

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

MEETING

9:00 am

28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia Webstream available at https://www.metrovancouver.org

AGENDA1

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. March 6, 2024 Meeting Agenda

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for March 6, 2024 as circulated.

- B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
 - 1. February 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting February 7, 2024 as circulated.

- C. DELEGATIONS
- D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS
- E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
 - 1. Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks

pg. 6

- That the MVRD Board:
- a) approve the Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks in designated areas of six regional parks in 2024, as outlined in the report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks"; and
- b) direct staff to report back with the required bylaw amendment to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012* to authorize the designation of specific areas of select regional parks where liquor may be consumed; and

 $^{^{1}}$ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.

c) direct staff to report back with a draft "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw" to ensure compliance with the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* of the Province of British Columbia.

2. Amended təmtəmíxwtən/Belcarra South Design Concept

pg. 16

That the MVRD Board approve the Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept as presented in the report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept."

3. Manager's Report – Regional Parks

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That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 28, 2024, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Regional Parks Upcoming Events – March 2024

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G. OTHER BUSINESS

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

That the Regional Parks Committee close its meeting scheduled for March 6, 2024 pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
 - the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

I. ADJOURNMENT

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its meeting of March 6, 2024.

Membership:

McEwen, John (C) – Anmore Bligh, Rebecca (VC) – Vancouver Au, Chak – Richmond Calendino, Pietro – Burnaby Elke, Tracy – Pitt Meadows Hodge, Craig – Coquitlam Kruger, Dylan – Delta Lahti, Meghan – Port Moody Leonard, Andrew – Bowen Island Muri, Lisa – North Vancouver District Penner, Darrell – Port Coquitlam Ross, Jamie – Belcarra Stutt, Rob – Surrey
Tan, Jenny – Maple Ridge
Thompson, Sharon – West Vancouver
Woodward, Eric – Langley Township

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Regional Parks Committee held at 9:02 am on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 in the 28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Mayor John McEwen, Anmore
Vice Chair, Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Vancouver*
Councillor Pietro Calendino, Burnaby
Councillor Chak Au, Richmond
Councillor Tracy Elke, Pitt Meadows
Councillor Craig Hodge, Coquitlam
Councillor Dylan Kruger, Delta
Mayor Meghan Lahti, Port Moody*
Mayor Andrew Leonard, Bowen Island*
Councillor Lisa Muri, North Vancouver District
Councillor Darrell Penner, Port Coquitlam
Mayor Jamie Ross, Belcarra
Councillor Jenny Tan, Maple Ridge
Councillor Sharon Thompson, West Vancouver*
Mayor Eric Woodward, Langley Township

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councillor Rob Stutt, Surrey

STAFF PRESENT:

Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks
Catherine Grosson, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

Josephine Clark, Natural Resource Management Planner, Parks Planning and Resource Management

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. February 7, 2024 Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for February 7, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

^{*}denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by the *Procedure Bylaw*

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held January 10, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Manager's Report – Regional Parks

Report dated January 31, 2024 from Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks, providing an update on the real-time parking availability program, mobile food vending pilot program in Boundary Bay Regional Park, new pollinator meadow at Burnaby Lake Regional Park, and the Aldergrove Nature Discovery Area.

Members viewed a video titled "Lynn Headwaters Forest Health," which provided an overview of the effects of the Western hemlock looper moth infestation in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park and Metro Vancouver's ongoing remediation efforts in response.

In response to questions, Mike Redpath and Josephine Clark, Natural Resource Management Planner, Parks Planning and Resource Management provided members with the following information:

- Western red cedars and Douglas-fir are appropriate replacements in this
 case because they are currently thriving in the area and are resistant to the
 Western hemlock looper moth;
- Metro Vancouver is coordinating its remediation efforts across its regional parks system;
- Metro Vancouver is working to communicate with municipal-level parks department staff at the District of North Vancouver and other affected member jurisdictions regarding the spread of the infestation and remediation efforts: and
- the timber value of the trees removed was used to recuperate some of the costs of removal.

Members viewed a video titled "Salmon Tracking in Åéxətəm Regional Park," which provided an overview of research conducted into juvenile salmon movements with the goal of improving floodgate management in support of increasing salmon populations.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated January 31, 2024, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

CARRIED

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Cleveland Dam Safety Enhancements Program
- 2. Regional Parks Upcoming Events February 2024

G. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee close its meeting scheduled for February 7, 2024 pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
 - (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

CARRIED

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Regional Parks Committee adjourn its meeting of February 7, 2024.

CARRIED

(Time: 9:24 am)

Catherine Grosson,	John McEwen,	
Legislative Services Coordinator	Chair	

UJO13340 FINAL



To: Regional Parks Committee

From: David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks

Date: February 14, 2024 Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Subject: Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board:

- a) approve the Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks in designated areas
 of six regional parks in 2024, as outlined in the report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Pilot
 Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks"; and
- b) direct staff to report back with the required bylaw amendment to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012* to authorize the designation of specific areas of select regional parks where liquor may be consumed; and
- c) direct staff to report back with a draft "Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw" to ensure compliance with the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* of the Province of British Columbia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2023, the Regional Parks Committee directed staff to report back on the feasibility of a pilot project to allow for the responsible consumption of alcohol in select areas of specific regional parks, including but not limited to Centennial Beach (Boundary Bay Regional Park) and Derby Reach Regional Park.

Utilizing specific site criteria, staff have developed a proposed pilot program for 2024 that would permit responsible alcohol consumption in designated areas at six regional parks:

- i. Boundary Bay Regional Park
- ii. Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway
- iii. Campbell Valley Regional Park
- iv. Capilano River Regional Park
- v. Derby Reach Regional Park
- vi. Iona Beach Regional Park

The 2024 pilot program is proposed to run from Friday, June 28 to Monday, October 14, with alcohol consumption to be permitted at any time during park hours during the duration of the pilot program.

PURPOSE

To seek Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board approval for a pilot program to permit seasonal alcohol consumption in designated areas of six regional parks during 2024.

BACKGROUND

A number of municipalities in Metro Vancouver have implemented initiatives to permit the legal consumption of alcohol in parks and public spaces. Many programs were piloted in 2020 and 2021 as a response to increased usage of public open spaces across Metro Vancouver during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many pilot projects have since been made permanent.

At the Regular Meeting of the Regional Parks Committee on June 7, 2023, a resolution was passed regarding the feasibility of a pilot program to permit alcohol consumption in Metro Vancouver regional parks:

That the Regional Parks Committee direct staff to report back on the feasibility of a pilot project, to allow for the responsible consumption of alcohol in select areas of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, including but not limited to Centennial Beach and Derby Reach.

At the regular meeting of the Regional Parks Committee on October 18, 2023, staff provided the committee with a report (Attachment 1) updating the committee regarding plans to develop a pilot program to permit seasonal alcohol consumption in regional parks. The report included details from other municipal programs in place in the region, the site criteria to be used to select regional parks for inclusion in a pilot program, and information regarding bylaw implications. Staff committed to reporting back in the first quarter of 2024, in time to gain MVRD Board approval for a 2024 summer pilot program.

2024 PILOT PROGRAM

Site Criteria

When developing site selection criteria for the 2024 pilot program, the following were considered:

- Highly visible, non-remote locations with emergency vehicle access
- Distribution of locations across the region to provide equitable access
- Washroom facilities nearby in the park
- Features and amenities that support visitor connection (views, waterfronts, benches, picnic sites)
- Pedestrian, cycling, and public transit access nearby
- Parking for accessibility nearby
- Food services nearby if possible
- Minimal impacts to natural areas
- Minimal impacts or disruptions to program spaces where interpretative programs are held
- Minimal impacts or disruptions to neighboring residents
- Minimum 20 metre distance from playgrounds
- Not adjacent to school sites

Regional Park Locations

Using the site criteria listed above, staff are recommending that six Metro Vancouver regional parks be included in the pilot program for 2024. The specific designated areas within these regional parks will be mapped and posted within park at the following locations for the pilot period.

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- 1. Boundary Bay Regional Park
 - Centennial Beach
- 2. Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway
 - Sapperton Landing
- 3. Campbell Valley Regional Park
 - 8th Avenue Picnic Area/Order of Canada Grove
- 4. Capilano River Regional Park
 - Cleveland Dam Picnic Area
- 5. Derby Reach Regional Park
 - Day Use Area adjacent to Edgewater Bar campground
- 6. Iona Beach Regional Park
 - Picnic area

Pilot Program Duration/Times:

It is proposed that the 2024 pilot program will be from Friday, June 28 (Canada Day long weekend) to Monday, October 14 (Thanksgiving long weekend). Alcohol consumption within designated areas will be permitted during park open hours.

Other Considerations:

It should be noted that alcohol sales are not proposed to be a component of this pilot program. Alcohol is currently not available for purchase in any regional park. Park users will be required to purchase alcohol through licensed distributers to bring to the park. MV staff will target education and enforcement as necessary to encourage compliance to the Bylaw.

BYLAW IMPLICATIONS

The Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012 states under Part 3.5 that "No person shall possess or consume liquor within a regional park unless such possession and consumption is pursuant and in compliance with:

- (a) A license issued under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act; and
- (b) A park permit."

An amendment to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012* will be required to authorize the designation of specific areas of select regional parks where alcohol may be consumed. Staff propose to add a Part 3.5 (c) to the bylaw to authorize the possession of alcohol in an open container and consumption of alcohol in designated areas of specific regional parks. Staff will bring this bylaw amendment back for MVRD Board approval in May 2024.

The province of British Columbia has jurisdiction over possession and consumption of liquor. The *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* s. 73 makes it unlawful for people to possess open liquor or

consume liquor in a number of places, including parks, that are not private places; however, at subsection (2), the province has delegated authority to regional districts and other local governments to, by bylaw, "designate a public place over which [we] [have] jurisdiction, or part of such a place, as a place where liquor may be consumed," and it has prescribed how this should be done.

The *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations* further provides, in terms of direction for regional districts and other local governments:

Division 6 — Bylaws Dealing with the Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place, section 197

"A bylaw under section 73 (2) of the Act designating a public place as a place where liquor may be consumed must

- (a) require the person responsible for the public place to post signs setting out
 - (i) the boundaries of the public place, and
 - (ii) the hours that liquor may be consumed, and
- (b) describe the number and size of the signs and how they are to be posted."

Given these Provincial requirements, it is proposed that staff draft a new "Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw" to contain details of the pilot program including the specific areas of select regional parks to be included, as required by the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*. By embedding the program information in a dedicated bylaw, the program can be easily altered by amending the bylaw as often as required; and should the MVRD Board decide not to proceed with the pilot in 2025, the bylaw can simply be repealed.

SIGNAGE PLAN

Signage will be installed at each of the proposed sites to inform park visitors of the pilot program and provide a QR code access to a web-based survey. The signage will illustrate the designated areas where alcohol is permitted. The signs will include a dedicated email address and telephone number that visitors can call with any questions, comments, or concerns. Such signage is a requirement of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*. Signs will be installed at entry points to the designated areas and at key locations around the boundaries of the permitted zones. There will not be any physical delineation on the ground.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

A communications strategy is being developed that identifies a strategic approach required to ensure that a number of audiences including: members of the public, member jurisdictions, First Nations, local emergency services (including police, fire, ambulance), and other stakeholders are informed about the pilot program in advance. Staff will prepare a dedicated webpage (including a web-based survey), in-park signage (including a link to the web-based survey) and notices, enewsletters, Metro Vancouver's social media platforms and an internal FAQ document for staff and spokespersons.

PUBLIC INPUT AND PILOT PROGRAM EVALUATION

In order to allow staff to evaluate the pilot program in 2024, Regional Parks will solicit public input during the pilot. A web-based survey will be developed that members of the public will either be

able to complete on location using their smart phone, or at home. Staff will compile this information and will report back to the Regional Parks Committee early in 2025 with recommendations regarding the future of the pilot program.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the MVRD Board approve the Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks in designated areas of six regional parks in 2024, as outlined in this report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks."
- 2. That the Regional Parks Committee direct staff to amend the Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks to include changes to the locations, duration, dates and times as outlined in this report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks" in designated areas of select regional parks in 2024.
- 3. That the Regional Parks Committee receive the report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks" for information and provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed pilot program for the consumption of alcohol in Metro Vancouver regional parks will give staff the opportunity to assess any additional costs related to the pilot program. It is expected that signage, park operations, ranger, patrol, and waste management costs will be minimal and can be funded within existing approved operating budgets.

CONCLUSION

The Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks will provide opportunities for visitors to connect with friends and families in places other than bars and restaurants and private homes, increasing opportunities for more people to connect with nature. The pilot program will give staff and the Regional Parks Committee/MVRD Board an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the program over a 15+ week period at six designated locations in the system. Data collected during the pilot will inform management of the sites, as well as longer-term public policy related to responsible alcohol consumption.

Staff will report back in May 2024 with all bylaw related requirements of the pilot program in time for the project to commence on June 28, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. "Regional Parks Pilot Project to Permit Alcohol Consumption in 2024 - Update", dated September 8, 2023.

64067026



To: Regional Parks Committee

From: David Leavers, Division Manager, Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks

Date: September 8, 2023 Meeting Date: October 4, 2023

Subject: Regional Parks Pilot Project to Permit Alcohol Consumption in 2024 - Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated September 8, 2023 titled "Regional Parks Pilot Project to Permit Alcohol Consumption in 2024 – Update."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its June 7, 2023 meeting, the Regional Parks Committee passed a motion requesting that staff report back on the feasibility of a pilot project that would allow for the consumption of alcohol in specified areas of select regional parks in 2024.

Since that time, staff has completed research to understand how other jurisdictions are addressing this trend locally. Staff has determined that the current Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw would require amending to allow for general public alcohol consumption.

Staff will report back early in 2024 with details of a recommended pilot project for a seasonal approach to allowing alcohol consumption next spring/summer in specific areas of select regional parks. In addition, staff will report back to ensure that our bylaw(s) provide the necessary legal authorization for the MVRD Board to permit alcohol consumption under the terms of the pilot project.

PURPOSE

To update the Regional Parks Committee and MVRD Board regarding plans to develop a pilot project to permit seasonal alcohol consumption in regional parks, and to provide an opportunity for input regarding specific regional parks to be included in a 2024 pilot project.

BACKGROUND

At the Regular Meeting of the Regional Parks Committee on June 7, 2023, a resolution was passed under 'Other Business' regarding the feasibility of a pilot project to permit alcohol consumption in regional parks:

That the Regional Parks Committee direct staff to report back on the feasibility of a pilot project, to allow for the responsible consumption of alcohol in select areas of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, including but not limited to Centennial Beach and Derby Reach.

This report is in response to the above referral.

REGIONAL SUMMARY OF ALCOHOL COMSUMPTION IN PARKS PROGRAMS

Staff have been in contact with many of our member jurisdictions regarding programs that have been implemented to allow alcohol consumption in parks across the region. At the time of this report being submitted, there are a few municipalities that have yet to report.

Through this research, staff have confirmed the following:

The **City of Burnaby** introduced a temporary pilot program, from June 23 to October 30, 2023, that permits consumption of alcohol in four parks: Central, Confederation, Edmonds, and Keswick. Alcohol consumption is permitted at these parks from dawn to dusk, everywhere except in certain defined areas.

The **City of Coquitlam** enacted the "Responsible Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw" on July 4, 2022, allowing alcohol consumption at more than 50 parks in Coquitlam from dawn to dusk, excluding property owned, leased or licensed to the City by School District 43. Signage is posted at each park letting users know if alcohol is allowed or not.

The **City of Delta** enacted the "Liquor Consumption in Delta Public Places Bylaw No. 8220, 2023", that allows the public consumption of alcohol at 21 of its parks. A person may consume liquor within designated areas without a municipal permit between the hours of 11:00 am to dusk.

The **City of Langley's** "Responsible Drinking in Parks Pilot Program" began July 1, 2022, whereby responsible alcohol consumption is permitted in specific areas at three parks as a pilot project. The pilot project was extended until February 2024, at which time council will review the program.

The **City of Maple Ridge's** "By-law to designate certain Public Parks as places where liquor may be consumed, 1981" is simply a bylaw that lists the 13 park locations where alcohol may be permitted where the liquor has been sold or served pursuant to a Special Occasion Licence, or issued in accordance with the Liquor Control and Licensing Act. There is no public consumption permitted without such a permit in place.

The **City of New Westminster** enacted the "New Westminster Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 8264, 2021" that provides adults with the authorization to drink responsibly within designated areas in seven New Westminster parks.

On June 1, 2020, The **City of North Vancouver** passed a bylaw allowing alcohol consumption at specific public locations in the City, as a pilot project. Their decision made the City the first municipality in the province to allow the consumption of alcohol in designated outdoor spaces. The initial pilot project ran from June 22 to October 15, 2020, and the community was asked to share their thoughts on the initiative. The project received support from both residents and businesses. At the October 26, 2020 meeting, Council voted unanimously to make alcohol consumption in seven City locations permanent.

Adults are able to drink responsibly in 10 Port Coquitlam parks.

The **City of Port Coquitlam** was among the first cities in Metro Vancouver to allow responsible drinking in seven parks in 2020, and added three additional parks as a pilot in 2021. The original seven parks: Castle, Settlers, Gates, Lions, Aggie, Evergreen and Cedar Drive now allow drinking permanently.

The **City of Port Moody** has an ongoing pilot program in effect whereby adults may drink alcohol safely and responsibly in designated areas at six outdoor public places: Kyle Centre Pop-Up Park, Old Orchard, Pioneer Memorial, Queens Street Plaza, Rocky Point, and Trasolini Field spectator stands at Town Centre. The *Alcohol in Parks Pilot Project* was launched in July 2022, with minor adjustments made in March 2023. Under the "*Responsible Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw*", alcohol may be consumed responsibly by adults in designated areas between 11am and dusk. Drinking is prohibited in the following spaces:

- within 10 metres of a playground or spray park, except for the picnic shelter area at Old Orchard Park
- within the Labyrinth Healing Garden at Pioneer Memorial Park; and
- on the beach at Old Orchard Park.

The **City of Richmond** approved the implementation of a pilot program for the responsible consumption of liquor in designated areas in a limited number of City parks. The pilot program ran from July 25 through September 30, 2023. The pilot program allowed open consumption of alcohol in designated areas only within three Richmond parks: Aberdeen, Garry Point and King George/Cambie. Alcohol is not to be made available for purchase in any park space connected with this project. Designated areas are marked with on-site signage at each of the three parks. Those areas were selected to ensure a balance between alcohol and alcohol-free spaces to ensure that other park uses are not impacted. The consumption of alcohol is only permitted between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Directed by the **Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation**, city staff piloted responsible alcohol consumption at 22 park pilot sites in the summer of 2021 and 2022. In April, 2023, the Board approved the decision to make the pilot sites permanent, expand the program to additional parks, and introduced a pilot to permit alcohol consumption at select beach locations. The *Beach Pilot* launched on June 1, 2023, and ended on September 4, 2023. Through the program, alcohol is permitted throughout the year at 31 park locations. In addition, responsible drinking seasonally from July 1 – August 31 is permitted at an additional 16 park locations. The Board will make a decision on the future of alcohol at its beach locations.

SELECT REGIONAL PARKS FOR INCLUSION

The Regional Parks Committee approved motion from June, 2023, called for the inclusion of select areas of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, including but not limited to Centennial Beach (Boundary Bay) and Derby Reach regional parks in its pilot project for 2024. Staff will develop a set of criteria to consider in selecting other park locations to include in the pilot. Should any members of the Regional Parks Committee wish to include other specific parks in the pilot, staff will receive input / direction from the committee during the report discussion at the meeting. Existing policies will guide whether public / First Nations engagement is appropriate regarding the selection of sites for inclusion as part of the pilot project.

POTENTIAL SITE CRITERIA

The City of Vancouver lists the following as site criteria in determining the parks it includes in its program:

- Highly visible, non-remote locations with emergency vehicle access
- Distribution of locations city-wide to provide equitable access
- Washroom facilities nearby in the park
- Features and amenities that support socializing (views, benches, picnic sites)
- Pedestrian, cycling, and public transit access nearby
- Parking for accessibility nearby
- Food and beverage services nearby
- Minimal impacts to natural areas, purpose-built, and programmable spaces
- Minimal impacts or disruptions to neighboring residents
- Minimum 20 metre distance from playgrounds
- Not adjacent to schools
- No primary special event venues

Staff will consider these criteria, and others, in developing a set of site criteria for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks before recommending the specific areas in specific regional parks to include in the pilot project.

EXISTING BYLAW AND NEED FOR AMENDMENT TO ALLOW PILOT

The Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 1177, 2012 states under Part 3.5 that "No person shall possess or consume liquor within a regional park unless such possession and consumption is pursuant and in compliance with:

- (a) A license issued under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act; and
- (b) A park permit."

The province has jurisdiction over possession and consumption of liquor. The *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* s. 73 makes it unlawful for people to possess open liquor or consume liquor in a number of places that are not private places; however, at subsection (2), the province has delegated authority to regional districts and other local governments to, by bylaw, "designate a public place over which [we] [have] jurisdiction, or part of such a place, as a place where liquor may be consumed," and it has prescribed how this should be done.

The *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations* further provides, in terms of direction for regional districts and other local governments:

Division 6 — Bylaws Dealing with the Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place

Content of bylaws

197 A bylaw under section 73 (2) of the Act designating a public place as a place where liquor may be consumed must

- (a) require the person responsible for the public place to post signs setting out
 - (i) the boundaries of the public place, and
 - (ii) the hours that liquor may be consumed, and
- (b) describe the number and size of the signs and how they are to be posted.

Given these requirements, the bylaw will need to be amended to meet such requirements, before Metro Vancouver may launch a pilot program for 2024.

Many municipalities have enacted a dedicated bylaw to allow public consumption of liquor in parks. This may be the preferred approach for Metro Vancouver. Metro Vancouver staff will work to determine the best approach over the coming months and will bring back an amended bylaw and/or a dedicated bylaw to enable the MVRD Board to approve a pilot program for 2024.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

CONCLUSION

Earlier this year, the Committee asked staff to report back on the feasibility of a pilot project to permit the consumption of liquor in some of Metro Vancouver's regional parks. Staff have identified and reviewed similar pilots carried out by members within the region, and are in the process of considering potential site criteria which might be recommended for use in establishing a proposed pilot. Staff have also identified the legal requirements enabling local governments to designate a public place as a place where liquor may be consumed.

The next steps will involve staff completion of the development of a proposed pilot project that would allow for the responsible consumption of alcohol in specified areas of select regional parks in 2024.

Staff will recommend amendment(s) to the *Regional Park Regulation Amending Bylaw No. 1358, 2022* and/or develop a dedicated bylaw for this sole purpose, for MVRD Board consideration and approval.

Staff will report back in the first quarter of 2024, in time to gain MVRD Board approval for a seasonal pilot project in the spring/summer of next year.

60663718



To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: February 14, 2024 Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Subject: Amended təmtəmix**tən/Belcarra South Design Concept

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board approve the Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept as presented in the report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board approved the Belcarra South Design Concept which included the retention of six cabins and the Bole House in compliance with City of Port Moody heritage designation, and one additional cabin located in the Village of Belcarra. In November 2023, the City of Port Moody rescinded heritage designation of the cabins, at the request of səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

A draft Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept has been developed for MVRD Board approval that includes improved trail and road connections, invasive species removal, rehabilitation of an existing creek, improved beach access, a picnic area, small amphitheater, restoration of the Bole House as a bookable multipurpose space, and the removal of the seven cabin structures.

Staff are working closely with səlilwəta+ on all aspects of the project. The Amended təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra South Design Concept will improve visitor experience and resource management at təmtəmíx*tən/Belcarra Regional Park, and reduce capital and operating expenses.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek MVRD Board approval of the Amended təmtəmíx**tən/Belcarra South Design Concept.

BACKGROUND

Context

The təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South area is a 4.7 hectare site located at the western edge of təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra Regional Park. The site includes seven cabins and the Bole House, set in mature forest along the shore of Burrard Inlet (Attachment 1). Cabins 2-7 and the Bole House are within the City of Port Moody. The remaining cabin is in the Village of Belcarra.

Planning

In March 2015, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Board directed staff to initiate a planning process for the Belcarra South area of təmtəmíx **tən/Belcarra Regional Park.

On April 28, 2015, Port Moody Council designated the six cabins located within the municipality as heritage buildings. Port Moody Council subsequently adopted heritage designation for the Bole House on May 23, 2017. The one cabin located in the Village of Belcarra is not protected by heritage designation.

In 2016, staff initiated the Belcarra South Planning Study, which included extensive research, analysis and public engagement. In 2017, the MVRD Board approved the Belcarra South Proposed Design Concept (Attachment 2).

The Design Concept included ecological restoration, improved beach access, trail and road connections, the retention of six cabins and the Bole House in compliance with Port Moody heritage designation, along with the retention of the cabin located in Belcarra. The cabins were to be restored for use as static landscape displays, and the Bole House renovated for public use.

The Board also authorized staff to initiate the change of use for Belcarra South from restricted access residential to public use. The cabins, occupied by the Belcarra Preservation Society, were vacated in April 2022.

Cabins and Bole House

The cabins are in poor condition and were not constructed for public use, nor do they meet modern building code or engineering standards. Considerable investment and environmental impact would be required to upgrade and maintain the buildings as static displays for limited public access and utility.

The Bole House is larger, more historically significant, in better condition, and has greater potential for public use. While design work proceeds for long-term upgrades, the building has been stabilized with the addition of concrete footings, foundation posts, joists, and beams.

səlilwətał Cultural Planning and Cooperation Agreement

In February 2020, səlilwətał and MVRD entered into a Cultural Planning and Cooperation Agreement for təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra Regional Park. The agreement formalized a cooperative relationship and has led to significant collaboration on initiatives throughout the park.

Metro Vancouver and səlilwətał are working closely on the planning and design of the təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Area. Key areas of collaboration include ecosystem restoration and cultural revitalization.

Repeal of Cabin Heritage Designation Bylaw

In March 2023, səlilwətał requested the City of Port Moody repeal the heritage designation for cabins 2-7, noting negative environmental and archeological impacts associated with upgrading the structures, and limited public benefit at significant cost considering the condition of the buildings.

On November 7, 2023, following a public hearing, the City of Port Moody rescinded heritage designation for the six cabins. Port Moody Council noted the opportunity for səlilwətał to work collaboratively with Metro Vancouver and requested Port Moody staff explore with Metro Vancouver and səlilwətał opportunities to interpret the history of the buildings as part of future site improvements.

PROPOSED AMENDED təmtəmíx*tən/BELCARRA SOUTH DESIGN CONCEPT

An Amended təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Design Concept has been developed (Attachment 3) which reflects the repeal of the heritage designation bylaw, and ongoing collaboration with səlilwəta\frac{1}{2}.

The design concept includes improvements to the existing road, trail connections, invasive species removal, rehabilitation of an existing creek, improved beach access, an open area for picnicking, small amphitheater, retention and upgrade of the Bole House for public and səlilwətał use (Attachment 4).

Considering condition, rehabilitation and maintenance cost, potential public use and enjoyment, environmental and archeological impacts of restoration, alignment with 2017 public engagement, and discussions with səlilwətał, retention and upgrade of the cabins is not recommended. The seven cabin structures will be photo documented and removed, and the site will be restored collaboratively with səlilwətał.

In recognition of the request from Port Moody staff to interpret the history of the buildings as part of future site improvements, the Bole House will include interpretation of the recent history of the site.

səlilwətał have been consulted on the revised plan to retain and renovate the Bole House as a public bookable multi-purpose facility. The Nation has signaled an interest in using the facility for gatherings with elders, community members, cultural activities and səlilwətał-led workshops.

ALTERNATIVES

- That the MVRD Board approve the Amended təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Design Concept as presented in this report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Amended təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Design Concept."
- 2. That the MVRD Board:
 - a. reject the Amended təmtəmíx**tən/Belcarra South Design Concept as presented in this report dated February 14, 2024, titled "Amended təmtəmíx**tən/Belcarra South Design Concept"; and,
 - b. direct staff to proceed with detailed design and implementation of the 2017 MVRD Board Approved Belcarra South Proposed Design Concept.
- 3. That the MVRD Board provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the MVRD Board approves Alternative 1, the Amended təmtəmíx tən/Belcarra South Design Concept is estimated to save approximately \$2.4 million in capital funding required to upgrade the cabins, and \$85,000 per year in annual maintenance expenses.

The MVRD Board-approved Regional Park 5-year Capital Plan includes \$2.2 million in 2024 and \$3.5 million in 2025 for the təmtəmíx**tən/Belcarra South Picnic Area development. Should the Board approve Alternative 1, these funds will be used to implement the Amended təmtəmíx**tən/Belcarra South Design Concept plan.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Communications

Should the Board approve Alternative 1, staff will implement a communications strategy including web, site signage, and in-person notifications to the public, stakeholders and First Nations of the Amended təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Design Concept and next steps towards implementation.

CONCLUSION

In 2017, the MVRD Board approved the Belcarra South Design Concept. The plan included the retention of six cabins and the Bole House in Port Moody in compliance with the heritage designation. One cabin located in the Village of Belcarra, not protected by heritage designation, was also retained in the approved plan. In November 2023, the City of Port Moody rescinded heritage designation for the six cabins, at the request of səlilwətał.

An Amended təmtəmíx tən/Belcarra South Design Concept has been developed that includes trail and road connections, invasive species removal, rehabilitation of an existing creek, improved beach access, an open area for picnicking, small amphitheater, and the restoration of Bole House as a bookable multipurpose space. The seven cabins are proposed to be photo documented and removed.

Staff are working closely with səlilwətał on all aspects of the project. The Amended təmtəmíxwtən/Belcarra South Design Concept will improve visitor experience and resource management at təmtəmíxwtən/Belcarra, in addition to reducing capital funding requirements and annual maintenance expenses.

ATTACHMENTS

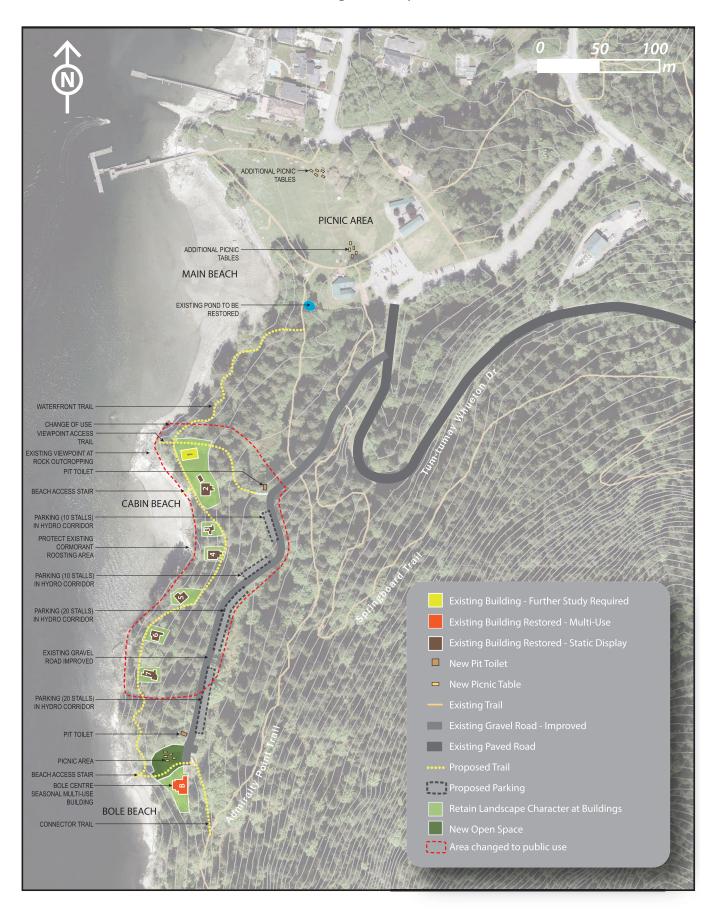
- 1. təmtəmíx tən/Belcarra Regional Park Belcarra South Context Plan
- 2. Board Approved Belcarra South Design Concept
- 3. Amended təmtəmíx^wtən/Belcarra South Design Concept
- 4. Bole House Illustrative Drawings

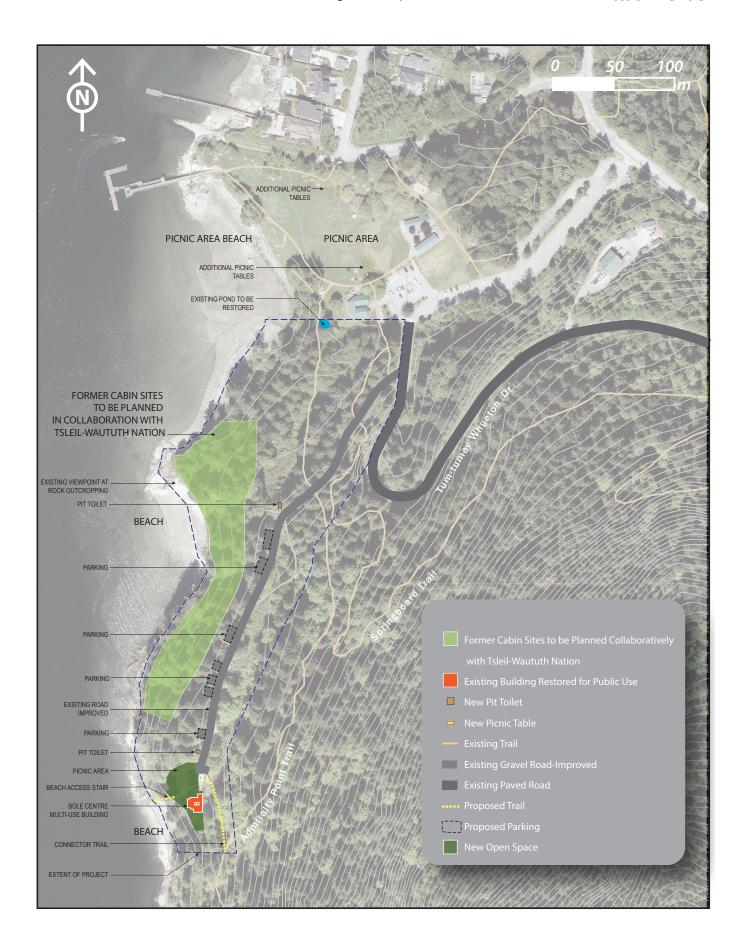
REFERENCES

1. 2017 Belcarra South Picnic Area Concept Plan Report

65325308







Attachment 4





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To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Mike Redpath, Director, Regional Parks

Date: February 28, 2024 Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Subject: Manager's Report – Regional Parks

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 28, 2024, titled "Manager's Report – Regional Parks".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attachment to this report sets out the Regional Parks Committee Work Plan for 2024. The status of work program elements is indicated as pending, in progress, or complete. The listing is updated as needed to include new issues that arise, items requested by the Committee, and changes in the schedule.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND NETWORKING EVENT

In the afternoon of January 27, 2024, Metro Vancouver hosted its annual volunteer appreciation and networking event. The event was an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to celebrate its volunteers and partners and provided opportunities for volunteers and partners to network and connect with each other.

The keynote speaker for this event was Simon Jackson. At the age of 13, Simon Jackson founded the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition and spent two decades working to unite the voices of six million young people in the successful pursuit of protecting the last intact habitat of the endangered white Kermode or "spirit bear." Today, Simon is the co-founder of Nature Labs a virtual, storytelling-driven high school textbook that helps students build a foundation of nature literacy to aid them in all that they do. For his efforts, he has been named a "Hero for the



Simon Jackson speaking about Nature Labs

Planet" by *Time Magazine* and was the inspiration for the movie, *Spirit Bear: The Simon Jackson Story*.

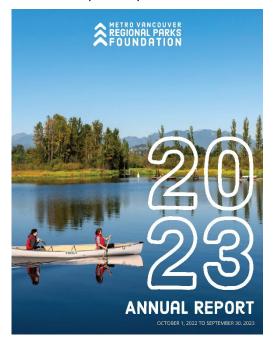
One of the most significant things Simon talked about was how in this increasingly polarized world, everyone can agree on the value of nature. This was a message of hope and inspiration for staff, partners, and volunteers as we forge ahead in the work to protect natural habitats. Based on how many people stayed beyond the official end time to share conversations with others, inspired by their common love of the natural world, the time for networking was considered to be very valuable and successful.

Staff heard from partners and volunteers that they felt appreciated and celebrated, and that they were grateful that Regional Parks hosts this annual event. This year the event was scheduled earlier in the calendar year, before the spring, which is when so many of our volunteers get busy outdoors. Staff will consider the success of a late January or early February event when planning for a recognition event in 2025.

Volunteers provide important contributions to regional parks. Staff engage volunteers in a variety of ways, including stewardship initiatives, special events and programs, nature houses, Beachkeepers, Park Association, and Park Partner activities. In 2023, the Natural Resource Management Team hosted 370 work parties where volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of time to remove invasive species and plant native species. Park Association volunteers contributed an additional 12,500 hours of time to hosting displays at events, leading nature walks, and leading educational school field trips.

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

On Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation (MVRPF) held their Annual General Meeting. At the meeting, Mark Van Der Zalm was



MVRPF 2023 Annual Report Cover

elected as the new President and the 2023 Annual Report of the MVRPF was approved.

The Annual Report fulfills an obligation of the Contribution and Collaboration Agreement with Metro Vancouver that came into effect on April 30, 2023. The report includes sections acknowledging its partners and community supporters, highlights some of the grant initiatives it supported as a funding body, and describes many of the projects and programs it provided as a service to the region. Also included in the report is a synopsis of 2023 award recipients.

The Annual Report provides a financial summary of the year that saw the Foundation generate \$874,264 in fund raising while distributing \$416,263 to various projects, programs and awards. The MVRPF currently has over \$1.9M in financial assets in various fund categories.

Through a unique partnership, the MVRPF and Metro Vancouver work together to make our regional parks the best they can be, for now and for future generations. The full annual report is now posted on the <u>"Your Impact" page</u> of the MVRPF website.

REGIONAL PARKS UPDATES

Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis – Project Update

At the January 10, 2024 Regional Parks Committee meeting, the report titled "Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis – Project Update" provided an update to the Metro Vancouver Board on the park planning, rezoning and Official Community Plan amendment processes for the proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island.

The report included a letter Metro Vancouver transmitted to Bowen Island Municipality on December 1, 2023, to clarify background information, request formal feedback on the park concept and technical studies, provide detailed responses to the Islands Trust Executive Committee determination of non-compliance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement and Bowen Island Municipality conditional requirements for rezoning approval, and ultimately request clarity on the next steps in the rezoning and OCP amendment process.

The December 1, 2023 letter outlined how the current park proposal aligns with Islands Trust and Bowen Island Municipality Policy and noted the Bowen Island Municipality request to Metro Vancouver for an amended proposal was insufficiently clear for Metro Vancouver to respond effectively.

Islands Trust policy confirms a determination of non-compliance "means that there is an absolute and direct collision between the local municipality bylaw and the Policy Statement." The Bowen Island Municipality – Islands Trust Protocol Agreement requires Islands Trust to provide clear reasons for the return or refusal of an OCP amendment or rezoning bylaw and "directions as to changes to the bylaw that would be required for approval".

A response letter from Bowen Island municipality was received on February 23, 2024. The response failed to provide the requested clarity on the Island Trust determination of non-compliance, formal feedback on the park concept and technical studies which were requested by Bowen Island Municipality, and a reply to Metro Vancouver's response to the Municipality's conditional requirements for rezoning approval which include the funding of infrastructure and execution of land transfers outside of the proposed park.

Staff will follow up with Bowen Island Municipality staff to seek clarity on these matters and will report back to the MVRD Board with an update.

Family Day Events, February 19

Pacific Spirit Regional Park – On February 19, 2024, 1200 park visitors participated in the Family Day Campfire event held at Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Participants enjoyed time around a campfire, drinking hot chocolate, roasting marshmallows, drumming, nature stories and singing along with park interpreters. This event received financial support from the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada through a BC Family Day Event grant.



Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Family Day

təmtəmíx tən/Belcarra Regional Park — On Family Day morning, 200 visitors came to the Picnic Area at təmtəmíx tən/Belcarra Regional Park for the Family Day Hike and Campfire. The cold but beautiful weather was perfect for families to enjoy a hike following pages from an illustrated storybook and to explore the forest with a winter scavenger hunt. Visitors warmed up by the campfire, listened to nature-themed stories, and sang along to songs led by park interpreters. Robert Gordon of səlilwəta (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) also shared some songs including "Slippery Fish" in hənqəminəm, which provided a special experience for all to learn about the Nation's connection to this place.

People came from municipalities as far as West Vancouver to Langley. For some, it was their first time at təmtəmíxwtən/Belcarra and their first campfire! Some families from səlilwətał came to the event via a water taxi provided by Metro Vancouver. When asked to share how to say "campfire" in your language, we received responses in Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The event was a great opportunity for families with children to visit a regional park and connect with nature in winter. It was supported by a BC Family Day Activity Grant from the province.



təmtəmix^wtən/Belcarra Regional Park – Family Day

Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Upcoming Event: Night Quest, March 22 and 23

West Area's signature two-day event, Night Quest, will be held at Pacific Spirit Regional Park on Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23, 2024. Approximately 4,000 visitors will walk down lantern-lit trails decorated with glowing light displays, where they will be greeted by friendly creatures sharing their tales of the forest.

Delivered in partnership with the Pacific Spirit Park Society, Night Quest is a free family event that inspires excitement and appreciation about the temperate rainforest and highlights the magic and wonder of Pacific Spirit Regional Park at night.



Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Night Quest is a family-friendly event showcasing the wonder of nature



Lantern-lit trails at Pacific Spirit Regional Park's Night Quest

Participants will enjoy an interactive exhibitor zone featuring booths and activities by various community organizations, including BC Wildlife Federation, Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, West Point Grey District Girl Guides, Scouts Canada, Nature Vancouver, the Stanley Park Ecological Society, CTS Youth Society, and more. In addition, participants can try drumming or roast a marshmallow around a cozy campfire.

ATTACHMENT

1. Regional Parks Committee 2024 Work Plan

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation: Your Impact

65567814

Regional Parks Committee 2024 Work Plan

Report Date: February 28, 2024

Priorities

1 st Quarter	Status
Regional Parks Committee Priorities and 2024 Work Plan	Completed
Regional Parks Land Dedication Bylaw	Completed
Cape Roger Curtis Engagement Process and Rezoning – Update	Completed
Pilot Program to Permit Alcohol Consumption in Regional Parks	Pending
Regional Parks Real-Time Parking Availability Program	Pending
Belcarra South Picnic Area Revised Plan	Pending
2 nd Quarter	
2023 Final Year End Financial Performance Results Review	Pending
2024 Financial Performance Reporting and Annual Forecast #1	Pending
Regional Parks Financial Access Program	Pending
Regional Parks Building Strategy	Pending
Cultural Planning and Cooperation Agreement Update	Pending
Regional Greenways Plan Implementation Updates	Pending
Burnaby Lake Greenway Phase 2 Update	Pending
Regional Parks Annual Report 2023	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional District Filming Update	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional District Consumption of Liquor in Regional Parks Bylaw	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Amendment Bylaw	Pending
Regional Parks Community Involvement Update	Pending
Regional Parks Regulation and Compliance Program Review	Pending
Cape Roger Curtis Update	Pending
Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Wreck Beach Update	Pending
Kiosk Information Panels Review	Pending
Natural Resource Management Program Stewardship Program Update	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Update	Pending
Natural Asset Management Update	Pending
Mobile Vending Pilot Project	Pending
3 rd Quarter	
Draft 2025 - 2029 Capital Plan Overview	Pending
2024 Financial Performance Reporting and Annual Forecast #2	Pending
Regional Parks Committee Tour of Regional Parks	Pending
Metro Vancouver 10 Year Salmon Enhancement Action Plan Update	Pending

Centennial Beach Concession Building / Services Review	Pending
Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS) Contribution Agreement and Presentation	Pending
Pacific Spirit Park Society Contribution Agreement and Presentation	Pending
4th Quarter	
2025 - 2029 Five Year Financial Plan and 2025 Budget and Annual Rates	Pending
2024 Financial Performance Reporting and Annual Forecast #3	Pending
Regional Parks Development Cost Charge Program Update	Pending
MVRD Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw	Pending
Regional Parks Asset Management Plan	Pending
Climate Action Strategy for Regional Parks	Pending
Repeal and Replace Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw	Pending
Sponsorship in Regional Parks Policy	Pending
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Update	Pending
Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update	Pending

Status = Pending, In Progress or Completed

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS Upcoming Events March 2024

DATE	UPCOMING EVENTS
12 MAR 2024	Piper Spit Bird Count BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
15 MAR 2024	Beaver Watch BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
17 MAR 2024	Cool Cats & Canines KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK
20 MAR 2024	Naturally Inspired BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
20 MAR 2024	N ature & Art BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK
22 MAR 2024	Night Quest PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
23 MAR 2024	Night Quest PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK
28 MAR 2024	Enchanted Forest ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

 $[*]Note: \textit{For more information on Regional Parks Programs \& Events, please \textit{visit} \underline{\texttt{https://metrovancouver.org/events/events-calendar}}$