

## 3.2 LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

### 3.2.1 Public Park Network: A Framework for Future Land Use

The public park network for the Lakes District was established through the creation of a Conservation Plan. More specifically, the design of the public park network is based on the technical investigation of conservation and recreation values within the Lakes District and serves to preserve extensive habitat for wildlife while accommodating recreational needs of the community.

The “green heart” of conservation in the Lakes District consists of Enos Lake, the Terrace Wetlands, the Garry oak Meadows, the Ridge Lookout, and Notch Hill, all of which have been identified in the terrestrial biophysical assessment as significant areas for conservation (see **Appendix I: Technical Reports – Environmental Review**). Component parts of conservation planning included steep slopes and rocky outcrops, lakes, streams and wetlands, Garry oak and Douglas fir ecosystems, wildlife Corridors and Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

The intent of the public park network is to ensure the protection, in perpetuity, of the functional integrity of natural systems, the recreational opportunities associated with passive and active outdoor activities, and the natural features that define the landscape character of the Lakes District. The Lakes District conservation plan including the public network of parks and trails, are illustrated on **Schedule A2 – Park and Environmental Network Plan** (refer to **Appendix I: Technical Reports - Environmental Review** for complete analysis of the area’s significant environmental features and habitat zones).

Finally, the parks network proposes an extensive and interconnected system of public parks and pathways generally within a 5-minute (400m) walk from each home within the Lakes District. The Regional Community Parks, provide an invaluable community amenity, linking homes, natural areas, civic and recreation destinations; thereby establishing a high level of neighbourhood walkability. Three general trail categories, in combination with required pedestrian bridges and boardwalks, are envisioned to respond to the opportunities, constraints and character of the neighbourhood. The highest order multi-use trail will be the most accessible for a diversity of modes and users with 1.5 m – 2.5 m widths. Walking trails will provide for the mid range of pedestrian activity and ability with mild slopes and 1.0 m – 1.8 m widths. Where terrain is more challenging and/or environmental conservation is the priority, hiking trails 0.75 m – 1.0 m wide will provide for recreational pursuits with more challenging segments.

Detailed on Schedule A2 in concept, all trail alignments shall be determined by the development of a RDN Parks Management Plan. In addition, exact locations and trail/boardwalk types will be determined at the time of construction when geotechnical feasibility is assessed, pertaining to the trails around the south end of Enos Lake in particular.