

# Parks, Open Spaces, and Recreation Facilities



Parks, open space, and recreational facilities are essential to community well-being in Port Moody. They support physical and mental health, foster social connection, and reflect the City's commitment to equity, inclusion, and sustainability. Port Moody's natural setting—including forested hillsides, coastal edges, and expansive natural area parkland—is central to the city's identity. Actively managed parks, in turn, serve as vibrant spaces to gather, play, celebrate culture, and connect with one another and with nature.

Parks also contribute directly to climate resilience. They offer shade and cooling during extreme heat, help manage stormwater, and support biodiversity through resilient landscapes and expanded tree canopy. Together, these natural systems sequester carbon and improve air quality. Locating parks and recreation close to where people live ensures easy, everyday access to nature, play, and social connection while supporting more complete, low-carbon neighbourhoods.

As the city continues to grow and densify, thoughtful planning of the park system will be critical. Demographic shifts, changing household types, and evolving patterns of park use are reshaping how residents engage with public spaces. To keep pace with these changes, the City will need to ensure that parks remain welcoming, adaptable, and well-distributed across neighbourhoods.

Port Moody has over 1,420 hectares (ha) of public green space, including a regional park, natural areas, school sites, and City-owned parks. Within this total, approximately 365 hectares are City-owned – 78% of which are natural area parkland and 22% actively managed for recreation and community use. This varied system provides a strong foundation, but as population grows and land becomes more constrained, demand on the actively managed parkland will intensify. Providing access to high-quality park experiences across all neighbourhoods will require creative, coordinated, and forward-looking approaches.

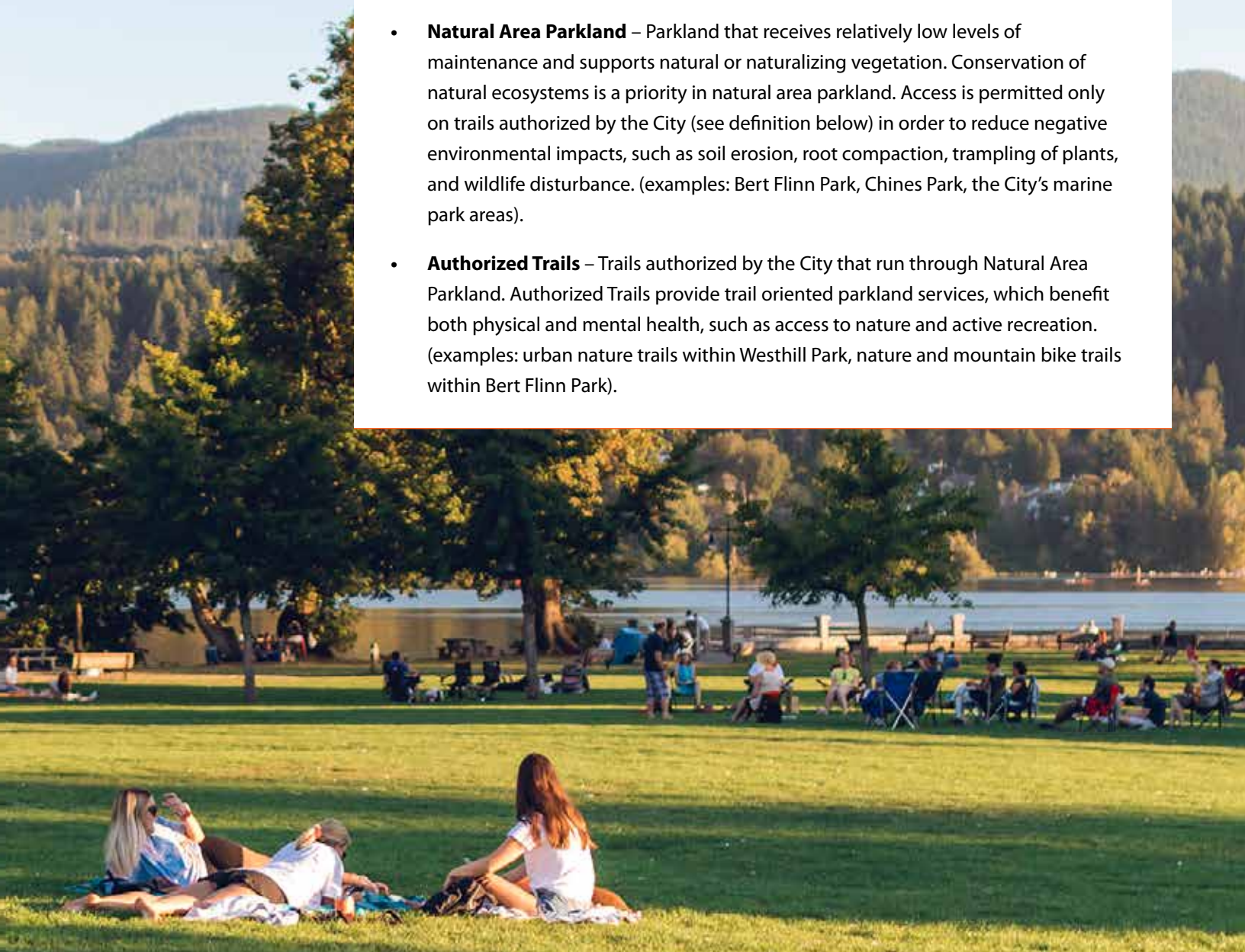
This chapter in the Official Community Plan (OCP) builds on the City's 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and aligns with the recently completed Parkland Strategy (2025), as well as the Climate Action Plan (2020), Urban Forest Management Strategy (2023), and Master Plans for Rocky Point and Old Orchard Parks (2024). Together, these strategies set a long-term vision for an inclusive, connected, and climate-resilient park system that will serve current and future generations.

 **CLASSIFICATIONS**

Port Moody's unique location and geographic features create a distinct sense of place and provide residents and visitors with many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Parkland Strategy includes a framework for evaluating park services and setting targets to categorize parks based on how they are managed and used to help align with current practices and reflect the multiple roles parks play in the community:

- **Actively Managed Parkland** – Parkland actively managed, maintained, or programmed by the City for community use. Also includes City-owned playing fields, plazas and other open spaces used for public recreation that are managed by the parks department. Encompasses parkland uses beyond active recreation, such as social gathering, meditation, and a source of connection with nature. (examples: Old Orchard Park, Queens Street Plaza, North Shore Community Park).
- **Natural Area Parkland** – Parkland that receives relatively low levels of maintenance and supports natural or naturalizing vegetation. Conservation of natural ecosystems is a priority in natural area parkland. Access is permitted only on trails authorized by the City (see definition below) in order to reduce negative environmental impacts, such as soil erosion, root compaction, trampling of plants, and wildlife disturbance. (examples: Bert Flinn Park, Chines Park, the City's marine park areas).
- **Authorized Trails** – Trails authorized by the City that run through Natural Area Parkland. Authorized Trails provide trail oriented parkland services, which benefit both physical and mental health, such as access to nature and active recreation. (examples: urban nature trails within Westhill Park, nature and mountain bike trails within Bert Flinn Park).





## Objective 1: Protect and expand the park system to meet current and future community needs.

Port Moody's parkland inventory includes 47 city-owned parks, covering 365 ha (79 ha being actively managed parkland), >60 km of trails and 56 park amenities. Natural areas make up 286 ha of all parkland in Port Moody, which consists of stream ravines, riparian areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Metro Vancouver is responsible for the management of təmtəmixʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park, which adds over 880 ha of natural area. While not managed by the City, it serves as a valuable park asset to Port Moody residents.

School District No. 43 sites in Port Moody, not including buildings and parking lots, are managed through a joint-use agreement and add another 16 ha of public open space with some recreational amenities like playgrounds, courts and fields.

The Parkland Strategy provides guidance on appropriate parkland standards to address both current gaps as well as future needs associated with anticipated population growth.

### ► Parkland Supply Policies:

1. Implement the Parkland Strategy to guide the expansion of Port Moody's parkland system, ensuring future growth is supported by a resilient and equitable distribution of parks that meet diverse community needs.
2. Acquire new parkland to address gaps and support growth, guided by neighbourhood-specific targets and evaluation criteria outlined in the City's Parkland Strategy. Of particular importance is the Moody Centre area which is already park deficient and is expected to see the most growth.
3. Prioritize strategic park upgrades to support community needs, including significant expansion of Rocky Point Park as well as renewal and expansion of Kyle Park, and Chip Kerr Park, as identified in the City's Parkland Strategy.
4. Explore the creation of a large contiguous public oceanfront park through redevelopment opportunities along the waterfront and strategic property acquisitions.
5. Align future parkland proposed through redevelopment with the neighbourhood needs identified in the City's Parkland Strategy.
6. Make use of City-owned land, where feasible, including streets and lanes to create park-like spaces with trees, seating opportunities, play elements and other landscape features especially in areas with limited parkland.
7. Encourage new development to contribute meaningful, functional public open spaces. In new residential developments, encourage the integration of high-quality public spaces that reflect the scale and context of development. These spaces should serve a range of users, support community life, and contribute to a connected, climate-resilient public realm.

## ► Parkland Supply Policies (continued):

8. Work with School District No. 43 to further establish new sites for joint-use agreements, maintain/update existing agreements, and collaborate on planning new school sites.
9. Explore the potential for park use at the School District No. 43 property located at 2717 St. Johns Street should this site cease to be used for school purposes in the future.
10. Encourage the creation of open spaces (such as urban plazas and other places of interest) in commercial centres with new developments/redevelopment and their integration to form open space corridors, with an increased focus to the Moody Centre neighbourhood.





## Objective 2: Protect and enhance natural areas and biodiversity to support climate resilience.

Protecting and enhancing the quality, integrity, and sustainability of the natural environment and biodiversity in parks has several benefits. This includes advancing climate change mitigation by maximizing carbon sequestration and increasing the capacity of natural areas to be adaptive and resilient. Other co-benefits include the contributions parks make to overall community health and well-being and the provision of services during extreme weather events such as cooling and shading, access to nature, and opportunities for social connectedness.

### ► Natural Environment and Biodiversity Policies:

1. Protect and restore environmentally sensitive areas, including the North Shore escarpment, Bert Flinn Park, and Chines Park, while enhancing biodiversity and reducing natural hazard risks through restoration and environmentally sensitive design.
2. Balance the protection of natural areas with the availability of active park spaces, recognizing both the ecological importance of natural systems and the growing need for diverse park experiences.
3. Maintain and enhance the urban forest by protecting existing canopy and planting new trees in strategic locations within parks and natural areas where feasible.
4. Incorporate opportunities to improve biodiversity and increase climate resiliency in city parks through implementation of Naturescape Principles, climate resilient landscaping, and nature-based solutions, as well as the installation of pollinator gardens, and bat-friendly and dark sky compliant lighting fixtures.
5. Improve the green infrastructure network by protecting and expanding natural assets (e.g., forests, gardens), enhanced assets (e.g., rain gardens, soil cells), and engineered assets (e.g., permeable pavement, infiltration trenches).
6. Protect and restore the shoreline environment of Burrard Inlet, from Old Orchard Park to Rocky Point Park, guided by best practices for sea level rise adaptation, nature-based solutions, ecological restoration, and relevant plans and regulations.
7. Encourage and prioritize the daylighting and enhancement of key watercourses, including Kyle Creek, Dallas/Slaughterhouse Creek, and South Schoolhouse Creek, and their integration as part of a future greenway network through Moody Centre and adjacent neighbourhoods.



## Objective 3: Promote equity, well-being, and inclusion, while supporting evolving community needs through parks and recreation.

Port Moody residents take pride in the City's parks and natural areas which serve an important function for recreation, health, and community well-being. As the community evolves, effort is needed to maintain existing park space while responding and adapting to future population needs and demand.

The City of Port Moody seeks to provide inclusive community services to support health and wellness that reflect the needs of residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. As the City becomes more acutely aware of programming needs to support the diversity of residents, community services and recreation programming should expand and adjust to be inclusive of cultural interests and access options.

### ► Inclusive Parks and Community Services Policies:

1. Strive to ensure parks and recreation facilities are universally accessible and inclusive, serving people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
2. Design parks and public recreation spaces to foster interaction, creativity, and a sense of belonging, with amenities that reflect the needs of a diverse and growing population.
3. Promote physical and mental well-being through the design of parks and recreation facilities, considering comfort, safety, and access to nature and gathering spaces year-round.
4. Align planning for new or upgraded recreation facilities with the recommendations of the City's Recreation Facilities Study (forthcoming), ensuring facility needs are met equitably and efficiently.
5. Develop a priority amenities list to provide guidance for amenities in new residential developments (e.g., community gardens, playgrounds).
6. Consider the inclusion of dog amenities, including designated pet relief areas, dog parks and pet friendly communal spaces, relative to the scale of development. The City's forthcoming Dog Management Strategy will provide further information and direction.
7. Consider the development of a policy and standards with respect to urban agriculture to encourage new developments to accommodate green roofs.
8. Incorporate best practices in park and public space design to enhance safety, comfort, and environmental quality—such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles for visibility and security, and Dark Sky International criteria to reduce light pollution in parks and from recreation facilities while meeting public safety standards where possible.

## ► Inclusive Parks and Community Services Policies (continued):

9. Undertake a Recreation Facilities Study to identify potential new recreation facilities needed to meet population growth.
10. Evaluate the needs for additional playing fields in relation to anticipated population increase and demand and strive to accommodate any future fields without encroaching onto natural green space.
11. Strive for all new facilities to be zero emissions and climate resilient.
12. Explore opportunities for a new or expanded Kyle Centre and associated redevelopment on adjacent City-owned lands to meet the future recreational needs of a growing Moody Centre neighbourhood.
13. Explore opportunities for improving transportation choice to parks such as promoting carpooling, improved transit connections and enhanced pedestrian and biking access to city parks.



## TRAIL NETWORK

Port Moody is home to >60 km of trails and pathways that travel through the city's parks and greenspaces and across urban areas. Those trails and pathways make up the city's trail network. Significant trails include:

- **Trans Canada Trail** (multi-use) runs west through Port Moody between Barnet Highway and the CPKC Rail tracks, following streets until Rocky Point Park before winding eastwards through Inlet Centre to Guildford Way.



▶ The Trans Canada Trail is 24,000 kilometres in length and is the longest recreational trail in the world. The trail is made up of hundreds of local trails that join together to form one route that spans the entire country. A section of the trail passes through Port Moody.

- **Shoreline Trail** (approximately 3km) connects across Rocky Point, Inlet Town Centre, Old Mill Site and Old Orchard Parks and includes two parallel path systems - a separated pedestrian trail including boardwalks, and a paved multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists.



▶ At the end of Burrard Inlet's Port Moody Arm, the Shoreline Trail includes two sections of elevated boardwalk, four bridges, and a raised gravel pathway around Pigeon Cove, as well as a paved multi-use pathway. This area is one of Port Moody's most widely used trails, hosting more than 230,000 visits a year. In addition to being an important recreational area for the community, it's a critical ecosystem area for fish, birds, and other wildlife. In 2025, a project that involves replacing 440 metres of boardwalk, 4 bridges, and regrading and paving portions of the old gravel trail was completed. The new boardwalks and bridges are fully accessible, and raised to accommodate rising sea levels due to climate change.

- **Bert Flinn Loop Trail** is a 2.6 km loop that starts at Heritage Woods Secondary School/North Shore Community Park with many other hiking and mountain biking trails leading off from the main trail through Bert Flinn Park.
- An extensive network of **natural trails and pedestrian routes**.
- **Multi-use paths** which run mostly along existing roads (Map 7: Pedestrian Routes, p. 174).



## Objective 4: Enhance connectivity of the park system through an integrated trail and greenway network.

A comprehensive network of trails and paths supports recreation and active transportation while contributing to community well-being, environmental health, and livability. Trails attract more participants than any other recreation activity in Port Moody and residents place a high priority on the development and maintenance of trails and paths. Specific improvements to the pedestrian and cycling networks are included in the City's Master Transportation Plan (2017) and Master Cycling Plan and the Regional Greenways 2050 Plan (2020). Additional recommendations to address the City's trail use needs are detailed in the Trail Network Plan (2025).

### ► Trail and Greenway Network Policies:

1. Implement the City's Trail Network Plan, in alignment with recommendations in the City's Parkland Strategy under the theme "Connect", to guide the development of an integrated network of trails and greenways that link parks, schools, and other civic destinations.
2. Explore opportunities for new trails as part of redevelopment to support the broader Trail Network Plan. Proposed new trails are subject to review and approval by the City.
3. Promote a climate-resilient pedestrian-friendly streets and cycling corridors through the integration of urban forest canopies, green infrastructure, climate-resilient landscaping, and street furnishing. Priority streets and public corridors include St. Johns Street, Murray Street, Clarke Road, and Ioco Road.
4. Support the creation of accessible off-street pathways and overpasses, integrating landscape treatments wherever feasible to contribute to the creation of a connected green network that reduces habitat fragmentation and supports wildlife movement.
5. Integrate multi-use trails and passive recreation opportunities into green corridors, including adjacent to daylight watercourses and within natural areas, where ecologically appropriate.
6. Protect public road ends that offer access to the waterfront or natural areas, including the Chines and North Shore escarpment, for their value as access points and view corridors.
7. Continue to prioritize improvements to the Trans Canada Trail and integrate into the City's pedestrian and cyclist route systems.
8. Continue to pursue additional pedestrian and cyclist links over the railway in Moody Centre to connect the Trans Canada Trail and Shoreline Trail with the wider area.
9. Explore opportunities to repurpose abandoned rail corridors for pedestrian and multi-use trail use, where feasible and appropriate.
10. Work with Metro Vancouver and other partners to connect Port Moody's trail and greenway network within the broader Regional Greenways system.
11. Land dedication may be required to support alternative forms of transportation, in accordance with sections 513.1 and 513.3 of the *Local Government Act*.

## ► Trail and Greenway Network Policies (continued):

12. Carefully evaluate opportunities for low-impact trail development within the Chines area, prioritizing passive recreational use that aligns with the area's steep topography, high erosion potential, and ecologically sensitive habitats. In line with the Trail Network Plan, trail planning and construction will be subject to rigorous environmental and geotechnical assessments to ensure slope stability, minimize habitat disruption, and preserve the area's natural character.
13. Public access to the Chines area and ravines shall generally be limited to planned trails with minimal geotechnical impacts, where grades permit. The City will not develop mountain bike trails in the Chines area due to the unsuitability of the terrain and the Chines shall remain in its natural state for the enjoyment of all Port Moody residents.
14. Continue to work with the local mountain bike community in the volunteer and maintenance of trails and to minimize impacts of mountain bike use on sensitive habitats within the park system.
15. To support a resilient and accessible trail network while protecting environmentally sensitive areas, the City will integrate trail planning into development processes with a focus on connectivity and ecological integrity, in particular:
  - a. Neighbourhood development should include a review of existing trail linkages and consider the potential for trail rights-of-way within planning processes to avoid cutting off trail networks and to enhance overall connectivity.
  - b. New trails should be situated outside the Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) as designated in Port Moody's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw. Aim to add additional width to the SPEA during development planning where trail development is desirable and then fit the trail to the natural topography.
  - c. The City should encourage the Village of Anmore to keep open the road allowance connection to Strong Road as this is the only point of access between Anmore (and surrounding upland areas) and Bert Flinn Park not only for cyclists but for all trail users.



## Objective 5: Celebrate our rich waterfront location by protecting marine and shoreline environments while supporting recreation and research opportunities.

Port Moody offers a variety of opportunities to recreate and explore the marine environment, including a boat launch at Rocky Point Park, a beach and swimming area at Old Orchard Park, and viewing areas and trails in Shoreline Park. The City is experiencing increasing pressure for marine recreational facilities, access points and watercraft launching access for other marine recreational and commercial users, in particular non-motorized recreational users (i.e., kayaks, sailboats, rowboats and paddleboarders). Effort is needed to balance these recreational demands with the protection of sensitive marine and shoreline environments.

### ► Marine Protection and Recreation Policies:

1. Ensure park plans and management avoids impacts and protects and enhances the intertidal foreshore and marine environment of Burrard Inlet.
2. Prioritize waterfront parkland by exploring opportunities to expand and maximize public access as properties redevelop while ensuring the protection of ecologically sensitive areas.
3. Enhance recreational use and access along the shoreline, integrating sea level rise adaptation, greenshore design, and ecological restoration into waterfront planning.
4. Expand opportunities for non-motorized marine recreation, such as kayaking and paddleboarding, including launch points and supportive amenities.
5. Collaborate with local and regional partners, including First Nations, to develop a long-term vision for a Blueways network, supporting recreational and cultural access to Burrard Inlet.



## Objective 6: Collaborate with community stakeholders and partners to enhance parks and recreation opportunities.

The City of Port Moody seeks to provide inclusive community services to support health and wellness that reflect the needs of residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. As the City becomes more acutely aware of programming needs to support the diversity of residents, community services and recreation programming should expand and adjust to meet a broader range of cultural interests and access options.

### ► Partnership and Outreach Policies:

1. Pursue partnerships with public agencies, developers, and other stakeholders to support the acquisition of new parkland, in alignment with the tools and recommendations outlined in the Parkland Strategy.
2. Partner with community service providers and non-profit organizations to expand access to inclusive recreation programming and wellness services that reflect the needs of Port Moody's diverse population.
3. Work in partnership with the Vancouver Port Authority, First Nations, and senior governments to explore the designation of Tidal Park as a Marine Protected Area, enabling coordinated action on marine issues such as unauthorized mooring, derelict vessels, and coastal pollution. At the same time, support the park's long-term protection through collaborative conservation planning, ecological restoration, research, and stewardship.
4. Collaborate with environmental stewardship groups, First Nations, and community volunteers to support the protection, restoration, and ecological stewardship of parks and natural areas.
5. Continue to work with School District No. 43 to support the shared use of school grounds, fields, courts, gyms and other indoor and outdoor recreation amenities.
6. Continue partnerships with recreation groups to manage and improve trail systems, ensure user safety, and protect sensitive ecosystems.
7. Support scientific research by local First Nations, educational institutions, stewardship groups, senior agencies and other community interest holders.
8. Work with interest holders to promote responsible and respectful use of the shoreline and marine environment through education, design, and coordinated management.