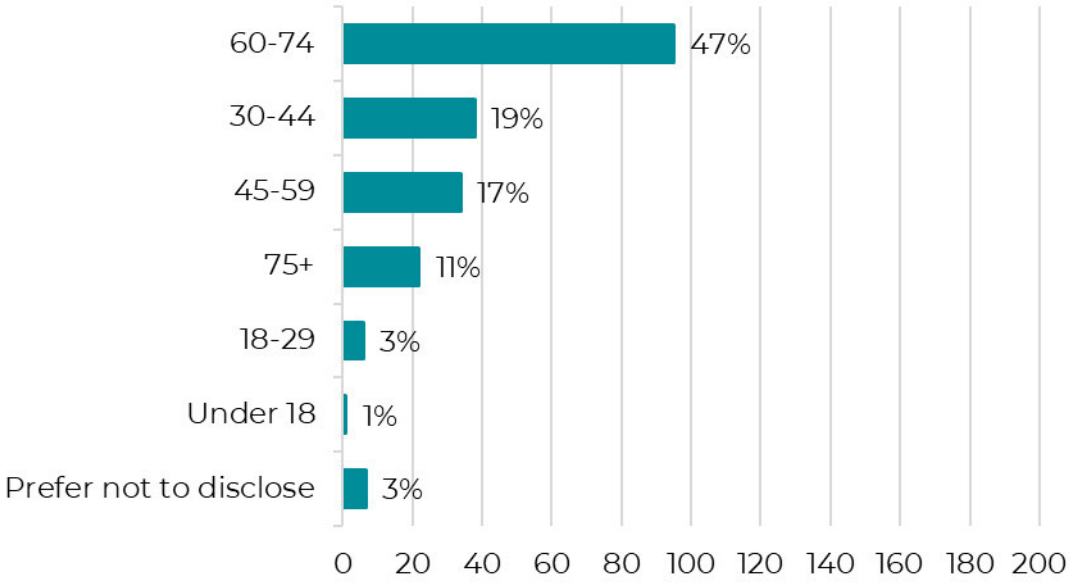
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Off-leash areas	13
Environmental protection	11
Equestrian accommodations	11
Maintain level of maintenance	10
Trail expansion and connectivity	9
Wildfire management	9
Maintenance and staff resources	8
Naturalization	7
Invasive species management	6

KEY FINDINGS

- Off-leash areas for dogs (13) are appreciated and there are desires for more
- Protecting the natural environment is important to participants (11), including wildlife, trees and shoreline protection
- There are concerns that cutting back on mowing (10) could increase ticks, reduce dog paths, and increase wildfire potential (9)
- The equestrian community expressed the desire to be accommodated through amenities and permission to use trails and beaches
- Participants appreciate the level of maintenance with limited resources (8)

3.2.5 WHO WE HEARD FROM

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

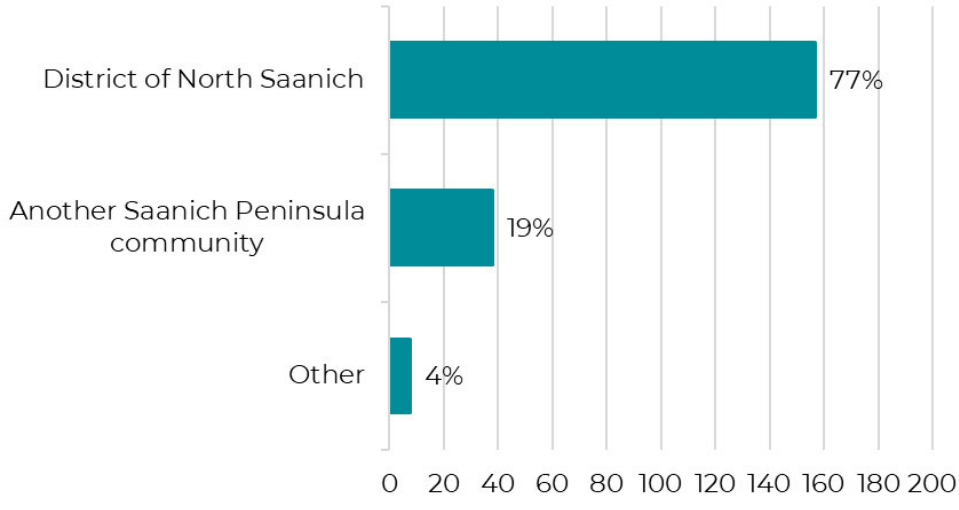


n = 203

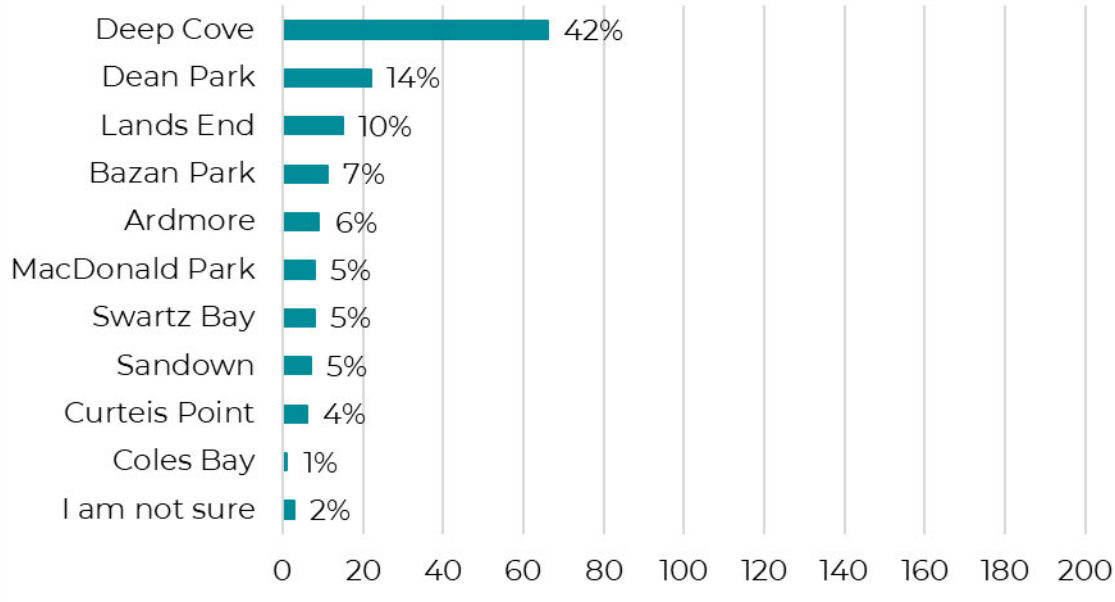
KEY FINDINGS

- 47% of respondents were 60-74 years old

WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE



n = 203



n = 156

KEY FINDINGS

- 77% of respondents live in North Saanich, with 42% of respondents living in the Deep Cove neighbourhood.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS

The key findings from the open house boards are summarized below.

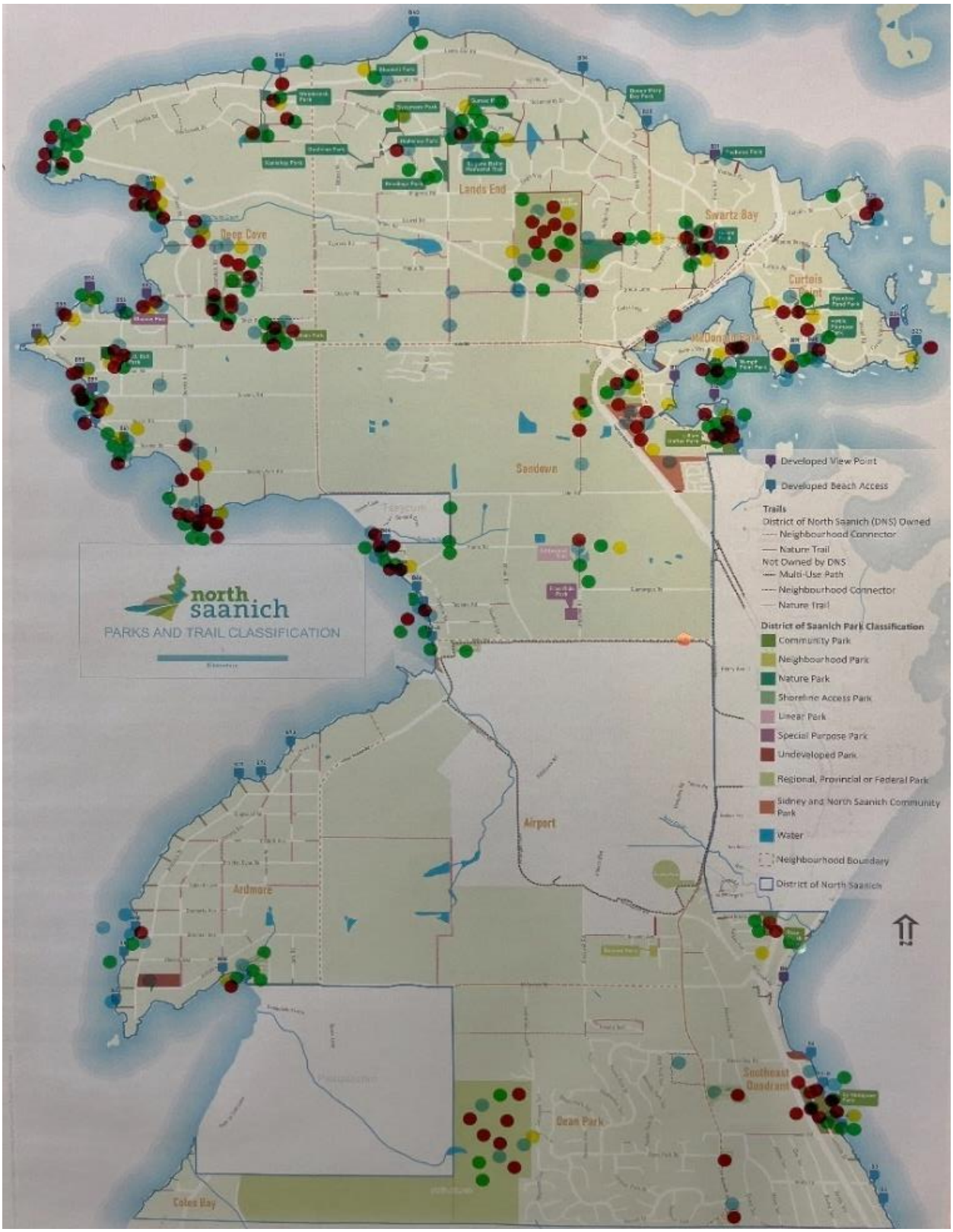
PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS

Indicate which parks, trails, and beach access you frequent in North Saanich.

The locations below received the largest numbers of dots:

- Horth Hill Regional Park – 23
- Warrior Point and Cy Hampson Park – 18
- Denham Till Park – 17
- North Scoter Trail – 15
- Moses Point and Lillian Hoffar Park – 14
- Chalet Beach, Green Park, John Dean Provincial Park, Beach Access #59 – 13
- HMS Plumper Park – 12
- Danton Trail and Nymph Point Park – 11
- Sumac Park and Blue Heron Park – 10
- Wain Park and Beach Access #61 – 9
- RO Bull Park – 8

Image of Engagement Board – Parks Visited



What are the strengths of the parks and trail system in North Saanich?

- High support for Cy Hampson allowing dogs off-leash
- Parks and trails are well maintained
- Appreciation for the amount of natural parkland and landscapes that attract wildlife and visitors
- Connected trail system that supports a variety of users (hikers, dog walkers, equestrian riders, and cyclists)
- Quantity and variety of parks

What are the challenges of the parks and trail system in North Saanich?

- Invasive species management
- Minimal parking for vehicles with no enforcement of parking restrictions
- Maintenance of trees, including protecting tree roots on trails
- Lack of facilities, including washrooms, benches, and waste disposal at parks and trails
- Need improved wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Conflicts among cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians on multi-use trails
- Gravel material on trails can be slippery on steep inclines or when wet

PARKS OPERATIONS

In what ways is the District doing a good job in parks operations?

- Trail maintenance is good, including trail surfaces, clearing, and slip resistant materials on stairs
- Efforts to remove invasive species, including support from volunteer organizations

In what ways is the District not keeping up with parks operations?

- Insufficient staff resources and equipment to keep up with maintenance and address invasive plant species
- Desire for waste disposal facilities to minimize litter at parks and beaches

NATURALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Where/how is the District doing a good job to protect and enhance the natural environment within the parks system?

- *Supporting volunteer organizations to remove invasive species*

Where/how could the District improve its approach to environmental protection?

- Focus on native plants
- Provide more park interpretation (signs/information) to inform users what is being protected and the environmental values
- Do not use of artificial turf in parks

- Naturalize parks to protect the environment and reduce demand on resources for mowing

VISION AND IDEAS

What words or phrases should be considered in the vision for this plan?

- Environmental protection, biodiversity, resilience
- Natural heritage, ecosystems, habitats, waterways
- Cultural heritage, acknowledging and informing users of the First Nations history and relationship with the natural environment
- Inclusivity of demographics, cultures, abilities, and uses

What improvements or additions are desired for the parks and trail system?

- Continue to expand and develop trail network
- Desire for a boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side, and accessible kayak/paddleboard launches at beach accesses
- Update and make parks information more accessible, including an online, interactive map, consistent information across heritage sites and parks, and interpretive signage at entrances
- More off-leash dog areas
- Improved facilities for equestrian users including horse trailer parking at trail entrances, safety on roads to connect to trails, education on sharing trails and roads with horses
- Conduct a Forestry Plan
- Better clarity on ownership of parks system between jurisdictions

3.4 STAKEHOLDER SESSION FINDINGS

The key findings from the stakeholder sessions are summarized below for each question:

What are the strengths of the parks and trails in North Saanich?

- Positive relationship between parks volunteer organizations and District staff
- Diversity and quantity of parks and trails
- Diversity of species in parks (birds, mature forests, plants)
- Trail system is excellent and trails are well maintained

What are the challenges of the parks and trails system in North Saanich?

- Waste left by users in parks
- Impacts of recreation use on the trees and environment
- Extent of invasive species and challenges keeping up with their removal
- Limited parking, signage, washrooms, and waste disposal at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Challenges accommodating multiple perspectives on dog management
- Lack of interpretive information at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Wildfire risks in natural and naturalized parks

- Limited universal accessibility to many trails and beach accesses
- Few beach access locations to easily launch watercraft and lack of a boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- Lack of consideration for the wildlife in parks

What should we consider in the vision of the plan?

- Focus on climate mitigation and environmental preservation
- Increase capacity with volunteer organizations and partners
- Add more neighbourhood parks as the District develops
- Increase visitor information on the parks system
- Opportunity for reconciliation with First Nations
- Improve physical accessibility
- Create more community gathering places

What specific additions or improvements should the District consider?

- More naturalization of parks to reduce maintenance needs and allow more native species and root development
- Improved signage (wayfinding, interpretive, and regulatory)
- First Nations cultural recognition
- Opportunities for stormwater management (ponds, rainwater management)
- Easier access for paddling and swimming
- New boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- More play and picnic areas
- Strategy for land donations

4. NEXT STEPS

This engagement summary concludes the Phase 1 engagement process. The findings from this process will be used to inform the draft *Parks Master Plan*. Once a draft is prepared, a second phase of engagement will take place.

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS

What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to parks and open space?

On trails such as the one from Wain Road that traverses to John road avoid putting down gravel/road mix. It makes it very dangerous to ride a bike because it doesn't pack down especially when it is laid down in the Spring and rain won't compact it. Don't add more garbage bins. It adds to taxpayers dollars for the collection staff and visitors should take their garbage home with them.
An update to the bathroom at Wain Park, although it's great that there is one there at all. That bathroom also needs better signage because a lot of people don't even realize that building is a bathroom.
More off leash dog areas that include forested trails (not like looking for fenced in dog parks; I want to be able to walk a forested trail with my off leash, under control, dog
I love the fact that my girl and I can walk in our neighborhood and not have to worry about people yelling that we shouldn't be here as I've heard of happening in saanich. To even on leash dogs. It's wonderfully relaxing.
I do not want to see the kind of legislation that has been pushed through in Saanich with regard to dog management. This is an overreach and a waste of municipal resources. Individuals are more than capable of being respectful of each other and the environment.
More garbage disposals on/near trail heads. Cy Hampson has become a "de-facto" dog park, but is still considered multi-use. A designated, fenced, off-leash dog park would be nice.
open up the Sandown Lands with public trails and use the land for planting interesting trees, shrubs etc.
MORE PARKING IS REQUIRED ESPECIALLY AT CY HAMPSON PARK. ALSO NEED CLEAR ENTRANCE AND EXISTING SIGNS FOR THE MAIN PARKING LOT AS CARS ENTERING AND LEAVING BOTH SIDES HAVE CAUSED ACCIDENTS IN THE PARKING LOT
banning dogs from parks The leave droppings, they snarl others with leashes, some bite and attack.
New park and trail additions. Connect Ardmore with John Dean Provincial park. Acquire natural park area to promote conservation of land.
Create a water park for children and Pickleball Courts for seniors.
More walking trails. No more signage or man made interference. Let nature be our guide and solace.
Off-leash dogs are a problem, even when park signage states that dogs must be under control, they often are not. Given the massive increase in dog ownership, there needs to be a change in how dogs are controlled because the status quo is not working. There need to be areas that are deemed no-dog areas, both for the enjoyment of people and preservation of nature (plants, birds, animals), or if that cannot be done, at the very least, on-leash at all times, with heavy patrolling, ticketing. I use parks to relax & enjoy nature, often my relaxation is turned into stress by entitled dog owners who allow their dogs to run amok. I often feel driven away, unable to use my local parks because of this. Then all you will see at parks are people with dogs, and it then becomes a self-reinforcing occurrence that only people with dogs use parks, therefore all park regulations then end up benefiting them, because they are the only park users. Everyone else has been driven away.
Add garbage bins. Maintain or add parking (do not take away spots or start charging fees to park).

New facilities? Improvements? There are some beautiful places in North Saanich. Most aren't overdeveloped yet (getting there). There is no pay parking. They are small (which is also a challenge). Challenges: Management is 'liability' driven. Heavy handed cutting of trees that might pose a hazard that are left in piles of firewood. Not smart system management of the ecosystem. Horth Hill looks like a graveyard of firewood. Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line. There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully … and not paved to make it accessible for all…there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. My observations of the current park amenities: I worry that when we cater only to the people's demand for amenities that the park ecosystem and wildlife will suffer. We need to go amenity 'lite'.
Please do not take away our leash free areas.
We desperately need a horse park in North Saanich. Somewhere people with horses can go and get off the roads. The bridle trail in Horth Hill needs a lot of work. The trail is so wash out in parts with big roots sticking up - dangerous for horses and people
More enforcement of leash rules for dogs - as a dog owner I find it very disruptive to have off leash dogs rush at my on leash dogs in on leash areas
Beach accesses need upgrading and expanding. No more building on public land by waterfront owners
Build the Reay Creek bridge and link it to existing paths.
More benches, better lighting, better washroom facilities, better connection between parks
more nature preserves …
More park trails
trail maps. additional garbage receptacles and pick-up.
Opening beach accesses
Systematic approach to park expansion
I would like to see the removal of ivy. I would also like to see less dry branches laying around. the forest floor. It would be nice to have disposal containers for doggie bags on the trails.
Disposal sites for pet litter (like that in Horth Hill, but with an actual disposal/collection) especially on high pet traffic trails. Too many people leaving poop bags behind. More washrooms near playground parks.
Many beach access locations like Coal Point Viewpoint, Meldram Drive Viewpoint, etc. could be cleaned up to be more attractive and actually *allow* beach access.
I would like to see greater respect for and attention paid to the waterfront intertidal areas. Too much benefit and courtesy is paid by the municipality to the waterfront property owners and vastly insufficient respect and resources given to inter tidal areas. The intertidal areas support the web of life both in the water and upland areas. Concrete retaining walls and other structures such as docks destroy ecosystems and downgrade the environment.
Additional linear parks (trails) and beach accesses. Picnic table or benches adjacent to Wain Park tennis courts
I'm very happy with the parks and trails as they are now. District parks staff do a great job!
Immediate remedy to parking and seating/picnic amenities Right of way access to small beaches are not parks

Proper ecosystem protection along all creek corridors More large/diverse park areas - examples of regionally ecological or historical significance Improved bike corridors to parks Boat launch Integrating various conservation/remediation groups in regards to goals and projects Recreate habitat by providing incentives for unused ALR to be replanted in forests Development amenity package contributing cash or land to promote ecosystem values
Redoing the playground at Denham Till park, improving perking and adding washrooms and more adult fitness equipment at Jubilee park.
Garbage cans at the start/end of trails so the 'poo bag flingers' will hopefully dispose in a can and not the trees/or side of paths.
Greater interpretive signage to highlight natural, cultural and historical significance. Increase amount of parkland and connecting trails to areas that are underserved.
More parking off road, to many people living or visiting to accommodate all vehicles off the road.
Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Where is the preservation of equestrian access, bridle paths and park amenities for horse riders? The road safety for vulnerable road users (horses, their riders or side-walkers, people on bike, people walking, people rolling or on scooters or assistive mobility devices) attempting to get to and from parks, via roads in the district, is atrocious. Roads like John Road that connect to trails which lead to parks are wholly unmonitored and the shoulders have massive ditches which pose safety risks to vulnerable road users attempting to preserve their own lives as motorists SPEED past.
Ongoing maintenance of trail system and parks
Continue considering places for dogs to be allowed off leash.
We have some of the best parks in the region we should make our parks some of the best to visit, but low ongoing maintenance.
Addition of poop bags at Dominion Brook
The playground it excellent at Jubilee but very outdated at Denman Hill. It would be great to see Denman Hill refreshed especially since it is within walking and biking distance of many family homes, along with the school.
Attention to ivy removal Walking and horseback trail on old racetrack property
Washrooms, garbage cans, splash pad, new play equipment not next to an airport and in a park NS owns. Rentable or bookable picnic shelter
Playground upgrade needed at denham park. And garbage cans!
As a horse owner, I feel like spaces for horses to share trails while also being safe for everyone is an important consideration. There are less and less options for horse owners to utilize natural trails in the south island region.
More access for horse back riders
Trails/Parks for us that ride horses. I have MS so I have some issues besides riding.
Ensure that lots of space for off leash dog walking is allowed
Higher level of ecosystem protection - signage / education, and more dog control (on leash only), education Stewarts on weekends rotating in popular parks to talk about ecosystems, flora, fauna and aves (birds) and the importance of protecting these. Signage about these ecosystems, etc, invite associations to do free talks like the Rocky Point Bird Observation group, nature conversancy of Canada, habitat conservation trust, etc.

Assuming there will be some more multi-level housing, perhaps some community garden spaces for those residents, or rooftop gardens as a requirement of condo buildings.
Add space thought and time for the equestrian community as a whole. Keep equestrians as part of the overall plan.
More horse trails and signage regarding safety/sharing trail with horses
educational signs for cyclists and walkers regarding horse activities in park
more space for people to trail horses
Finish off trail in Dean park That runs below Ravensview. You built a trail a few years ago that goes no where and just ends in the middle of the forest. What was the plan here? Run out of $ or lack of planning?
Add garbage cans and empty them. Keep trails natural. No gravel. No fencing. No stairs.
Additional garbage cans so a) dog owners can dispose of doggie bags instead of leaving them hanging from a tree or dropped on a trail (obviously most dog owners do not do this, only a few) b) citizens who find garbage on the trail can dispose of it easily
More inclusion of Equestrian spaces and trails. As we urbanize these are becoming hard to find and increasingly dangerous for horses and their riders.
Covered areas for family gatherings etc.
Denham till Park hasn't been updated in years, it's not suitable for all ages, this park sees lots Of families visiting it but it's only big enough for maybe 5 kids at a time, with 1 picnic table. It could use a new upgraded playground.
It would be nice to see better bathrooms by playgrounds, updated playgrounds, more picnic areas or covered picnic/bbq area that could be reserved for special events.
More accessible trash bins to encourage dog and other waste pick up
Improvements to Denham Till - garbage and washrooms Washroom at Airport playground Improvements to basketball courts at the pickle ball courts
Need more space and access for safe horseback riding. Believe it or not but the equine community puts a ton of money into the community and local businesses. Let's be fair to those people too. Safety is imperative.
The group of volunteers clearing the parks do not seem to know what they are doing. Small secluded parks are now being cleared.
My only concern is if Off Leash Dog parks/ares and rules are further restricted like Saanich has done! It's horrible taking away off leash dog ares! Dogs need to run off leash!
Maintain these invaluable assets (shoreline is rather rare, too) by controlling invasives (I would be happy to volunteer) and limiting short-cut trails that cause erosion. Unlike most, I think that charging for parking is fine if (and only if) there is frequent public transport to a given park.
Garbage cans at parks like Denham Hill please, more parking needed at Cy Hamson
My biggest concern is invasive species management in North Saanich parks and neighbourhood connector trails. I know there is a very dedicated volunteer group, but they're mostly seniors, and although they do good work, the problem is at such a level that much more serious measures need to be taken.
Asset replacement
Lighting for walking dogs and garbage disposals on pathways
More equestrian access and opportunities

More off leash dog park options.
More horse friendly spaces would be welcomed. There is a huge equestrian community in North Saanich. Designated trailer parking would be ideal
Signage for trails used by Riders, to educate the public on how to pass a horse on a trail. Especially important for cyclists
regulations to prevent encampment situations, more community events held in parks.
More horse riding areas. Please keep denham till playground as is. It's so perfect for younger children.
more fully fenced off-leash areas for dogs
Water/splash park. Pit washrooms.
Please add some lighting to Cy Hampson park. There are no lights there, which makes for dog walking after working hours in the winter quite dangerous. I don't expect the whole park to be lit up, but a few lights by the parking lot that stay on from sunset until 8 or 9 pm would be great! Please add more secure gates/ double gates to Cy Hampson. The main entry gate at the ocean side of the park is currently not functioning properly as it swings open in the wind. Park goers have rigged a cord around it to keep it shut when it should be shut, but this should not have to be a permanent solution. Cy Hampson is very heavily used, can often feel very busy, and sometimes there isn't enough parking. This is because it is the only fenced, off-leash park in the area. Fencing another park and designating it as off-leash would take some traffic away from Cy Hampson.
Some of the parks I visit in North Saanich would definitely benefit from more garbage receptacles, and more frequent emptying of the ones already there - especially Lillian Hoffar and the Blue Heron Trail.
more garbage cans in parks, washroom in larger parks, more funds and resources for park staff
the parks need to be protected from climate change. need more water retention. plant trees, plants that will live with the dryer environment. Work to remove invasive plants and trees that are taking over many parks. Don't plant tress that have no chance of living like those on Nymph point.
Addition of permanent toilet facilities at the north saanich free ride park.
Spear grass removal at Cy Hampson.
It would be beneficial to the natural environment to have property owners responsible for invasive plants trees, shrubs from encroaching onto park land.
Continue to have off-leash dog areas. Cy Hampson park is an amazing place for dogs and their humans to meet and socialize.
Reduce mowing by planting trees where the park fields are not totally used, for example at Denham Till. Washrooms at Jubilee Park, sooner rather than later.
CyHampson-a little muddy
more indigenous place names! more mini gathering spaces eg: picnic tables, gazebos, small play equipment, and spaced more frequently within walking distance of more neighborhoods. Even just roadside pockets where people can gather and eat, maybe play some music (how about that new grass by the bus stop at w saanich/birch rd?) also we shouldn't have to get in the car and drive for the kids to go play! these things should be nearby
Native plantings, shoreline restoration
Professional and extensive invasive plant removal and management is necessary. Volunteers can do some but they are not necessarily trained to do the work so that the impact is lasting. Pond repair and restoration in Dominion Brook Park. Current water leaking creates a muddy mess in the open area.

Pond is overgrown which encourages invasive plants to persist. More care and protection of horticulture where it exists in parks (Dominion Brook Park, Denham Till, Wolf Orchard, Noble Garden etc.) Lots of interpretative signs to inform users about the history and what we are protecting in our parks and why people need to tread lightly. First Nations information on place names, ethnobotany, cultural heritage, places of importance to their communities.
Dominion Brook Park - improvements to the pond and protection of the history and horticulture of the Park, and addition of dog waste dispensers.
"Tiny forests" If there is any interest pls contact me for links
More green space is always welcome. More garbage collection is also welcome, in particular dog/bag management, whatever that may look like.
Dominion Brook Park needs better dog care and reminders for pet waste
Continue to add connections to trail system, with possible emphasis on agricultural land, similar to networks founding Britain and Europe
An asphalt pumps track /jump line at the freeride park so kids can use it year round.
To open more beach accesses, particularly on the south side of the Peninsula for summer swimming (& ensure that those that exist are kept accessible and not overgrown by the neighbours' hedges or other obstacles) To identify and open new parks or trails To repair and restore the pond in Dominion Brook Park and to highlight the historic value of this park and its gardens (growing up in North Saanich, these gardens were spectacular in the 1960's and were the site of many picnics, painting classes, and gatherings)
I come from a colder province. Even there, with winter 8 months a year, the bigger parks have real washrooms with running water. I don't understand why here, with rare freezing temperatures the idea of putting septic into the parks is frowned upon. Over the life of a park I am sure that proper washrooms are both more economical and environmental than having portapotties or people pooping in the woods. I read about septic services not to be in parks in the near 130 page overview but think this is a badly thought out stance. Please review it. Also, I have volunteered in Dominion Brook park. It is a historical gem that needs protection and education. It needs protection from free range animal poop. The volunteers should not be needing to kneel in dog poop or drag hoses through excrement when watering in new plantings all summer. Please, get on board. Provide signage to clean up after your dog. If purchasing baggies is too costly just provide a receptacle like at Centennial park where people can bring and leave baggies for dog poop. Remove the garbage more frequently. DBP needs protection from parents allowing their kids to blow off steam and some outside time. If these people knew that the trees are special, old and not easily replaceable I would hope they would teach their kids to respect the space. Furthermore it needs education about the value of the collection. We have an arbouretum in our midst! The 100 year old plantings and people with the foresight to start this and who continue to protect the space need recognition. The big old trees need easy to read and informative signage. It is our job to teach the public about the importance of trees and nature and the breadth of the collection.

Also, some educational and volunteering promotion through the schools and with the schools should be encouraged. The average age of the volunteers in the park must be in their late 70's. They have a love of plants and community that the younger folk don't yet have. But we need to protect what we have, educate, promote and encourage the other generations to care about these spaces.
We drive from Victoria to the North Saanich Bike Park about 3-5 times per year. We donate our time and money. It is a fantastic amenity! Please invest in this park and put in proper bathroom facilities. It would be great to have more seating too. It's such a busy place! My kids hate the portapotty and refuse to use it it's gross!! My kids (both under 11) pee in the bush instead. The parking area isn't very safe with parents, kids, bikes, dogs and speeding traffic burning past. More signage and traffic enforcement is needed on sunny weekend days. The speeding wouldn't be tolerated at any park or school. I guess this park is a bit forgotten/overlooked by the municipality. It would be great to have more events. We love coming out for several hours. We spend $$$ at the Fig or Thirfty's. It's an amenity that should be celebrated by North Saanich more than it is. There are riders if all ages. Wel bring our elderly grandparents for a picnic and the kids and us parents ride! It's an excellent place to get more women and girls on bikes. Love it!@
More washrooms, more trail systems, lighting on trails. More playgrounds or games at existing parks
more dog-free spaces
Please build a washroom for North saanich freeride park
More Pickleball courts
I would prefer the parks to be more 'wild' in nature. I really do not like the new manicured nature in parks like Quarry park and R.O. Bull park
having to scroll to see the last column in #5, #8 and #11? really? relative to the parks report - it seems the regional/provincial parks are out of scope? i.e. John Dean? Panorama? any parks with numbers of users benefit from toilets and waste bins - however until it is clear that the parks are being overwhelmed with use now, kindly don't add "parks" - it feels like planners feel a need to add because you can, rather than because there's need - and the idea that a walk in the woods (park) requires a maintained trail is very odd to me as someone who grew up with bush as my playground
More facilities for adult softball or slowpitch baseball
1. Habit restoration with native plants is very important to me. I would like to see new spaces set aside for nature first, people second. I would like to see habitat restoration projects become more frequent and change larger areas (District initiated but volunteer completed.) 2. Food security is very important to me. I would like to see boulevard / flower garden / other similar beds planted with food crops amongst the flowers and ornamental bushes. Signage would encourage passers by to pick the food crops and weed the beds. Something like “Adopt a Highway” might work or a “little library” of garden hand tools. 3. Dogs need open spaces to run and play with other dogs. Cy Hampson Park accomplishes this very well. I do not have a dog. When I go to Cy Hampson I know that I am going into an area that is off-leash. Too many dog owners have their pets off leash on trails, bike paths, school yards, and other spaces. I am so tired of hearing a shouted “He’s friendly” because the owner doesn’t have the dog under control. I am not a frail senior or a short child but I do not like to have my walk disturbed by a pet owner’s selfishness and

discourtesy. This is a particular problem on beaches and in natural areas where the animals chase wildlife or deficate on the intertidal zone. I have been jumped upon and bitten (by dogs, not owners) and there is no recourse. So, I would like to see more off leash areas for dogs AND more fines for irresponsible owners. 4. I am a big fan of effective signage. I believe that people do read interpretive signs and learn to appreciate the area as a result. I am in favour of multi-lingual signage and realize that it is expensive to maintain. 5. Generally people will pick up litter from a beach if they have a garbage can at the top of the beach access to put it in. Realizing that such garbage cans can become dumping grounds for household waste, would it work to have no cans but garbage pick ups once a month at beach accesses? Or have a garbage hot line that can be called when garbage is brought up from the beach? (Rereading this I see that I haven't really thought it through.) 6. Some playgrounds have themes. I think the new play areas around the airport are great. 7. A couple of benches in Cy Hampson Park at the very north and very south corners would help elderly who want to walk to the park but can't make it all the way to the existing picnic tables.
I would like to see: - hire professional horticulturists to remove invasive plants - get dog poop bag dispensers - better handicapped access ramps no stairs to enter and exit - more land used for parks - more regular garbage pickup in parks - more off- leash areas - more ecosystem protection using signs and barriers to preserve parks for future generations - I would like to see more frequent mowing in the parks to prevent weeds from seeding
More COVERED picnic areas would be great!
See the continuance (with replacement/creation) of age-appropriate playgrounds in each neighbourhood area. Continuance of the great trail system. The addition/improvement of washrooms in each neighbourhood area.
Natural parks like horth hill and Dean park
bikeable trails
1. We need more pickleball courts to accommodate the rapidly growing number of players. Please do NOT eliminate the Wain Road courts. They serve a valuable purpose and are in a great location. Technology around paddles and balls is making the game quieter. 2. In the Dean Park neighbourhood, we need more trails. Most streets are dead ends with no connections between them for pedestrians. In its lack of wisdom, a previous NS council decided to sell the land between two streets that was designated for a walkway. 3. The Centre for Plant Health (west side) is a huge property and a walking trail should be created around the perimeter, connecting with the path behind Panorama at the north end, and connecting with East Saanich Road on the south end. Yes, a fence would be required to keep people from straying onto land actively being used by the Centre, but there is ample room. I have walked the entire perimeter, and there is plenty of room for a trail. Please negotiate with the federal government. This is taxplayers' property and we should be able to access it.
A public boat launch on the west side. For access and ocean safety from winds.
Upkeep on better rest room facilities, and parking with signage/directional. No pickleball courts!
Parks should be for the enjoyment of everyone. Tearing up part of Cy Hampson
More off leash parks. North saanich purchase more land for green space and parks. Protect public access to foreshore.

Add more park land at Moses Point. The District should purchase additional land to the west of the existing trail to protect forest and beach in that area for public use. Moses Point is a landmark feature of North Saanich and the foreshore is also a critical area for marine life. Consider acquiring some of the foreshore and/or upland areas of 1580 Lands End Road for park purposes. This is one of the last big undeveloped waterfront properties in NS. Could be a fabulous community park and waterfront walkway. Look for opportunities to educate park users about wildlife, natural features, park history, ecological concerns, etc. using signage, website, guided walks, etc.
Bathroom at the free ride park, please!!!!
Interactive online information about parks. Information about native plant species, invasive plant remediation, history, importance to our local First Nations neighbours. Enable the use of third party mapping apps.
More off leash dog access. Many people don't have their dogs registered so there is likely a large underestimation of the percentage of population using off leash dog facilities.
Leave Cy Hanson as a dog park!!
I do not want to see more develpment in the sense of asphalt, but some better signage would be appreciated.
garbage container at Denham Till and washrooms at Wain Park
It would be great to have proper washroom facilities at the North Sannich Freeride park.
Give beach access closer parking. too many people with small children have too far to gain access to beach after parking their car
facilities, notably at the Patricia Bay Park and adjacent (Holy Trinity) playground encourage patrons to leave all their garbage and offer no possibilities of recycling a portion of it.
micro-parks where there are lots available
accessibility, accessibility, accessibility
more containers for garbage at cy hampson lighting in a couple of spots more parking on the water side
more, more, more!
Cy Hampson - needs more parking for cars and bikes/scooters. Recycle receptacles and sperate poo/garbage pins. Double safety gates for dogs
Vital to increase and enhance existing spaces to help address the effects of climate change
more naturalized spaces
Great volunteer groups (like FNSP) and Sandown but please continue supporting these groups with Green Team as we need more volunteers and support to combat ivy at Sandown and all over in order to keep our trees healthy and drawing down carbon/ providing shade/ water retention and human health / biodiversity of plants/animals and birds.
Need more garbage disposal over in Horth Hill Park so don't have to carry dog waste
kids playgrounds

Question 9: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to outdoor recreation amenities?

Wain Road park basketball court could use a major upgrade
More trails to enable better access from A to B in some areas.
NOTHING I CAN THINK OF
New trails and parks. Connect Ardmore with John Dean Provincial Park to create trail connectivity through to Central Saanich.
Create more pickleball courts.
Maintain existing trails and parks. No more man made areas or interfeence.
Due to the associated noise, Pickleball courts should either be moved to remote areas far from housing or enclosed.
Less rather than more.
A multi-use large park that caterers to the equestrians in the area. There is a huge horse population in North Saanich and very few places to ride off the roads
N/a
Put pickle ball courts inside
pickleball should be an indoor thing (ridiculously noisy sport) … the rest are fine
None sufficient now
Wain Park seems to be underused.
See above comment re addition of a picnic table at Wain Rd Tennis courts
I don't wish to see any new facilities; the ones we have are superb and I haven't seen any overcrowding at local facilities.
Grouping of activities is central locations Better parking and access to facilities Maintenance seems inconsistent More marine options - seems like the District relies on Sidney or others to provide services
More pickleball courts!
Build an indoor pickle ball facility. Shut down the courts on Birch Rd. for pickleball and use for other activities that are more suitable
Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Parks in the district should have mounting blocks, hitching posts, bins to hold manure and watering troughs to be uses by equestrian park users.
More tennis courts
Fix the ball diamonds ar wain park, fix the basketball court
Basketball upgrade at Wain road park
n/a
More inclusive cross walks for equestrians and horse back riders
Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.
A pickle ball court near Pat Bay would be excellent
Indoor pickle ball courts to reduce noise from these. We live about 1/2km from the courts and can hear them and the players. Fields that are used for dog training and dog playing - more signage about owner responsibilities (picking up after dog, having dog under control, sharing the park). Fines for not picking up after your dog and disposing of the bag properly.
Equestrian trails and safer road access

Remove pickle ball courts
Continue to support local sports associations. Add to new running track. Ie. hi jump run up, long jump run up, javelin run up, hammer cage tune up. Swim dock at local beach. Or swim area at Peninsula rock produces large query pond for community swim in fresh water.
I think the growing demand for Pickleball Courts could be addressed. Also, people use many sports fields as off-leash dog parks and do not clean up after their dogs, and then young people play in these fields. Maybe signage to address dog owners on these fields would help, but I'm not sure.
New basketball courts at wain rd park you only have one basket there.
Washrooms built on the airport trail.
no comment
An all weather play ground with a covered area to get kids outside on rainy days, or keep them sheltered from the sun on sunny days.
Please put sound proofing on the North Side of Wain Rd Pickleball court
Pit washroom and Water Park
none
increase number of pickleball courts to better meet demand
Move Pickleball from Wain rd park location
more washrooms/porta-potties in large parks for the kids and older adults to use.
Natural areas are more important
Control of invasive species. ie, bring in and fund weekend invasive removals with Victoria Green Team volunteers or Peninsula Streams
Additional bike park
Pickle ball should be moved indoors or away from residential areas as it seems to cause a lot of issues.
I don't use the sports courts or fields but believe they are important.
There are an enormous amount of people now playing pickleball and very little has been done to keep up with the demand of more courts, both indoor and outdoor. The amount of seniors who are playing, keeping fit, thereby using the medical system less, really should be taken into account when asking whether more courts are necessary.
Washroom for North saanich bike park
Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America, and currently more people play Pickleball than tennis. We are going to need more courts as the popularity increases. Some covered outdoor courts would very much suit our climate in North Saanich.
More Pickleball courts.
I am really happy with the installation of new turf fields at blue heron - well done!!
not much... since things like the tennis courts at Parklands have fallen into disuse and disrepair - it's hard to support a "if you build it they will come" attitude. I appreciate the need to forecast and try to stay a bit ahead - and I expect there is a legitimate demand for pickle ball and some other facilities, but I also expect those are minimal - AND most of all I'm concerned that more "facilities" is not simply a matter of capital costs, they can be significant in terms of on-going maintenance and I would expect to see any analysis of expansion to include the impact of long term maintenance on budgets and taxes.
create a new softball or slowpitch diamond for adults
PLEASE DO NOT PUT DOWN SYNTHETIC GRASS!! Think of the microplastics!
Outdoor spaces for yoga classes

More sports specific courts/areas;maybe consolidated in a low density area to diminish the pickle-ball noise issues!
Washroom facilities
Mire Pickleball courts
bikeable trails, and paved shoulder on Lands End road, as well as Mctavish Road
As mentioned above, create more pickleball courts, indoor and outdoor, for this growing sport.
A public boat launch. A public equestrian facility
No more pickleball courts!
Parks should be for the enjoyment of everyone. Tearing apart Cy Hampson park to erect a pickleball court would serve only a few, not everyone. As has been proven in many municipalities across BC these courts are invasive and noisy and should be located where they will not disrupt the peace of our beautiful parks.
Do NOT use current green space and parks for more single use facilities like pickle ball.
Pickle ball has turned out to be very noisy at Wain Park. Would like to see the courts moved to a more remote area, maybe the Wain Road side of the park nearest to the Fire Hall? Or enclose them to provide soundproofing? Maybe upgrade the basketball court at Wain Park. It is pretty basic but I often see small groups of young people having a casual game there, especially on summer evenings. I don't play basketball myself but it's nice to see that court getting used.
North Saanich has no central place for outdoor community events (a place that could be reserved for small events, like kids' birthday parties, neighbourhood potlucks, educational events, etc.). Sure would be good to help us draw the neighbourhoods together.
Neutral
No new needed. Keep up the good work
Cy Hampson needs a flushing toilet. Outdoor shelter with firepit or BBQ. Example: Island View BEach has it.
Orioritize which parks are more used and for what acitivies. then determine if more amenities are needed
more pickleball courts
sound control around pickleball courts

Question 12: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to trails?

More trails where off leash dogs are welcome
You guys to an amazing job on the trails, thabk you so much for your work! Super relaxing to walk in at the end of the day.
More trails would be great. Also a bridal trail along Birch (extending the partial trail), Tatlow and Wain would be lovely. If that is not possible, speed humps and other methods to slow traffic should be made. Or, police should monitor more often and hand out big tickets.
More trails, access to Sandown Park.
MORE BENCHES
in many neighbourhoods there is urgent need for sidewalks to make waking in the 'hood safe.

We live in Dean Park and walking on our roads is fraught by the amount of traffic. These are the most important trails, since they start at our front door.
Connect Ardmore with John Dean
Create more walking trails and pickleball courts
Your map with pins was impossible to use.
With North Saanich being as large as it is, travel by car is my primary way of getting to some of the more distant trails. Parking on the sides of roads, near ditches, close to driveways, is often concerning for me. I'd like to see more parking (just even for a car or two) designated at more of the trails and beach accesses.
Please include more waste receptacles at trail heads (especially at the North end of the Pat Bay trail where the new parking has been added).
There needs to be a more proactive plan to save ecosystems or to protect wildlife (wildlife was finally mentioned on page 48 in your parks plan). We are losing species through our ignorance and lack of responsible management. People should not trump the ecosystem. The drainage put in by the parking lot at Horth Hill has negatively impacted the low lying forest to the south of it. It only serves to provide a dry trail and not look after the trees and plants. Wildlife is not identified or protected in the parks. Big issue for me. Not even mentioned in planning for parks (or in the developments for housing). We need to provide sanctuary for wildlife and ecosystems. That is what parks are for. We should plan parks holistically to ensure there are wildlife corridors. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully … and not paved to make it accessible for all…there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. More determined removal of invasive species eg. ivy. So, education and information for the public is essential (at each park and on our district website). The trees/canopies/forests should be overseen by environmentalists and professional foresters (who manage 'systems' as opposed to arborists who work on individual trees). Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line. There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness.
A large horse park - multi-use with dog walkers. Somewhere we can trot and canter our horses without worrying about cars
Again, enforce leash laws for dogs in on leash areas
More trails. All right of ways opened.
Finish the Reay Creek bridge project. It will provide a safer alternative to Canora Road for cyclists and pedestrians to access Sidney.
more resources dedicated to parks and beaches.
Reduce bike speed on walking trails. Peloton bikers make curvy trails dangerous to walkers.
Add more, maintain the existing, add signage when necessary.
more trails to connect the various parks
Remove ivy and other invasive plants but especially ivy. It is really bad in Horth Hill Park and along the Clayton trail. Remove hazardous woody debris to prevent forest fires
I would love to see more beach access trails completed on the right of ways that have no trails on them. I think it is a bad idea to allow those public accesses to be ignored and overtaken by other uses!
Simply more trails.

When some trails were established, 20 or 30 + years ago they had super views and view points. In the intervening time trees have grown and the views of the water and islands have been lost. Views are a very important component of hiking in North Saanich and they need to be preserved. Removing trees and clearing brush is required. When trails are regravelled the material is very loose and has a drop off on either side that can be very tricky and dangerous to cycle on. A warning sign relating to new gravel would be highly desirable and prevent unnecessary risk.
Continued addition of gravel on trails to improve drainage and create a more even walking surface. Continued development of new trails along unopened rights of way.
Some dog walkers leave droppings (or worse, bags apparently containing droppings!) along pathways. Perhaps additional garbage cans would help, but I fear inconsiderate owners would simply continue to be inconsiderate.
Interconnectedness of trail systems both for recreation and access to services Better parking Covered areas for rain and/or sun
Designate specific trails for mountain bikes. Better signage in parks regarding usage.
More benches.
More graveled trails to reduce mud.
Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Parks in the district should have mounting blocks, hitching posts, bins to hold manure and watering troughs to be uses by equestrian park users. Trails should also be built and maintained with CONNECTIVITY in mind, so that equestrians and all vulnerable road users can use multi-use paths and trails to get to and from amenities in North Saanich, without having to use roads where speed and motorized vehicles create very dangerous conflict situations.
Additional multi-use trails wherever possible
some trails need more gravel to cover low muddy spots or tripping hazards such as exposed roots
I have a concern about the debris left by fallen trees. Leaving the trunk is acceptable, however, dying branches piled up to eventually rot appears to be a fire hazard to me. This is really evident in our dry summers. The occasional garbage bin at trail heads would go a long way to prevent people from leaving dog disposal bags on the ground or in trees along the trails.
When new trails are designed would like them to include horseback riding.
Please promise to continue to allow horses in the parks, especially trails that the horse community built in the first place.
More access for Equestrians and maybe tie up stations for equestrians
Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.
Maintain trails to keep horses off the road. Drivers in North Saanich are crazy
The trail system in North Saanich is one of the best features of the community. It needs to be kept up and expanded where possible.
I don't understand why the district puts such a heavy layer of gravel on the trails, it's difficult to walk on and dangerous to ride on. My sister fell off her bike because of this gravel once. Would like to see pea gravel or something different that is used that is safer. Because many of the trails are quite popular, would also recommend on leash dogs only - and non-retractable leashes. It's a shared trail and also dogs run into the bush to poop and/or chase after wildlife and birds. Am fairly tired of dogs running up and jumping on people or running up and barking at people where the owner doesn't have any recall on the dog.

Also, owners with dogs on a leash have no choice but to pick up after their dogs because they can see them at all times! No more excuses of not seeing your dog poop on the trails and leaving it. Please provide more garbages so owners have more places to dispose of doggy bags. It would be nice to not see so many poop bags flung into the trees. It's unfortunate that the bad owners ruin it for the good owners.
same as above
stop putting road base/crush on trails that packs hard and prevents water getting to roots of trees and is hard for horses to walk on
Please see above regarding trail below Rsvensview. Why did you build a trail to no where and just stops at a tree?
Leave trails natural. No gravel or stairs. Add garbage cans to all parks.
Add more, if that is possible. These trails are a fabulous feature of North Saanich.
More access for horses and better signage to remind people the rules around horses on trails.
Continued multi use for trails including horseback riding 😍
More trails and better maintenance of existing trails
As noted above, addition of trash bins...
There needs to be more trails that are safe.
Light at Cy Hampton park. Keep Off leash dog areas!
As above (maintenance to prevent invasives and to deter creation of short-cuts causing erosion)
More information on trail access and how they link up. There are many trails in North Saanich suitable for cycling/jogging but it would be good to have maps of trails that could link up and provide a route (circular or otherwise) as is done in other parts of the CRD. More /wider trails to accommodate bikes and walkers/joggers, not just single track trails
Again, my biggest concern is invasive species. In my neighbourhood, Ardmore, there is ivy growing rampant. Ivy leaches the soil of nutrients, makes it hard for native groundcover to thrive, and it can choke a tree to death over time. My brother is an arborist, and he has seen hundreds if not thousands of trees that have fallen due to being laden with ivy. I see trees as our (North Saanich and the planet!) biggest asset in terms of global warming, and considering the heat dome we had here a few years ago I felt lucky to have large trees on my property. I have also spent weeks, cumulatively, removing ivy from our acreage.
Firstly, I want to say that I have been riding my horses on our trails for 20+ years and aside from losing trails over the years due to development, I love our trail networks. The only reason I ticked extremely dissatisfied on one, is because of the fact that the taxpayers paid over a million dollars (perhaps it was 2?) for the Scoter Trail North Beach Access and the muni refused to maintain the trail access from logs jamming the trail head. Every year, community members have to go and clear the log jams, yet millions were spent to allow the public a soft access to the beach - only to be met with a pile of logs preventing them from getting on. It is the only point on the bay where disabled people can get onto the beach. And, of course the only spot where, anyone riding horses or carrying kayaks, people with small children, elderly etc. can get onto the beach. Every year, members of our community end up opening up a path. I even saw a wheel chair out on the sand on a sunny day this past year. When we paid millions for this, a plan for safe and ease of access/egress for all should have been in the plan. It still could be! I had to rescue a man who was stuck in the logjam just 2 months after the beach access was opened.. I just think that there could be a permanent solution so that all people and horses as well of course, not just athletic able bodied people could have ease of access and egress from that beautiful beach access the Muni just put in 3 years ago now (I can't remember the exact

date). This is the only soft access to Pat Bay in it's entirety. This needs to be treasured and taken care of! Aside from that, I've spent 100's of hours on our trails throughout the district on my horses, and I love the trails. They are magical!
More trails... And better Trail post
Lighting near trails
More equestrian access and opportunities
More connecting trails and widening trails to allow room For pedestrians and bikes to Safely yield to horses
the friends of north saanich are doing a great job, more of them would be great.
Less signage please
Creating better surface in trails. slopes are very slippery
Materials used for surfacing trails to be modified as we've seen lots of areas that form pebble like substance which is very slippery almost from the initial application and certainly with rain, the problem gets worse. Perhaps creation of stairs in some instances might be better
improve the signs in the parks to give background on the flora and fauna. Trail maps in parks would help. Where possible improve surfaces to eliminate trip hazards.
Better signs in parks. What to look for while in the park. Washrooms and garbage cans. Hire more parks staff. Get them more equipment. A water truck may help when were are in drought situations. Look to follow the best practices that Saanich uses for parks.
More signage
washrooms at all traiheads, cell coverage in all areas of parks, the water storage at the top of Mt Newton could be used for racket sports
more *separated* trails alongside busy roads, like there is along part of birch rd (should extend this to denham till park!) there are an essential and cost-effective transport tool that saves lives and fits in within north saanich's natural image What happened to plans for a John Rd trail to pat bay??? If the new mcdonald park rd pathway were also extended up to John Rd, this would be a GREAT link for the deep cove and tseycum communities. Wayfinding signage on all trails! "No exit" signs should clarify if there is a pedestrian/cyclist thru route, and signage at the end should indicate the connecting road. junctions of trails (eg cypress at heather) should have road name signage as well Work towards re-establishing defunct rail routes as cycling routes (eg missing link between tatlow-wilson, and from the flight path to mainwaring-aldous)
If areas are prone to flooding, implementing boardwalks for those areas
I support mulit-use trails but suggest adding cautionary signs about sharing the trails and trail etiquette to improve safe use. If budget can be found, add garbage cans at trail heads to reduce the amount of dog waste on trails or left in bags.
Find an alternative to the crunchy gravel. Actually leave certain areas where invasive Himalayans don't pose a problem, eg the Scoter trail. They can be cut back so they are not a hazard and they will still produce berries. They are a food source.Yes, I understand that birds spread the seeds but they are a food source for the birds too.
Continued maintenance of existing trails. maybe more garbage collection
Improve surfacing material on trails, use crushed gravel, which packs down to a safe usable surface, even on slopes
To continue to maintain and add to trails and parks Given the large number of parks and trails in NS, to create a Parks Commission (as was

done in the past) that can monitor the state of NS parks and make recommendations to Council for new parks or trails
Would be great to have a walking trail from the airport to Deep Cove School area (the bike lane is great but not very pedestrian friendly - cars zoom by).
In the late spring when weeds are at maximum growth weeds can overgrown on to the trails. This can be a concern for tick bites.
Please keep in mind that both able body and handicapped people use the parks and trails. One never knows when an accident or stroke or lifestyle issue may turn their life and abilities upside down. Include space for people in wheelchairs and babes in strollers. Increase signage for high visibility and people with vision impairments.
More and bettter mountain bike trails are needed My family would come to ride and camp even though we are from Victoria.
See #9
More land allocated to walking/Hiking trails.
Garbage cans would be nice
I really like the idea of bike repair tools being available at central stopping points. Is there anything you can do about the packs of racing cyclists who use the Lochside Trail? My driveway is on a curve and if I pull out when the road is clear but suddenly a pack comes around the curve I often have to endure nasty comments. I have often seen members of 'the spandex crowd' arguing with motorists (when it looked like the cyclists were in the wrong). Time trials on Tuesdays are fine because that is their time and they need a place to practice but the Lochside Trail is meant to be a shared trail otherwise. Cyclists riding 2 and 3 abreast and therefore riding into the car lane is a common problem, too but I don't know what North Saanich can do about this.
SECTIONS OF SCOTER TRAIL AT PAT BAY HAVE BEEN POORLY FINISHED....making for very uncomfortable walking, at least for us active seniors. It used to be better before it was extended. PLEASE, PLEASE complete these sections like the rest of the trail, with a top-dressing of unwashed screenings.(possibly will require removal of some of the road base which otherwise would migrate through the finish) It's the only trail in North Saanich we've used that hasn't been finished. We'll be so thankful as we use this trail often.
Please keep the amazing trail systems and add to them if possible!
Add to the network .
Paved Shoulder on Lands End Road, and McTavish Road
Find a way to create more trails in the Dean Park neighbourhood. Since I moved into this neighbourhood 27 years ago far more people are walking, but most people don't want to walk in John Dean Park. They want easier walks around the neighbourhood. But this neighbourhood was designed for cars, not pedestrians. There must be a way to change this. THINK please!!!
more signage at trailheads
Purchase more land for trains, green space and parks. Keep it rural.
Continue improving trail connectivity by acquiring land for trail extensions. Provide directional signage at key access points. Consider adding some interpretive signage to enhance trail-users' experience.
It is hard to find information online about the location of trails. I use an old map of the peninsula from 1995 to locate them. Comes back to the need for interactive, app-based maps. Also, show people how they interconnect -provide examples of 2km, 5 km, 10 km, 15 km, 20 km walk/runs that actually go places using the amazing interconnectivity of the trails. Show them that you can go see some pretty special places via the these trails.
We need an access to Dean Park from Coles Nay area. Best location is south side ofPaquachin from west Saanich to end of Alec road

Continue to add off leash dog access.
improved mapping that i could access on my phone. Many of the trails show only "approximate" details on existing maps.
Protect exposes tree roots in Horth Hill Park
More mountain bike trails.
More where possible.
More continuous trails for gravel bike tours
Put in as many trails using unused road right-of-ways as possible making many connections within North Saanich
More
along littlewood trail, glamorgan and the forest at Sandown
Keep up surface (compst)
The trails near Horth and Cloake hills need more attention. Erosion and root exposure are prevalent. Plus there is a lot of dead vegetation that should probably be removed (fire hazard) and replanting should occur.
better signage/wayfinding along trails - not just at trailheads
Littlewood trail has some overhead hazards periodically but District has been quick to respond when alerted. New trail along North perimeter of Sandown property to connect with Littlewood Trail allowing a full loop with Canadian Tire area and Glamorgan Road for cycling, walking, horse riding. Would be well utilized and bring more community involvement + awareness with Sandown Reg Ag, nature, birding, riparian zones and forest.
maintain the inter-connectedness of trails and parks, including short road access points.
Horth Hill needs more signs especially on trails to and on the top of the hill.
Leash dogs on Horth Hill

Question 15: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to beach accesses?

Boat launch
It would be great to add a boat launch if there were space for one, with parking included, so that it takes some of the heat off of the Tulista boat launch, which is currently overloaded during peak times and seasons.
Make them easier for older people with mobility issues to access.
 more seating and garbage disposals at beaches
MORE BENCHES
most benches in North Saanich are very uncomfortable.
Have a boat launch at Pat Bay
Create more boat launching beach access.
More access, better parking facilities (at least road base, mud isn't good for anyone)
Please consider adding fresh water taps/outdoor showers to wash off feet and dogs at beaches. Add garbage bins. Maintain or add parking (do not take away spots or start charging fees to park).

Beach accesses and viewpoints are currently tiny little patches of earth between residential landowners who do their best to keep people away from their beach. To the point of blocking beach accesses with their garden refuse or fencing. If this is supposed to be a public access to our lovely coast or the view then we need to make sure it is available to the public. North Saanich used to be a vacation location back in the early 1900's, where everyone could enjoy having a picnic on the beach at sunset without landowners' concrete breakwater looming over them. Keep it as 'natural' as possible. This is not Sidney. We need stronger protection for the coast and the species above and below the high tide line.
Open all of them and maintain existing stairways
I moved here in 2019 and was dismayed at how difficult it is to access beaches. There is no or limited parking at beach access areas, poor maintenance of stairs, no or limited garbage disposal, no kayak (or any kind of boat) areas. The Towner Beach is impossible to access - no parking AT ALL, poor signage. This applies to many other beach access areas. I appreciate waterfront property owners desire for privacy, but the ocean and beaches are public and should be easily accessible to North Saanich taxpayers. There are significantly more inland properties than oceanfront properties, to emphasize the obvious.
Add a public boat launch. Add parking, maintain and enforce current parking regulations.
The Chalet Beach Trail stairs need improvement. Sewage leaks there. I wonder if angle parking at Chalet Beach would be better.
Signage and dedicated parking as well as better mobility access!
There are more beach access locations that could be developed. There are very few places to put a kayak in, on Saanich Inlet. Create more access points for mobility challenged individuals.
Greater respect for the beaches and beach users. See above comment. No Parking signs at beach accesses should be enforced.
More accesses that allow easy launching of kayaks and paddle boards
If we do have the financial ability to invest in new facilities, it is a boat launch in the Saanich Inlet that is desperately needed.
Sell off some Rights' of Way Accesses and create fewer larger better serviced beach areas Create better moorage sites, (moorage buoys) and marine services - piers, launches Remediate foreshore that have been impacted by encroachment by upland owners Restore tidal habitats
Love to have another boat launch!
More safe parking and at least one new accessible boat launch
Better, safer accessibility for equestrians and their horses to beach front for swimming. The road safety for vulnerable road users (horses, their riders or side-walkers, people on bike, people walking, people rolling or on scooters or assistive mobility devices) attempting to get to and from parks, via roads in the district, is atrocious. Roads like John Road that connect to trails which lead to parks are wholly unmonitored and the shoulders have massive ditches which pose safety risks to vulnerable road users attempting to preserve their own lives as motorists SPEED past.
Boat launch is very important in this section, especially access to Saanich inlet.
I hope that neighbourhood beaches continue to feel welcoming to people who do not live within walking distance.
Garbage bins should be provided for dog disposal bags. There are too many bags left behind and I suspect it is because there is no where to deposit them.
Boat launch

More access for equestrians to use beaches and trailer parking
Beach access needs to be protected.
It's actually really great! So many little beach spots around the area is amazing. Parking can't be helped due to residential. I wouldn't want to see any expansion of beaches or building along the shoreline to protect the ecosystems more.
Need a small ramp at pat bay. Maybe clear logs and post at west Saanich access in pat bay middle area. Pave 40' out to launch kayaks and dinghies to heavy to lift down current path. Add parking to tulista boat ramp. Add local residents pricing for launch. Expand marinas to accommodate more boats. Developer Deepcove marina with boat ramp and parking across street in private vacant land.
Beach access
Garbage cans at the beach accesses. Better parking.
More regular garbage disposals
there is more garbage in the summer.
Maintain or enhance the number of locations with beach access.
more access points; more parking
Build more Launching ramps for small boats such as kayaks, small sailing dinghies and canoes at all parks that access the ocean.
Again, the only reason I said unsatisfied was because of the difficulty accessing our only soft access trail at the newly renovated Scoter Trail North Beach Access. I love all of our other accesses even though some are steep and slippery or have weird stairs- but the Scoter Access is the only one I use because I always took my horse for walks on the beach. The only thing I would have liked to have seen was garbage cans at some of the trail heads. I haven't been to the Scoter North Parking lot lately, but I used to pick up garbage every time I was there because there were no cans. There might be now though. We lost a massive amount of parking space during the Scoter North Reno. Not just the parking lot itself, but alongside W.Saanich Road as well. There were a number of really nice pullouts which are gone or tiny now. The only other thing is that at a number of the beach accesses in other areas have extremely limited parking space to pull over, and I know a lot of local residents were unhappy about that. I used to like to go and take pictures of the sunsets from other beaches, and it could be hard finding room to pull over and park and also not park in front of someone's property. But Pat Bay is my home away from home, and the Scoter North access is really the only one I go to anymore.
Garbage, Parking and Boat launch
Creation of additional boat launches and increased parking for boat trailers for lengthier time
More available street parking. Many areas are marked 'no parking, residents only'
The parking area on W Saanich Rd by the Scoter trail. This is a very dangerous area for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Drivers have to back out onto W Saanich Rd on a curve, through a bike lane
better public boat launch on the saanich inlet
Boat launch needed on inlet side of North Saanich
Access to some beaches is sometimes a little hazardous with debris washed up after storms, especially large logs
Is there a power boat launch in North Saanich? only use sidney's launch
More parking for beach access.

As a boating community there is a serious lack of adequate boat launch sites for kayaks and larger boats. Small boat ramps could be built in a number of locations. They should include fresh water taps to rinse salt water off, washrooms, short term parking for trailers and ideally nearby parking for long term storage of boats of all sizes on land. Boats could be launched with small shared hand trucks and winches (e.g. Jericho Vancouver) to avoid the need to buy a truck just to tow the boat with. Storing on land reduces pressure on marinas and prevents growth on hulls and oil/gas leaks in water and could provide areas to clean boat hulls to reduce use of copper based paints that kill marine ecosystems. Tide grids that support fin keel sailboats would be a great asset for small quick repairs (e.g. Burrard Civic Marina in Vancouver).
At least one good boat launch is overdue.
More signage, especially in the Ardmore area
more garbage cans
Shoreline restoration. So much of the shoreline has been lost to residental disruptions. I would like to see the district hold those who damage the shorelines accountable by having these areas replanted and restored. Many weathly home owners seem to feel like the shore is theirs to alter, and a verbal warning is not enough considering the losses to important shoreline areas. I would like to see the shores renaturalized, but not only in the parks but all over the district.
This is a complex question. North Saanich beaches are small. They are not "destination" beaches and will not benefit from the provision of additional facilities/parking etc. The balance now is about right. At the height of the summer the beaches are busy, well used and much enjoyed by visitors, as they should be. An example of how to ruin a lovely local bay is the installation of the giant aluminum stairway at the end of Downey. I don't know it's history but I hope such a project will never again be on the books.
To ensure that road parking by beach accesses is available and isn't compromised by the neighbours - eg. Glywood Park Road in Ardmore Access to good swimming beaches should be open to all residents of NS
You could put a bench at the top of the trail or at the top of the stairway leading to the beach.
There needs to be some discussion and solutions along Madrona for people who want to use the beaches but don't live there. Will there be parking spots planned? Could there be some solution to both local home owners and others? I live in Dean Park and don't mind sharing the park and roads.
Another boat launch
North Saanich needs a boat launch on the North or West side of the peninsula. We have been promised a ramp ever since IOS was built!
Garbage disposal at beaches would be really nice
A canoe launch at the North end of Scoter Trail would be really nice.
A decent public boat launch. And a public sauna at one of the beaches!!!
Washroom facilities and garbage cans
improved access for launch of paddle powered craft
Better boat launches on the west side
boat launch in Pat Bay better beach access better parking better signage
Foreshore must be protected for PUBLIC ACCESS

We really need a boat launch on the Patricia Bay side of North Saanich. When building long staircases to/from beaches, provide benches along the way where older visitors can rest on the upward climb and enjoy the view.
North Saanich has so few beautiful beaches. Many of our beaches are actually storm drain outfalls, and in the winter, you sit on a tiny beach (if you are unlucky and it is high tide), next to a waterfall of dirty water gushing out and splashing right next to you. Our most beautiful beach, and a tourist destination in and of itself, Moses Point Beach, is at risk due to 'improvements' to prevent erosion. Since trees were cut down, I see the necessity of erosion control measures, but can we not (i) raise the standards of the build to ensure that the natural beauty of the beach is maintained? Native plantings? Natural rocks?, and (ii) when you visit the beach, you come down some partly eroded stairs, past a broken metal chainlink fence. It kind of screams "You people are not welcome". Could we change this? It is important that we support these beach accesses, as another issue is that some homeowners yell at you if you walk along the beach, well below the high tide mark. They seem to think that their property rights extend god knows how far into the Pacific. So, anything that makes our few beaches more welcoming would be, well, welcome!
We desperately need a boat launch on the inlet side
Beaches with off leash dog access is crucial. Swimming is immensely important for many dogs and their owners.
Good access points for kayak launching are few. The proposed improvements to the Briarwood access are positive, however it would be mice to see more access points on the east of the peninsular and improved access at Moses Point, the latter of which is one of our most special places. A good kayak access needs few steps (shallow incline and deep treads) or ideally no steps, and a place to park for dropoff, and then a place to park while paddling.
more wherever possible.
Create at least one wheelchair accessible beach access
Need at more places
Cy Hampson needs 6-8 stairs to the beach access to make it safe.
We do not need excessive parking at beach accesses. Do not provide more parking for our beach access at Briarwood/Glynwood. Keep fossil fuels to a minimum / police the visitors. Do not upgrade the road.
I am fairly new to the area and was drawn here by the ready access to so many wonderful places to walk and ride (horses). As this area becomes more well known and used by urbanists, wear and tear is inevitable. In general, greater effort (money?) needs to be allocated to our green spaces/lungs. Vital to adapting to climate change.
I don't understand how the blocked access at Glenelg in Ardmore can happen.
parking will be difficult to manage. on summer weekends, many people use NS beaches, so parking is crowded on small streets.
garbage collection at Tyron Beach
parking tickets for residents who do not leave at beach

Question 17: Do you have any final comments about parks and trails in the District of North Saanich you would like to share?

I think that it is imperative that this Project review and report back on the 2110 Parks Master Plan and identify which of the recommendations were implemented and those which were not.

District should be supportive in assessing the opportunity for a trail around Sandown and necessary provide funding for this trail. The interactive map was very cumbersome. It was not easy to navigate the pin and then it seemed to do so you had to submit a comment. This part of the survey was extremely poor and frustrating.
I love the trails and parks and how usable they are as a dog owner who loves to walk in nature with them and hope that doesn't change! Overall, I am quite satisfied with the parks in North Saanich and there's not much that I would recommend changing.
Incorporating unmowed & naturalized areas increases the prevalence of ticks and speargrass. Since I use parks primarily to walk my dog I don't support dry unmowed grass
THEY ARE A GREAT ASSET TO THE VITALITY OF THE DISTRICT
Look at additional acquisitions/ formalize existing North Saanich into more trails
It makes no sense for 4 levels of government to manage our parks. While the CRD and BC Parks do a good job, it seems very wasteful for their parks to be managed so remotely. Parks Canada is atrocious - parks should be for recreation, not some obscure nature experiment.
Trails need to maintain especially trimming out the blackberry bushes to make them safe to walk.
Very pleased to see no mow idea.
Please don't make the parks or trails less accessible in any zeal to protect the environment or ward off "climate change". People and dogs need their public spaces. Our tax dollars support these programs and it is devastating when they are stripped from us in the name of political posturing.
Obviously people cherish this area and we have a duty to preserve as much of the wilds that we have left. It will serve us in the fight against climate change, it will provide respite and promote mental wellbeing and physical health and most importantly, it will save the little we have left for our children's children.
Please protect our horse and equestrian population in North Saanich by providing some park land that is geared towards the horse community like Langley has the Campbell Valley Park and Aldergrove Regional Park. Great recreational area for the horse community there!
Spear grass is sadly too predominant here for me to support less mowing in late summer, at least. I'd like to support it but running with my dog along paths would be impossible with the spear grass unless it's mowed down
Open up all accesses, right of ways. This is why we live here
nature looks after itself when we use native species
They are FANTASTIC!!
*I couldn't get your mapping function to work.....so no input there. *larger context of Saanich Peninsula is missing.... * has north Saanich the staff and capacity to implement properly.
Fire is always a concern and should be factored in to any plan.
Communities/citizens near these parks should have a NS Council supported system for protecting the access, environmental health and sustainability of these parks. The number of N Saanich residents not living on waterfront far exceeds the number of those living on the waterfront and they need to not only have assured access, but be involved in ensuring protection.
Utilize/Water access between civic address 8669 Lockside drive and 8657 Lockside drive

Lots of street widening (with well-marked bike lanes) for safer conditions for pedestrians and pedestrians, especially West Saanich Rd, Wain Rd, and a dozen other main thoroughfares.
I would not like to see more parks with “facilities” in North Saanich. Keep parks low maintenance.
We use the CY Hampton park multiple times a day because it includes our 4 legged family members as well as our human family members. It is an amazing community gathering area that we cherish and love. Please allow us to continue using it (off leash with our fur babies). It is maintained perfectly by North Saanich and we have no complaints. It is perfect as is. Thank you
I support mowing as it may help alleviate fire risk. Also as there are so few sidewalks in North Saanich (are there any?) people walking must use roadsides for safety when vehicles approach. Long grass makes this difficult.
Purpose driven parkland is both a function of any development and evidence of municipal priorities
Love all the trails and the new addition to the Jubilee Park. Concern about the parking at the gravel Scoter lot on north end of trail- lots of yahoos speeding around the corner when people pulling out of the parking lot. Thank you for keeping NS beautiful!
Put more resources toward eradicating invasive species from parks, and more towards greater public understanding of natural systems. Determine how parks can be used to help fight climate change and implement strategies for expanded park acquisition.
Consider how many equestrian facilities, barns, horse owners and riders live in and come to North Saanich. The equestrian sector is a huge economic driver on the Peninsula. Equestrian access to parks and trails is actively being eroded and restricted over time. Create parks and trails where equestrians can safely access, ride, hitch and water horses, and remount. Create trails that connect parks so equestrians and vulnerable road users alike, can commute and connect to amenities and other parks away from the paved road system where motorists speed.
Thank you for doing an excellent job in maintaining the trails so they can be used and enjoyed on a year-end basis by many people.
Generally very satisfied,use Dominion Brook daily
Since my family has had a confirmed case of Lyme disease that was quite distressing, I do appreciate some mowed areas in parks.
The trail system in North Saanich is wonderful--it is one of the reasons we live in North Saanichl. Please do not change the multiuse nature of these trails.
The one concern I have regarding park maintenance is leaving the trimmed branches and fallen trees and branches that have to be cleaned up piled on the sides of the trails where they dry out and are waiting to help fuel the fires which are bound to happen in our community. Kelowna found that out the hard way a few years back.
Our parks are so amazing and I use them at least four days a week.
Please include equestrians in the near future. We barely have any parks we can actually ride in now a days. Maybe incorporate a trail just for horse back riders as dog walkers and bikes already have loads of trails to use.
Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.
I think the District is on the right track - it is a rural district so lots of natural space, protection of ecosystems and wildlife / birds are high on my list. More on leash dogs requirements so trails are more shared, not allowing development to flatten wildlife habitat, not allowing rampant tree cutting for development purposes (there would be some kind of control), reducing the building envelope for development to encourage less destruction of the forest or other natural areas, requirement of developers to contribute

more to parks and trails when building new subdivisions. Requiring on leash dogs on trails, parks and beaches. Sorry, I am not a dog hater (I've been a dog owner myself), but not everyone loves dogs running at them or jumping on them and it's become clear that too many owners don't respect others or the wildlife/parks around them. Thank you for taking the time to do this! I have a lot of high hopes for this new council.
please include horse activities equestrians in your plans for parks roads and trails.
It would be nice to see focus on improving one or two main parks to be primary large community park/hub area for community events/sports events/playground etc.
More horseback riding trails that are safe.
Thank you for maintaining these valuable parks, which are essential to the quality of life here.
One of the joys of living in North Saanich is walking our dog and interacting with other dog people, of which we find are the majority of park users in places like Horth Hill, Cy Hampson, Dominion park. Please don't change dog rules or add restrictions like Saanich has done. I would support increased fines for people who don't pick up dog excrement or dispose of poop bags as this would enrage non-dog owners.
With the exception of sports fields, and perhaps small areas around picnic tables, why are we mowing any areas. it should all be left as natural as possible.
I am not clear on what you mean by "underused" park space. If it is treed park space, then I would not support converting it to dryland grass. Also, in terms of "underused" parkland, so I am told, at the southwest corner of Ardmore Drive that was donated to the district by a private individual. It is unmarked, and I think many people still believe it's private land. I have heard that after an alotted amount of time, North Saanich can choose to develop this land somehow. It would be a huge mistake to do anything that caused the removal of trees. With so much private development we are losing a lot of tree cover in the district, and we are also losing trees due to climate change (principally Western cedar). I think of the development that's been happening on the southeast corner of Horth Hill for the last few years and it really upsets me. The same amount of square footage could have been alotted in a much more ecologically friendly way, with the housing more concentrated, rather than set-apart single family dwellings. And Moses Point is another terrible shame. But this is getting into zoning concerns and not parks. Anyway, you get my drift: save the trees! If the district has money to spend, I would love to see some of it targeted on invasive species removal, giving paid work to students or new immigrants. I'd rather see that than more money going to playgrounds, for instance. When I was a kid we played in the forest and on the beach, and were happy with a simple swing set and jungle gym at my local park. Kids would be better served being taught to use their imagination in a natural environment than being given fancy equipment.
I'm not sure I understand the meaning of converting or naturalizing. We have to think about the risk of fire as well. So things do need to be maintained. I guess the only thing I'd like to mention since we are under a new mayorship now, is that 2 years ago, a motion was passed to ensure that horses and the equestrian community were specifically included as an active part of the districts active and participating population. There are literally hundreds of horses and horse owners in this rural district (who pay realllly high taxes and contribute to our local economy), and we just need to be included in these plans. The equestrians built the trails here, and are always keen to work with the muni and want to keep the conversations going and to help in any way possible. The trails we have here are

a hidden gem and we want to keep them open for our use as well. They are gorgeous and we are grateful to be able to ride our horses on them. Aside from the Scoter log jam nightmare. I have nothing negative to say! We are fortunate to be in the most beautiful spot on the entire peninsula. xo
Don't forget the horseback riders as we originally built many of these trails, especially on Horth Hill
Under-utilized park space should be used to construct gravel trail loops for walking, exercising, and horseback riding
greater fines for off leash and smokers
Public Equestrian riding ring and converting unused park areas for horse riding. Keep trails and parks available for horses :) Also converting unused park areas to natural grass or wild flower areas for pollinators. Another idea is a campaign for people to turn their own lawns to support pollinators and native plantings which is not park related I know.
Would be nice to have a couple of the more high usage parks be water and maintained at a higher level. Pat Bay, Jubliee
Generally our hiking group (Peninsula Hikers) uses all trails in North Saanich all year round and we have come to know which trails are easier than others but overall, trails are well maintained. Signage could always be improved however
Many of the parks do not need as short of grass in meadows and water fronts.
Other thank playing fields, parks can have longer grass. This will reduce the evaporation and give grass a better chance in warmer months.
Use of fire smart, planting more deciduous trees and not more highly flammable trees.
As I live in Dean Park near the entrance, I use that park daily for walks and XC skiing in winter. Track setting on the road would be great to have when conditions permit (snow). A snowmobile could be used to set tracks and also compact snow for walking or snow shoeing to preserve ski tracks.
Please maintain the current level of dog off leash options.
I am a frequent (several times per week) user of Cy Hampson Park - it is a wonderful place for dog socialization, and we have made many friends there as well. It is truly a social hub for dogs and their owners, as well as for people who want to walk on the paths and look at the view. The beach there is rocky, and not really suitable as a beach destination for families with small children, but is perfect for dogs. This amazing place has been a godsend for us and our dogs, all throughout the year. We keep our dogs away from bird nesting areas and family beach areas in spring/summer, so this is one of the few places for dogs to go and have fun during those times. Please don't change it!
I am the Rector's Warden at Holy Trinity Church and we see the need for washroom facilities at Jubilee Park continually. When we are in the hall on the weekend there is usually at least one family that knocks on the door or wanders in to use our facilities. This is not a problem and we don't mind in the least, but it points out the necessity for facilities at the park: we are not always there and it is totally unreasonable for a parent to escort their child, across West Saanich Road, to the waterfront toilet. If they have other children at the park, they either have to leave them with someone to watch, or take the entire family across West Saanich Road which is unsafe in any number of ways. They also use our parking as overflow.
If there is evidence of people walking off the trail areas (around flooding etc) I hope that this would be mitigated to avoid trail widening and destruction of natural areas. Boardwalks allows areas that are naturally saturated to remain, but keeps traffic off these areas reducing damage
We are fortunate to have so many wonderful parks and trails in the District. Rather than add more parks, I would like to see the District allocate sufficient resources to properly

maintain our parks and trails to a high standard, effectively manage invasive species, and renew existing infrastructure when needed.
All of the suggestions in the section above are excellent. I am strongly in favour of reciprocity from developers. Provision for increased opportunity for small naturalized areas should be part of the permit process.
The pond in Dominion Brook Park is becoming overgrown, and leaks badly which causes a downhill mess.
NS is lucky to have so much wonderful green space - I hope we can protect it and look for ways to incorporate even more public green space in our community.
Thanks to all of the people who work so hard to keep our parks, trails and green spaces in good condition and try to find that balance between preservation and use. Also, good to see the District working with the Nations!
We use the trails every day and are very grateful for them. They are an asset to our community and help make North Saanich a special place to live. Please try to incorporate new trails and/or small and medium sized nature parks as the future development of the community continues.
I worry that increasing naturalized areas means that the grass might be kept long and be a fire hazard. I am all for natural meadows and reducing mown areas but worry about long grass being a fire risk and/or in wetter spots a magnet for mosquito breeding. Should you endeavour to decrease mown areas in wetspots please also include bat houses to mitigate mosquito populations. Also, as a master gardener, I understand that the native plants that once thrived here-cedar, ferns, salal etc are finding the heat and dry in the summer not conducive to their needs. I hope these new naturalized areas that you are envisioning are not full of natives that now need watering. I believe that the parks department should be looking at incorporating some of the mediterranean plants from Australia, New Zealand and Chile that are both pollinators and becoming more appropriate to our climate. Go to HCP for ideas along this vein.
I am concerned that not mowing may increase the potential for fire.
Important to highlight the history of the parks so that residents can appreciate the historical context and commit to maintaining that history and sustaining its longevity.
I really appreciate the parks and trails in North Saanich. A couple of things would be much appreciated - washrooms at jubilee park - I am there frequently and there are no facilities. It is a very long walk to the outhouse at pat bay for small children. And second - garbage cans would be appreciated at parks in North Saanich
perhaps I lead a sheltered life... during my 40 years as a resident, I have NEVER heard anyone say - we really need more (of any trails, parks etc.) I have heard that needs and interests change over time, for example converting Blue Heron ball fields into soccer pitches seemed reasonable, more toilets and waste bins are logical, and I expect tennis vs pickle ball will be controversial (as change often is)... but in the end North Saanich is rural - it doesn't need paved walkways like Victoria (or even Sidney), and we don't have an industrial or retail tax base to speak of, so anything you do (or plan) is on the tax backs of residents - so please, consider a minimalist approach!
by reducing the mowing this would increase the rise in vermin and wildfires
Can we move away from grass altogether and replace it with a native low-growing plant?
- hire horticulturists to remove invasive plants - the pond at dominion park needs maintenance - get dog poop bag dispensers - better handicapped access ramps no stairs to enter and exit
We use many of them and we enjoy them greatly. Thank you, North Saanich.

They are one of the main reasons that we moved here (25 years ago), love living here and do not plan to move away!!
North Saanich enjoys the many access points to beaches and foreshore that already exist, consider improving "ease of launch" for human powered craft particularly for "wind sheltered" potential Launch Sites.
North Saanich is surrounded by water put we have no public launch. We must go to Sidney and launch in dangerous windy conditions on occasion.
No more pickleball courts!
No 16 This is not a clear question. Of course everyone would support this. But what exactly does it mean.
I think we are getting phenomenal service from the four existing Parks staff. If it's not possible to get more staff to assist them, then reducing lawn mowing might free up some of their time for other parks maintenance work. Maintaining forest cover in the District is very important. I would like to see a lot more trees being planted in NS parks and along trails, of species that are more likely to survive as the climate changes (i.e. not cedar or arbutus).
Please consider the Tseycum and Paquachin neighbours. Let's rename some of our parks to reflect the Indigenous heritage, both past and present, as settlement has not erased their presence. One thing I have seen others across the country do to encourage reconciliation is to have a third way, a neutral space, such as a Knowledge Keepers Table. Expecting First Nations Elders to venture into colonial spaces is a big ask, and at the same time, settlers need to be trusted to be invited into their own governance structures. So, this third way of the Knowledge Keepers Table could be a way for us to learn from our neighbours.
I cannot stress how important off leash dog areas are, in particular, Cy Hampson. What has been overturned in saanich has to be taken into account. Cy Hampson dog Park is critical in it's current use as an off leash dog park.
Leave Cy Hanson as a dog park only!!!
We feel very fortunate to live in a district that has the number of well maintained parks that we have in North Saanich
Yes. Cy Hampson Park could use more parking spaces. some people leave their cars their all day in the park.
I would like to see YYJ cease its policy of maximizing horizontal parking and paving; Please continue expanding trails, notably a route from the Ardmore area to link up with the YYJ terminal and hence a closer route to Sidney; Beach access: this is delicate because expanding access near residences can facilitate access, but also encourage drinking, drug use and noise while eroding residential privacy. If parking is sited at a reasonable distance there is less tendency for people to indulge as they would have to carry their supplies a fair way. It is imperative that recycling bins be provided. Alternatively I would recommend removing garbage containers and instruct users to "pack it out with you." That works fine in national parks! I have also noted a growing trend of roadside littering. This needs to be stomped on firmly!
More pickleball courts! Please don't overdo things. For example, the beach access at the end of Downey isn't anywhere as pleasant looking as the beach access you have used to illustrate the "state of the parks" report. Also avoid excessive signage. Keep changes / developments as simple and natural as possible.
Parks and open space: Parking lots are solely needed to accommodate high park usage - Cy Hampson (both sides) parking is inadequate, as is Dominion Brook and Pat Bay. Washrooms and garbage collection should also be a high priority.

Outdoor recreation amenities: Playground structures in existing parks need to be upgraded to meet code standards. Trails: Garbage cans, especially on high use trails. Beach access: parking, ease of access The District staff do an excellent job of maintaining parks and trails given the limited staff and resources. Definitely a department that requires staff growth!
Increasing use needs to account for all uers - avoid conflicts through signage/education
Parks and open space: more Trails: more Beach access: more Keep up the great work!
Improve signage by showing where the trails end within the road name on the sign post. General signage for the Lochside Trail needs improvements
Need fenced-in off leash dog park for larger dogs. Must be a flat area so as to easily keep watch on dogs and for people with mobility issues. Provide benches. Fenced-in area also keeps dog safe from chasing rabbits near roads.
Keep Cy Hampson off leash
Parks are essential for peace of mind and ideally places for peoples of all ages.
Please keep the Cy Hampson Park off-leash and keep the porta potty - very necessary for me.
I love natural sites, only native-to-that-site and therefore suitable vegetation maintained. THis is a delicate operation, hard to achieve. There's no one formula, for each site in each spark. There has to be considerable study.
Parks and open space: a flat, off-leash dog park with benches at the north end of the municipality - perhaps on an underdeveloped pocket park - so that dog walkers with limited mobility can see their dogs at all times. Trails: along gazetted road allowance north of Tseycum Reserve from W. Saanich Rd. to Jolun Rd. Along, but outside of, the northern boundary fence of Sandown from McDonald Park Rd. to the treed section of Sandown, then along western border to join up with littlewood trail and Munro Rd. Below the 'welcome to north saanich' signs: "A horse-friendly community" (funds may be available from Sunset Riding Club) Would a study be advisable on fire hazards on trails when clippings are thrown onto existing foliage rather than being removed?
We have quite a few, but for our large population, we need more.
Parks and open space: start a park acquisition fund to provide for more wild areas. Both north and south areas. Do not sell land given to municipality for parks as has happened in the past. Outdoor recreation activities: co-operative with the recreation commission for any new planned outdoor amenities. Trails: require trails in all new subdivisions - open to the public and multi-use. Do not limit equestrian use of existing or new trails. Question 13: dryland grass - this is a good carbon capture method. It would be dependent upon how dangerous a fire could start. Cy Hampson Park should not be used for pickleball as there would be conflicts with parking. The cost to taxpayers is also prohibitive. Park already has heavy use. The Parks dept does a good job with their limited staff.
I spent many many hours cutting ivy off the trees. it needs more attention!
Cy Hampson Park should be left as an off leash park. People travel miles to go to that park. Best park in B.C.

Cy Hampson should remain off leash. Large portion should be gravel as the flooding can be an issue in the winter months. Also, many dogs prefer doing their pees and poops on gravel.
Maybe improve some steep stairways to beach access. Please put a bike trail up McTavish
Considering size/tax base of North Saanich, the District is doing a fabulous job. A forest plan, climate adaptation plan and more integration with indigenous ways of thinking would be beneficial
In favour of additional energy, funds, emphasis on removing invasive species and enhancing the natural environment.
thank you! appreciate all your efforts to support sustainable/healthy/diverse areas.
our parks and trails attract people to NS, to live and visit. They are great.
i love our current parks and love the fact that most are available for use by off leash dogs. My dog thanks North Saanich.
no artificial turf

APPENDIX B: LETTERS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Sunset Riding Club

Registered Office:
1365 Laurel Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5K8
Tel: (250) 656-5318



History of Trails in North Saanich

A fatal accident on Birch Road in the late 1970s prompted several parents of children attending Deep Cove Elementary School to organise a meeting to discuss safety on the roads where children walked to that school. The mayor produced a map showing various unopened road allowances and undeveloped trails in the District, and Sunset Riding Club agreed to undertake the task of opening them up. A potential trail network was approved by Council in 1982. Council agreed to survey these, and in 1983 Sunset Riding Club organized volunteer groups to clear them. (At the time North Saanich did not have a specific member of staff in charge of parks and there were no *official* trails.)

A council member was assigned to liaise between Sunset and Council. It turned out that there were so many possible trails that it was decided to apply for various government grants each summer to employ workers to open them up. The first government grant was in 1985. [redacted] of Sunset Riding Club was named the official Trails Coordinator and this continued until a parks commission was formed. By 1992, when [redacted] resigned, there were 39 trails completed, covering 15 kilometres.

Apart from volunteer hours on these projects by Sunset members, the Club also: paid for the upgrading with gravel of various trails; paid for horse and rider road signs; painted individually labelled trailhead signs; pounded fence posts (with a machine!) along the John Road trail above the Highway; printed a one-page booklet in 1985 (which could be picked up at the municipal hall) showing the trails at that time, and in 1992 an up-dated hand-drawn map with illustrations showing grades, etc., which was copied by the District and made available to the public. (A printed booklet was later published by the District.)

[redacted]
Jan 30, 2021

(The above is my best recollection of events)

Sure, extra sailings are often added to handle some of the overload and keep everyone moving as quickly as possible. The Canada Day long weekend was unfortunately marked by the elimination of extra sailings due to a mechanical refit taking longer than expected.

People have to realize with any mode of transportation, mechanical issues can surface at any time. The fact it frequently happens on a long weekend is just a terrible coincidence.

So knowing it's going to be an extremely busy time and the potential is there for long waits, why should people be surprised to be stuck at the terminal for hours?

People decide to take their chances and then complain bitterly when it doesn't work out. We're at the point where you can count on it being busy all the time and ferries departing with plenty of vehicles left behind.

It's a fact of life now, just like it is in B.C. Parks where there are too many people vying for the same finite space for recreational activities.

There is no real solution other than patience and planning ahead to make a reservation. If you decide to test your luck and it doesn't work out, you only have yourself to blame.

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YOUR VIEW

Trail system is an asset for North Saani

Sunday morning I had the good fortune to be out on a short run (there is no other kind when you're over 70).

Coming down Hillgrove near my home a group of eight on horseback were headed up the road towards me. They parted as the dog and I ran through them. I commented on how fortunate I was to be on the set of "Yellowstone", which aroused a chuckle and I believe a "Yee-ha."

When I got home I couldn't help thinking of how great it is to have the trail system we enjoy in North Saanich. In my estimation, it is the single biggest asset our municipality has.

It is important to know that the horse community had a very large role in its development. We owe people like Jo Doman and the Sunset Riding Club a tip of the hat for the foresight they had 40 years ago to envision trails that would link nearly every c North Saanich.

I love the fact that I can now wa my grandchildren on this network ar across horseback riders who are with ception courteous and accommodati when the kids see a mound of "horse it does not repel them in the least.

Ray
North S

Drivers should be in buses at terminal

I can sympathize with Stanley Tromp that it is not "fun" standing in an unsheltered lineup for a BC Transit or Translink bus at the BC Ferries' terminals.

Rather than having to build something new, however, why not simply get the bus drivers at each end to be in their buses once the ferry arrives? I take the ferry back and forth to Vancouver for regular doctor appointments and in many cases, there is a bus sitting there, no driver around and people have to line up and wait for this situation to change.

While coming home from one of my recent trips, a rather rude driver would not even tell me which of the two buses was a number 70 or 72 and went off somewhere after securing his bus.

Instead of waiting for him to return, I took a cab home which defeated the purpose of trying to promote transit use in this region.

Vince Kreiser
North Saanich

Disappointed in byelection turnout

Congratulations to Kristine Marshall on winning the recent byelection for councillor in North Saanich and thank you to both Ryan Lay and Ramon Farmere for being to run.

That being said, I am dismayed by t that there was only a 16% turnout of voters.

I certainly understand if people are by recent events and the current fracti haviour we have experienced, but apathy change anything.

As I see it, 84% of the residents of o nicipality have given up the right to co about any council decisions in the futu

Mary M
North Sa

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delivered to NS Aug 8/23
Felice Mazzoni - head planner &
Maupis OCP advisory committee

In the preparation of the OCP, I wish to address a segment of North Saanich population which has been an entity for over 60 years. "The equestrian community*.

This is a group who does not ask for funds from the district but were in fact, are responsible for the trail system that everyone enjoys today.

The Sunset Riding club, and particularly resident Jo Doman, lobbied Council for unused road allowances, and new subdivisions to have land set aside for public riding and hiking trails. Initially club members manually opened up the trails, provided funds and did the upkeep of the trail system.

A brief history. Sunset Riding club was started in the early 1960's by a group of horse owners in North Saanich. The goals were:

provide a riding ring
establish trails in all areas
provide education in care of the horse
improve riding skills in various disciplines
hold riding events for club members and outside horse enthusiasts

The club was incorporated in 1970.

Funding for the activities was raised by manning a food booth at the old Saanich Fairgrounds

At the time, most horse were kept on small holdings, with the exception of a few breeding farms. There were no arenas or boarding stables. Members ranged in age from young children to seniors. At that time there were about 150 members.

Riding ring was built at 10690 W. Saanich Rd. The yearly rent was 6 tons of local hay. Members built ditches, fenced and surfaced the ring so that it could be used year round. The Victoria Saanich Pony club used the ring for their activities as well.

As well as raising funds to support the club and trail upkeep, the club raised funds for the start-up of Riding for the Disabled.

A census of horse numbers during that time showed about 500 horses in all areas of NS. A recent count (2021) showed about 200 horses.

The types of horses, and horse activities have changed over the years. Many horses are now housed in boarding stables with indoor arenas. Only those riders living fairly close to trails are able to enjoy them. Due to increased traffic, and drivers who are unaware how rapidly a horse can become frightened and leap into the path of a car or bicycles few riders go onto busy roads.

It should be noted that:

Horses are included under the Agriculture Act.

SUNSET RIDING CLUB

[redacted]

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

(Incorporated in 1970-)

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Sunset Riding Club was founded over thirty years ago. Two of its mandates were to explore, develop and maintain riding trails, and to maintain a riding ring. As there were no riding rings in North Saanich, members constructed a riding ring on West Saanich Road, south of Downey. Trails were developed throughout the area and in the early 1980s the Club was appointed Trails Committee by the District. For a period of ten years it opened up new trails on municipal land, either by applying for government grants or by organizing work parties of members and other volunteers. When the Parks Commission was formed, it took on this task. Every year the horse population has increased, new clubs have been started, and numerous rings and riding stables have been built. Property values and rents have risen. For this and other reasons the members of Sunset are no longer leasing the ring and have decided to change their focus.

Trails in North Saanich are very well used. It was not realized *how* well used they would be and that some of them should have been initially constructed to an all-weather standard. Ideally, all trails should be constructed that way. Then, not only do muddy secions not get potholed but, with a covering of woodchips/gravel/Geotech, the trail surface would not get worn down and tree roots would not become exposed. Municipal staff have fixed up many such sections of trails, but with budget restraints it will take some time to complete all the work that needs to be done. This is where Sunset comes in.

The members of Sunset Riding Club have voted to donate to the District a sum of up to $2,000.00 this year for materials to upgrade to all-weather standard sections of trails which are most in need. These trails will be agreed upon beforehand between municipal staff and the Club. The Club is prepared to donate an amount each year as long as it is able.

There is one condition: these trails should be identified as bridle/hiking trails, not just hiking trails. In the introduction to the new and very attractive "Guide to Trails, Parks and Beach Accesses in North Saanich" it is stated that there is a well-developed network of hiking and bridle trails. The Club is delighted that bridle trails are mentioned, but the only identified bridle trail in North Saanich is in Horth Hill Park - a CRD park. The revised Community Plan recognizes equestrian trails as part of the outdoor recreation needs of the population. Sunset feels sure that this present Council

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

Municipal Office: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. *Phone: (250) 656-0781*
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2639, Sidney, B.C. V8L 4C1 *Fax: (250) 656-3155*
e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

June 22, 1998

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Re: Donation for Equestrian Trails

Thank you for your letter of June 4, 1998 in which your organization offered to donate a sum of up to $2,000 this year for materials to upgrade equestrian trails in North Saanich to all-weather standards, and to continue such donations in subsequent years as long as the Club is able. Your offer was accepted with gratitude by North Saanich Council at its June 15, 1998 meeting. Needless to say, the municipality is delighted with your offer and is prepared to work with your organization to identify the trails which should receive priority for all-weather upgrading. Council was also agreeable to including a horseshoe logo on the posts identifying the trails as well as adding this logo to the recently-printed Parks brochure. With respect to the latter item, it was suggested that this could be investigated in conjunction with the next printing.

With respect to prioritizing the trails that would benefit from all-weather upgrading and adding the horseshoe symbol to the posts, we suggest that your organization work with the Parks Commission. A copy of our letter to the Parks Commission is attached. It was also suggested that a number of local youth employment initiatives could be pursued to obtain the labour with which to carry out some of the work; for example, the Community Youth Employment Program (CYEP), a program instituted by the Peninsula Community Association. The Youth Empowering Endeavours in Sidney/North Saanich (YEES) was also suggested as a group which may be willing to assist.

On behalf of the District, we wish to extend our thanks once again for your generous offer of assistance to upgrade our trails. We look forward to working with the Sunset Riding Club to commence work on the trails.

[redacted]

[redacted]

c.c. Parks Commission

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

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June 22, 1998

Mr. Dennis Fimrite, Chair
North Saanich Parks Commission
8670 Emard Terrace
Sidney, B.C.
V8L 1K4

Dear Mr. Fimrite:

Re: Sunset Riding Club Donation for Equestrian Trails

At its June 15, 1998 regular meeting, Council received a letter (copy attached) from the Sunset Riding Club offering to donate a sum of up to $2,000 in the current year for material to upgrade equestrian trails to all-weather standards, and to continue such donations in subsequent years as long as the Club is able. North Saanich Council accepted the offer with gratitude and suggested that the Sunset Riding Club work with the Parks Commission both to identify the trails most requiring this upgrading and to amend the Parks brochure and Parks sign posts to identify equestrian trails.

With respect to upgrading the brochure, it was suggested that this could be investigated in conjunction with the next printing. Adding the logo to the Parks sign posts can be discussed in conjunction with the Club to determine how it could best be accomplished. In relation to the upgrading of the trails themselves, Council suggested that a number of local youth employment initiatives could be examined tp obtain the labour with which to carry out some of the work; for example, the Community Youth Employment Program (CYEP), a program instituted by the Peninsula Community Association, and YEES, who have assisted the District on previous projects.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Administrator

Enclosure

c.c. Sunset Riding Club
Mary Cully, Commission Secretary
Tom McColm, Director of Services and Parks

SUNSET RIDING CLUB

[redacted]

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are pleased to advise you that the members of Sunset Riding Club voted to donate the sum of $1250.00 this year to the District for the upgrading of the trail between John Road and Munro Road - this was of course after discussions with District parks staff as to which trail needed to be upgraded this year and the cost involved.

We would like to commend [redacted] and parks staff for the work they completed last year with our donation on the trails between Clayton Road and Wain Road, and between Hedgerow Road and Cascara Road. Both used to be absolute swamps in winter and now are a delight to ride and walk on.

We also thank staff for marking the trail head posts with the horseshoe logo as well as the hiker.

We feel there has been great cooperation between all parties, and we look forward to the same in the future.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

Sunset Riding Club

Sunday, October 3, 1999.Trail ride-a-thon in aid of the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association. (Description of VRDA?)

18 horses - Peruvian Pasos, ponies, thoroughbreds, horse quarterhorses, arabs and mixtures. Young and old horses and riders - oldest a 29-year old Arab/Quarterhorse X . Western and English riding. One walker accompanied her young daughter riding a pony. The pony completed the ride - the mother didn't and hitched a ride home!

Riders from Victoria parked their trailers at the Donkey Sanctuary at Rip Tide Farm, then joined the main contingent of local riders who met in Horth Hill parking lot.

Weather fabulous. 2 hour trail ride on trails in North Saanich - hilly and rocky - not an easy ride.
Everyone completed it safely. Many riders amazed at the network of trails, which meant a very safe ride as very little road work.A cell phone rang during the ride. The caller obviously asked the rider where she was and she replied: "Somewhere in North Saanich - I have absolutely no idea where."

A rest period halfway through the ride on the meadow next to Fisher's Pond in Green Park was very welcome.

Last stop was at the President's house on Laurel where coffee, tea, pop and donuts were served - with apples for the horses.

We raised over $800 in pledges. Sunset members between them raised $469.75. "It was a super turnout and everyone has been so generous, including the people who let us ride through some of their private trails," quotes the Prez.

First prize (for most money pledged), which was a print of a horse's head donated by North Saanich artist Jack Mackay, went to Josephine Nestor; second prize of a gift certificate from The Feed Barn went to Joyce Wallbridge.

VRDA is always looking for volunteers. Programme at Withy Windles on Wilson Road in North Saanich. Phone ~~Laura at 652-6341.~~ Belle 656-7472

Sunset Riding Club was instrumental in developing the trails in North Saanich many years ago. Last year the members made a donation to upgrade trails to all-weather, multi-use standard. The two trails chosen by Sunset and North Saanich's parks staff were between Clayton and Wain Roads and Cascara and Hedgerow Roads. This year another donation upgraded the trail between John and Munro Roads. "These trails are now a delight to walk and ride on", quotes the Prez.

5.

Sunset Riding Club Newsletter

October 1999

Well done, members! Between us we raised $514.75 for the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association at the Ride-a-thon. Non-members contributed $296.00, making a total of $810.75. Jo Nestor won the print of a horse's head donated by Jack Mackay for having the most pledges. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable ride. We were blessed with super weather and everything went smoothly except at the start when yours truly led the gang up the wrong trail from Horth Hill parking lot. Read the complete write up, written by Heather Warren, in November's Pacific Horse magazine. Left behind at my house was a red padded Paddock Apparel vest. Any takers?

Our donation to the District of North Saanich this year of $1250.00 was spent on upgrading the trail between John Road and Munro Road. It is now complete, except for wood chips. The bridge across the creek on that trail now sports different non-slip finishes such as rubber strips and asphalt roofing. This is an experiment to see which finish is safest, as it is generally felt that the chickenwire currently on all bridges is too slippery, especially when horses are shod. Please phone the parks staff at the municipal hall (656-0781) with your comments, or phone me if you wish and I will pass them on.

Is anyone interested in a seat on the North Saanich Parks Commission? There will probably be vacancies next year and I think we need a horse person on board. Watch out for adverts in the Review calling for applications.

The municipal election is on November 20. There are many important issues to be considered when voting for a new council, but Sunset members have one interest in common - horses! Let's make sure we elect a council which is supportive of the horse community. There are eight new candidates and three incumbents running for six seats. The mayor is in by acclamation. There is an all candidates meeting at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (near the airport) at 7.30 p.m. on November 9. Come and hear what the candidates have to say.

At the same time as the election there will be a non-binding opinion poll organized by CRD Parks to find out if the public is willing to pay a flat rate of $6.00 (in North Saanich; $10.00 in some other municipalities) on top of the regular CRD levy to purchase lands which have been identified as regionally significant natural areas. One of these is Mel Baldwin's property - a beautiful treed area next to Horth Hill Park, through which many of us ride regularly (we used it on the Rideathon). Attached is a leaflet which has just been released explaining this initiative. A second flyer is due out in November.

(over)

Sunset Riding Club



Newsletter September 2000

All the barbed wire is now cleared from Clayton trail thanks to Pam Earl, Jeannette Price and Pip Sumsion.

The Canada Day Parade went off without incident. Six horses and two minis pulling buggies entered - a good turnout. Thanks, folks.

The Ride-a-thon in aid of Victoria Riding for the Disabled will be held this year on Sunday, October I. Ride lasts about 1.1/2 - 2 hours. Refreshments provided at end of ride. Meet in Horth Hill Park at 11 a.m. Riders from John Road and south who are not trailering phone Lorrene at 656-4086 to make arrangements to join the main group. Please bring donations with you. If you require a receipt for income tax purposes, fill in name and address on attached formand I will distribute receipts later. This year we have first, second and third prizes. For more info. phone Jo at 656-5318.

Xmas craft fair: White House Stables , 9774 West Saanich Rd., on Nov. 19 from 10a.m. to 4.30p.m. Come out and support local artisans.

Congratulations to Tracy Wilkinson who qualified for and competed in the B.C. Summer Games in the reining class.

The Littlewood Connector (sounds like a rapid transit connection, eh? Come to think of it, it is - for horses!) The easement for a 5 m. wide trail along the west border of Rip Tide Farm was registered in favour of the municipality on August 30, so those of you from John Road south will be able to easily access the network of trails north of Wain Road. It is taking some time to get everything in place and because there is no money left in the Parks budget we will have to wait until next year for it to be constructed. The trail will cost about $20,000 in all and will be put in to all-weather standards. The section next to Rip Tide has to be fenced on both sides. Sunset members at this year's AGM voted to make a donation towards fencing, and we also have a volunteer with a mechanical fence post pounder. We may need volunteers to help clear the trail as well - anything we can contribute will reduce the overall cost. We have waited many years for this access but our time has finally come!

Anybody like to organize an event? Phone Jo at 656-5318.

A - Z of horse terms

Azorturia (Monday Morning Disease) - a condition brought on by showing horses

5.

Sunset Riding Club Newsletter

October 1999

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(over)

Item 7 (e)

RECEIVED
JUN 14 2001
DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH
1620 MILLS ROAD
NORTH SAANICH, BC
V8L 5S9

June 15, 2001

[redacted]

North Saanich Council
Municipality of North Saanich
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5S9

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We are homeowners residing on the section of Tatlow Road between Wain and West Saanich Roads, and would like to bring to your attention the average speed of vehicles using this road.

Having lived at our present address for over ten years, we have watched the quantity of traffic utilizing the road increase substantially. With the amount of new homes in the area this is to be expected. Since the black topping of the road in recent years, however, the speed of those vehicles has also increased substantially. Previously the road was chip-sealed and there was unevenness to the grade, which kept speeds within an acceptable range. Since the road was surfaced with asphalt this is no longer the case.

Tatlow Road, as you likely are aware, is narrow and has a beautiful canopy due to many long-standing trees located within a few feet of the pavement on either side. In order to maintain the trees, residents do not wish to have the road widened. For most of the distance, there is adequate closed hard shoulder to allow walkers to get off the road surface. North Saanich has done a good job of keeping hedgerows clipped back to ensure this continues to be an option. In some areas, however, there is no safe shoulder and the increased speed of the traffic along the entire road has become a concern for the area residents, particularly for those of us with children and animals.

Early last month our concern was heightened when a speeding vehicle struck and killed our puppy only a couple of feet from our 8 year old son. The driver did stop afterward, but had made no effort to evade or brake prior to the impact. He stated that there was no time, though he acknowledged his previous awareness of a child and animal on the verge. He stated he was only travelling the normal speed of average traffic on the road. This is likely the truth. The average speed is very fast. Whether or not the driver should have automatically slowed and given some extra care when he became aware of a young child and dog ahead is not the full issue.
For several weeks now we have been visually monitoring the speed of the vehicles past our home. It is, for the most part, <u>far</u> beyond the 50km maximum posted. A few days of having the Speed Watch Trailer in place, had only a minimal impact. Even that was not all positive. On at least one occasion, a vehicle full of teenagers raced repeatedly up the road in what appeared to be an attempt to get the digital display on the trailer as high as possible.

With the number of new homes in the area, there has also been an increase in the number of children. There are no fewer than a dozen children aged below 12 in our immediate vicinity. Most are between the ages of 8 and 10; the age when we would like to feel we can allow them some freedom in the

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

MEMORANDUM

TO: [redacted] **DATE:** July 9, 2001

FROM: [redacted] **FILE:** G-104

SUBJECT: Speed Limit on Tatlow Road

SUMMARY

Excessive speed does appear to be a concern on Tatlow Road between Wain Road and West Saanich Road and continued police enforcement during peak periods is justified. Improved access for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians should be investigated on Tatlow Road between Alder Road and Heather Road.

BACKGROUND

The District received a letter dated June 15, 2001, from Keith and Kelly Green asking the District to address the excessive speed of vehicular traffic on Tatlow Road (see attached letter). The Green's would like to have the following requests considered:

- post a reduced speed limit on Tatlow Road;
- replace children playing signage fronting 1252 Tatlow Road;
- monitor and enforce speed limit on a regular basis at peak traffic times; and,
- cover the open ditch on the north side of Tatlow from Alder to Heather Road.

On May 1, 2001, Mr. Green filled out a request form at the Municipal Hall requesting "Children Playing" sign to be installed. A phone call from Mrs. Green on the same day generated another request form from staff asking for the "Children Playing" sign to be replaced and for speed enforcement to be set up on Tatlow Road

Upon receipt of the request form on May 1, 2001, the undersigned was able to contact Mrs. Green by telephone to ask her to elaborate on her requests. The Green's made these requests after their dog had been struck by a car and killed on Tatlow Road days earlier in front of their young son. A car had also struck a deer the previous weekend. Mrs. Green noted that there had previously been a sign installed in the vicinity of 1252 Tatlow that had a hidden driveway sign and a children playing sign and to her recollection about three years ago the sign was knocked down by the District's mower and lay in the ditch for several months before it was removed, also deer crossing signs had been vandalized and not replaced. Mrs. Green also had notified the RCMP to ask for some speed enforcement on Tatlow Road.

.../2

Children Playing Signage

As previously stated, no record or recollection from staff can confirm the previous existence of this signage. The sign as outlined in the Manual of Standard Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings published by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways is referred to as an SP-3 playground ahead sign (see attached) and is utilized to warn motorist of public play grounds. It does not appear to justify placing this sign in an area where no public playground exists. Doing so may establish a practice permitting any resident to request similar signage in their neighbourhoods. This may lead to complacency by motorists if signs started to appear in many areas. There are no standard warning signs, which identify children on roadways except for school zones and public parks.

Monitor and Enforce Speed Limits on a Regular Basis

In May of 2001 a file was created at the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP Detachment concerning this matter. Practice is for the file to be handled by a specific constable who will then notify all RCMP staff of the situation. This was done in May asking for emphasis on the 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. time frame. All statistics are then to be recorded and filed in order to ascertain if a significant problem exists. RCMP policy on speed enforcement requests is for police to set up these enforcement procedures as staff time permits. These requests from the public are quite frequent throughout all areas of Sidney and North Saanich and with other regular policing duties, make it extremely difficult to provide a concentrated emphasis of speed enforcement in one area. The speed watch volunteer program also supplements these concerns and can provide additional data of support.

Constable Harvey has been assigned to this file and was unable to provide any significant statistics to confirm a real speeding issue on Tatlow Road at time of this report. The RCMP are prepared to monitor the situation over the next several months and will share the information obtained with the District.

Covering the Open Ditch on the North Side of Tatlow Road from Alder to Heather

When this section of Tatlow Road was overlayed in 1999, 70 meters of the ditch on the north side were piped in, in order to widen the narrowest portion of the road; it also provided an adequate shoulder for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclist use. The remainder of the street was not identified as needing pipe work as the existing shoulder width was not narrowed during paving. The existing shoulder on the north side is quite narrow, averaging anywhere from 30 cm – 60 cm for 340 meters. This does make it hard for pedestrians to walk on the shoulder and virtually impossible for cyclists and equestrians to use without actually using the paved portion of the road.

The cost to pipe in this 340 m of ditch to provide an adequate shoulder would be at least $35,000 and possibly more depending upon any design constraints.

The SP-2 should be installed per the Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual.

SP-3 PLAYGROUND AHEAD

SP-3



(60 x 60)

The SP-3 PLAYGROUND AHEAD sign warns motorists of a nearby public playground, where the presence of children, on or near the roadway, could create a hazard to the motorist.

In special cases, where speed zone is desirable a SP-7 30 km/h tab may be used in conjunction with an SP-3 sign. Refer to the SP-7 sign descriptions for more information regarding the establishment of a 30 km/h playground speed zone.

A SP-17 NO PASSING tab should be erected below SP-3 signs where the traffic approaches an established crosswalk on a two-lane roadway. If a SP-7 tab is also required, the SP-17 tab shall be mounted below a secondary SP-3 and erected a suitable distance in advance of the primary assembly.

Refer to the SP-17 sign description for more information regarding its use.

The sign should be installed per the *Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual.*

SP- 4 SCHOOL CROSSWALK

SP-4L



(60 x 75)

The SP-4L/R SCHOOL CROSSWALK signs indicates to motorists the location of school crosswalks.

School crosswalks should be installed in accordance to the *Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual*, in consultation with school and municipal authorities, as required.

Crosswalks should only be installed if they meet the appropriate warrant criteria.

A marked crosswalk shall always be indicated both by pavement markings and signs or traffic signals. At raised right channelizations, SP-4 signs are not required.

Installation guideline: Condition C, Table 1, (Appendix).

W-122

W- 126 HORSE AND RIDER SIGN

The W-126 HORSE AND RIDER sign warns motorists of potential horseback riders on the roadway. This sign may be used on narrow or winding roadways where horseback riding is known to take place.

The W-126 sign shall be installed just prior to the start of any roadway used for horseback riding.

W-126



(60x60)

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

August 5, 2001

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Since the last section of Tatlow Road was widened and paved, the temptation to speed has proved irresistible to motorists. Five families who are members of Sunset Riding Club have horse farms along Tatlow between West Saanich and Wain Roads. They all have to use Tatlow in order to access the trails.

We are aware that speeding is not limited to this road but is an ongoing problem everywhere.

Along certain sections of Tatlow there is nowhere to get off the paved road. Several of our members have had close calls with vehicles and have reported offenders to the R.C.M.P. Over the last few weeks R.C.M.P. presence has increased - in fact, for the last few days there have been 40 R.C.M.P. officers in evidence, complete with 36 horses. However, the horses were not ridden along Tatlow, which is a pity because I am sure it would have had a great effect on the speed of motorists.

This matter of speeding was raised at our Annual General Meeting and I was asked to write to you and ask for your help. Several suggestions were made by our members. There is a general belief that one can exceed the speed limit by 10 k.p.h. with impunity. One suggestion would be to lower the speed limit to 40 k.p.h. with the addition of horse signs. Or perhaps a horse sign with the words "30 k.p.h. when horses on road". Or, as in Elk/Beaver Lake, "Horses - 30 k.p.h.".

We are prepared to help pay for any signs.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

October 31, 2001

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Once again the members of Sunset Riding Club are pleased to make a donation towards the construction/upgrade of trails. The enclosed $1,600 is earmarked for the purchase of fence posts and wire for the 'Littlewood Connector', which will run from John Road to Wain Road. We will also be providing a mechanical fence-post pounder and operator to install these posts.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone on staff for their perseverance in acquiring easements through the various pieces of government property. This trail will be a boon for riders, cyclists, hikers and dogwalkers who wish to reach North Hill park from John Road south and vice versa.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9
Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

March 4, 2002
DNS File: G-198 & G-257

Josephine Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

RE: Littlewood Connector Trail – Donation

On behalf of the District of North Saanich, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Sunset Riding Club's donation of $1600.00 towards fencing materials and the in-kind post pounding services of Mr. Brian Dunic for the Littlewood Connector Trail.

Work is now in completion on the first phase of this project (the link from Littlewood to McDonald Park West). It is hoped that all Land Agreements will be in place for completion of the entire trail in 2002.

It is generous donations such as your organizations that enable our small community to enhance our parks and trails system for the general enjoyment of the public. Again thank you very much.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

Works Superintendent

BR/ds

cc: [redacted] Municipal Clerk

25.32 Langley
B474
V7P 4R8

478-9260

656-0329
Parks

655-0275 Dave Cadell

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9
Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

March 11, 2003
File: 1.4.7/8.11

Ms. J. Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C. V8M 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

Re: Signage on Tatlow Road

Thank you for your letter dated February 24, 2003 regarding signs on Tatlow Road.

At the meeting held on March 3, 2003, North Saanich Council adopted a resolution to receive your correspondence and to authorize the installation of the signage as requested by the Sunset Riding Club. It is our understanding that your club will provide the signs and work with Staff regarding the installation of such signs.

I trust the above is satisfactory. Please contact Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, at 655-5481 regarding the installation of the signs.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Municipal Clerk

cc: [redacted]
Works Superintendent

[redacted]
Operations Manager
Ministry of Highways
Suite 240 - 4460 Chatterton Way
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 5J2

August 22, 2003

Dear Madam,

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH - LITTLEWOOD TRAIL CONNECTOR - 'THE MISSING LINK'

At this year's Annual General Meeting of Sunset Riding Club (SRC), I was asked by the members to write and request that some action be taken to enable the final section to be completed of the Littlewood Trail Connector, which has been in stasis for a year now.

Following is a background history of this trail, and enclosed are two maps: one showing the proposed trail right-of-way on an aerial photograph, and one pre-Wain Road overpass 1990 map, showing a larger section of this area of North Saanich.

(1) There is no public access north/south between John Road and Wain Road except for the Pat Bay Highway, a dangerous route for hikers, horseriders, recreational cyclists, school children crossing Highway 17 to reach North Saanich Middle School and Parkland Secondary School, etc.
(2) An existing length of road right-of-way north of John Road, (which lined up with other sections of Littlewood Road) merely accessed the formerly-government-owned Greenbelt farm (prior to 2000 this property was leased to Mr. Gene Jackson and known as Riptide Farm).
(3) Members of SRC living on John Road and south had permission to ride through this farm to access North Hill Regional Park and North Saanich's network of trails.
(4) SRC was appointed as official trails co-ordinator by the District of North Saanich (DNS) and continued to act in this capacity for ten years until the North Saanich Parks Commission was established.
(5) At Official Community Plan hearings and at Capital Regional trail meetings, SRC urged that a recreational trail route from John Road to Wain Road be identified and secured when the opportunity arose. The District identified such a trail in its 1983 and subsequent Official

Community Plans.
(6) In 1994, several properties were expropriated or partially expropriated at the eastern end of Wain Road in order to build the Wain Road overpass.
(7) Upon completion, approx. one to one-and-a-quarter acres remained.
(8) In May 2000, after the provincial government decision to sell the Greenbelt property, the DNS obtained a statutory right-of-way along the western property line of the farm from the British Columbia Assets & Land Corporation (Peter Norman) specifically to construct a trail.
(9) August 2000 - in preparation for trail construction in 2001, it became apparent that the trail alignment would pass through jurisdictions of several government agencies, namely: the Ministry of Transportation & Highways; the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks; and the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA). The final 150+ meters, being on fee-simple land owned by the BCTFA, would require an additional statutory right-of-way to complete the trail through this section.
(10) Construction of the trail through McDonald Provincial Park (West) and within the Highway 17 right-of-way were approved in principal.
(11) March 2001 - application made by DNS for Provincial Capital Commission Greenways funding in the amount of $15,000.00.
(12) May 24, 2001 - application made by DNS to BCTFA to obtain statutory right-of-way across their land.
(13) August 10, 2001 - application forwarded by DNS to Doug Beaumont, Ministry of Transportation & Highways Property Services, and Phil Cristie, BCTFA.
(14) Sept. 25, 2001 - PCC Greenways grant of $15,000.00 approved.
(15) Oct.31, 2001 - SRC makes cash donation of $1,600.00 for fencing materials, plus machine and operator to pound in posts along trail.
(16) Nov. 13, 2001 - B.C. Parks approves trail alignment through McDonald Park (West).
(17) Dec. 2001 - trail constructed from Littlewood Road, through Greenbelt farm and McDonald Park (West).
(18) Jan. 11, 2002 - letter to DNS from Highways Property Manager, Gary Morley, showing proposed right-of-way through fee-simple lands.
(19) Feb. 28, 2002 - the above letter referred by DNS to Mike McGrenere, Manager of Property Development & Marketing, Ministry of Highways, to prepare a road dedication by a plan.
(20) June 28, 2002 - permit granted to construct trail along Highway 17 right-of-way.
(21) July 2002 - trail completed along Highway 17 right-of-way.

(22) August 14, 2002 - DNS referred all pertinent information to Ministry of Highways District Technician, Bob Webb, so that Ministry could establish as-built drawings of Wain Road overpass.
(23) August 22, 2003 - no further responses to date after several requests over the last year from Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, DNS, for action on this matter.

Owners of the adjacent property, Brad Dinney and Laura Foxgord, (members of SRC) have on several occasions expressed their interest in discussing the purchase of the remaining land once the requirement has been met for the trail right-of-way. Because of the configuration of the Wain Road overpass, the remaining expropriated property has no road access. Over the last few years, there have been several site visits by groups of provincial government staff to assess the property. In July 2003, Laura Foxgord contacted Bob Webb, Ministry of Highways District Technician, and faxed a map showing the area in which they were interested. To date there has been no response. A copy of *their* map is also enclosed.

There has been excellent co-operation between private and public stake-holders in this matter. Brian Robinson of the DNS has diligently pursued this matter for the benefit of the residents of North Saanich and other users of this vital connecting trail. We would like to see this last section completed to all-weather standards so that the public can enjoy it this coming fall and winter. Funding for its construction has been in place for a year and only awaits a green light.

Your prompt response will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

c.c. [redacted] M.L.A., Saanich North & the Islands
Mayor and Council, District of North Saanich
[redacted], Works Superintendent, District of North Saanich

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

May 25, 2004

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

LITTLEWOOD CONNECTOR

What an awesome trail we now have from John Road to Wain Road! I have walked my dogs (licensed of course) and ridden my horse on it, and it is a credit to the North Saanich engineering department and works crew. Thanks to all.

I am sure I speak for all trail users when I say "Thanks!" to [redacted] in particular for his persistance with senior government departments in establishing this vital connection. Residents on John Road and south now have a pleasant and safe access north to Horth Hill Park and our extensive network of trails.

The adjacent gravel pit is on agricultural land in the middle of a sheep farm, a dairy farm, and riding stables, and the sudden blasts have created problems over the years. One of our members, who is next door to the trail and gravel pit, has been in discussion with the new blasting contractor, who seems eager to co-operate. In addition to legal requirements, the contractor has agreed to phone the neighbours a n dto post the date and time prior to the actual blasting.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

Mayor and Council
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

October 27, 2004

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a map on which I have indicated a designated linear park leading from Hedgerow Road to the north east corner of Horth Hill Park.

In light of the fact that the adjacent property to the south has been sub-divided and is currently being developed, I believe this would be an opportune time to construct this trail before any houses are built. Obviously this would mean co-ordinating construction with CRD Parks in order to connect up with the Sunset Bridle Trail within Horth Hill Park. I have spoken to Brian Robinson and have also met on site with Trisha Bland, CRD Parks, so they both have a heads up on this.

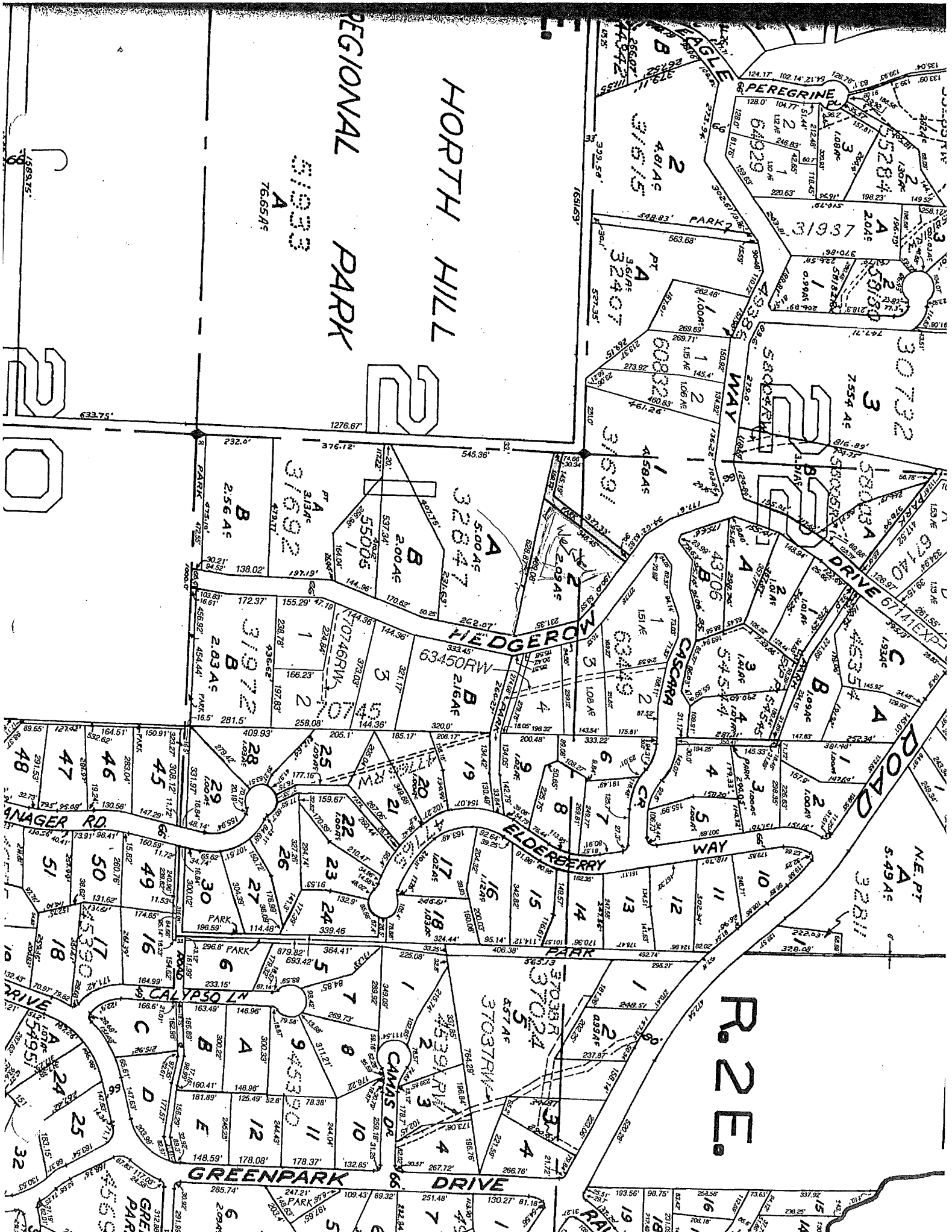
I have spoken to a couple of families that I know in that neighbourhood, and [redacted] and [redacted] have expressed their support for a trail leading to the Park in this area, especially as it starts opposite Cascara trail and would complete loops with other trails. (Mayor [redacted] could also utilise this trail!)

If Sunset Riding Club can help in any way, please let us know.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

copies to: [redacted] Works Superintendent
[redacted] Manager, CRD Park Services (North),
[redacted] CRD Park Operations Supervisor (North)


HORTH HILL REGIONAL PARK
EAGLE PEREGRINE PL
HEDGER WAY
CASCARA DRIVE
ELDERBERRY WAY
CALYPSO LN
CAMAS DR
GREENPARK DRIVE
R. 2 E.

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9
Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

June 28, 2004
File: 8.3.3

[redacted]
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, BC V8L 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

Re: Littlewood Connector Trail

Thank you for your letter dated May 25, 2004 expressing your appreciation for the recent development of the Littlewood Connector trail.

At the meeting held on June 21, 2004, the North Saanich Council adopted a resolution to receive your correspondence and to retain it on file for future reference. Council requested that Staff ensure that the blasting being done in this area is done in accordance with all regulations pertain to blasting.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and please contact the undersigned at 655-5453 should you have any further comments regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Municipal Clerk

cc: [redacted]
Works Superintendent

Sunset

[redacted], Chair
CRD Parks Committee
P.O.1000,
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6

March 29, 2016

Dear Chairman [redacted]

I was reminded at North Saanich Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016, that one cannot take anything for granted.

During a presentation by [redacted] of CRD Parks of the proposed draft Regional Trails Management Plan, I was shocked to learn that the unpaved sections of the Lochside Regional Trail would be paved, the trail designated for use by bicycles and pedestrians, and horses banned. And I thought I was just at this meeting to request that the unpaved section of the Lochside Regional Trail remain unpaved! Where on earth did this huge change come from? Who decided on this?

In the 1970s or 1980s users of this railway right-of-way were encouraged to write letters so that this could become a permanent multi-use (I repeat MULTI-USE) regional trail, under the aegis of the CRD. Many individuals, groups and clubs from all areas wrote, and we were gratified when this was acquired. I sat on the Regional Trails Committee as the representative of Sunset Riding Club between 1991 and 1993 with Councillor [redacted] of the District of North Saanich. I attended meetings where we discussed how this was going to be implemented. Part of the proposed trail went along Willingdon Road by the airport. Now horses are not even allowed on the new paved trail round the airport.

The horse community is not as organized as is the bicycle community. I think it is a laudable idea to have a network of bicycle trails for commuting and for recreation. But it is hardly equitable to now exclude a group which has been using this right-of-way for decades, long before cycling became so popular. Equestrians are taxpayers too and have as much right to share in capital regional facilities as any other group. Equestrians need a safe place to ride. This section passes through Agricultural Land Reserve and is surrounded by horse farms and riding stables. Accommodation should be made for equestrians along the Lochside Trail wherever they currently ride, so that they too can link up with other trails in adjacent municipalities.

I know there have been protests about this change. Over 400 people have physically signed one petition, and there are about 1600 signatures on another on-line petition.

Leave the Lochside Trail as a multi-use trail. All it needs is a little tender loving care to its surface to make it suitable for all-weather use. Don't pave it.

Yours truly,

[redacted]
President

c.c. Mayor and Councillors, District of North Saanich
[redacted] – CRD Parks
Horse Council
[redacted]

Points for the Parks Master Plan 2023
Friends of North Saanich Parks

Hire an ecologist for the Parks Department as a staff member or several–this is our top priority request: one could have two staff ecologists shared with the District as a whole.

1) Allow for the District collection of necessary ecological, archeological, horticultural and historical information on all municipal parks, for example, the soils, the understory vegetation, the stands, the wildlife, shell middens, riparian area descriptions, ephemeral streams, as well as catalogue the flowers, trees and shrubs located in the vintage gardens, and the logging or clearing history. Share this with volunteer groups working in the parks. This should lead to better management decisions.
2) Form an invasive species removal program stemming from the District-modeled on Saanich. Within Saanich's Invasive Species Removal Plan is a process for negotiation with difficult neighbors and volunteer groups.
3) Determine rare flora and fauna in all parks.
4) Provide Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping for the parks-which will also give rare vegetation association patterns.
5) Provide more public washrooms-for Lillian Hoffar and Denham Till for example.
6) Prepare a District Vegetation Restoration Plan to adjust for the mortality of Grand fir and Western redcedar and in some cases Douglas fir.
7) Share the North Saanich park plan guidelines for staff so volunteer groups working in the parks know the guidelines for the District Staff.
8) Consider hydrology of the parks-and provide a natural water system to sustain them with runoff retention.
9) Increase park acquisitions: This will aid in buffering the natural ecosystems, sustain biodiversity and increase canopy; parks should be chosen to insure forest connectivity.
10) Use a climate change lens in planning for parks.
11) Have a very long term plan for the parks (100-300 years) that considers the natural life cycle of trees, shrubs and herbs. This should also aid in planning to sustain the canopy.
12) Prepare a plan for vandalism of park indigenous species.
13) Use natural cycles to prepare District operations planning-pruning, mowing for example.
14) Develop and install interpretive signs for a few parks that explain such things as cultural history (e.g., indigenous activity at Lillian Hoffar, farmstead at Denham Till), ecological significance, logging history, etc. Add a map of the trails to the signs.
15) Adopt the '3-30-300 goal' which stipulates that everyone should be able to see at least 3 trees from their home; there should be 30% tree canopy cover in each neighbourhood; and 300 metres should be the maximum distance to the nearest high-quality public green space.

16) Identify areas within parks that are to be protected from development (e.g., recreational infrastructure, parking, easements).
17) Increase seating options (e.g., benches, stone walls) in areas of interest to allow for extended appreciation.
18) Install garbage cans in each well-used park such as Nymph Point, Denham Till, Green Park and so forth.
19) For those volunteer groups working in municipal parks establish clear park boundaries.
20) On a specific level, test the QR displayed on park signs as we have received complaints they are not working.
21) Establish educational opportunities for the public, District staff and volunteer groups related to the municipal parks and their unique features-flora and fauna, history or cultural features.

NSRA COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING THE PARKS MASTER PLAN (as of Nov. 9th , 2023)

Apologies for the formatting, but the comments were cut and pasted from numerous sources.

What are the strengths of the parks and trails system in North Saanich? What are the challenges?

- Lots of parks

- lots of space in parks

- almost all parks in North Saanich are off leash which my dog and I love

- booklet showing trails is available from North Saanich office

our Parks staff members deserve recognition for their excellent work in keeping local trails in good shape. In particular, the restoration and improvements to Danton Trail (from Chalet Rd to Rosborough) were much appreciated by residents — levelling the path made it accessible for young parents pushing strollers and for seniors with canes.

I worry that when we cater only to the people's demand for amenities that the park will suffer. We need to go amenity 'lite'

Of all the things needing fixing in the world, the Parks and Trails in North Saanich are the least requiring any fixing

Please don't citify our parks. If people need more amenities then go to a park in Victoria. If there is money in the budget that needs to be spent, use it on maintaining what we have. 3 Keep our district rural.

My one suggestion as far as beach access would be that there needs to be better signage to indicate the trail heads from the beach end of the trails, particularly in the Lands End area.

Garbage bins- no

2. What are your observations of the current park amenities and park activities? Are they sufficient? What is missing or lacking?

- families may appreciate more washrooms in parks

- need a place in Horth Hill and other dog parks for people to leave plastic bags for people who forget to bring them.

- Signage in Horth Hill is confusing, since the map is rotated from sign to sign as one progresses along the trails.

- Could use more signage in Horth Hill on the trails to the top of the hill and on trails on the top of the hill. The last time I went up there I got lost.

- Some signs in Horth Hill don't accurately point in the direction of the trail name.

- doggie fountains with water bowls would be an asset. May not be too expensive in parks that have access to water system.

3. What are your observations of the beach accesses and viewpoints?

- not well marked

What are the strengths of the parks and trails system in North Saanich? What are the challenges? Strengths: There are some beautiful places in North Saanich. Most aren’t overdeveloped yet (getting there). There is no pay parking. They are small (which is also a challenge). Challenges: Management is ‘liability’ driven. Heavy handed cutting of trees that might pose a hazard that are left in piles of firewood. Not smart system management of the ecosystem.

Horth Hill looks like a graveyard of firewood. Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line.

There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness. Wildlife is not identified or protected in parks. Big issue for me. Not even mentioned in planning for parks (or in development for housing).

We need to provide sanctuary for wildlife and ecosystems. That is what parks are for. We should plan parks holistically to ensure there are wildlife corridors. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully ... and not paved to make it accessible for all…there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. 2.

What are your observations of the current park amenities and park activities? Are they sufficient? What is missing or lacking?. For example, putting in artificial turf is bad bad bad. Bowker Creek by Oak Bay High was almost recovering from pollution and development when they put in artificial turf. It is degrading and poisoning Bowker Creek now. There is no plan to save ecosystems or to protect wildlife (it's never mentioned in parks plans). We are losing species through our ignorance and lack of responsible management. People should not trump the ecosystem. The drainage put in by the parking lot at Horth Hill has negatively impacted the low lying forest to the south of it. It only serves to provide a dry trail and not look after the trees and plants. More determined removal of invasive species eg. ivy. So, education and information for the public is essential (at each park and on our district website).

3. What are your observations of the beach accesses and viewpoints? Beach accesses and viewpoints are currently tiny little patches of earth between residential landowners who do their best to keep people away from their beach. To the point of blocking beach accesses with their garden refuse or fencing. If this is supposed to be a public access to our lovely coast or the view then we need to make sure it is available to the public. North Saanich used to be a vacation location back in the early 1900's, where everyone could enjoy having a picnic on the beach at sunset without landowners' concrete breakwater looming over them. We need stronger protection for the coast and the species above and below the high tide line.

4. What is working well and what could be improved? The trees/canopies/forests should be overseen by environmentalists and professional foresters (who manage 'systems' as opposed to arborists who work on individual trees). Obviously people cherish this area and we have a duty to preserve as much of the wilds that we have left. It will serve us in the fight against climate change, it will provide respite and promote mental wellbeing and physical health and most importantly, it will save the little we have left for our children's children.

I walk the trails daily. 1. We will not have parks and trails if the deadwood is left to burn. I see cigarette butts and hidden campers. I pass people

smoking cigarettes and pot. The risk of fire is a dire situation. My solution is to allow local residents to "help themselves" to the deadwood.There are many in North Saanich who would benefit from low cost firewood. Choose one day a month and charge a nominal fee if you feel the need to oversee. Ask for proof of residency so we can serve locals first. 2.

Some connector trails like the one from Wain Road to John Road get covered with road base in the spring. It doesn't get hardened up with no rain, so it becomes treacherous for biking because of the loose gravel.

The lack of marine access is a rapidly growing problem on the Saanich Peninsula. As private marinas close their boat launch facilities to convert valuable property to other uses, the District of North Saanich has been searching for a solution. The District Parks plan should consider an option for a boat launch on the Saanich Inlet side of the Peninsula.

A number of options exist but options like the unused northern portion of the Pat Bay float plane base—was halted by the Victoria Airport Authority which has the lease for this Provincially owned land.

While the Authority and the Province might yet be persuaded, there are two other attractive possibilities: a private site at Queen Mary Bay near Swartz Bay (no longer available), and the federal property adjacent to the Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS). A fourth option—on the Tsartlip First Nation reserve at Brentwood Bay—has been closed for repairs and redevelopment. Another option would be on the District owned parkland near the Sea Plane base. Other road access points on the Inlet could also be considered.

The survey failed to address some key issues such as the boat ramp.

The survey design was a real problem for me. The interactive map didn't work and I tried to figure it out and I kept on receiving emails from the District when highlighted an area. It got so frustrating that I didn't finish the survey.

The Project Team should have received stakeholder input before developing the survey. The survey would then have included more relevant topics and questions. It seems as if the survey was taken off the shelf from other projects and wasn't focussed on North Saanich issues.

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North Saanich
Municipal Hall
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich, BC
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ATTN: Ben Martin
CC: Mayor And Council

Dec 7, 2023

RE: Parks Master Plan Engagement – Project Priorities

Dear Mr. Martin,

On behalf of the Peninsula Streams Society, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to engage with the recent Parks Master Plan stakeholder workshop as an environmental stakeholder. For our organization, our goals remain the same: 1.) restoration of stream and shoreline habitats to mitigate the impacts of historic changes, and 2.) protection against future threats including the increasing need for development and the impacts of climate change. For our Mission, it is also critical that we engage with the community through stewardship and education.

For stream priority projects, we would like to continue to focus on **Reay, Chalet, Tseycum, and Ten-Ten Creeks** by improving instream and riparian habitats, reconnecting floodplains, and building green stormwater infrastructure like urban wetlands and rain gardens. For shorelines, our focus is the protection of forage fish shoreline habitats. Our volunteers and partners have positively identified many beaches in North Saanich as spawning and burrowing forage fish habitats. Some of the most productive beaches anywhere on our coast are in North Saanich and as a community, we need to use every tool we have to ensure their ability to persist into the future. Importantly, this means creating space for beaches to adapt to Sea Level Rise through forward-looking planning for managed retreats.

Looking to the next three years our top priorities are to protect and restore three of the most productive shorelines in North Saanich and on our coast including **Tryon Beach, Nymph Point Beach, and Lillian Hoffar Beach** through beach nourishment, backshore marine riparian improvements, and implementation of conservation tools such as coastal covenants**.** We are pleased that North Saanich is interested in supporting and partnering on these important shoreline protection projects at Tryon, Nymph Point, and Lillian Hoffar beaches. We are seeking imminent large-scale grant funding in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation that would center North Saanich and these sites as case studies of Nature-Based Solutions. This includes developing guidance tools, mapping resources, and scalable on-the-ground restoration demonstrations.

We anticipate federal and other funding would cover over 70% of this program's expenses, and **request financial support from North Saanich in the value of $60,000 planned to be spent over the next three years.** Please see the attached proposed project scope for more information.

North Saanich's contribution will help us leverage significantly larger funds to deliver some on-the-ground priorities in shoreline restoration and conservation in North Saanich Parks and build greater capacity to continue assisting North Saanich with their ecological protection initiatives.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Executive Director
Peninsula Streams Society
250 508 8456

Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition

Protecting nature by building community

[redacted] comments

November 7, 2023

Introduction to your report

- Outline better the connection to the OCP process because it is a question the public has.
- Outline the essential connection of nature to human mental, spiritual and physical health. Essential in today's society to get away from the crazy world we are exposed to.

1. Tsehum Harbour

- Incorrect. *1 park that is owned by Parks Canada and maintained by the CRD (Tsehum Lagoon Park) --- page 13 reference to MBS….*
- The correct reference is Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the key federal organization is the Canadian Wildlife Service within Environment and Climate Change Canada. It is jointly located within North Saanich and Sidney.

https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/shoal-harbour.html

- 1.6 Chart is wrong reference re above. Pls change.
- Change all your maps accordingly
- Very important are Tyron Beach, Nymph Park and Lillian Hoffar park.
- Tsehum Harbour Lagoon is a special ESA of some sort. This designation helped with the removal of a derelict boat. Identify it in your report.
- Reference the proposed SHMBS Integrated Management Plan with Sidney. What is its status?

2. A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula (2021)

Pleased to see the reference to Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula. However, your whole report requires a broader peninsula-wide system context. Example:

- purposely link with the Central Saanich process.
- Cross border streams like Reay Creek
- Beaches.
- Connectivity with the trail network

3. Current Tree Bylaw

- Need to reference the current tree bylaw, particularly re tree canopy and the recommendation for a peninsula-wide community forest mapping strategy

4. Engagement Process

- You need a concerted effort to have input from children, youth and families……currently missing,
- The current survey misses this demographic completely…figure out how to connect with them and get their input.

5. Marine Zone Designation.
    - Sidney has a 300 metres marine zone designation approved in their recent OPP
    - Would hope that North Saanich would do the same.
    - Very important for derelict vessels, etc
    - What is the connection with the Saanich Peninsula Harbours and Waterway Initiative? Explain.

6. Chart 2.1 Strengths – Challenges

- A good summary
- Public washrooms are important --- ex Lillian Hoffar
- The issue/challenge re invasive species should be emphasized more.
- Connectivity is and will be a challenge. Identify it more.
- The importance of a natural assets inventory isn't emphasized enough. Without this inventory, you will be challenged to determine the role of parks in natural asset management to improve North Saanich's infrastructure.

7. Park Types

- Glad to see a Systematic approach – very important
    - However, base it more ecological zoning/vegetation types not just user interests and size.
    - This approach will be better for identifying gaps.
- Liilian Hoffar – needs to be a nature park not a community park. Excellent birdwatching and place to explore vegetation types, etc
- Might there be an 'agriculture park' designation to pick up Sandown? Sandown is an important natural space and although not a park in the traditional sense it performs many park-lke functions.
- the *3/30/300* approach. Used in Saanich and found useful. Not perfect but a good long term analysis model.

8. Gap Analysis

- Largely agree with your analysis.
- The climate landscape lens needs to be stronger. Stress the importance of 'backcasting' from the future landscape type in your planning. Don't just go forward from today's landscape.
- Improve/include data on red and blue listed species.
- I question this reference – please confirm. *Within the sanctuary federally protected habitat of Marbled Murrelets.*

Lastly the report needs a section on staffing/capacity.

- How many FTEs and budget will be required to deliver on this proposed system.
    - Chart outlining Required, optimum, basic levels for comparison.
- If you can't deliver on what the system needs why bother doing it all.
- Also, the need for a staff biologist/ecologist as part of this FTE analysis.

Observations and Comments from the Stewardship Commission

The State of the Park report confirms what many of us already know – in North Saanich we are very fortunate to have a large number of hectares in the District dedicated to parks and trails, with ready access by most residents, especially when you include all parks, such as trails and nature parks.

Some new parks may be needed, as noted in the Report (for instance new neighbourhood parks if there are new large developments). But the Report does not identify the need for new parks as an overarching priority for the next ten years. We agree. Rather understanding, maintaining and preserving what we have is essential.

The Report states that it is "offering insights into the natural assets, demographics, and environmental considerations that collectively shape the management and planning of its outdoor recreation spaces". (page 4, Executive Summary).

Our parks are much more than "outdoor recreation spaces" We also need to recognise parks for their intrinsic value; for what they represent, their function in the environment, their link to our history and our culture, so that we can identify what we should protect and how it should be maintained.

Parks have multiple values and make a range of contributions to our community, including outdoor recreation, but also protection of cultural assets of both settlers and First Nations; ecological assets such as habitats, ecosystems, wildlife corridors and natural assets such as watershed, waterways, shorelines, tree and canopy cover, carbon sinks.

We suggest that heritage, defined both ecologically and culturally, be added to the considerations that shape the planning and management of our parks. Broadly defined heritage is what a community inherits from the past that we value and want to preserve for future generations. Parks are an important legacy of natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Perhaps most importantly, including heritage can provide context for action toward Reconciliation – an opportunity to address the gap in our recognition and understanding of First Nations heritage within our Parks and rebalance our stories of history in the District to include the stories and heritage of the neighbouring First Nation communities within the context of our parks system.

More broadly, an awareness and appreciation of both cultural and natural heritage contributes to pride of place, strengthens community interest in what we protect and conserve, and helps us understand its value to our well-being and the health of our environment.

The natural and ecological assets in the District are part of larger systems that go beyond Park boundaries. North Saanich still lacks a forest management plan or a natural asset management plan. As all these plans are developed, thought needs to be given as to how they will integrate with the ten-year Parks Plan. For example:

> How are the parks and public lands the district owns being included in considerations about the forest canopy? Can this be the genesis for the development of an overall tree/forest management plan that includes inventory, targets, and development of forests on these areas? How are natural assets in parks and public lands identified? What are the management considerations for a natural asset within a municipal park?

The Parks Plan should address the issue of capacity of the District to do what needs to be done in a timely manner. With only 4 parks staff, the District is limited in what it can maintain. And maintenance demands are growing with increased use. We may not know the users/hectare of parkland but we do know that the District's natural assets are assets for the Peninsula. Sidney is our commerce area. North Saanich is (one of) Sidney's parks area.

Staff levels should not be the limiting factor for the future, quality or safety of our Parks. Adequate resources are needed over the next ten years to properly care for the Parks that we have, including park maintenance, restoration and renewal.

- Address invasive plant species (restore habitats and ecosystems)
- Properly care for variety of park assets
- Protect against overuse; protect sensitive areas and ecosystems
- Maintain and renew infrastructure
- Monitor and enforce regulations (for instance, rules for horses and dogs)

All the needs and wants of the community need to be costed and clearly communicated. For example, the Report highlights interest in more community gathering places but where? Could Sandown and/or Noble Gardens be considered? Any priority projects need to be matched to potential funding sources beyond the tax base, such as looking at options for philanthropic support, granting organisations.

Some undeveloped beach accesses cannot provide easy or safe access to beaches (too steep, unstable slopes etc.) The District could consider looking at trade-offs between some undeveloped beach accesses and the opportunity to purchase parkland elsewhere to meet community needs.

Finally, our community and park visitors need to know and understand our parks and their assets – what we are preserving and what they contribute to our community. Site-specific knowledge encourages public respect for what is being conserved, protected or restored; provides a basis for public to understand the cause and effect of their behavior in our parks. This is important in light of increased use of our Parks, and increased evidence of higher use having some damaging effects. Knowledge will help garner support to maintain them.

Education/public information opportunities :

- Improve on-line information accessibility and content (compatible with mobile devices, interactive maps, searchable attributes, inclusive and consistent information across all information sources)
- Similarly update published Parks and Trails guide (new parks, trails amenities, consistent information with online information sources)
- Add more site-specific interpretative information signs so that information is readily available to Park users when they visit
- Celebrate First Nation heritage in place names, signage and interpretation
- Work with volunteer groups and local knowledge holders to provide educational opportunities (Friends of Dominion Brook Park, Friends of North Saanich Parks, Peninsula Streams, First Nations)
- Consider exploring options for inviting research programs from university/college
- Information and programming with schools in the District



NORTH SAANICH PARKS MASTER PLAN

PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

August 2024

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1. ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

1.1 ABOUT THE PROJECT

The District of North Saanich is preparing a Parks Master Plan to meet the needs of the community. The purpose of the project is to strategically guide staff work and Council decisions on parks policy, planning, capital improvements, and management over the next 10 years (2024-2034). The plan will guide the future planning, design, protection, and maintenance of existing and new park infrastructure and amenities.

The Parks Master Plan is being informed through a multi-phased engagement process to ensure the plan reflects the community's vision and meets local interests and needs. This document summarizes input gathered from the Phase 2 community engagement period, including a community survey, public open house, one interest group workshop, and written correspondence.

1.2 PROJECT PROCESS

The project began in spring 2023 with an assessment of the park system, summarized in a State of the Parks report and environmental desktop study.

Phase 1 of community engagement took place fall 2023. Opportunities for engagement in Phase 1, which included public and stakeholder sessions, helped shape the vision and priorities for the project. Results are summarized in the Phase 1 Engagement Summary.

Phase 2 of community engagement, the subject of this report, took place during spring and summer of 2024. The objective of the engagement was to promote and gather feedback on the Draft Parks Master Plan, and to help confirm key components of the document, including its vision, goals, and identified priority areas for implementation.

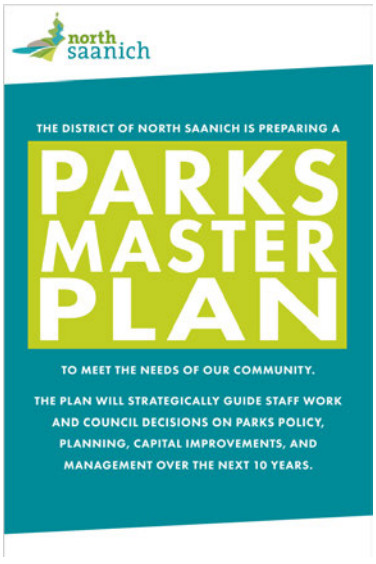


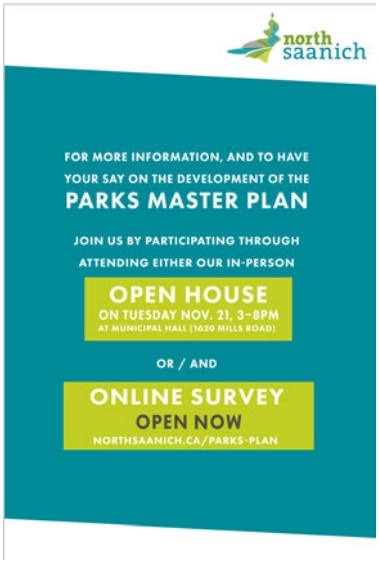
This feedback will be used by the project team to prepare a final Parks Master Plan, which is anticipated to be presented to Council in fall 2024.

1.3 PROMOTION AND OUTREACH

Promotion of the engagement process was important to raise awareness and encourage participation. The following were the communication methods:

- **District Webpage:** a landing page on connectnorthsaanich.ca/parks-plan described project information, engagement events, and had a link to the community survey.
- **District of North Saanich social media platforms:** regular posts informed community members about the process through the District's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter).
- **Media Release:** advertising was issued to the local newspapers, including the Peninsula News Review to promote participation in the survey and open house.
- **Stakeholder Outreach**: The District used their existing contacts with stakeholders, staff, and neighbouring municipalities to participate and promote the engagement activities.
- **Community Posters**: Posters and signage were placed at key locations in the community including:
    - Municipal Hall lawn
    - Fickle Fig
    - Deep Cove Market
    - Co-op gas station (Deep Cove)
    - The Roost
    - Pat Bay picnic area (bulletin board)
    - Panorama Recreation
    - All major North Saanich parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses





2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement approach provided a variety of opportunities to reach a broad audience of users and stakeholders in the community. The following were the engagement events.

2.1 ONLINE SURVEY

An online community survey was hosted on *Connect North Saanich* from May 28th to July 19th, 2024. There were **142 respondents** who answered 9 key questions related to the draft Parks Master Plan and its content. The findings are summarized in **Section 3.2.**

2.2 OPEN HOUSE

The project's second open house was hosted on June 26, 2024, from 3:00 - 6:00pm at Municipal Hall. **Approximately 45 people attended.**

This public open house included poster boards with information on the project purpose and contents of the draft Plan. Attendees were given opportunities to provide their input and answer similar questions to those on the survey. Attendees could discuss topics firsthand with North Saanich staff and members of the project team.

Findings from the public open house discussed in **Section 3.3.**



2.3 INTEREST GROUP WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, August 13th, the Parks Master Plan team met with members of the Healthy Community Living Advisory Committee (HCLAC) to discuss their comments on the Draft Plan. This 1.0 hour workshop was held online, and the Committee's feedback was as follows:

- Considerations for park reclassifications in the draft Plan.
- Recommendation for conservation-oriented actions in the Plan, to preserve natural areas.
- Support for acquiring more land for additional park space, particularly for neighbourhood parks outside of ten-minute walking distance.
- Integrating OCP into the final Plan, and vice versa – through references to greenways and climate change.

3. WHAT WE HEARD

This section describes what was heard from the community during the engagement, including key themes and input from the various activities.

Note: *Phase 2 engagement for the Parks Master Plan began in the spring of 2024, coinciding with the May 7th closure of the Wain Road pickleball courts. This engagement phase captured a lot of feedback about this matter, from both impassioned residents against the closure and neighbourhood residents relieved by the decision. The District understands that pickleball is an important topic for the community, and this report acknowledges and respects all feedback received.*

3.1 KEY THEMES

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- **Patricia Bay Park**, **Wain Road Park**, and **Dominion Brook Park** were the top 3 priorities for park enhancements, according to both survey and open house participants.

"It is clear that a number of improvements are needed in the area of parks and I support them. For too long, parks have been an "off the corner of a desk" project. They need to have a greater priority with the necessary resources."

SHORELINE ACCESSES

- Survey participants indicated support for shoreline access improvements, with a slight preference for the **Tatlow Road access** connecting to Chalet Beach.
- Survey and open house participants supported **access improvements** (ramps and stairs) at popular destinations, to improve accessibility for all members of the community.
- Vehicle parking adjacent to popular beach areas were supported to promote accessibility.

"Many of the beach accesses have steep concrete steps that are difficult to navigate."

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

- **Improving plant and animal habitats** through enhancements (e.g. planting drought tolerant species, installing bird/bee/bat boxes) was a preferred priority for many engagement participants.

"The approach to parks should be more protective of the natural ecology. They need to be the first consideration, not humans. Environmental preservation should be the lens that is used for any action."

GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PLAN

- The **vision** and **goals** received over 60% favourability ("somewhat" or "very satisfied" responses), suggesting a level of general support with opportunities to refine them through additional input.
- Participants expressed **appreciation** for North Saanich's parks and trails, reiterating that they are an invaluable resource to the community and visitors.

"I appreciate how well the trails are maintained. It is a fabulous resource. I have lived in many places in the world and have seen nothing like it."

IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION

PICKLEBALL

- This phase of community engagement received numerous written comments related to the closure of the pickleball courts at **Wain Road Park**.
- The topic was the **most common theme** in all open-ended questions that were asked about the draft Parks Master Plan.
- Participants stressed the importance of having local spaces for people to play pickleball, to promote **recreation**, **social connection**, and **active living** for people of all ages.

"Please reinstate Pickleball courts at Wain Park. They are greatly missed"

OTHER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Other recreational activities that were suggested throughout this phase included **basketball, lawn bowling, tennis**, and **walking soccer**.
- Opportunities for integrating more **family-friendly amenities**, such as playgrounds and educational signage.
- The topic of a **recreational boat launch**, particularly for kayaks and paddleboards, received support during engagement.
- It was noted that many accesses to the water are **too steep** to comfortably transport a kayak or paddleboard.

I think that the parks are lacking recreational facilities, other than hiking trails. More emphasis should be placed on active, sport and physical exercise opportunities

TRAIL EXPANSION AND CONNECTIVITY

- Support and interest for expanding North Saanich's trail network.
- Appreciation for woodland pathways connecting residential areas to local parks and destinations.
- Opportunity to enhance equity and community health through an equal distribution of trail networks in North Saanich.

"I really like the idea of connecting parks - we love the woodland pathways that weave between and behind houses and roads"

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & MAINTENANCE

- Strong support for **preserving natural spaces** throughout North Saanich, with a focus on 'letting nature be nature.'
- Suggestions for the District to strike a balance between park improvements (e.g. garbage disposal cans) and maintenance.

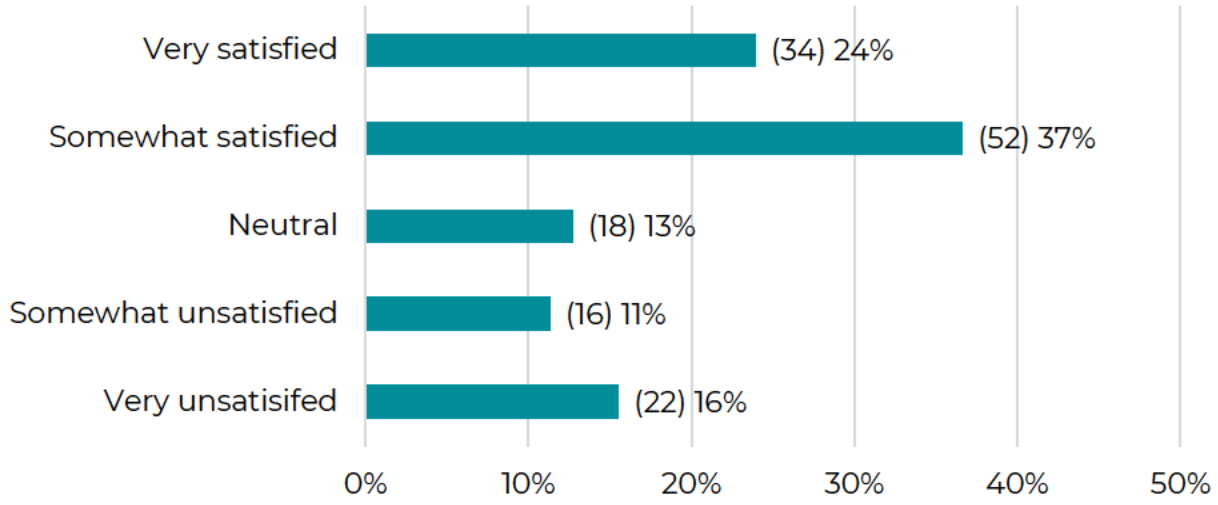
"Naturalization and habitat projects are very important, and these strategies should underlie any park management project"

3.2 SURVEY FINDINGS

The following pages summarize the input from the online survey. The "n=" beside the question indicates how many people responded to that particular question.

3.2.1 VISION & GOALS

Q1: What are your thoughts on the vision? (n=142)



KEY FINDINGS

- A majority of respondents (61%) were somewhat or very satisfied by the vision in the draft Plan.

Q2: Please add any comments on the vision (n=71)

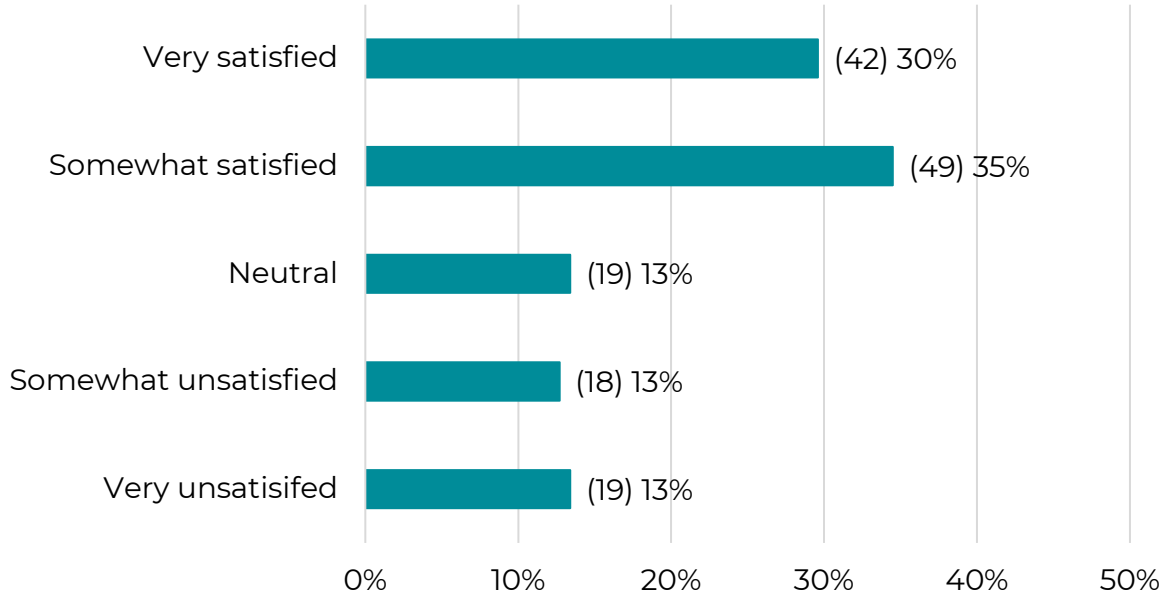
Participants were invited to share any additional comments on the vision statement. The top themes from their comments are summarized in the table below.

Theme	# of Comments
Reinstatement of Wain Rd. pickleball courts	23
General support for the vision	12
Edits to draft vision	9
Importance of recreation	8
Vision needs follow-through	4
Not ambitious enough	3
Too expensive	3
Emphasize "family-friendly"	3

KEY FINDINGS

- The highest number of respondents (23) commented on the closure of the Wain Rd. pickleball courts and encouraged their reinstatement. Related to the vision, some respondents cited that "support recreation for all people" is an important aspect of the vision for them and relevant to the topic.
- Comments expressed support (12) for the vision as written, citing that it captures the big picture of the Plan's direction.
- Several respondents (9) provided suggestions for the wording of the vision, for clarity and readability.
- There were several comments (8) emphasizing the importance of recreational spaces and the District's role in supporting them. In relation to the vision, some respondents requested the vision to be more specific in how the District will promote recreation for all people.
- Other top themes were making the vision more ambitious in its protection and management of parks (3), comments about the cost of implementation (3), and added emphasis on promoting more family-friendly spaces and amenities (3).

Q3: What are your thoughts on the goals? (n=142)



KEY FINDINGS

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) were somewhat or very satisfied by the goals.

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Q4: Please add any comments on the goals (n=62)

Participants were invited to share any additional comments on the draft goals. The top themes from their comments are summarized in the table below.

Theme	# of Comments
Reinstatement of Wain Rd. pickleball courts	20
General support for goals	6
Environmental protection and enhancement	6
Trail expansion and connectivity	5
Set measurable goals	5
Importance of recreation	5

KEY FINDINGS

- Many respondents (20) reiterated their desire for the reopening of the Wain Rd. pickleball courts. In relation to the goals, this helps achieve the Plan's goal of improving connections with parks and people.
- Respondents (6) expressed general support for the goals, saying that they seem realistic and thoughtful.
- Comments (6) supported goals that had a greater focus on environmental and land protection, to preserve ecosystems including birds and animals.
- Respondents (5) also stressed more local connectivity through trails, to provide better access to parks and promote walking in North Saanich. Other respondents (5) preferred goals oriented around improving recreation opportunities.
- There were suggestions (5) to reword goals so that they can be measured and tracked over time.

3.2.2 PARKS PLANNING & IMPROVEMENTS

PARKS

Q5: Please rank your top six priorities (1 = your top priority) (n=142)

Ranking	
1	**Patricia Bay Park** Ideas include: • investigate the potential for a recreational boat ramp • Improve beach access for mobility challenged users • Improved washroom facilities. *Average rank = 3.03**
2	**Wain Park** Ideas include: • Determine best use of existing pickleball court. *Average rank = 3.25*
3	**Dominion Brook Park** Ideas include: • Preparing heritage conservation guidelines; • Investigating solutions for the failing pond, creek and fencing near the pond; • Study the park's natural assets including inventorying its • unique plants and heritage trees *Average rank = 3.42*
4	**Jubilee Park** Ideas include: • Improvement and expansion of the parking • Lot for additional spaces and increased safe/accessible pathways; More shade trees, seating areas and picnic sites; • Washroom facilities *Average rank = 3.58*
=5	**Cy Hampson Park** Ideas include: • Make an official off-leash dog park with best practice design guidelines for dog parks. *Average rank = 3.84*

=5	**Denham Till Park** Ideas include: • Replace playground equipment; • Removal of old shed/structure; • New park features including a paved parking lot, washroom facilities, water spray park, and/or labyrinth; • Consider heritage value of the park. *Average rank = 3.84*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Patricia Bay Park received the lowest average ranking (highest priority), followed by Wain Park.

SHORELINE ACCESS

Q6: Please rank your top four priorities for shoreline access improvements (1 = your top priority) (n=140)

Ranking	
1	The west end of Tatlow Road *Average rank = 2.21**
2	The west end of Downey Road *Average rank = 2.37*
3	The west end of Moses Road *Average rank = 2.52*
4	Warrior Point *Average rank = 2.89*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- On average, respondents preferred improvements to the shoreline access on the west end of Tatlow Road.

BEACH ACCESS PRIORITIES

Q7: Please rank your top four priorities for popular beach access parks (1 = your top priority) (n=141)

Ranking	
1	Identify opportunities for access improvements (including stairs, ramps, pathways, etc.) at popular locations. *Average rank = 2.07**
2	Conduct a feasibility study for a recreational boat launch. *Average rank = 2.63*
3	Create parking management plans for popular locations. *Average rank = 2.64*
4	Identify shoreline access parks that could be converted to natural areas. *Average rank = 2.66*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents indicated a higher priority for access improvements (stairs, ramps, pathways, etc.) for popular beach accesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

Q8: Please rank your top three priorities (1 = your top priority) (n=141)

Ranking	
1	Habitat enhancement projects (e.g., including planting drought tolerant/climate adaptive species and installing bird, bat and bee boxes) *Average rank = 1.79**
2	Naturalization pilot projects (e.g., limiting mowing, planting native plant species) *Average rank = 1.94*

3	Climate-adaptive shoreline restoration pilot projects (e.g., Tyron Beach, Nymph Point Park, Lillian Hoffar Beach) *Average rank = 2.27*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents slightly prefer habitat enhancement projects over the other environmental enhancements listed.

FINAL COMMENTS

Q9: Do you have any final comments about parks and trails in the District of North Saanich you would like to share? (n=85)

Participants were invited to share any remaining input related to parks and trails in North Saanich. The following is a summary of themes expressed by five or more respondents.

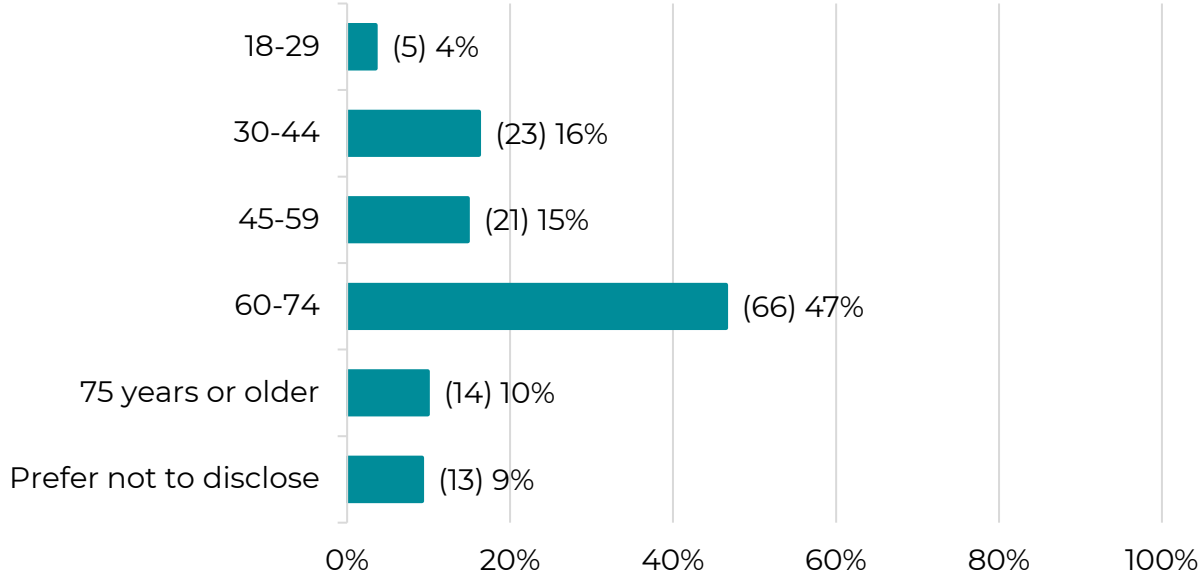
Theme	# of Comments
Reinstatement of Wain Rd. pickleball courts	25
General support for parks and trails	9
Trail expansion and connectivity	8
Park maintenance	6
Environmental protection & habitat enhancement	6
Naturalization	6
Manage project costs responsibly	5
Support for boat launch	5

KEY FINDINGS

- Many respondents (25) commented on the importance of pickleball courts in the community, after the closure of the courts in Wain Road Park. Respondents generally called for the reinstatement of the courts, citing its benefits for community health, recreation, and socialization.
- Respondents (9) expressed appreciation and enjoyment of the current parks and trail system in North Saanich, emphasizing their value for the broader community.
- There were various (8) suggestions for expanding or connecting certain trails within the community, to encourage active lifestyles while promoting safety.
- Respondents (6) encouraged the District to prioritize regular maintenance over other park enhancements.
- There were comments (6) to prioritize environmental protection, through the use of native plantings and other measures. Naturalization projects (6) were also supported.
- Some respondents (5) indicated that recommendations in the final Plan should consider municipal capacity and resources, urging for low-cost but high-impact improvements.
- There was some support (5) for building a recreational boat launch for kayaks, paddleboards, and other small watercraft.

3.2.3 WHO WE HEARD FROM

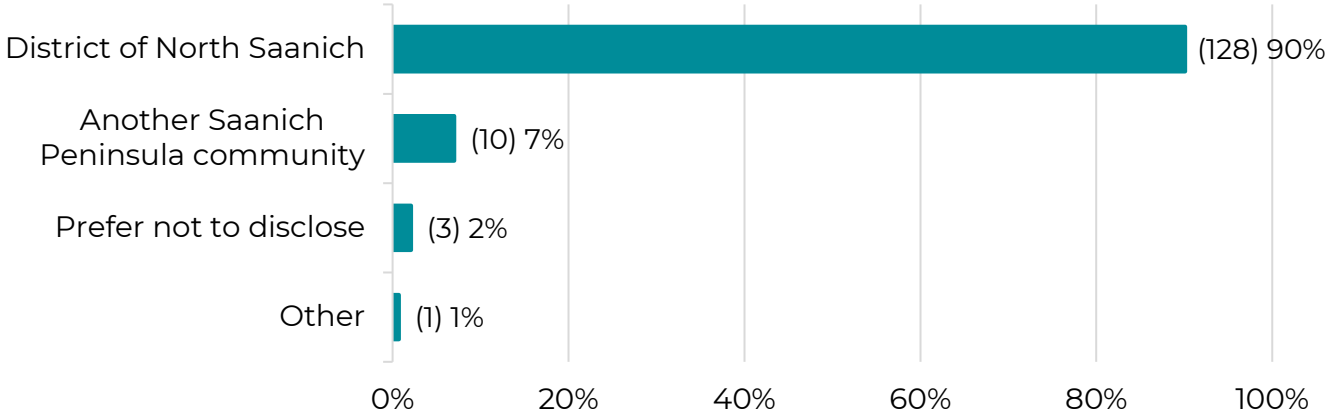
AGE OF RESPONDENTS

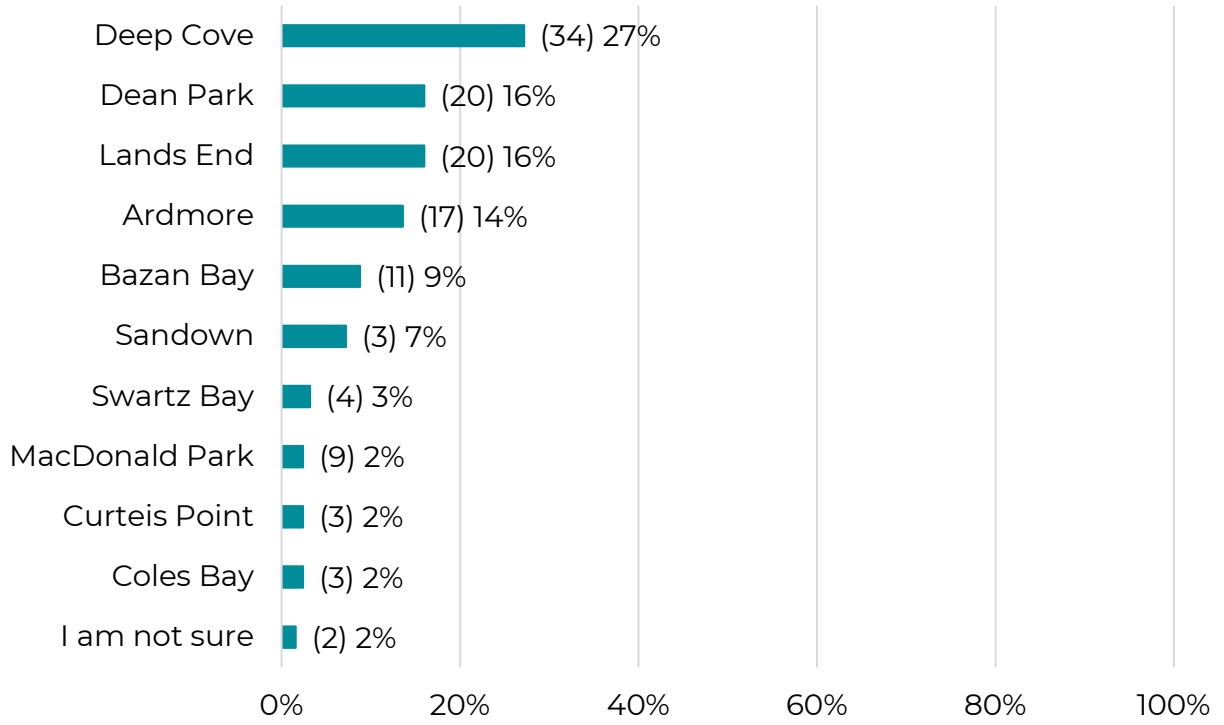


KEY FINDINGS

- Almost half of respondents (47%) were between the ages of 60-74 years old.
- The second-largest age group (16%) were respondents between 30-44 years old.

WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE





KEY FINDINGS

- 90% of respondents live in North Saanich, with 27% of respondents living in the Deep Cove neighbourhood.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS

The key findings from the open house boards are summarized below. Feedback was recorded on sticky notes written by participants. The ranking activities

VISION AND GOALS

What are your thoughts on the vision? (n=18)

Written feedback from open house participants pertained to the following topics:

- Support for Wain Rd. pickleball courts (7 comments)
- Keep parks as natural as possible (6 comments)
- Vision needs more focus on sports (2 comments)
- More focus on maintenance of current parks (1 comment)
- Parks also benefit local ecosystem, flora and fauna (1 comment)
- General support for vision (1 comment)

What are your thoughts on the goals? (n=18)

- Support for Wain Rd. pickleball courts (11 comments)
- Expand trail network (woodland pathways) connecting to parks (2 comments)
- Conservation of natural areas (2 comments)
- Idea for a "nature passport" to educate park-goers (1 comment)
- More focus on recreation (1 comment)
- General support for draft foals (1 comment)

PARKS PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENTS

Please rank your top six priorities (1 = top priority)

Ranking	
1	**Wain Park** Ideas include: Determine best use of existing pickleball court. *Average rank = 2.30**
2	**Patricia Bay Park** Ideas include: • investigate the potential for a recreational boat ramp • Improve beach access for mobility challenged users • Improved washroom facilities.

	Average rank = 2.43
3	**Dominion Brook Park** Ideas include: • Preparing heritage conservation guidelines; • Investigating solutions for the failing pond, creek and fencing near the pond; • Study the park's natural assets including inventorying its • unique plants and heritage trees *Average rank = 2.88*
4	**Jubilee Park** Ideas include: • Improvement and expansion of the parking • lot for additional spaces and increased safe/accessible pathways; More shade trees, seating areas and picnic sites; • Washroom facilities *Average rank = 3.2*
5	**Denham Till Park** Ideas include: • Replace playground equipment; • Removal of old shed/structure; • New park features including a paved parking lot, washroom facilities, water spray park, and/or labyrinth; • Consider heritage value of the park. *Average rank = 3.84*
6	**Cy Hampson Park** Ideas include: • Make an official off-leash dog park with best practice design guidelines for dog parks. *Average rank = 3.86*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Wain Park received the lowest average (highest priority) among open house participants, followed by Patricia Bay Park and Dominion Brook Park.

BEACH ACCESS PRIORITIES

Q7: Please rank your top four priorities for popular beach access parks (1 = your top priority) (n=141)

Ranking	
1	Identify opportunities for access improvements (including stairs, ramps, pathways, etc.) at popular locations. *Average rank = 1.86**
2	Identify shoreline access parks that could be converted to natural areas. *Average rank = 2.35*
3	Conduct a feasibility study for a recreational boat launch. *Average rank = 2.75*
4	Create parking management plans for popular locations. *Average rank = 2.79*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Open house participants indicated that access improvements

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

Q8: Please rank your top three priorities (1 = your top priority)

Ranking	
1	Habitat enhancement projects (e.g., including planting drought tolerant/climate adaptive species and installing bird, bat and bee boxes) *Average rank = 1.79**
2	Naturalization pilot projects (e.g., limiting mowing, planting native plant species) *Average rank = 1.94*

3	Climate-adaptive shoreline restoration pilot projects (e.g., Tyron Beach, Nymph Point Park, Lillian Hoffar Beach) *Average rank = 2.27*

**Lower average = higher priority*

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents slightly prefer habitat enhancement projects over the other environmental enhancements listed.

Do you have any final comments about parks and trails in the District of North Saanich you would like to share? (n=64)

Open house participants left 64 written comments to provide feedback. The top themes (receiving 3 or more mentions) are provided in the table below.

Theme	# of Comments
Reinstatement of Wain Rd. pickleball courts	29
Naturalization of parks	6
Support boat ramp for kayaks and paddleboards	4
Expand and maintain local trail network	3
Install more garbage containers	3
Washrooms	3

KEY FINDINGS

- Many open house participants (29) commented on the closure of Wain Rd. Park's pickleball courts, urging them to be reinstated or rebuilt. Participants emphasized their importance for social connection, recreation, and active living.
- Participants (6) expressed support for keeping parks natural by conserving trees and plant life.
- There was support (4) for a local boat ramp to launch kayaks and paddleboards.
- Open house participants (3) appreciated the quality of local trails, sharing that the network can be expand and further maintained.
- There were suggestions (3) for installing more garbage containers within parks, with one respondent suggesting receptacles on the north end of Scoter Trail.
- Participants (3) also suggested building washrooms in parks, namely Jubilee and Wain parks.

3.4 WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

The key findings from written correspondence, which include are summarized below for each question. There were a total of 12 pieces of written and email correspondence for Phase 2, and they are included in detail in Appendix B.

Resident Correspondence

- Balance between District's operational capacity and forward-looking park improvements. Implementation will be dependent on the District's staffing levels. Maintenance for new amenities, such as washrooms and garbage disposal, may outweigh the benefits.
- Greater alignment between OCP's focus (nature-based solutions) and key outcomes of draft Plan.
- Support for park naturalization, park classification, and green infrastructure management.
- Enforcement of dogs on-leash rules within North Saanich parks.
- Importance of natural corridors for plants and animals to be connected across the peninsula.
- Engage other community perspectives, including young families and youth, to inform final direction of the Plan.
- Accessibility concerns about current beach accesses (Moses Point, Chalet Beach, Lands End Road access)
- Suggestions for human powered boat launch (kayaks and SUPs)
- Park improvements at North Saanich Freeride Park, including plumbed washrooms.

Comments from Organizations & Community Groups

Island Health

- Recommendations to align linear park planning with active transportation objectives, to improve equitable access to parks and green spaces throughout the District.
- Engage with equity seeking groups to improve Plan outcomes.
- Use diverse and nature-based structures in parks to promote creativity and social cohesion.
- Assess readability of signage in terms of sight and language barriers.
- Support and address invasive species management.
- Identify initiatives that help with climate resilience and adaptation.

Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society

- Fact corrections and additions about the society and its roles and responsibilities.
- Support for interpretive and wayfinding signage.
- Recommendation for dog waste bins and signage in Dominion Brook Park.
- Support for creation of park management plan, partnership with the District, and various other actions for Dominion Brook Park.
- Other document-specific clarifications and suggestions.

4. NEXT STEPS

This engagement summary concludes the Phase 2 engagement process. The findings from this process will be used to inform the final *Parks Master Plan* which will be presented to Council. We sincerely thank everyone for their contributions and interest in the project.

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS

Q2: Please add any comments on the vision

I read the WHOLE thing. It was comprehensive.
Washrooms
To some extent the three goals are contrary to one another: if we assume that they are in order of priority, I support it.
May I suggest "..... and support recreation for residents and visitors"
Gets the bigger picture
You consistently overlook, and do not include, the importance of native insects, birds and animals. They must be named and part of the plan, everything is connected (systems approach) but aren't!
Covers all the bases. Predictable direction. Lacks a bit of context. NS intentionally pursued lineal parks and trails, rather than playfields, both to reflect resident priorities and keep taxes low. The plan is more urban and expensive than needed.
Stretching from shore to land to shore=
Need something about gathering and building community. I don't like the rural character mention, but I guess I'm in the minority.
I don't feel like senior recreational activities are being recognized and supported. In particularly the closure of the purpose built Pickleball courts at Wain Rd. PA
I would rate your vision as being in accordance with a standard of excellence, if your decision making, policies and actions were in accordance with your vision. Unfortuntately that is a very large gap between vision and policy decision making..
I would like the Wain Park pickleball courts to be re-opened.
Short sighted on growth
Pickleball
From your guiding principle: "... Improved management and upgrades of the existing parks and amenities is a priority over adding new parkland and amenities." I would take this as keep what you have instead of closing/converting perfectly fine facilities.
You are Punishing and ignoring hundreds of your constituents. You close the Wain road Pickleball courts without providing us anywhere else to go. The courts that you suggest we use are completely inappropriate.
I think the vision is not specific enough particularly with respect to promoting social connections for residents and promoting an active lifestyle. I don't believe the current council has any idea what they are doing.
a serious shortfall is the meeting of community recreational needs: the emphasis is on 'environment' which is a good thing but not to the exclusion of recreation. Also the vision life span does not address emerging trends (ie pickleball).
Our parks clearly do not support recreation for all people since we have nowhere to play pickleball, one of the most popular games in North America today. The one open court at Panorama is not regulation size and doesn't have the proper surface.
'Support recreation for all people' is another lie. Quit wasting taxpayers money and reinstate Wain Rd. Pickleball Courts. Build more pickleball courts build more for ALL PEOPLE!
the plan is little more than status quo. there is little vision, little progressive consideration. This process costs a lot of money but does not deliver value.

limited in scope; does not adequately address sports, specifically the emerging demand for pickleball
The repurposing of the Wain Road pickleball courts is a waste of resources and paints NS council and residents in a bad light as uppity, selfish and entitled. entitled
I cannot place any trust in the "Vision" of a Parks Master Plan that recommends repurposing the Wain Park pickleball courts. This is a travesty and as a North Saanich resident I demand you reconsider.
Clearly states the desires for MORE pickleball courts and council has closed the only courts without FIRST before building alternative OR adopting sound barrier on existing . Additional court location Rec center / Parkland no sound concerns
'for all people' sounds stilted. Just say 'for all'.
The vision seems like an attempt to be poetic but comes sounding inane. The idea of supporting recreation is not supported in the document.
Although it's a vision statement it's quite vague and could be applied to any community
Vision great. Plan falls short on safeguarding environment component.
I cannot put any faith in a "vision" that includes closing the Wain Park pickleball courts. As your own Master Plan draft states, Wain Park is the second most used community park and it is almost solely because of the courts.
All community members not all people
Delete "Stretching from shore to land to shore". It adds nothing to the vision statement.
I moved to North Saanich for the rural character. Green space and recreational areas are very important. I don't want to see sprawling densification.
Vision should include reopening pickleball courts oat Wain Park and possibly building more.
The build relationships and partnerships and communications are words only. What I have witnessed is a lack of cooperation regarding at least one park, that is Wain Road where the mayor and council seem to be making decisions without adequate information.
As long as environmental protection is primary (and development is kept to a minimum in parks), i do support the above statement if that was clarified.
I am certain the needs of the aging population are misconstrued. There are many active people in this community that do more than walk trails. The recent pickleball issue highlights the activity level of the NS district. There are not 5 courts available
Need to set NS's parks and trails within the context of the Saanich Peninsula and important to stress collaboration with neighbours. Better reflect the approach taken by MOCPAC toward nature based solutlions, etc
Pickleball offers essential mental and physical wellness benefits for all ages, please reopen the Wain road courts back to the community.
Please prioritize kid and family friendly parks
The vision should also include Enhancing health of residents; Climate Change and Biodiversity.
I don't care for the wording of the first phrase; I do like the mention of shore(s) and land base. The rest is good.
A comment regarding when one lives close to a park, one should expect others to use it.
Disappointed that this is missing information on flora & fauna. very focused on people.
Vision statements, in my experience, can consume vast amounts of time that benefit few people.
The spirit of the vision statement appears to be open and not limiting

This can be interpreted to mean that special interest groups may get priority in some cases. I suggest changing to "support recreational pursuits that meet the needs of municipal residents while maintaining the quite enjoyment of residents".
It would be nice to have stroller & wheelchair access trails/parks/play park in the Swartz Bay area. We had to drive everywhere! The trails are amazing for walking/hiking, but not for stroller or W/C. My kids missed out, but would like to help future res.
"support recreation" is highly questionable statement for a Mayor and Council who openly oppose the rapidly growing and extensively participated in (by residents) sport of pickleball.There are even District strategies that speak in favour of pb.
Keep Wain Road pickle ball courts open. More pickle ball courts.
Playground improvements in the area are needed for this growing and young community!
Looks like a great start. Always interested in how the goals re achieved
It seems we have spent so much time and money on planning parks when the homeless is skyrocketed
That sounds like an east/west vision. What about north south ?
We do not/not want a boat ramp anywhere. It just adds noise and pollution, and they are already available in the area.
Conceptually good, the statement is somewhat confusing, not understand the relevance of stretching aspect, more about connecting communities and people, promoting health.
Lots of description but light on actual planning
It is always interesting to see the composite results for a large-scale community survey (round 1). I agree that the lack of waste facilities is a problem, particularly near beaches and parks that people with dogs frequent.
Such a huge amount of work for you! I did not see a clear discussion of the invaluable Moses Point beach area, and I hear rumours that this could be destroyed by a landowner's boat launch and shoreline modification.
Should include "beach accesses"
Please no more pickleball!
I will be very satisfied if the pickleball problem is resolved to everyone's satisfaction as soon as possible.
Parks have necessarily been a balance between recreation and conservation! I believe there should be more attention paid to ecosystem health than is presently reflected in this vision.
it's ok as a motherhood statement, the details are what matters.
Very ambitious vision - we should aspire to do only what we have people and resources to do well.
Removal of invasive species - grants, volunteers where safe, some municipal taxes.
400 senior citizens have lost their social and physical network at Wain Rd pickleball
Wain Rd Courts Should Reopen
"Recreation for all people" ? You'll never satsify eveyone. Maybe leave out that phrase - too open.
The vision is adequate, checks all the boxes but isn't very creative/catchy.
For Denham Park enhance orchard and create a family picnic area.

Q4: Please add any comments on the goals

building sidewalks in neighbourhoods is vital to making walkable communities and improving access to parks.
The goals are realistic and thoughful.
I would shift the order To me, the overarching goal is - Protect and Enhance our Natural Environment
The approach to parks should be more protective of the natural ecology. They need to be the first consideration, not humans. Environmental preservation should be the lens that is used for any action.
A goal should not to be efficient. It should be to provide services where people need them. Rest of the goals are great. Particularly the last two.
Vague goals. No proactive measures to address the fastest growing sport in North America. Many other jurisdictions are planning and moving forward with Pickleball in their OCP
Again, a large gap between vision and policy as it relates to "Improving Connections" and "Building Relationships":
North Sannich government does not communicate and is not trustworthy
Taking the pickleball court away from at least 500 north Saanich taxpayers of NS without notice is not listening to people.
Accessibility to all. Improve beach access with good parking options. Regain municipal land (road side) to create parking instead of putting not parking signs so elite residents don't have non-locals park in front of their house. Briarwood example.
You do not represent a large number of people in North Saanich
no comment
specifically: repurposing the Wain Park pickleball courts does not serve the greater number of users (who on earth plays hand ball?)
Providing connections is a great goal but North Saanich has already failed on this point when it refused to open the public right of way in the Dean Park neighborhood that would have allowed walking between Richland Place and Porlier Place.
1 2 3 goals. 4 5 will Not succeed with that current mayor and all but one council member. Time for a overhaul!
maintenance is falling short. if you build a ball diamond then maintain the backstop. if you build a pickleball court then maintain it as such (install sound mitigatgion).
the mayor and council clearly do not want to improve connection with people to parks (or their first choice wouldn't be to close the Wain Park pickleball courts.
I find it hard to believe the documents says there are 5 picklball courts, those are CLOSSED. Panorama multi use art is joke, it is dangerous and not lined properly.
You say you want to improve relationships, communications, partnerships and improve connections with parks and people but the Wain Road pickleball debacle shows that you have another agenda.
If your goal is to destroy the "most successful outdoor recreation facility every built by the District of North Saanich" by repurposing the Wain Park pickleball courts then your priorities are way off.
Build relationships, partnerships and communications is very vague. Communications feels like an add-on.

The goals completely ignore one of the key functions of the park; supporting recreation. Are the “connections between parks” referring to transportation issues?
Does not address accessibility, recreation, safety, indigenous knowledge and involvement
I hope a goal is community building through shared spaces. I would like to see recreation as a goal as well.
Suggestion for re use of Wain Road Park pickleball courts is Walking Soccer which is the worlds fastest growing team sport. Please check out the details on the Vancouver Island Soccer page.
there is nothing about adding new protected parkland
Protection component limited in PMP
Your draft goals are just words. Closing the Wain Park pickleball courts goes directly against pretty much all of them!
Need to include improve healthy sporting activities for seniors such as pickleball
Rebuild relationship with pickleball players in area and reopen courts at Wain Park. Closing them was a waste of taxpayers money already invested.
If you are meeting the needs of the community then I don't see the "healthy aging" criteria being addressed.There is significant research showing the aging population plays pickleball, tennis and could use workout facilities such as adult playgrounds
i love middle one (protect & enhance natural) … i like the idea of new parks (and washrooms protect environment from pollution), we don’t need new sports infrastructure, lawns don’t need to be mowed as often, and last 2 points are fine.
Closing Wain road courts is a waste of taxpayers $$. The voice of a few is preventing the majority from enjoying the sport of pickleball. Where are the 5 courts?. Why hasn’t sound mitigation been installed? Why is there no cooperation with the PB people?
Very traditional - not exciting at all. Don't seem to reflect a climate lens, the connection with human health and a broad peninsula wide context. NS can't manage their natural assets alone.
The use of uppercase letters for every word is incorrect. First word of each bullet should be upper, the rest is lowercase (unless they’re proper nouns = formal titles/place names)
There is only ONE substitute pickle ball court available and that's in Sidney on a tennis court with pickle ball lines which is less than ideal. Please return the designated pickle ball courts to the community, please be kind with your actions/responses
Improve Park Planning, Design, and Park Amenities - I don't see the value in that goal. Parks and train should remain natural. Don't require amenities except where they exist for kids to play on equipment and those are often provided by the schools.
The goals should include a statement on expanding the park system by including the management of more park lands such as Pavelic Park in Ardmore.
It is clear that a number of improvements are needed in the area of parks and i support them. For too long, parks have been an "off the corner of a desk" project. They need to have a greater priority with the necessary resources.
Would like to see an emphasis on corridors. Strongly support conservation initiatives.
How is the current mayor going to perform the build relationships, partnerships and communications when he has such a tiny team he works with?
The goals appear general and aspirational in kind - does the district have the resources to address all of these goals? These goals assume that park planning, management and protection were insufficient in their present form - is this the case?

I also understand the limited mowing, but I am also aware of increased ticks and risks involved in our area . Please do not keep the grasses long at edges of trails, or where children/familes play/picnic.
I use the trails daily and I feel dogs should always be kept on a leash. Often dogs jump up or bark at me but also they go off the trails and disturb the wildflowers and plants off the trail.
how about improving existing "amenities" such as the Wain Park pickleball courts? "build relationships" ?? the Mayor and Council actively ignore relationships in favour of listening to individual's complaints!
Keep Wain Road pickle ball courts open. More pickle ball courts.
fuzzy... goals should be less subjective, more objective - i.e. measurable
While I support the goals, they are quite broad and all encompassing and I question our ability to achieve them without significantly increasing resources.
I would like to highlight the need for better beach access. The so called developed areas are not really developed. Would be nice to have access that facilitates recreational water use such as paddling
The goals are good. They get to the heart of the issues.
A discussion about horses would be valuable. Is horse use increasing? I think not. I see horse hobbyists as using up valuable agricultural land. Horses are hobbies, like dirt bikes, and not agricultural.
We should put a major focus on natural environment and habitat for birds and animals.
Consider the importance of sports like pickleball on the health and wellbeing of our seniors... such activities keep us out of the hospitals more than putting us in them.
Satisfied with 'natural environment' and improved connections (pathways). park amenities usually consider infrastructure rather than habitat - perhaps the term 'amenities' needs more definition.
I believe the community is well served. With pristine trails and parks and beach accesses. Maintain what we have at a higher level.
People are coming to NS parks from away, so we don't need to spend money and resources accommodating urbanites' wishes to have more urbanized parks with pavement, etc.
Keep our park natural for tree coverage, the birds and animals that live there or are migrating through.
Lack of facilities for senior citizens
More pickleball courts needed
Numbers 1 and 2 - don't "improve" and "manage" our parks and trails our of rural into urban.
Recreation for all people is important to quality of life. Removing access to our beautiful Wain Rd. courts is heart breaking for a large number of players of all ages. Improve, don't remove park amenities. Let's do sound mitigation - done in many locales
These goals are great but when Council actively votes to remove a park amenity that serves everyone including active seniors without adding sound mitigation then the Council is NOT serving their entire community

Q9: Do you have any final comments about parks and trails in the District of North Saanich you would like to share?

Remove PM2 "Establish Procedures for Outsourcing Planning". This is a waste of staff time to develop such a policy. This is an operational item that council and the public should not be engaged on.
sidewalks are needed in many neighbourhoods to encourage active lifestyles while promoting safty.
Stay within the exisiting budget
Funding to Maintain existing infrastructure appropriately isn't even mentioned.
Protection of the environment is contrary to almost every other item on the list. Park users should carry out what they brought in, including excrement. Some of our parks should be on-leash only. Indigenous names be accompanied by phonetic pronunciation.
I think the Recommendations section of the Draft Plan is way over the top in terms of $, time, staff resources, and ideas need to be pared down to a semi realistic number.
Yes, and I will do it through the Healthy Living Committee. What happened to adding the South East Quadrant, when asking where I live?
Protect native species of insects, birds and animals. Provide safe passage and nesting areas for them.
Beach access parks should have priority Handicapped parking closest to access points. I have limited mobility as do many others such that minimizing barriers to access would be a significant enhancement to quality of life
We shouldn't be expecting parks be at an "urban standard". A low key, affordable parks system is appropriate.
All parks are lovely and to be enjoyed by everyone . I am excited to hear about the work being done for a boat Ramp preferably on the Pat Bay side . Beautiful waters and islands to explore lets make it more accessible. No long waits to launch :)
Additional designated offleash dog parks/trails, other than just cy hampson, in different areas of the district would be preferred. Sand volleyball courts, not located on a windy ocean side spot, ideally near some sort of restaurants.
Denham Till park is falling apart and is borderline unsafe. It's in a great location, just down the road from the school and market. It would be great to see this prioritized, as the play structure is borderline unusable with how much it's decaying.
Large Gaps Between Policy and Practice in Community Engagement, Collaboratiion, Best Practices, Application of an Age Friendly Lens, Inculsivity, Accessibility, Social Cohesion, Spontaneous Play, Parks for All People, Relating to Pickleball Court Closure.
We need to have the pickleball courts re-opened with sound mitigation in place. These courts should remain open until new courts are built at a more suitable location.
Please reinstate Pickleball courts at Wain Park. They are greatly missed.
Be more inclusive
Pickleball courts at the Wain Park are already there. Open the courts. Taxpayers will not accept spending money on repurposing what is already there.
DO NOT decommissioned pickleball courts. There already are tennis, no body plays volleyball (need sand), handball, and ball hockey here, but 100s play pickleball. . Improve the pavement surfacing for the basketball court. Replace basketball net.
I'm not really interested in your plan. I have lived in North Saanich for 35 years. You do not represent ourselves nor the hundreds of people that enjoy Pickleball. I found your actions with regards to Pickleball vindictive
I have been incredibly disappointed with this council. Their handling of the Wain Road courts was simply unbelievable. They should be ashamed of themselves. This is from a 35 year NS resident. Very sad.

rather than expand on an already good system, focus on regular maintenance.
Do not consider repurposing Wain Rd pickleball courts. Add sound dampening technology and reopen these valuable and much used courts immediately.
Don't fix what is not broken like Wain Rd. Pickleball courts. They are the only public purpose built pickleball courts. MCMinn Park is next closest. Create more parks & trails for everyone not just 50+
don't naturalze playing field / recreatiion parks
I find it hard to believe that there are no true pickleball courts in North Saanich, fasted growing sport for all ages and we have non, we have the property to build which is more than other places. Sad to say I live in North Saanich and can't play here.
Install bear proof garbage cans
Save the Wain Park pickleball courts! Install sound mitigation!
Yes! I am a heavy user! No more paved parking lots! only gravel as better for environment. If planting more trees, someone must water them regularly or they die. Waste of $ to plant trees & then not water them! Need benches for elderly/you
Would be great to convert the pickeball court to multi-use recreational facility that would appeal to all age groups, not just the older folks who play pickleball. Ideas: Basketball, volleyball, badminton, corn hole, etc. (not tennis or pickleball please)
I would like to see the pickleball courts (with sound mitigation) released for use at Wain Park. Also it would be nice to have better drainage and parking at Cy Hampson to allow year round use without having to put a muddy wet dog in my car
I think that the parks are sorely lacking recreational facilities, other than hiking trails. More emphasis should be placed on active, sport and physical exercise opportunities.
I love all of the trails throughout ardmore area! Would love to see a more kid friendly link from these paths to the Airport trail (divided bike lanes).
we need sidewalks as well as trails
More land conservation
Please make parks more family friendly.
Congratulations on producing an excellent report and recommendations. Thanks for the many opportunities to participate.
Regarding trails. When will construction start on the Reay Creek pedestrian bridge and when will it be completed?
I would like to maintain the rural feel and natural spaces in our parks - these areas are used by wildlife too so creating more parking is nice but not at the expense of vegetation and wildlife
Great parks and trails. Reopen pickleball courts at Wain Park so folks can enjoy the game outside in their community.
Closing Wain road courts was not based on evidence regarding sound mitigation which is available and is being used successfully. I moved to this community specifically because of the courts. The waste of taxpayers dollars to close courts and repurpose!
we don’t need excessive trails within parks, nor do we need expanded parking. think more natural is more ecofriendly
Most of the parks are excellent. NS needs to listen to the people regarding PB. No closing Wain Road until another venue is built. Put up sound barriers, set reasonable time limits on play, ensure permits are obtained for large tournaments, cooperate!
1. Better link to the direction of the OCP. 2. Focus on nature based role and natural infrastructure. 3, Put into changing climate context. 4. The reference to Tsehum Harbour Park is wrong. 5.Why no mention of Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Please consider making parking available at beach access pts. Invest in sound barriers for the pickleball court. Such a waste of tax dollars to let it sit there. We live down the road and don't play pickleball but we want to see these facilities used.
Districts are setting up pickleball courts, they recognize it's a rapidly growing sport that is attracting people of all ages. Kristy Lowes, mgr Uptown, "there's a need in the community for recreation". Pls adopt her forward-thinking approach to recreatio
Don't support placement of garbage disposals cans. It will require staff time to pick up, diage people from taking their garbage home with them. Also keep trails natural, no need to bushwack wide trails. If adding ground coverage don't use road base
To open & keep open as many beach access points along the west shore of North Saanich where all the good swimming beaches are. Often access points are hidden or limited (eg shrubs, rocks, etc) by waterfront owners.
Please prioritize family friendly spaces and usages
North Saanich has an excellent parks and trails system and it should be protected from development such as that occurring between Towner Park Road and Norris Road.
Term definition would help understand these choices. Such as the difference between plants for habitat enhancement and naturalization, which is planting native species. Usually habitat enhancement involves planting native species.
I am not a pickle ball player and I think it is a shame that council has closed this facility that is keeping our community active and healthy. It would be a waste to take these courts down if this is being financed by north Saanich.
8. I do not support concrete parking lots/trails. I strongly support banning pesticides on any public property. What is climate-adaptive shoreline restoration pilot projects? if its concrete seawalls I do not support anything other than live sea walls
Couldn't skip a question. Tsk tsk This survey is more marketing to sell pre agreed upon iniatives than bona-fide research. The questions include a short list of answers that do not reflect the full range of possiblilitiee including "None of the Above".
Naturalization and habitat projects are very important and these strategies should underlie any park management project
John Rd trail to W Saan doesn't exist, or is overgrown... also this should connect to the new mcdonald park trail by can tire!! Trails along busy rds like wain or w saanich, bike lanes arent for peds! Don't need more parking, make it safer to walk
It would be nice for a boat launch & paddle board area locally.
need more trail links (eg by Glen Meadows or at end of Tribune) like Broadmead. Need more kayak launch sites with good access AND parking. Too few pickle ball courts with Wain Rd closure (plan says 5 courts - sadly not any more)
I appreciate how well the trails are maintained. It is a fabulous resource. I have lived in many places in the world and have seen nothing like it.
the system is quite nice. don't put a lot of effort ($$) into naturalization; just maintain the trails and let nature take its course
Keep Wain Road pickle ball courts open. More pickle ball courts. Please be progressive in your thinking and provide recreation for the NS and Sidney areas. PBall is a fast growing sport for ALL ages, seniors and families. Put in sound mitigation.
It is my understanding that there is a plan to make a trail from West Saanich Road to Alec Road, in the Coles Bay area. I was told that there is a gazetted access, probably right next to Pauqachin. This distance is not large as Alec road, but no access
Consider parks/trails controlled by others; e.g. the Airport trails &potential for parks on their lands, and connecting to Sidney's active transport network/parks. What's balance btwn no mow and fire prevention? Can't rank impr. to parks I dont visit!
Put pickleball on south west side of airport near their viewing area

Thank you for the opportunity to have input. I agree with the decision to close the pickleball courts at Wain Road due to the noise pollution and hope that the District holds firm. I strongly oppose pickleball being played in a residential setting.
No
Many trails and linear parks are right of ways that could be developed - is there any intention to secure these in their current state? Increasing awareness and understanding on enhanced assets like rain gardens and bioswales. Need more space to write..
For playgrounds it would be nice to add adult equipment for outdoor fitness
I agree 100% with habitat enhancement, which goes with native plantings+climate adaption. They are all connected.
I was unsure what "recreational boat" means. I am in favour of improved access for canoe/kayak launches. Many of the beach accesses have steep concrete steps that are difficult to navigate. This does not have to be expensive.
Better transit promoted to improve access
We have the most beautiful parks and trails. We must do everything to maintain them.
All are important. hard to rate these
Resolve the pickleball situation to everyone's satisfaction, build a recreational boat ramp, and do everything possible to help wildlife, and you will have created paradise on earth!!
Question 9 provides 3 excellent initiatives - can they be undertaken concurrently?
Nymph point, Lillian Hoffman, Taylor beach all have archaeological significances. First nations consultation and relationship building opportunities.
Please dedicate resources to actually accomplish these objectives
Acknowledge the equestrian committee for the trails which were started for the most part at the start of the official North Saanich and the money put toward them in the preamble of park in the new OCP.
Yes, not enough pickleball courts!!
Add more pickleball courts!
If we profess to be a "rural" municipality, our parks and trails should be minimally "improved" and not developed to the n'th degree. We don't have to pave every parking lot, rendering them impervious in winter and hot in summer
Perhaps the Wain Rd. pickleball court could be made into an outdoor/lawn bowling area which might appeal to the demographic that feels so 'put out.'
Pickleball is growing in popularity for ALL AGES! Especially good for seniors to stay fit and out of hospitals. Our courts are beautiful and it is a waste of taxpayer money to have them closed. We need more courts so that Wain is less busy.
Promotion of active aging - pickleball is life! Want to look at other uses for these courts? Handball. Do not waste taxpayer money - these courts were expensive and have become a jewel in NS's recreation. Go for the win and put sound mitigation

APPENDIX B: WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

DRAFT MASTER PARKS PLAN

The Project Summary is a helpful overview.

Key outcomes

Some of the actions could possibly be done by staff, but without a Parks Department much of the work may require use of consultants. In balancing costs to the district and property taxes, the expense of a dedicated Parks department is a steadily increasing municipal cost.

North Saanich (NS) has consistently maintained relatively low property taxes due to minimal service levels. As residential densities increase, service demands tend to increase, along with corresponding staff needs and property taxes.

Section 1.5 Key Background Documents

OCP public engagement :
Boat launch - The desire for a boat launch has been pursued for over 30 plus years, with considerable energy directed toward the airport, the province, the federal government etc. Nearly all the launches available in the past are no longer open to the public; one on the west side of the District closed many years ago.

Beach accesses – The easily opened and cheap beach accesses have been completed. The Downey Road access was difficult, expensive and controversial. Parking is an issue at most beach accesses.

Park maintenance - Is, and continues to be, heavily dependent of volunteer efforts. At one time NS did have an "Adopt a Park" volunteer initiative.

Wildfire – The Wildfire Hazard DPA was removed from our OCP by an unenlightened council majority during the 2011 – 2014 term. The Wildfire Protection Plan (2021) (page 13) is an inadequate replacement.

2023 BC Housing Legislation – (page 12) is **not** a response to the housing affordability crisis, and specifically rejected amenity bonusing efforts to achieve affordable housing.

Wain Road Tennis Courts – The rebuild was partially financed by a $50,000 contribution from the Bailin family, and are designated as the Dee Bailin Memorial Tennis Courts. There is a memorial stone next to the courts with the name, to honour a dedicated, many term councillor.

Section 2.2.1 – (page 16) Knowledge of demographics is useful, however information in this section is **flawed and incorrect**. The population increase for NS of 9%, reported in the 2021 census, was unusually high for NS in a census period, and one of the highest percentages seen in the Capital Region for that period. It is certainly not "relatively low" in comparison with other municipalities throughout the region. In addition, it was much higher than municipalities within the Urban Containment Boundary where urban expansion was intended to be accommodated.

Further, the number of households with children under 14 living at home is shown for the 2016 census, not the 2021 census. Whether higher or lower, the trend needs to be accurately expressed to be meaningful.

Section 2.3, page 17 – At one time there was a Friends of Lilian Hoffar Park.

P. 18 Peninsula Recreation Commission also leases the former Greenglade School for activities, and at one time had an agreement with School District 63 for use of the gymnasium at North Saanich Middle School in off hours.

P 27 – 4.1 Vision –The inclusion of the words "for all people" is misleading and unrealistic. Provision cannot always be made for "all people". The

wording is high level and can end after the word “recreation”. Further, in the Goals section, #4, “community needs” requires further definition and thought. #5 – Same is true for “cultural amenities”.

Goals -The repetition of need for garbage collection needs to be mitigated by a couple of considerations. First, public facilities can be abused by those who are reluctant to pay for their own garbage collection. Second, NS does not provide garbage collection to residents. Each must make their own arrangements.

Protection and enhancement of natural environment is increasingly threatened by rising densities and development.

5.1.1 – (pages 29 – 32) All of these naturalization examples are cities with no resemblance to the referenced “uniqueness” of NS.

P. 37 – The suggestion to integrate outdoor exercise equipment has been considered. We see the continuing example of the outdoor exercise equipment beside the Resthaven Library in Sidney, across from the Shoal Centre, which equipment is rarely used. This initiative has been suggested and rejected.

Part B, p 42. Most municipalities require boulevard frontage maintenance by residents.

Generally, the recommendations are useful, with unfortunate continuing emphasis on provision of washroom facilities.

Regarding dog and park considerations, the CRD Board has been debating these issues for at least a decade.

Also, surveys to date, have shown two thirds up to high 90s in satisfaction with existing situations, which indicates to me, no high pressure to make changes.

Comments
draft North Saanich Parks Master Plan

July 3, 2024

Overall a thorough, well done analysis.

1. North Saanich's OCP process is moving toward a focus on nature-based solutions, natural assets management, jurisdictional collaboration and the principles of bioregional planning – all within the need to apply 'a climate lens' to each aspect of North Saanich's operations.

Given this context it is surprising that the Key Outcomes (pg. 7) don't more clearly reflect these priorities.

It is also unclear how the key Outcomes link to the Vision, Goals and Objectives (pg. 27).

2. A priority for the management of North Saanich's park system is conservation, so it was encouraging to read (pg. 19) about the opportunities to enhance environmental protection, such as: invasive plant management, naturalization of riparian areas and shorelines, the identification of natural corridors, and that eelgrass and fish spawning habitat will be restored and naturalized.

It is important that these activities and the associated key locations be highlighted in updated DPA and ESA designations for protection through the bylaw process.

3. The Vision, Goals and Objectives statements reflect the importance of both the natural environment and providing much needed services for the public to enjoy.

Consider adding a Goal that reflects the importance of purposely linking with Central Saanich and Sidney; with specific objectives related to such matters as nature-based solutions, tree canopy, connectivity across the landscape (both natural and recreation) and the protection of natural areas and shorelines.

4. Very good to see mention of park naturalization, the proposed park classification system and the value of natural asset/green infrastructure management.

Important that these three processes be confirmed in the future OCP policies, actions, zoning and by-laws.

Re the park classification system

- *Pages 43-46. It would be less confusing if parks/trails only under North Saanich jurisdiction were listed. The listing would then coincide with the listings in Table 4 page 56. Any others can be shifted to or referenced in Table 3 page 47.*

- *As suggested in previous comments, Lillian Hoffer Park should be classified as a Nature Park not a community park. This is an excellent park for spring plants, fall mushrooms, bird watching and wildlife viewing and the classification should reflect that.*
- *Table 3 page 47 needs to reference Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.*

Good to see the three proposed measures for supply analysis: population, walking and percent protected. It would be valuable if North Saanich adopted a measure for each of these three categories, then there are metrics for measuring success and public accountability. As you may know, the 3-30-300 rule is becoming more commonplace as a standard metric, although being a rural area it may not be applicable.

Table 8 would be more valuable for comparative purposes if it included Sidney and Saanich.

5. It's important that you highlighted the need for dog control measures.

Dogs need to be on-leash in nature parks, and seasonally in other park designations if birds and wildlife are threatened. Enforcement is essential as the research shows strictly volunteer compliance isn't successful.

6. Agree with your summary comments (pg. 75) about the need for more specific park management plans, overall capacity, aging infrastructure and the need for a parkland acquisition strategy to address increased use.

Two additional challenges are: i) collaboration with Sidney and Central Saanich to build out a peninsula-wide context for the park system, and ii) the relationship with the W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples, as this is their home.

7. Good that you have acknowledged the importance of natural corridors and the role that the trails and paths can play in facilitating the movement of species across the landscape. The ability for both animals and plants to move north-south, east-west and land-sea is critical as North Saanich's landscapes are so fragmented.

As nature doesn't recognize boundaries, Figure 27 needs to be expanded to include all of the Saanich Peninsula and how North Saanich's trails and corridors will link with similar systems in Sidney and Central Saanich.

A similar map is also required to highlight natural corridors – where they exist as well as the gaps – and how they might be conserved. In this regard, agriculture lands have an important role in landscape connectivity.

This plan needs to address the question whether horses should be allowed in nature parks – as there is concern about the harm they do to the trail system as well as the introduction of invasive plants.

8. It seems that the biggest challenge facing North Saanich is the operational and by-law enforcement capacity to undertake what is described in this draft master plan.

Table 11 describes a community comparison – which would be much improved if Sidney and Central Saanich were included. However, what is missing is an analysis of the FTE's and budget requirements, over the next five to ten years, to meet the demands to deliver this plan successfully.

9. Pleased to see the conservation of natural areas description pgs. 96-97 – in particular the section on naturalization.

There is mention of 'a shared vision for sustainable conservation practices'. Is this a public document as it would valuable for people to read in context with this draft management plan?

The hardening of shoreline by the building of seawalls is a critical issue. How specifically can this issue be addressed in the final parks master plan – perhaps the adoption of green shore measures should be a final recommendation?

Has North Saanich a percent forest canopy objective? Shouldn't it be specified in this plan or the OCP?

10. Pleased to read that following consultation the recommendations will be organized into a short, medium and long-term implementation plan.

It seems that adoption of P1 (Park Classification System) and PM1-4 (Park Management) are the critical recommendations. The remaining recommendations can be adopted accordingly.

P8 (or a variation) describing collaboration is instrumental to the overall success of the proposed recommendations.

Suggest that the proposed implementation plan include a matrix implementation analysis describing staff and funding capacity under three scenarios: existing capacity, realistic capacity and ideal capacity. Such a matrix would provide a picture of how the park management function can be delivered overtime.

Regarding funding sources, there is no mention of an increased 'park management tax'. If, as you state in this plan on numerous occasions, the North Saanich residents strongly support the natural environment and their parks and trails system, you'd think a specific tax to deliver on this plan would be strongly supported. Such a CRD-wide tax to support their Parks and Trail system was adopted years ago and continues to be strongly supported by the public.

11. Additional comments:
    - The draft plan needs to update/correct the references related to Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. I provided this information previously, so was surprised it wasn't corrected in this draft.
        - I am not aware of any location called Tsehum Harbour Park owned by Parks Canada. Pg. 9, pg. 10, pg. 17
        - I believe you are referring to Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, which is under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wildlife Service within Environment and Climate Change Canada.
        - SHMBS is a federal designation within the both North Saanich and Sidney. So, Sidney and North Saanich have a joint responsibility.
        - Likewise, there is no mention of the proposed Shoal Harbour Integrated Management Plan in the draft plan: https://northsaanich.civicweb.net/document/60489/rpt%20Tsehum%20Harbour%20updat/
        - FYI: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/shoal-harbour.html
    - The voice of children, youth and their families is important to include, as the park and trails system you are developing is their future. Please ensure that this survey and any subsequent public process specifically reaches out to this demographic to gather their input and perspective.
    - Lillian Hoffer Park needs public washrooms.
    - Unless I missed it, this plan doesn't specifically mention the Sandown area. Sandown is an important natural space as well as for agriculture. Perhaps an 'agriculture park' designation or something similar to recognize and protect this important habitat.
    - The draft master plan could make a stronger connection to human health and the value of just getting outside. The connection between ecological health and human health is an important message that needs stronger emphasis. The park prescription project is excellent: https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/en/about

Draft Parks Master Plan
Comments from the Board of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society

Fact corrections and additions

p. 17 Dominion Brook Park name is misspelled (no "e" on Brook)

p. 17 The mandate description in the report for the Friends of DBP Society (raking, weeding and garden maintenance) is only one facet of our responsibilities.

The report omits our role/responsibilities related to raising public awareness of the park and its history, maintaining archival records, raising funds for park projects and work, caring for the ornamental plant collection and identifying and labelling plants (which includes maintaining a detailed plant inventory).

These roles are laid out in our governance documents which were provided to the consultants and discussed at our face-to-face meeting. (The tripartite Stewardship Agreement with the Government of Canada, the District of North Saanich and the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society, an MOU, a letter of understanding and a lease agreement. In addition, the Constitution of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society further elaborates on our goals and activities.)

p 64. Remove reference to the historic train station.

We take responsibility for this misinformation. For many decades the train station served as a tea house in the Park and it was our understanding that the picnic shelter was that building. However, through a recent review of some archival records, we learned that the train station was removed and the picnic shelter built in its place in the late 1950s.

Feedback on community-wide recommendations

Interpretive and wayfinding signage
We are very supportive of the recommendation to provide more interpretive and way-finding signage. In keeping with our mandate to raise public awareness of Dominion Brook Park, we have installed signs explaining some hardscape features, site and plant history and we have produced a park map.

Our goal, in sharing information about the Park, is to educate the public about the its history, the unique horticultural collection and to encourage visitors to treat the garden beds with sensitivity to protect what grows there.

In addition, we suggest that the report include a recommendation for the installation of dog waste bins and signage re dogs in Dominion Brook Park and any other parks where off-leash

dog walking occurs, to communicate expected behaviours for dogs and their owners and to promote responsible use of parks.

Park management plan for DBP

We noted with enthusiasm that Dominion Brook Park is listed among the parks identified as a potential candidate for a park management plan. Our Society has been a partner in the stewardship of this beautiful park for almost a quarter century. We cherish our role in enriching our community by taking care of this amazing arboretum and public park. We are responsible for proper maintenance of the horticultural collection, with the goal of the preserving, restoring and enhancing the original design. We have a horticulturalist on our Board who can identify virtually every species in the Park and who provides professional care to the plant collection.

Our Society would welcome the opportunity to partner with the two other stewards of the Park (District of North Saanich and the Centre for Plant Health) and with park users in the development of a management plan for Dominion Brook Park.

We see a park management plan as an opportunity to:

- Confirm the Society's inventory of existing trees, shrubs and park features and their significance to the history and ecology of the site
- Identify and assess the sensitive ecosystem areas, sensitive planted areas, features of heritage value and how they should be best managed, protected and conserved
- Identify existing conditions including what needs changes or improvements (such as accessibility, pond and water course, winter flooding, surface treatment, invasive plants)
- Seek public input on the Dominion Brook Park management plan
- Set priorities for the path forward

Feedback on partnership and communications

The master plan draft has invasive management and preservation of natural areas at the top of the priority list yet does not define a role for professionals to tackle these ecologically complex problems. Instead, the report recommends encouraging peninsula-wide volunteer programs for invasive species management.

Invasive species management is a specialty area of horticulture practice. Without proper knowledge and techniques, removal can result in plants spreading their seeds, strengthening their root system, growing with renewed vigour and becoming even more difficult to permanently remove.

We strongly suggest a hybrid model that uses a mix of resources for invasive species management (volunteers and not-for-profits alongside professionals). We also suggest that volunteer training be provided and that the work is planned and led by experts. This will greatly improve the chance for success by helping volunteers understand how to:

- Identify invasive species and to distinguish them from native or ornamental species.
- Use tools appropriate to the job
- Carry out the proper species-specific techniques for invasive removal
- Properly manage the plant waste on site
- Exercise proper hygiene (cleaning boots, clothes, tools) to prevent further spread

Feedback on recommendations specific to Dominion Brook Park

Prepare conservation guidelines and consider the application for this park to become a National Historic Site, potentially classified as an arboretum.

- We support the spirit of this recommendation but have some questions.
- What is meant by "prepare conservation guidelines"? These already exist, developed and approved through federal, provincial and territorial collaboration. The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada are published on the site historicplaces.ca
  Is it the application of these guidelines to the Park that you are recommending? Who would be responsible for applying these guidelines?
- Who would apply for the Park to become a national historic site?
- Based on what you heard, what level of priority is this recommendation in relation to the other recommendations for Dominion Brook Park?

Hire a qualified Landscape Architect, hydrologist and/or QEP to conduct a site investigation to determine solutions for the failing pond, creek, and fencing near the pond.

- We support a plan to address the structural issues in the pond but feel the assessment and work should not be done in isolation from related site issues such as winter flooding, understanding the wetland ecosystem that has evolved at the site, and how the Park is used (eg. off leash dog walking).

- We suggest that this investigative work be done as part of the park management plan and that the resulting suggestions for changes and improvements be prioritized within that plan.

Consider opportunity to collaborate with universities and colleges to study the park's natural assets such as a detailed inventory of unique plants and heritage trees.

- This inventory already exists.

- The mandate of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society includes maintaining archives and raising public awareness of the Park's unique plantings. Consequently, we have done a survey of all the trees in the Park. We have developed a detailed inventory of the plants and trees based on government records and our own on-site

reconnaissance. We have maintained the Government's numbered labelling system used to identify the individual specimens and the bed numbering system where the plants are located. We have kept the Government card catalogue of plants up to date. We have an online plant database which is used by Park volunteers and its content has been thoroughly reviewed by the horticulturalist on our Board.

- Rather than recommending the development of a plant inventory, we suggest a recommendation in the report to make the existing plant inventory and plant history available to the public. Access to this information would enhance the visitor experience and support the historic legacy of the Park as a site of Government horticulture research and demonstration. Options could include a publicly available searchable database, an interactive map, a printed map, plant labels.

Continue to support and leverage opportunities to work with the community interest group volunteers.

- The Board and the membership of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society are proud of their contribution to the stewardship of the Park and support an ongoing role for our volunteers.
- We also see a role for professional assistance with aspects of Park maintenance, such as for the horticulture collection and invasive species management. In the past we have hired professional arborist and horticulture services to work for the benefit of the health of the shrubs and trees. Currently we are fortunate to have a horticulturalist on our Board who works in the Park.
- We have found that using exclusively volunteers for invasive species management is inefficient, ineffective, sometimes detrimental and costly. Longer term environmental and ecological benefits would be realised if the District engaged trained professionals to plan and lead this work, with volunteers assisting.

Suggestions for additional recommendations specific to Dominion Brook Park

- With regard to inclusivity, Dominion Brook Park has one designated accessibility parking space at the Marshall Road entrance. This entrance requires climbing three stone steps. To enhance accessibility and welcome more visitors to the Park, we suggest that the District add a ramp at the Marshall Road access.

- We suggest that the District install dog waste bins and signage re dogs in Dominion Brook Park and in any other parks where off-leash dog walking occurs, to communicate expected behaviours for dogs and their owners to promote responsible use of parks.

Additional observations

This master plan contains few details on how to achieve what is proposed, especially the complicated and challenging ecological and nature-based goals. Two of the largest, most complicated objectives/challenges listed, naturalization and invasive management, have no suggested techniques or specifics in the how-to sections.

It would be helpful to include links to references that elaborate on how certain management practices and suggestions should be carried out. This would help the community and District understand what is involved in accomplishing the goals.

We suggest adding a glossary. Glossaries are crucial for people to understand what they are reading, especially people with little related experience or education. Examples of key terms are never defined or the practices involved with the process never explained, for example nature, nature-based solutions, invasive species, naturalization, naturalization techniques.

The public should be able to clearly understand the difference between a 'no mow' area vs. a wildflower meadow because the maintenance approach and aesthetics will be different" Please specify what these terms mean, how the maintenance and aesthetics differ, and provide examples of different species that define them.

July 5, 2024

Ben Martin
Director of Infrastructure Services
District of North Saanich
1620 Mills Rd
North Saanich BC V8L 5S9

via email to: parksplan@northsaanich.ca

Re: Review – District of North Saanich Draft Parks Master Plan

Thank-you for the opportunity to review and provide comment on the District of North Saanich Draft Parks Master Plan. Through collaboration with communities, our Healthy Built Environment initiative seeks to support the creation of adaptive and vibrant communities to improve population health and physical, social, and mental well-being. Parks, trails, and natural environments play a key part in creating a healthier community through providing access to nature, encouraging physical activity, social connection, health equity and inclusion, and promoting resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Island Health appreciates the opportunity to review the draft plan from a health perspective. Overall, the draft Parks Master Plan has many positive aspects which are supportive of health. Highlights and recommendations provided under Island Health's Healthy Built Environment initiative are presented below:

Healthy Natural Environments - A healthy natural environment is one in which green spaces and natural elements are protected, integrated into the built surroundings, and accessible to all people including children, low-income residents and people with chronic conditions or disabilities. Elements which are supportive of healthy natural environments are noted in many areas of the plan; some of which are highlighted below:

- Goal #3 seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment. Parks Master Plan (PMP) recommendation T4 features prioritization of trail connections in new developments that connect important ecological areas allowing them to serve as habitat corridors. Preserving and connecting environmentally sensitive areas can protect biodiversity and ecosystem function, such as water quality, soil health and pollination.

- Reviewing and considering the ecological features of the park system including shorelines, stream corridors and green spaces has been identified as an objective of the plan. The plan acknowledges the extensive shoreline and recognizes both the ecological importance of this environment and the opportunities for play, physical activity, and social connection that

shoreline access parks provide. This is further supported through the PMP recommendation P4 to conduct an analysis of shoreline access parks.

- Section 5.4.2 presents nature-based park features as a best practice in park amenities and design to allow for meaningful connections with nature. Exposure and engagement with nature is linked to a reduction in chronic disease, stress, depression, and anxiety, as well as improved concentration and cognitive functioning.

Healthy Transportation Networks and Connectivity – By prioritizing active transportation modalities and enhancing connectivity, physical activity is encouraged and access to parks and greenspace can be improved. Areas of the plan which support these principles include:

- Goal #4 seeks to improve connections between parks by integrating trails with the active transportation network and establishing new trails to improve connectivity between parks, neighbourhoods, and community destinations. PMP recommendations P5, T2, T3, and T4 further prioritize these initiatives through planning for additional linear parks, trails and advancing the active transportation plan. Enhanced connectivity encourages people to walk or cycle for recreational and transportation purposes and increases total physical activity levels. Accessing parks and green space increases social well-being.

- PMP recommendation P8 supports connectivity through developing a wayfinding and interpretive signage plan for parks and trail with potential for trail connection to other jurisdictions.

Healthy Social Environments - Parks play a critical role in promoting social connection and well-being; some areas where the Parks Masterplan is doing well to create healthy social environments include:

- Encouraging community development projects that are neighbourhood based and resident-led and creating opportunities for community management of natural spaces. Goal #5 (Section 4.2) seeks to build relationships, partnerships and communications and encourage and support volunteerism while PMP recommendation T9 and PM9 feature collaborative efforts that support community leadership to support trails and invasive species management.

- Park design guidance (section 5.3) promotes social connection through encouraging parks to include gathering places, with seating and spaces appropriate for picnics and group activities according to the type and size of the park. This is further prioritized through PMP recommendation P12 to provide more park furnishings to make parks more welcoming and inclusive for all.

- PMP recommendation P10 replace outdated and aging park amenities provides an opportunity to increase safe places for children to engage in active and unstructured outdoor play.

Health Equity and Inclusion – Health equity means that everyone has a fair opportunity to meet their health potential. There are many positive aspects to the draft plan which support inclusion and equitable opportunities for social connections and access to natural environments:

- Section 5.3 seeks to establish guidance for park design and development to serve all people including the design linear parks with appropriate trail surfaces for multiple user groups.

- Section 5.5 is dedicated to inclusivity and supports this concept through the promotion of equitable access and considering unique needs.

- Walking distance analysis was completed as an approach to measuring parkland supply and access.

- Asset analysis includes suggestions for improvements that promote equity.

Climate Change Resilience – Parks, greenspaces and natural environments play a key role in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The plan incorporates climate change considerations which support health including:

- Section 8.1.5 discusses challenges and opportunities related to climate change mitigation, sea level rise, changing ecosystems, shorelines, stream and wetlands, forested areas and wildfire risk management and naturalization. These areas are further prioritized through PMP recommendations: PM3 Naturalization strategy, PM7 Shoreline climate-adaptive restoration pilot projects, PM8 Enhance habitat amenities with drought tolerant, climate adapted trees and plant species, and PM10 collaboration on wildfire risk management.

- Design guidance for parks indicates planting trees in parks to the degree possible for shade and as a contribution to the urban forest. Protection of the urban tree canopy can reduce the health impact of heat and offers protection against flooding.

- Under PMP recommendation P12 the provision of shaded areas including covered shelters and large tree and potable water access in parks are supportive of health with rising temperatures being experienced due to climate change.

Recommendations:

- Prioritize aligning active transportation plan and parks plan including linear parks and trails/pathways to improve equitable access to parks and greenspaces for those without vehicles (active and transit access) and to promote physical activity for all. The plans notes that many people drive to parks, consider increasing safe bike lanes to accommodate other modes of transportation. People are more likely to choose active transportation when they perceive it as convenient, safe, and accommodating to the needs of all users.

- Improve equitable access to parks and green space by seeking to improve access through enhanced connectivity and/or addition of parks for neighbourhoods not served by local parks within 10min walk. While it is noted in the plan that most of these areas are larger single-family lots with private yard space, parks and greenspace serve as places for social connection which support our well-being.

- To strengthen equitable participation in the plan's development and implementation, engage with equity seeking groups that may not have been represented in initial consultations by

reaching out directly, attending local events, and communicating with school district and community organizations that represent or work with those groups.

- When considering improvements for existing neighbourhood parks or community parks: consider furnishings, lighting, and diverse structures that promote creativity and many user groups. In newly developed parks with less amenities for play, consider improving these with diverse or nature-based structures. Since parks are important gathering places for communities, strengthen recommendations for amenities that support social cohesion and inclusion.
- When planning and implementing wayfinding and signage, assess the readability of signage in terms of sight and language barriers (i.e., use pictures/icons/large clear lettering on future signage, if refurbishing, and be consistent).
- Strengthen PMP approach to address invasive vegetation. The plan reports many parks face an ongoing threat of invasive plants. Challenges with invasive species management were identified as key findings from community engagement. Invasive plants can threaten biodiversity and natural ecosystem function. Goal PM9 encourages a community volunteer program for invasive species. While the effort to facilitate community leadership is commendable, consider increased strategy, coordination, and resources to support and address invasive species management.
- To support and strengthen commitment to climate resilience, identify initiatives and recommendations which support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Many healthy community design principles and healthy natural environment features have climate co-benefits.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned for further clarification or discussion.



[redacted]

[redacted]

To. Urban Systems &

Points about the Parks Master Plan. For the District of North Saanich.

RECEIVED
JUN 26 2024
DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

① What other ecologic practices exist beside Naturalization

② Recognition of parks as Natural assets is one thing but how to treat the parks as ecologic entities is something different - more details are needed.

③ I have trouble with the category linear Park - what is this really?

④ MacDonald Park Campground is federal

⑤ Hemlock does not occur here (Page 47)

⑥ Preparing some park management plans is good but who will undertake these? Will the ecology be an integral part?

⑦ Under Denham Trail - include inventory of vintage garden materials still present.

[redacted]

Hello Colleagues and neighbours,

Thank you for running these OCP events - they have been very open and friendly. As a North Saanich resident, I am very happy with how you are running them.

I am writing in response to the marine waterways piece for North Saanich. The "word on the street" amongst the human-powered boating people (SUPs, kayaks, canoes, etc) was that this event would be dominated by upset shorefront landowners who want to build docks. The street was not wrong, but there was one comment about trying to avoid becoming a "hellscape" (their quote) of docks like Piers Island.

Piers Island - great example of late stage capitalism. Please remember that our beautiful waterfronts are a common good, and "docks for all" destroy that beauty. Awful.



Launches and accessibility. The lone person asking about human-powered boat launch (me!) got a friendly response about tax-conservative North Saanich not wanting to spend 1-2 million on a dock. Please know that what human-powered users is a zero-dollar launch, like this one on Ardwell Avenue in Sidney:

Good example of human-powered, family friendly, human-with-mobility-issues accessible launch site on the peninsula. Ardwell Avenue, Sidney, BC



This site is heavily used by families with small children and less mobile users with mobility aids through to kayakers launching multi-day expeditions. No fancy dock, no concrete pads - this is what many people want and to the best of my knowledge, such a place is missing in North Saanich. Talk about the best and most cost effective ratio of

infrastructure cost to actual usage! The only suggestion I would have would be a roll-out surface for users with mobility aids, like those in Victoria and Nanaimo (link here).

Near me, in Deep Cove, all beach accesses are falling apart and are impossible for those who are not physically fit. From ridiculously steep stairs with big chunks of concrete cracked off and rebar showing, to broken fences and slippery rocks, North Saanich really gives off the vibe of "if you can't afford waterfront, go away."

Moses Point Beach, off the CRD trail access. One has to take very narrow degrading stairs to these slippery rocks, right next to this busted fence. "Welcome to North Saanich, now go home!" Many human-powered boat users use this site, but it's scary to manage, and for anyone with mobility aids, it's simply impossible. Yet, it is one of the most beautiful and most popular beaches on the entire peninsula.



Chalet Beach. Take a look at this scary access. Hard to see from this photo, but the wood steps are sticking up high and are a severe tripping hazard (left photo). When you get to the bottom of the wooden/gravel steps, you arrive at the steep concrete steps missing

concrete with rebar showing (right photo). Again, totally inaccessible to anyone with mobility issues. Looks grungy too.



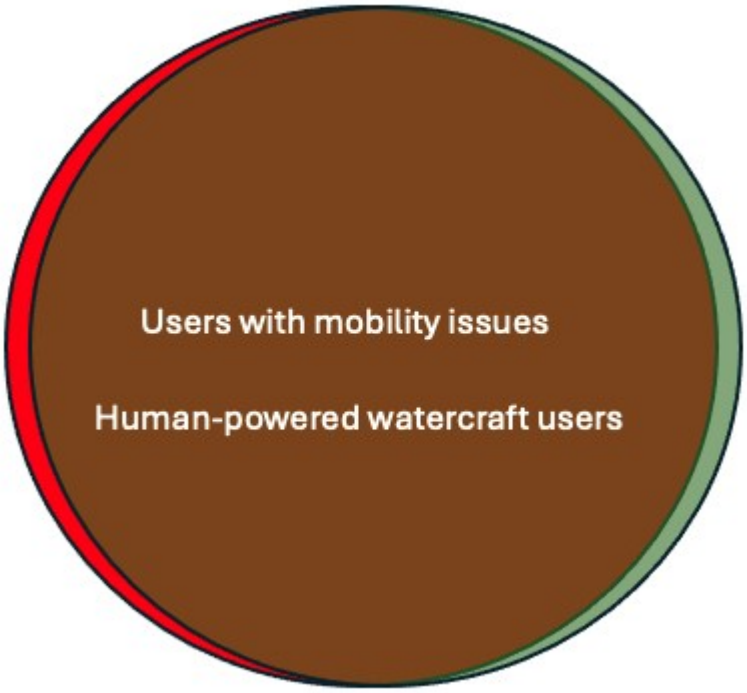


Woodcreek/Lands End Road beach access. Wooden stairs are in decent shape, although they are steep. You are, however, deposited right next to an outfall that splashes you with disgusting dirty water all winter long. Nice. Again, another friendly reminder from shorefront owners in North Saanich to "get the heck off my beach, poors".



Summary. To the best of my knowledge, there is no accessible beach access anywhere. North Saanich beaches are very inaccessible to those who do not have waterfront access from their own house. We cannot bring our mobility-challenged family to any of our nearby

beaches as they are just impossible, so I conclude with my non-scientific Venn diagram showing the overlap between access issues for users with mobility issues, and those wanting to access the ocean for environmentally friendly water-based outdoor activities.





Hello North Saanich,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the Draft Parks Master Plan.

Our feedback for the draft plan is that the bathroom at the park should be upgraded to a plumbed bathroom.

The North Saanich Freeride Park is an amazing amenity that more locals and tourists would visit if only they knew about it. The current portapotty situation needs improvement.

Mountain biking and dirt jumping are very popular activities on the island, particularly in Duncan. I recommend putting some photos of the North Saanich Freeride Park online and BC Ferries. It's a very valuable municipal asset, mostly built by volunteers (many of them minors).

Our family drives to North Saanich just to ride the park and to volunteer. We bring our out-of-town visitors there. We love the excitement for the kids, the mix of sun and shade, and that there's a picnic table.

The parking would be much better if there were "slow" playground signs to remind locals that the park can get busy and speed bumps. I worry about a child (or a pet) being run over there.

Thanks in advance,



[redacted]

Hello North Saanich,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the Draft Parks Master Plan. My family loves riding bikes at the North Saanich Freeride Park. We visit the park many times during the year.

Our feedback for the draft plan is that the bathroom at the park should be upgraded to a plumbed bathroom. The Porta Potty becomes really gross and notice people around the park using it as a bathroom instead of the porta potty. A proper bathroom and water station would be an incredible addition.

Thanks

[redacted]

Request Log Record 22410

Date and Time Date of Request: MAY 12/21 Time of Request:

[redacted]

Source: PHONE?

Request Type: COMPLAINT

Request:

Using Bayfield Road to launch Kayak. (Cross Road from 10704 Bayfield) Recently. Park's crew built up a berm and planted some shrubs to fill up the gap that was created due to X-Culvert Installation in 2019.

[redacted]

Action Taken:

Called [redacted]

(1) Shore is steep; unsafe for launching Kayak.

(2) The District installed X-Culvert, and removed some shrubs, and now the District is re-plant them back.

(3) Park's master plan will be ~~done~~ revised in 2022, please put your opinion toward this plan, during the Public Engagement.

Dispatched To:

Responsible Dept: ENGINEERING

Action Date: 5/12/2021

Notes:

Keep this information as part of Park's Masterplan ~~Public~~ Public Engagement.

Request Log

Record 2241

Date and Time

Date of Request: MAY 12/21 Time of Request: Keyed in @ 1:53 P.M.

Resident Information

Caller First Name: [redacted]

Caller Last Name:

Call Address Unit Number:

Caller Address Number:

Caller Address Name:

Caller Home Telephon[redacted]

Caller Work Telephone: Ext.

Caller mobile Telephone:

Caller email:

Follow-up Information

☐ Follow-up Required Follow-up By:

Request Information

Source: PHONE?

Request Type: COMPLAINT

Request:

Request to continue using Bagfield Shore to launch Kayak.
Recently P.N.S. Park's crew planted some shrubs to fill the gap we have created due to the installation of a cross culvert.

Action Informat[redacted]

Recorded By:

Forwarded To:

Dispatched To:

Responsible Dept: ENGINEERING

Action Date: MAY 12/21

Action Taken:

Explained that spot is unsafe, It is not a beach access. [redacted] wanted to talk to the Engineering Director, So I provided him Ben's phone #.

Notes:

Keep this information for Park's Master Plan ## Public Engagement.

[redacted]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi HCLAC,

Please see my comments below on the PMP for discussion at our July 4th meeting. Corporate Services: Can this email please be added to the Agenda under Correspondence?
Agenda suggestions: discussion on having a revolving Chair and confirming a standing site visit schedule (bi-weekly?).

Methods: I have reviewed the State of the Parks Report (SOP), Parks Master Plan (PMP), North Saanich Active Transportation Plan (2021), North Saanich Guide to Parks Trails and Beach Accesses as well as visited most of the parks listed as "Nature Parks" (see attached spreadsheet with comments/observations). Additionally, I looked at the Town of Sidney, District of Saanich, Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of North Vancouver Parks Master Plans for comparison related to parks classification, objectives, planning, and conservation to assist in providing the feedback below.

Background: I reviewed these documents through a conservation lens. I have a BSc. in Natural Resource Conservation and have worked in Environmental Assessment and Contaminated Site Remediation since 2002. Through my work in the Environmental Sector, I have also been involved in construction project management and have planned/developed/built non-profit affordable housing as well as managed large scale marine construction and environmental projects at CFB Esquimalt. In my current role with Infrastructure Canada I review Environmental Assessments for infrastructure projects across Canada such as multi-use paths and trail projects as well as wastewater treatment facilities and pipelines.

Analysis:
(Classification) After visiting the majority of the parks listed as "nature parks", my takeaway is that many of these parks are actually trails and that classification of parks and trails needs to be reconsidered in the PMP. I recommend a "trails" designation be created and I think some of the parks would move into that category as well as many of the "linear parks". A "community connector" designation may also be useful. I think that these classification changes will streamline updates to the parks and trails map book as well as updates to the active transportation plan, OCP and greenways planning.

(Conservation)The PMP introduces how rare the CDFmm biogeoclimatic zone is and how little is protected. The PMP includes little related to natural area conservation or planning. Natural areas owned by DNS are small in size (~0.1-3.0ha) and are often disturbed and contain invasive species, impacting ecosystem function. The District of North Saanich has the lowest development density of surrounding municipalities but has the lowest natural area hectarage across comparable communities (PMP p.62-63).

Summary: Classification of Natural Areas and Natural Area Conservation and Planning are gaps within the PMP and DNS parks system. Nature parks are where parks "stock" falls short and numbers are bolstered up by parks owned provincially, federally and by the CRD, which still being short of the provincial targets of 12-15% (PMP, p. 60). The PMP update is an opportunity for the DNS to lean on what is a strong trail network, considering adjacent land for acquisition to create larger parks and increase trail and park networks in neighbourhoods with fewer parks and trails where possible. With lower development density compared to other municipalities and opportunities for natural area expansion and acquisition DNS has the opportunity to create a parks legacy for conservation, climate mitigation/adaptation and the enjoyment of wild natural areas.

<u>Specific Report Recommendations/Considerations:</u>
Title: Consider changing title to "Parks and Trails Master Plan" and have a separate discussion around trails, this is what Central Saanich has done in their 2024 Parks Master Planning Process.
Report Section: 4.2 Goals and Objectives "Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment" include:
- EDIT: *Protect* ***~~more~~*** *natural areas within parks and ~~through~~* ***with*** **the addition of new natural areas** *to increase biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem services*. **This includes invasive species management and planting native species.**
Report Section: 5.0 Trends and Best Practices
- This section jumps into Naturalization. Park naturalization is a best practice, however, no other best practices are discussed - might be better places as a recommendation or result of the plan. I support naturalization, although, unclear how this was reached (an appendix). No other best practices are discussed - I am curious about other best practices that might benefit our parks e.g. bioswales, planting native species, xeriscaping etc.

Parks Classification 6.0. Parks Classification Mapping - series of map images "Figures 12-18", map naming needs clarification, what is each map showing (neighbourhoods?)? Maps are not referenced elsewhere within PMP, if you aren't referencing an image, is it needed?
6.2.1 - Parks Community Input - a number of parks names are spelled incorrectly
Trails Inventory 7.1.3 - Section is missing numbers adding to total. Sum is different than trails total used elsewhere.
Report Section 9.0, 9.1
P1 Adopt Proposed Park Standards and Classifications - consider "trails" designation vs. "linear parks".
P3 Prepare Vegetation Management Plans for Nature Parks. Plans should include: an assessment of natural area canopy cover (to assess changes over time - can be a climate indicator) and inventory of invasive species and related management actions.
P5 Plan for Additional Linear Parks - Why is planning for additional Linear Parks a focus vs other park types?

<u>Overall Recommendations/Considerations:</u>
Conservation:
- Classification of Natural Area Ecosystem Types and Health. Identify existing conservation areas and create management plans as well as identify values for acquisition of new conservation areas. Include management of invasive species (and overarching District Invasive Species Management Plan), consider partnering with conservation groups to support this work.
-That PMP or Appendices include a summary of ecosystem types and health for nature parks (canopy assessment to track health and change over time). Will assist with developing conservation areas and future management plans.
Classification- Consider changing "Linear Park" to "trail" as well as a "Connector Trail" designation.
- Classification system used is good. Consistent with other jurisdictions although they do not use "linear parks" (except Town of Sidney but this makes sense as they don't use "shoreline access parks" and their linear parks include park like amenities and are accessible).
- Consider further refinement of the classification system by adding an analysis of parks by zone: "intensive recreation", "natural area", "conservation" to highlight gaps in supply.
- Analysis of park type by neighbourhood - most natural area parks fall within Lands End and do not contain parking or are not worth driving to (e.g. Queen Mary Bay Park).
- Consider renaming some parks as trails (Pachena, Queen Mary Bay, Eugene Bailin Memorial Trail)
Future Parks:
- Acquisition Plan to be included in Parks Master Plan - prioritize increasing size of existing parks, focus on rare ecosystems and look at creating larger municipal parks in the future (ideally with shoreline access and a shoreline frontage trail which is also a gap). Addition of land that connects parks to trails. Consideration areas of current park density vs. current housing density for prioritization.
- Funding is available at provincial and federal levels for new park creation/park addition. Nature parks/protected areas would have lower maintenance costs. Has any land been identified to increase the size of existing parks?
- UBC Dr. Sally Aitken is looking at "moving forests" in anticipation of future climate scenarios. Perhaps some of the district's land could be part of this project and we could have test plots for future forests?
OCP:
OCP Linkage: If the PMP is completed before the OCP is completed how will the plans be integrated?
Greenways: Previous OCP versions considered greenways, which is something many communities are adopting.

Climate Change: Will be a component of the OCP, how will this direction be carried through to the PMP? Parks management plans to track park changes over time to catch climate related impacts, canopy studies are a quick and affordable way to do this.

Questions for Council/Staff/Consultant (Urban Systems):

- Perhaps DNS/Urban Systems can put on a session for HCLAC to go over the parks and trails classification system?
- Neighbourhoods listed in the PMP differ from the "Communities" listed in the Active Transportation Plan. Curious if the PMP aligns with the OCP and if a consistent district approved community map can be created for planning purposes.
- Have trails on bare land strata been removed from the analysis, should they be considered? My understanding is that there are a number of trails accounted for that overlap with bare land strata and if managing for ecosystem values/conservation these may want to be noted, although not necessarily mapped. Potential for trail connectivity in the future?
- Plans mention only 2nd growth forest - my understanding is that small pockets of old growth exist.

[redacted]



Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback; I have completed the online survey as well.

A few thoughts and comments as I read through the PMP document:

- Shoreline access parks - I wonder about referring to them as parks? They are really just access points to the shoreline and water - and only to land that is below the high tide mark.

- Gulf View Park: land leased from who? (p8) Later in the PMP (p64) it references it is federally owned
- Quarry Park: land leased from who?
- Blaauw Pier: I don't think it could really be called a park; it's a pier and nothing more. Certainly a public space and a place of historical interest, but not a park.
- Rotary Park: including 'park' in the name doesn't make it a park; it's a baseball field. Sidney's website includes the note that 'Rotary Park is used exclusively by the baseball community and is not open to the public when not in use'. Perhaps there could be another category for public amenities such as Rotary Park and the Blaauw Pier - special purpose recreational infrastructure.
- Allegra Performing Arts School - fyi, the correct name is the Allegro Performing Arts Centre. It occupies a former Elementary School site which is still owned by SD63, but isn't presently a "school site".
- Other Lands:
    - Eaglehurst Community Gardens — (the PMP references Sandown as having park values like food security)
    - Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery is noted as having some park values; without knowing what they might be, fyi there are Memorial Gardens (ashes only) at St Johns United Church and Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church
- Memorial Park Society (p17) - I'm not convinced that they have a well organized volunteer contingent to manage the amenities noted in the PMP; you may want to double check with them
- Peninsula Recreation Commission (p18): there is also a Multi Sport Court on the Panorama site which should be included
- Dickson Woods: part of the YYJ property - south of Willingdon, access off Dickson Avenue
- Waste receptacles in parks - especially for dog waste: NS has always been a 'user pay' community … which to me includes dragging your dog's 💩 home in a bag! Providing waste receptacles has an added cost and what is worse, the accumulation in a can over time creates a huge stink - especially in the warm weather.
- p61: Pickleball Courts - update to reflect closure
- p61: Tennis Courts - update to reflect condition of courts at Parkland School
- p61: Grass baseball/softball fields *2 - "Five fields are at Rotary Park which is managed by the Peninsula Soccer Association" - should that be the Peninsula Baseball and Softball Association?
- Woodcreek: we need to be mindful it is a Strata development
- I really like the idea of a policy around donated lands
- Recommendations re: washroom facilities - Jubilee Park and Pat Bay Park are very close in proximity - choose one priority location; the same goes for Denham Till and Wain Park. Until NS has an abundance of available funds!

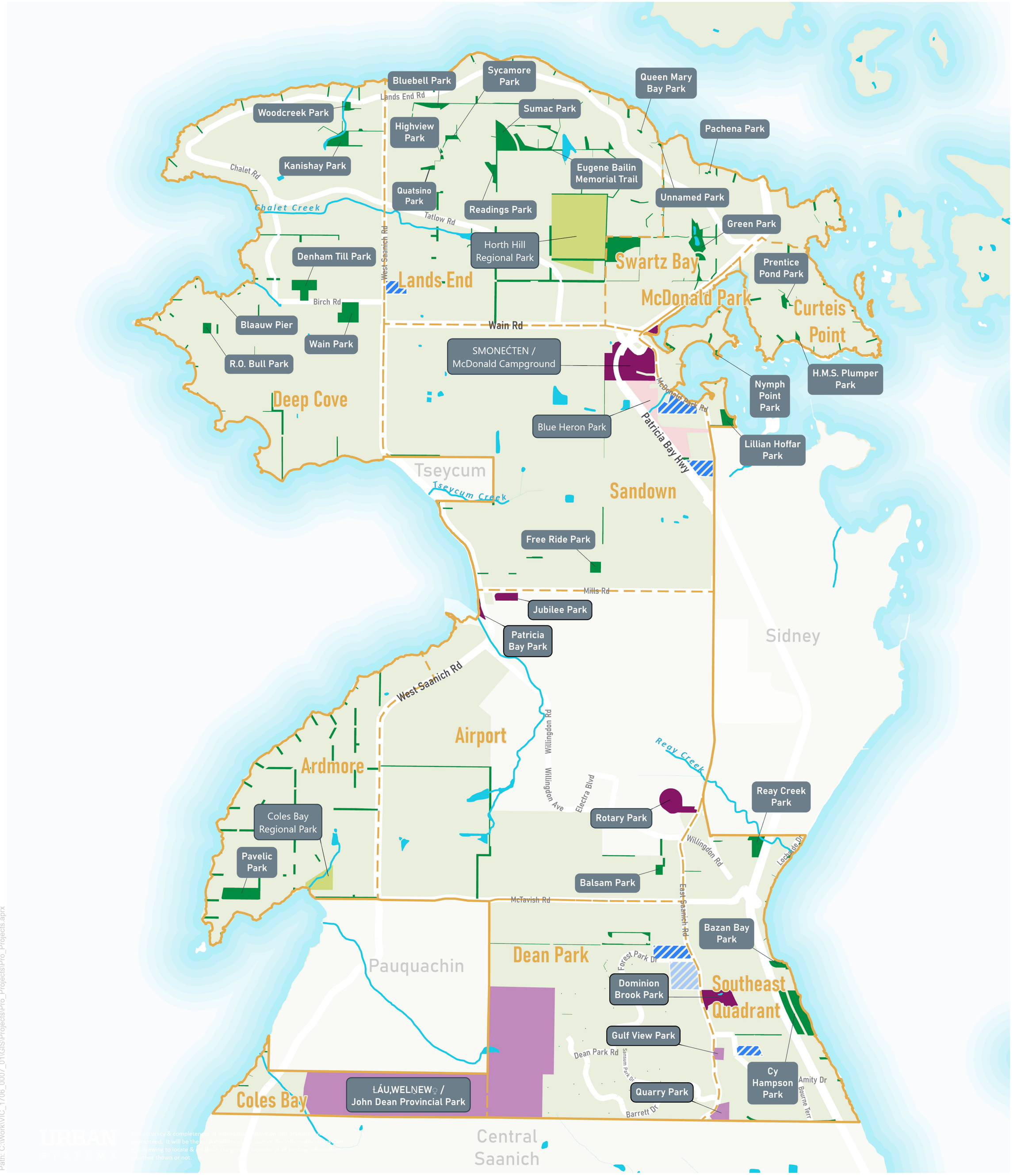
Great to see the recommendations in the Parks Master Plan; time for greater investment in NS Parks :)

[redacted]

Appendix E

North Saanich Parks Master Plan Maps

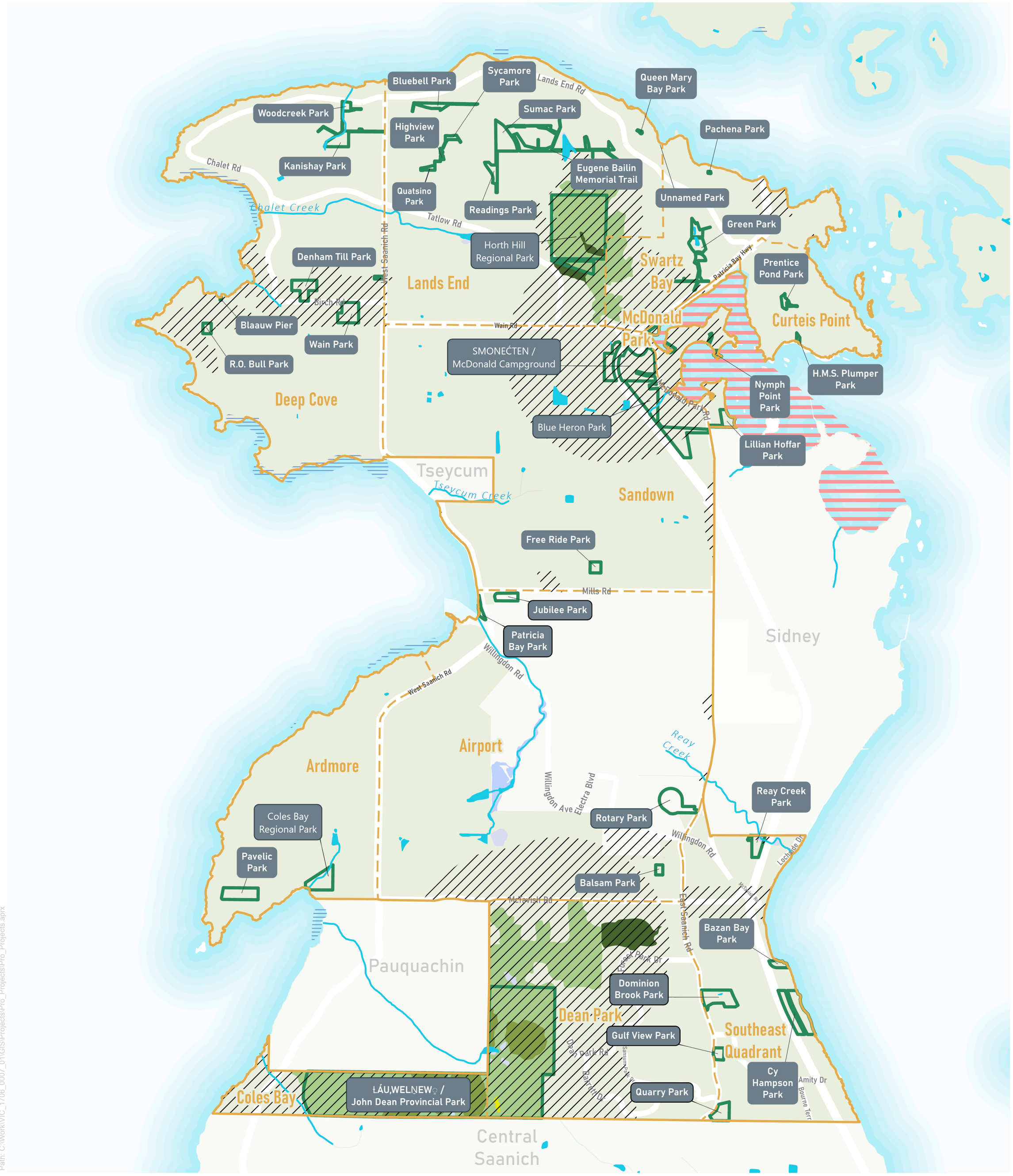


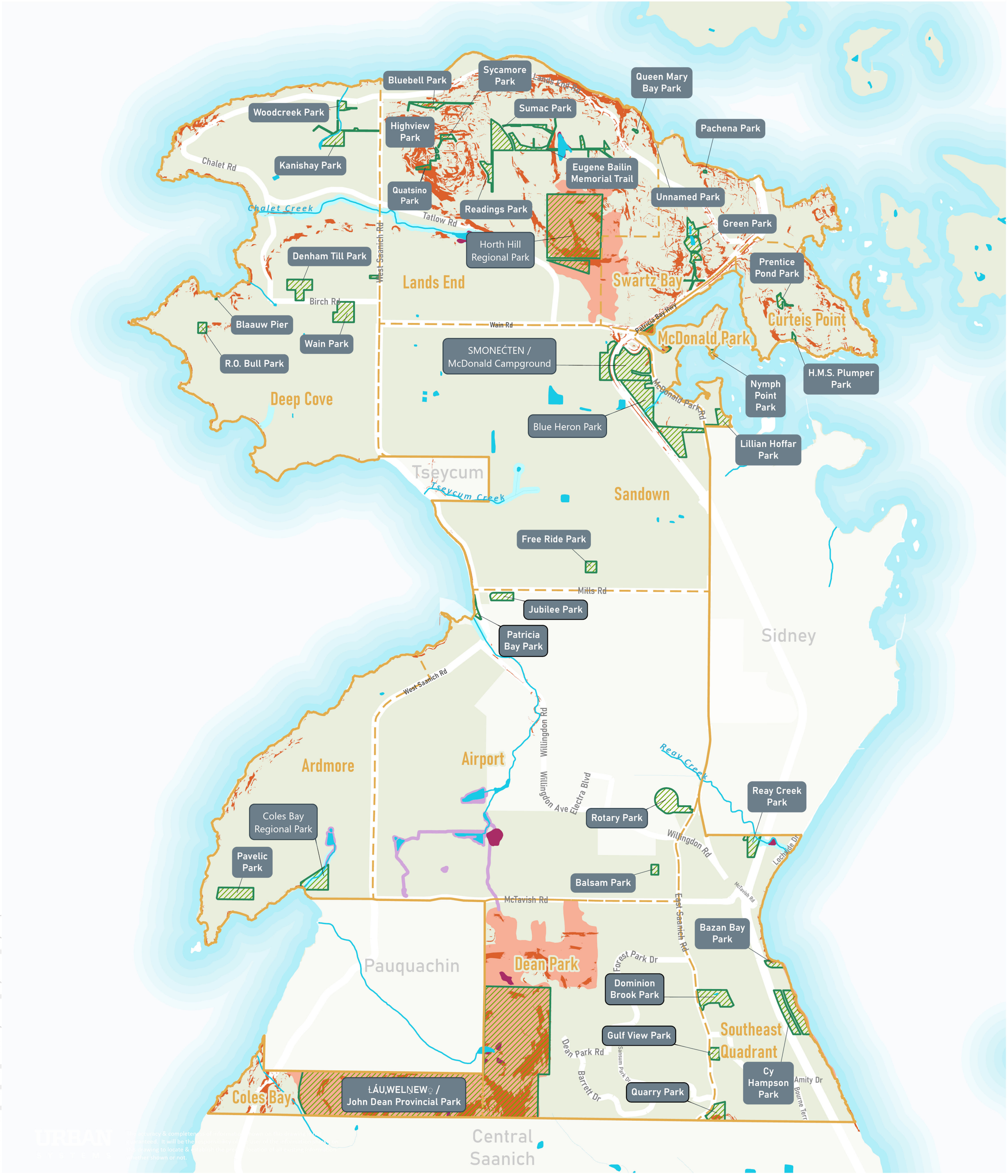


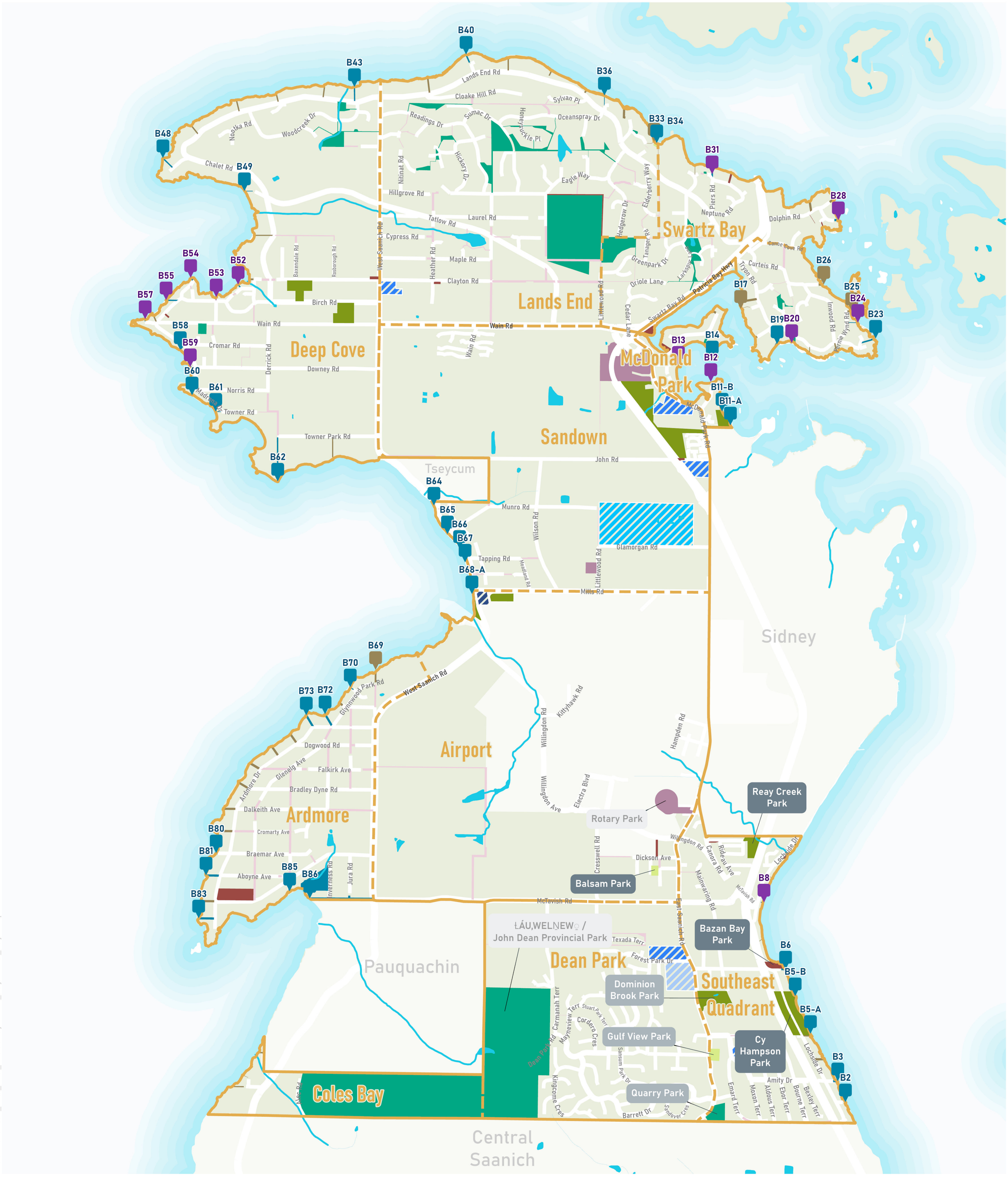
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URBAN SYSTEMS
The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on the drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



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Bluebell Park
Sycamore Park
Lands End Rd
Queen Mary Bay Park
Woodcreek Park
Highview Park
Sumac Park
Pachena Park
Chalet Rd
Kanishay Park
Eugene Bailin Memorial Trail
Quatsino Park
Unnamed Park
Chalet Creek
Readings Park
Tatlow Rd
Green Park
West Saanich Rd
Horth Hill Regional Park
Swartz Bay
Patricia Bay Hwy
Prentice Pond Park
Denham Till Park
Lands End
Birch Rd
Curteis Point
Blaauw Pier
Wain Rd
McDonald Park
Wain Park
SMONEĆTEN / McDonald Campground
H.M.S. Plumper Park
R.O. Bull Park
Nymph Point Park
Deep Cove
McDonald Park Rd
Blue Heron Park
Lillian Hoffar Park
Tseycum
Tseycum Creek
Sandown
Free Ride Park
Mills Rd
Jubilee Park
Patricia Bay Park
Sidney
Willingdon Rd
West Saanich Rd
Airport
Ardmore
Reay Creek
Willingdon Ave
Electra Blvd
Rotary Park
Reay Creek Park
Coles Bay Regional Park
Pavelic Park
Balsam Park
McTavish Rd
East Saanich Rd
Bazan Bay Park
Forest Park Dr
Pauquachin
Dominion Brook Park
Dean Park
Gulf View Park
Southeast Quadrant
Dean Park Rd
Cy Hampson Park
Amity Dr
Quarry Park
Barrett Dr
ŁÁU,WELṈEW̱ / John Dean Provincial Park
Coles Bay
Central Saanich
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Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (CRD)
Woodland
Older Forest
Older Second Growth
Sparsely Vegetated
Terrestrial Herbaceous
Riparian
Wetland
Clam Bed
Rare Species Occurance (CRD)
Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Park Boundary
District of North Saanich
Neighbourhood Boundary
Water
N
1
Kilometers


Bluebell Park
Sycamore Park
Queen Mary Bay Park
Woodcreek Park
Sumac Park
Highview Park
Pachena Park
Kanishay Park
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Quatsino Park
Unnamed Park
Readings Park
Green Park
Horth Hill Regional Park
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Denham Till Park
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Sidney
Ardmore
Airport
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Chalet Creek
Tatlow Rd
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Wain Rd
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McDonald Park Rd
Tseycum Creek
Mills Rd
Willingdon Rd
Willingdon Ave
Electra Blvd
Reay Creek
McTavish Rd
East Saanich Rd
Forest Park Dr
Dean Park Rd
Barrett Dr
Sansum Park Dr
Amity Dr
Bourne Terr
Lochside Dr
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URBAN SYSTEMS
Development Permit Areass (DPA)
Steep Slope DPA
Wetland Ecosystem DPA
Riparian (15m) DPA
Sensitive Ecosystem DPA
Creek (30m) DPA
Park Boundary
District of North Saanich
Neighbourhood Boundary
Water
1
Kilometers



Path: C:\Work\VIC_1706_0007_01\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\Pro_Projects.aprx

District of North Saanich Park Classification

- Community Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Nature Park
- Linear Park
- Special Purpose Park
- Undeveloped Park
- Shoreline Access Park
- Undeveloped Shoreline Access Park

Access Points & Viewpoints

- Developed View Point
- Developed Beach Access
- Undeveloped Beach Access

- District of North Saanich
- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

Amenities

- School
- Recreation Centre
- Cemetery Land
- Other Amenities

Land Ownership & Management

- Park Owned & Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned By Others; Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned & Maintained By Others

N

1

Kilometers



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- Park Owned By Others; Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned & Maintained By Others

N

500 Meters

Sumac Park
Queen Mary Bay Park
Eugene Bailin Memorial Park
Pachena Park
Readings Park
Unnamed Park
Green Park
Prentice Pond Park
Horth Hill Regional Park
SMONEĆTEN / McDonald Campground
H.M.S. Plumper Park
Nymph Point Park
Blue Heron Park
Lillian Hoffar Park
Lands End
Swartz Bay
McDonald Park
Curteis Point
Sandown
Sidney
B36
B33
B31
B28
B26
B25
B24
B23
B20
B19
B17
B14
B13
B12
B11-B
B11-A
Cloake Hill Rd
Sumac Dr
Oceanspray Dr
Honeysuckle Pl
Lands End Rd
Eagle Way
Hillgrove Rd
Laurel Rd
Hedgerow Dr
Elderberry Way
Neptune Rd
Piers Rd
Dolphin Rd
Canoe Cove Rd
Tanager Rd
Greenpark Dr
Larkspur Lane
Curteis Rd
Tatlow Rd
Oriole Lane
Cedar Lane
Patricia Bay Hwy
Swartz Bay Rd
Littlewood Rd
Wain Rd
Marina Way
McDonald Park Rd
Tryon Rd
Inwood Rd
Fernie Wynd Rd
John Rd
Wilson Rd
McDonald Park Rd

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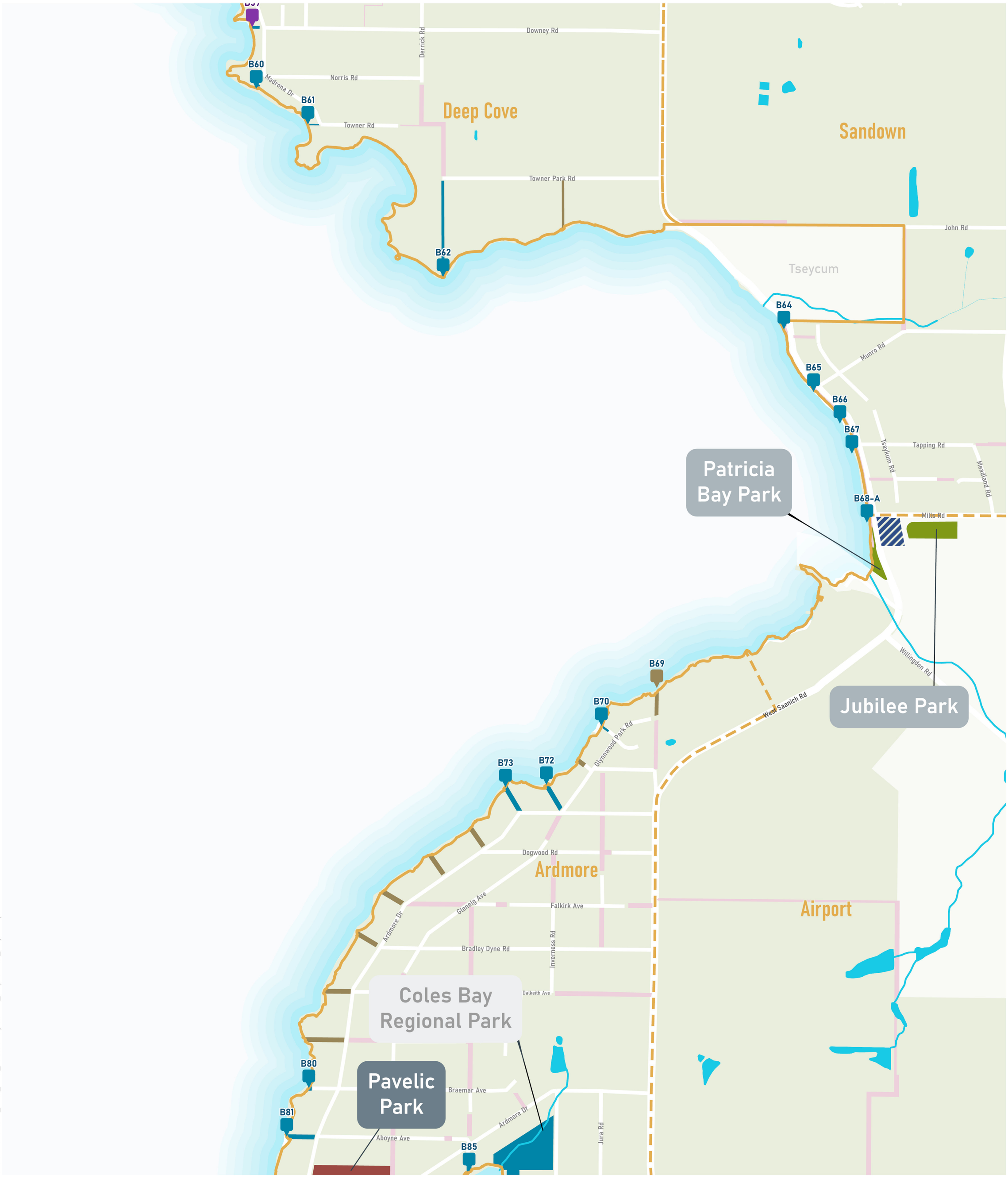
Park Owned & Maintained By District of North Saanich

Park Owned By Others; Maintained By District of North Saanich

Park Owned & Maintained By Others

N

500 Meters



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Amenities

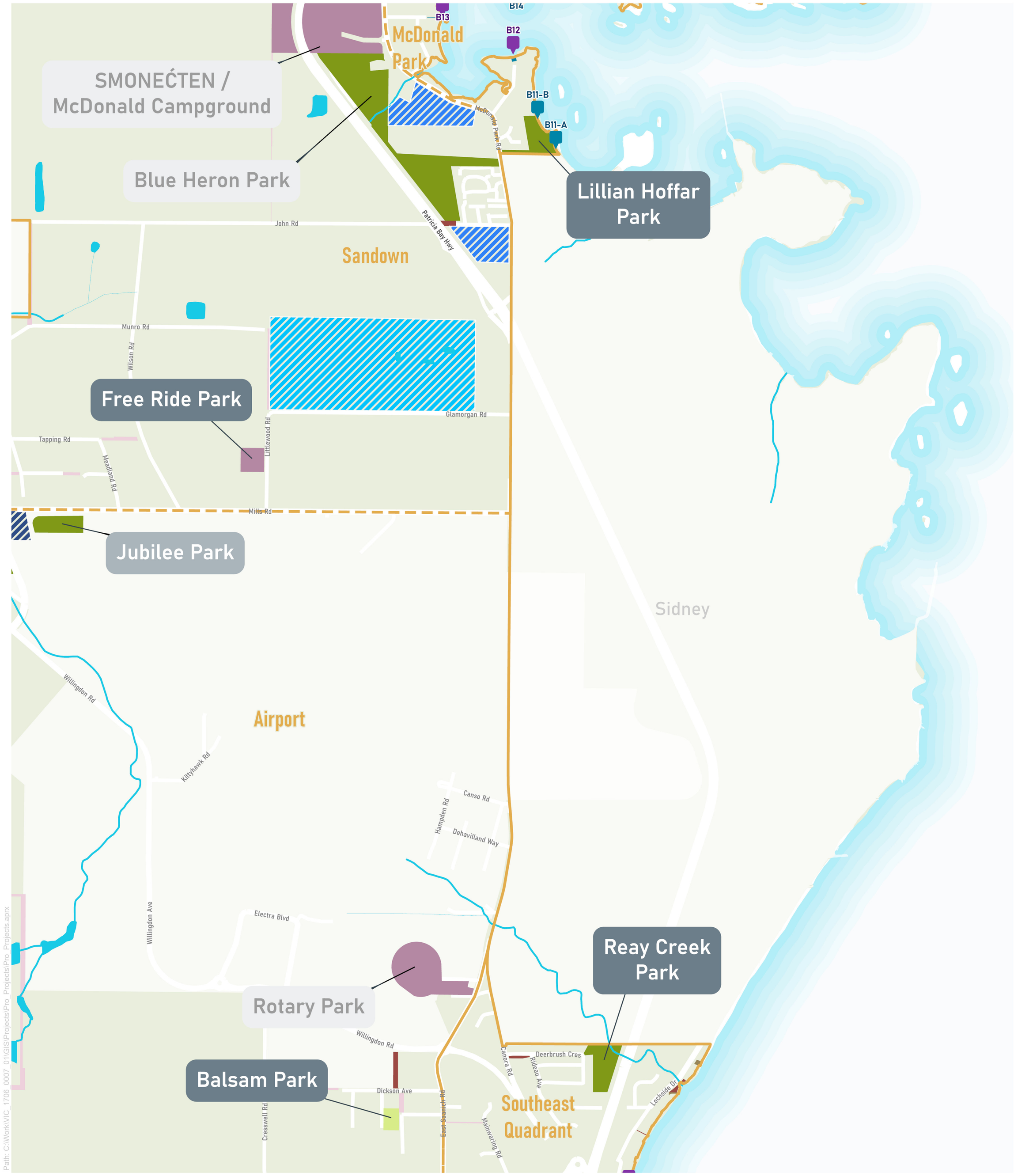
- School
- Recreation Centre
- Cemetery Land
- Other Amenities

Land Ownership & Management

- Park Owned & Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned By Others; Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned & Maintained By Others

N

500 Meters



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- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

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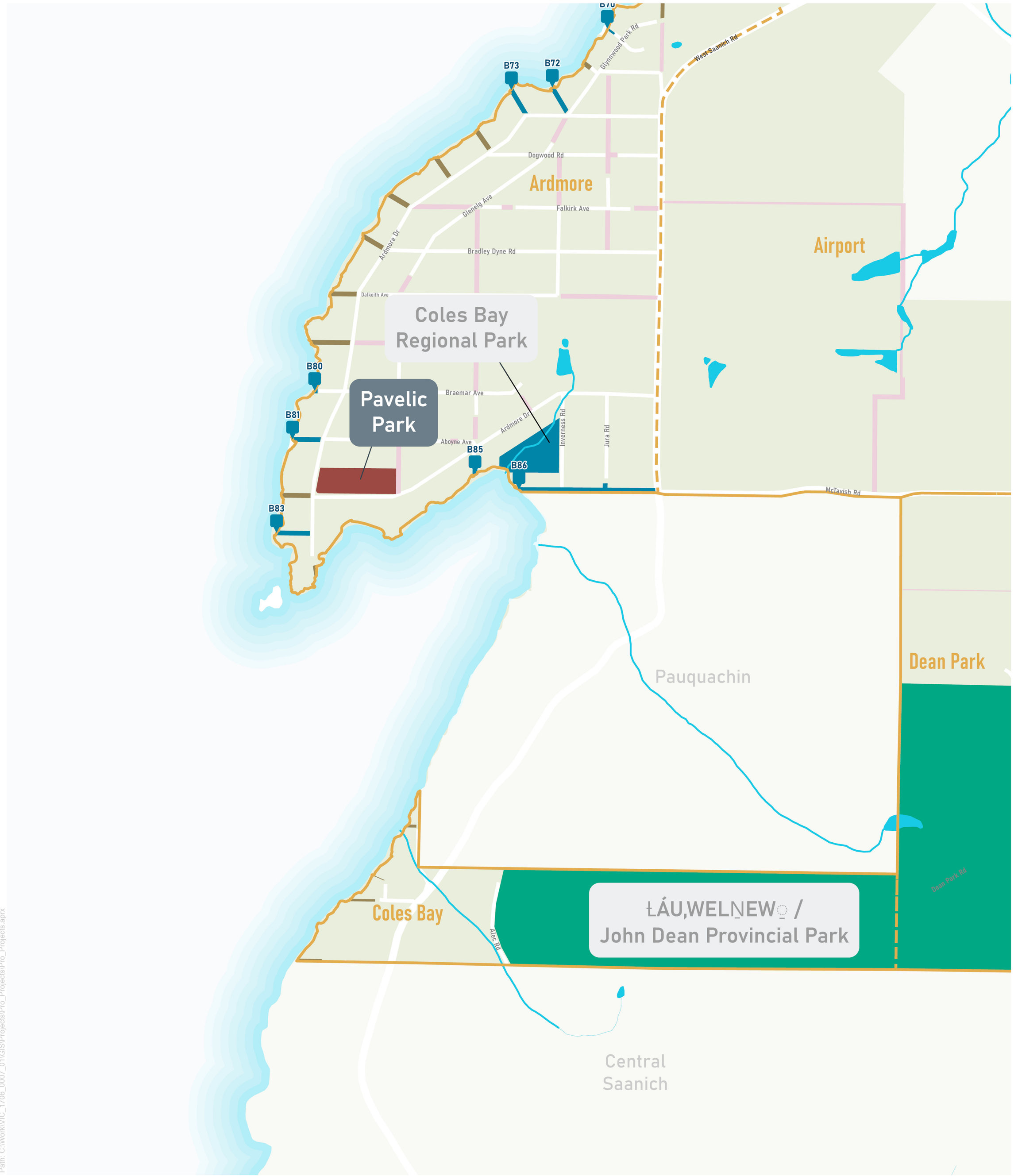
Land Ownership & Management

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N

500

Meters



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- Park Owned & Maintained By Others

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500

Meters



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- Park Owned By Others; Maintained By District of North Saanich
- Park Owned & Maintained By Others

N

500

Meters



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Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

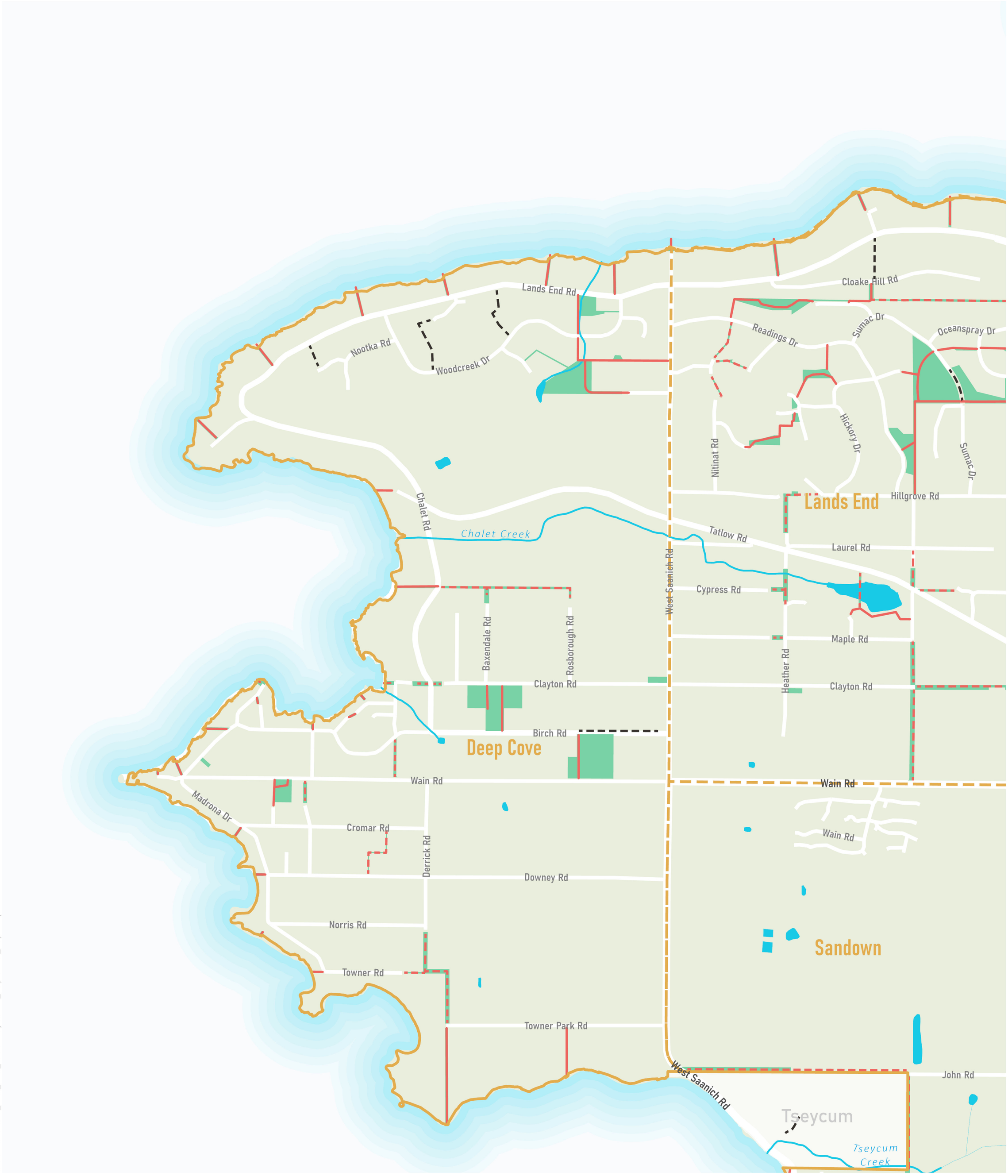
- Multi-Use Path
- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

- District of North Saanich Park
- Sidney and North Saanich Community Park
- Regional, Provincial or Federal Park

- District of North Saanich
- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

1

Kilometers



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Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

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- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

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N

500

Meters



Path: C:\Work\VIC_1706_0007_01\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\Pro_Projects.aprx

Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

- Multi-Use Path
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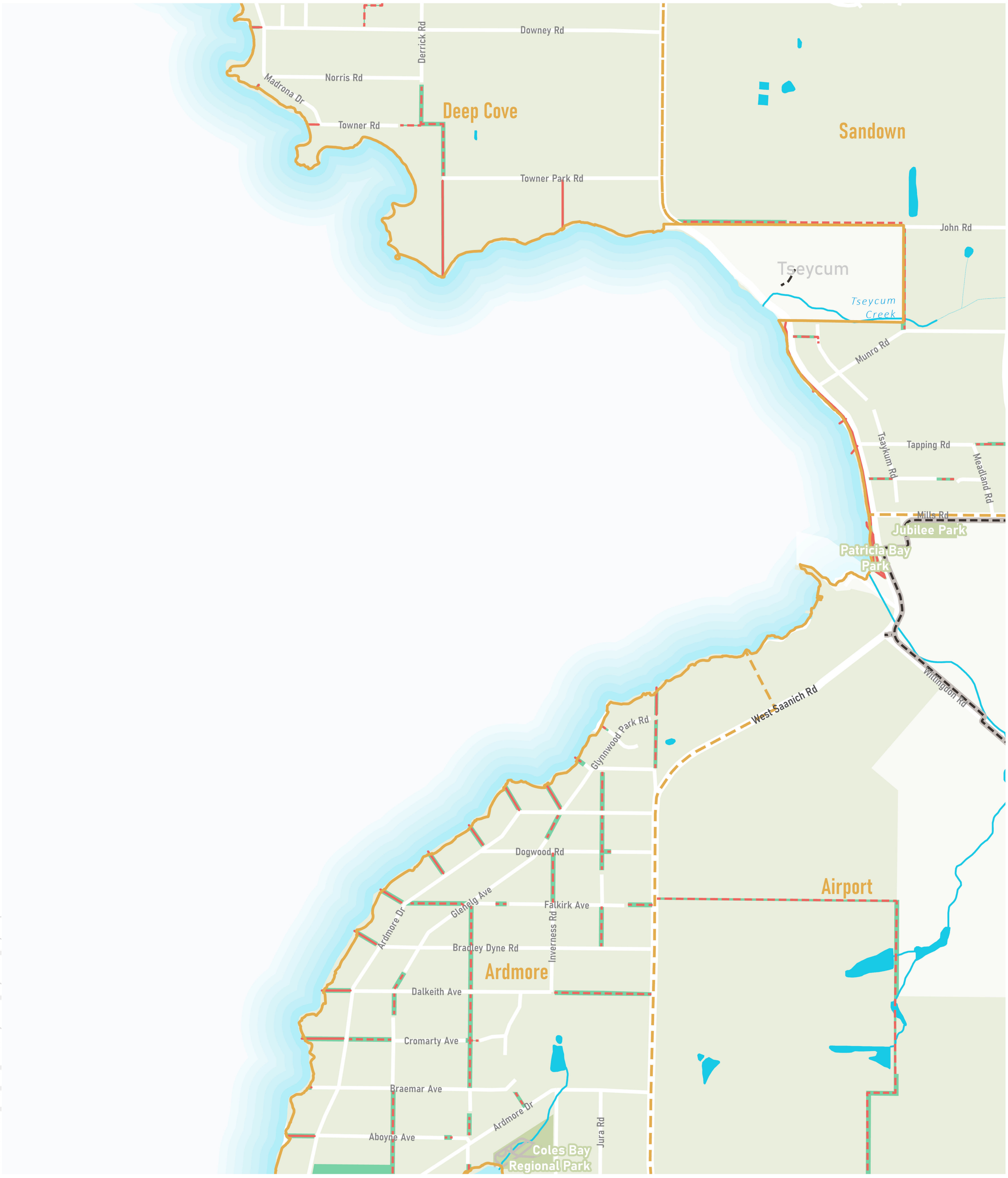
- District of North Saanich Park
- Sidney and North Saanich Community Park
- Regional, Provincial or Federal Park

- District of North Saanich
- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

N

500

Meters



Path: C:\Work\VIC_1706_0007_01\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\Pro_Projects.aprx

Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

- Multi-Use Path
- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

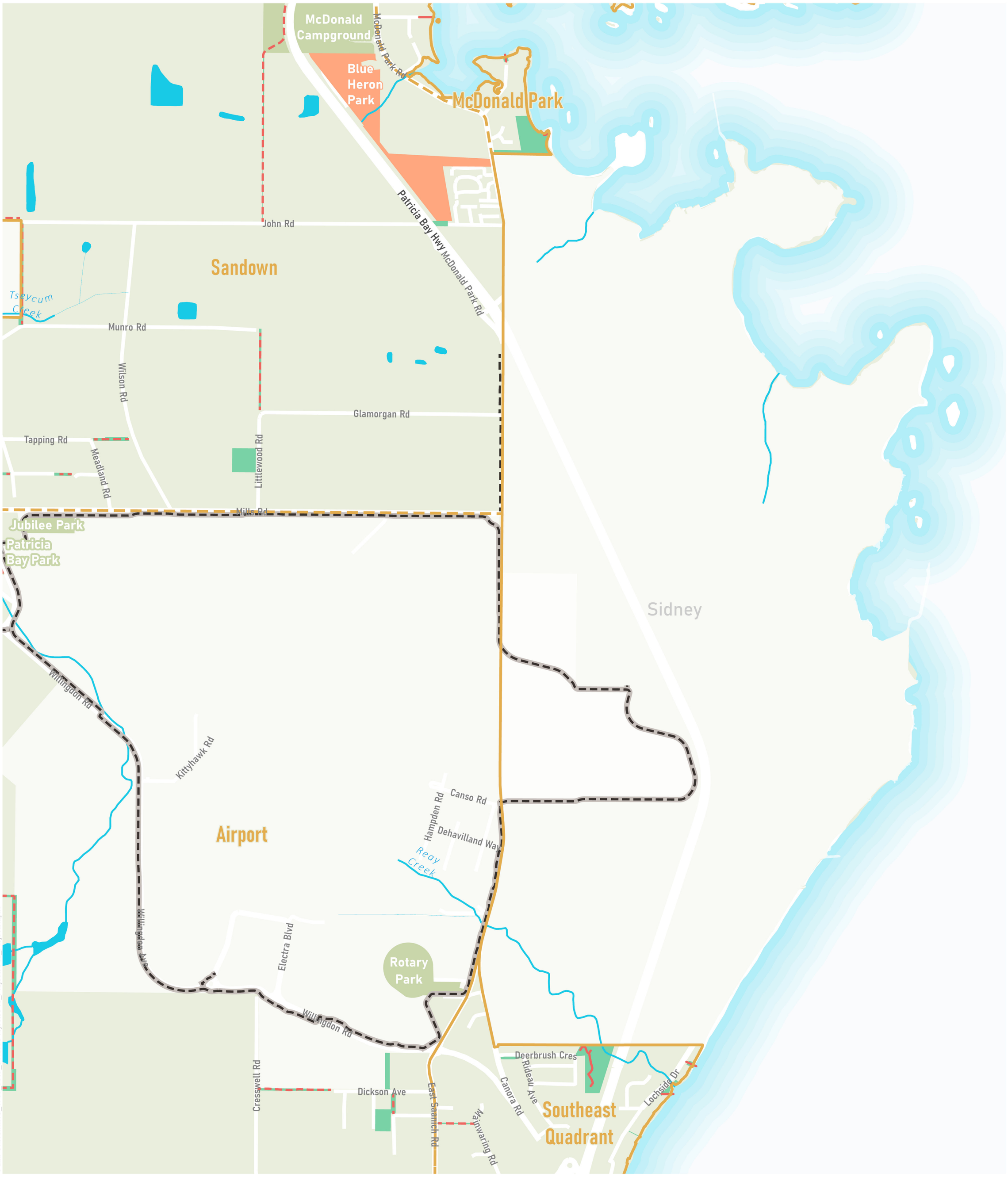
- District of North Saanich Park
- Sidney and North Saanich Community Park
- Regional, Provincial or Federal Park

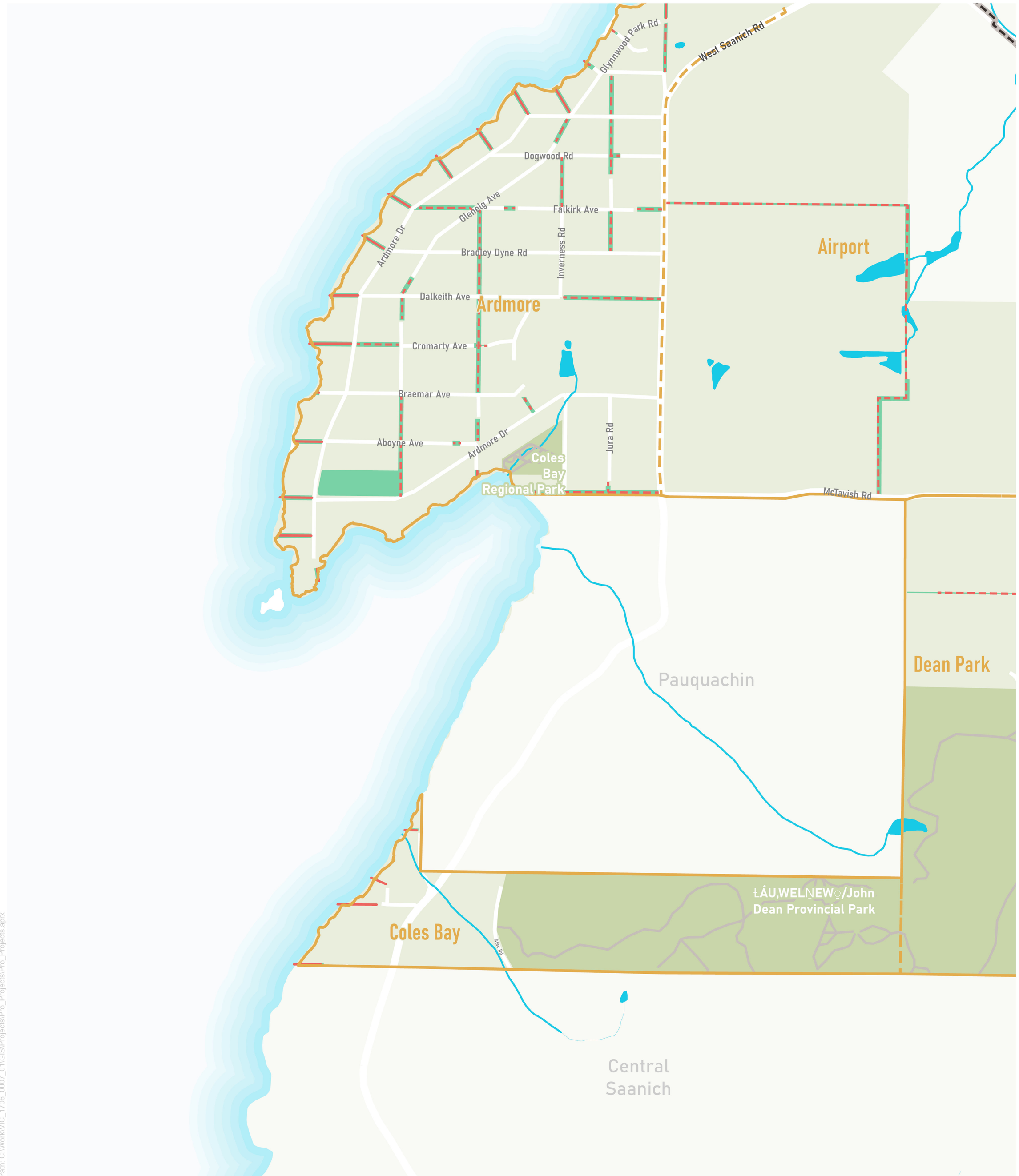
- District of North Saanich
- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

N

500

Meters


McDonald Campground
Blue Heron Park
McDonald Park
McDonald Park Rd
Patricia Bay Hwy
John Rd
Sandown
Tseycum Creek
Munro Rd
Wilson Rd
Glamorgan Rd
Tapping Rd
Meadland Rd
Littlewood Rd
Mills Rd
Jubilee Park
Patricia Bay Park
Sidney
Wilkinson Rd
Kittyhawk Rd
Airport
Hampden Rd
Canso Rd
Dehavilland Way
Reay Creek
Rotary Park
Electra Blvd
Willingdon Ave
Willingdon Rd
Cresswell Rd
Dickson Ave
East Saanich Rd
Mainwaring Rd
Canora Rd
Rideau Ave
Deerbrush Cres
Lochside Dr
Southeast Quadrant
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Trail
District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned
Neighbourhood Connector
Nature Trail
Not Owned by DNS
Multi-Use Path
Neighbourhood Connector
Nature Trail
District of North Saanich Park
Sidney and North Saanich Community Park
Regional, Provincial or Federal Park
District of North Saanich
Neighbourhood Boundary
Water
N
500
Meters



Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

- Multi-Use Path
- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

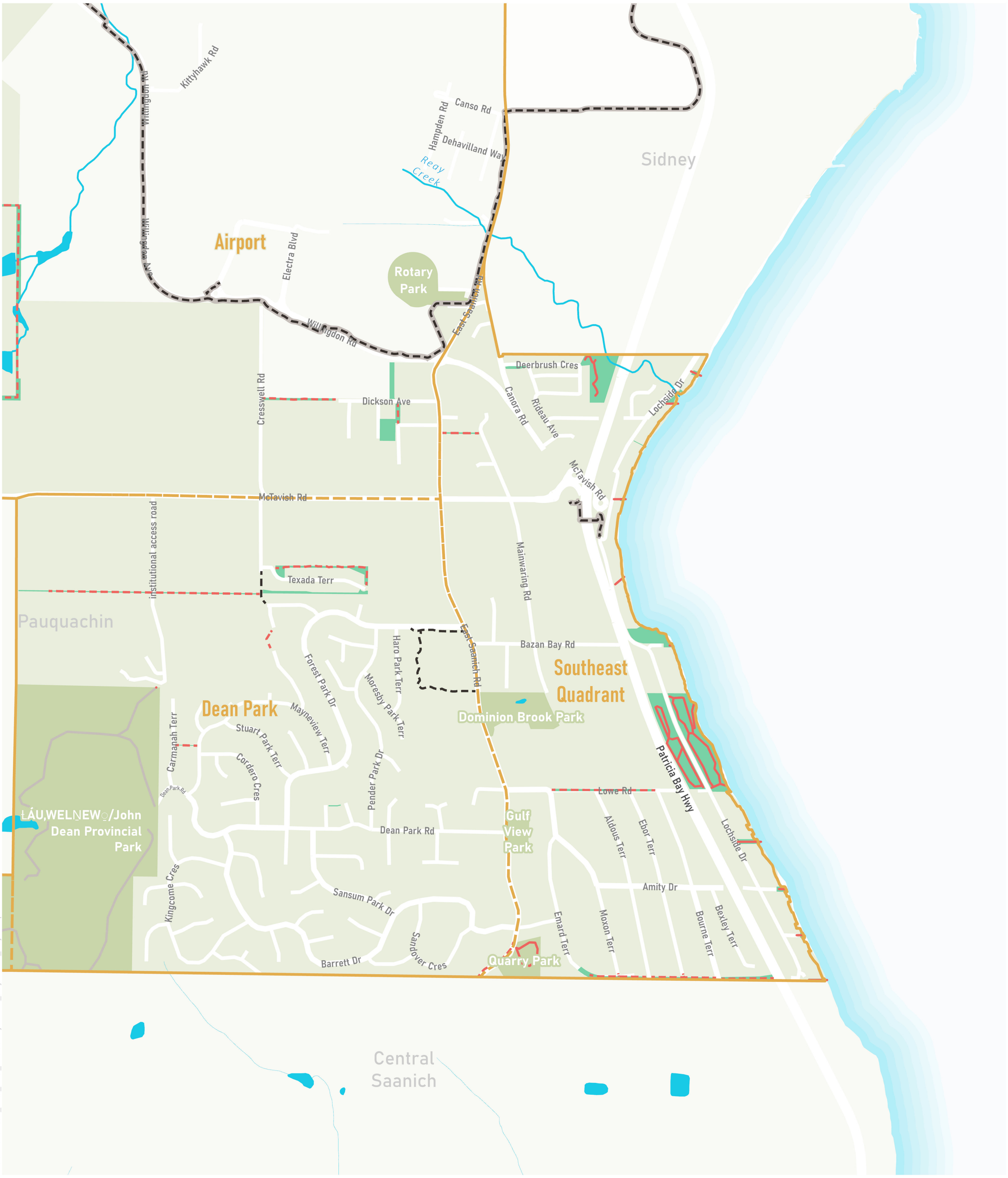
- District of North Saanich Park
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N

500

Meters



Path: C:\Work\VIC_1706_0007_01\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\Pro_Projects.aprx

Trail

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

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- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

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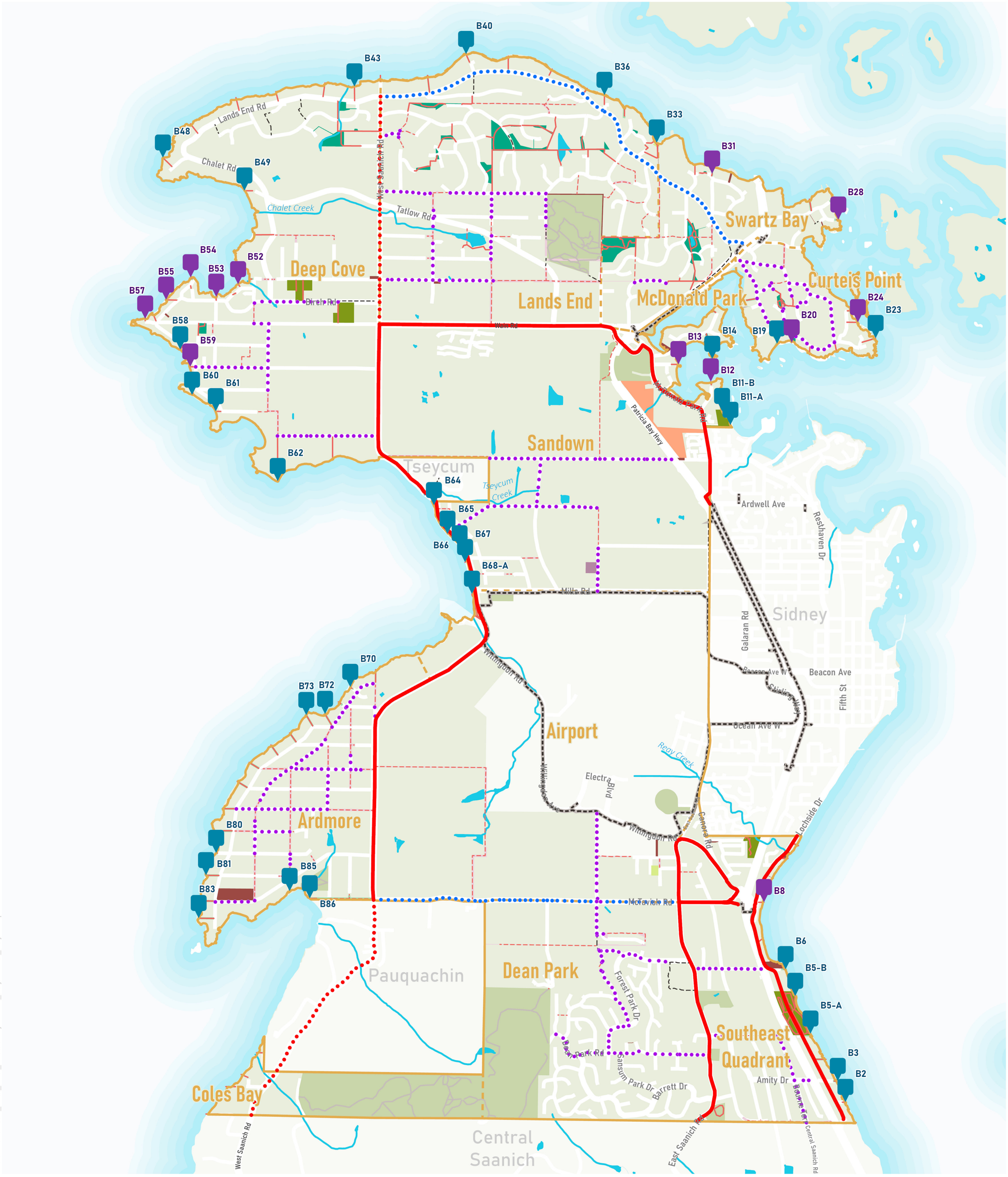
- District of North Saanich Park
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- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

N

500

Meters



Path: C:\Work\VIC_1706_0007_01\GIS\Projects\Pro_Projects\Pro_Projects.aprx

- Proposed Bike Lane
- Proposed Connector
- Proposed MUP
- Existing Bike Lane

Existing Trails

District of North Saanich (DNS) Owned

- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

Not Owned by DNS

- Multi-Use Path
- Neighbourhood Connector
- Nature Trail

District of North Saanich Park Classification

Park Classification

- Community Park
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- Regional, Provincial or Federal Park

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- Developed View Point
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- Neighbourhood Boundary
- Water

N

500 Meters