

3.2.2 Regional Park

Description

The primary focus is on protection of the identified, Regionally-significant natural environment, with limited access and low impact activities such as trails and environmental interpretive facilities.

The Regional Park designation, as shown on **Schedule A.1 – Land Use Plan** and on **Schedule A2 – Park and Environmental Network Plan**, contains approximately 41.5% or 118.5 hectares of the Neighbourhood Plan area.⁸

Rationale

Several elements of the designated Regional Park area are identified within the RDN Regional Parks and Trails Plan 2005-2015, and the Nanoose Bay Parks and Open Space Plan, including community trail corridors, priority park acquisition areas (The Notch and The Lookout), and identified conservation values, including Garry oak ecosystems and eagle nest sites. The Lakes District Neighbourhood Plan protects these and other identified park features mainly through public dedication of the areas identified with Regional Park designation. The development of a Park Management Plan for the Lakes District Regional Park will provide more detailed management objectives and policies with respect to overall conservation and recreational goals within the dedicated Regional Park.

Policies

- a. The Regional Park lands – as shown in Schedules A1 and A2 – shall be dedicated to the RDN according to a schedule outlined with a Phased Development Agreement (PDA). The PDA will be required as a condition of zoning to identify future implementation obligations, including phasing of park land dedication, phasing and financing of community amenities, and the provision of infrastructure and/or any other capital improvements, including but not limited to trail planning, design and construction.
- b. In conjunction with the landowner and according to a schedule outlined within the PDA, develop a Park Management Plan to identify:
 - i. conservation, restoration, and recreation priorities within the Regional Park;
 - ii. the location of park facilities, including but not limited to trails, trailheads, parking areas (autos and bicycles), shelters, and/or signage; and,
 - iii. additional/specific management plans for identified priorities, including but not limited to Garry oak meadows and Enos Lake.
- c. In conjunction with the landowner and according to a schedule outlined within the PDA, determine a detailed layout of the trail system design to be constructed to a Trail Standard in consultation with a professional biologist to limit impact on sensitive areas (i.e. SPEAs, Garry Oak meadows).

⁸ Note: All land use areas and percentages are approximate, intended for planning purposes only. All designated areas and boundaries are subject to refinement through more detailed site design and engineering at the time of zoning and subdivision.

- d. Where identified within a Parks Management Plan, decommission existing trails (not required for recreational purposes) in order to restore damaged habitat.
- e. In conjunction with the landowner and according to a schedule outlined within the PDA, prepare a Garry Oak Meadows Management Plan including invasive species management practices and monitoring program that are linked to an adaptive management decision framework.
- f. In conjunction with the landowner and the appropriate federal and provincial agencies and according to a schedule outlined within the PDA, develop an Enos Lake Protection and Monitoring Program which includes, but is not limited to: base line water quality monitoring and assessment acceptable to the provincial Ministry of Environment (MoE); support in the development of site specific Water Quality Objectives for Enos Lake based on MoE protocols; and guidelines for invasive species management practices.
- g. Provide wildlife corridors and crossings linking protected natural areas with each other and with adjacent lands. Wildlife corridors should allow for both north-south and east-west movements.
- h. The landowner shall, at the time of development, design and construct wildlife road underpasses at appropriate locations (as noted in Appendix 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment) for the passage of small wildlife, following the advice of a biologist's survey to identify the most suitable locations, subject to approval of relevant federal and provincial agencies.
- i. Preserve movement of wildlife by providing public trails along edges of Wildlife Corridors, where feasible/required.
- j. Non-motorized pathway linkages that connect to Regional Parks and Community Parks, as well as adjacent residential areas, the adjacent Fairwinds, and Schooner Cove neighbourhoods shall be provided.
- k. Ensure that the alignment of trails considers ecological integrity, wildlife, surrounding residential uses, and where feasible, the existing trail network. New trail alignments shall be located outside identified Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas (SPEAs).
- l. Support the construction of clear span bridges in place of open-bottomed culverts for watercourse crossings, subject to approval of relevant federal and provincial agencies.
- m. Establish destination points such as areas for passive recreation and informal viewpoints.
- n. Jointly, with the landowner, incorporate interpretive signs that celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Lakes District.