



# Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy

April 2014

 **LEES+Associates**  
Landscape Architects and Planners



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION



CANADA



# E. Lees & Associates Consulting Ltd.

April 8, 2014

Sunshine Coast Trail Society  
9167 Ionian Road  
Halfmoon Bay, BC  
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Dear Sunshine Coast Trail Society Board of Directors,

## **Re: Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy**

E. LEES + Associates Consulting Ltd. (LEES+Associates) is pleased to submit the enclosed report: *The Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy*. The contents include the following sections:

- Guiding Principles
- Emerging Trends and Demographic Shifts
- Economic Benefits of Trails
- Trail Evaluation
- Framework for future expansion and development
- Design Guidelines and Classification System
- Signage Standards
- Community Outreach and Education Strategies
- Implementation Plan
- Next Steps

Yours Truly,

Erik Lees, BLA BCSLA

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## **Sechelt First Nation**

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## **Squamish First Nation**

## **Sunshine Coast Tourism**

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Thank you also to those members of the public and stakeholder groups who participated in the development of this plan by responding to online questionnaires, meetings and attending the public open house events.



Recreation Sites  
and Trails BC

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Existing Legislative Framework .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Existing Users .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Project Process .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Guiding Principles .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Emerging Trends and Demographic Shifts .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Economic Benefits of Trails.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Trail Evaluation .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Trails on Crown Land.....	18
<b>Framework for future expansion and development.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Trail System Priorities.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Design Guidelines and Classification System .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Draft Trail Classification and Standards - Recreation Sites and Trails BC .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Signage Standards .....</b>	<b>34</b>
Signage and Wayfinding .....	34
Trailhead Signage .....	34
Classification Signage.....	36
Interpretive and Educational Signage .....	36
<b>Community Outreach and Education Strategies.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Interactive Trail Inventory .....	38
Public Volunteer Trail Events.....	39
Sponsored Events.....	40
Public Marketing Campaign Initiatives .....	40
Trail Etiquette Education.....	41
Media Components .....	41
<b>Funding Opportunities .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Implementation Plan.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Next Steps .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Literature Cited .....</b>	<b>57</b>

<b>Appendix A - Questionnaire Results/Summary.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Appendix B - Section 57 Application, Information &amp; Guidelines .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Appendix C – Forest Recreation Regulation 16/2004 .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Appendix D – Outdoor Recreation Council – Trail Code of Ethics.....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Appendix E – SunCoaster Trail Maps .....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Appendix F – SCRD Park and Trail Maps .....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Appendix G – Pender Harbour Hiking Trails .....</b>	<b>134</b>



# INTRODUCTION

Situated on BC's Southern Mainland Coast, the Lower Sunshine Coast features Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Western Hemlock forest, rugged terrain and small coastal communities. Accessible primarily by ferry, it is located within the traditional lands of the Sechelt and Squamish First Nations, from the head of the Jervis Inlet to Howe Sound.

The current trail inventory consists of over 325 trails making up approximately 570 kilometres. They range in their level of development, level of difficulty, user type designation and proximity to one another allowing trail users a multitude of experiential options. About 75% percent of this inventory has some level of digital map data although there is a considerable range of accuracy. The number and length of trails is increasing as various groups continue to develop new trails. Largely on Crown Land, the majority of trails are currently unsanctioned.

*Established in 2007, the Sunshine Coast Trails Society (SCTS) is a not for profit organization supporting the planning, development and management of a sustainable trail network on the Lower Sunshine Coast.*

Working with the public and local stakeholders, the purpose of this trail strategy is to guide the planning, development and management of a sustainable trail network on the Lower Sunshine Coast's Crown Land - embracing the diversity of users and nurturing social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits in the local communities. The strategy represents a fundamental move toward formally recognizing and valuing the lower Sunshine Coast trails network as a significant and important asset. It includes the identification of key trail networks to be legitimized through the formal Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) authorization process.

All trails within this strategy fall within one or more of the traditional territories of the Sechelt and Squamish First Nations. Consultation and involvement of First Nations in the coordination of trail management activities will strengthen the sustainability of the entire network and ensure all stakeholders have input in the process.

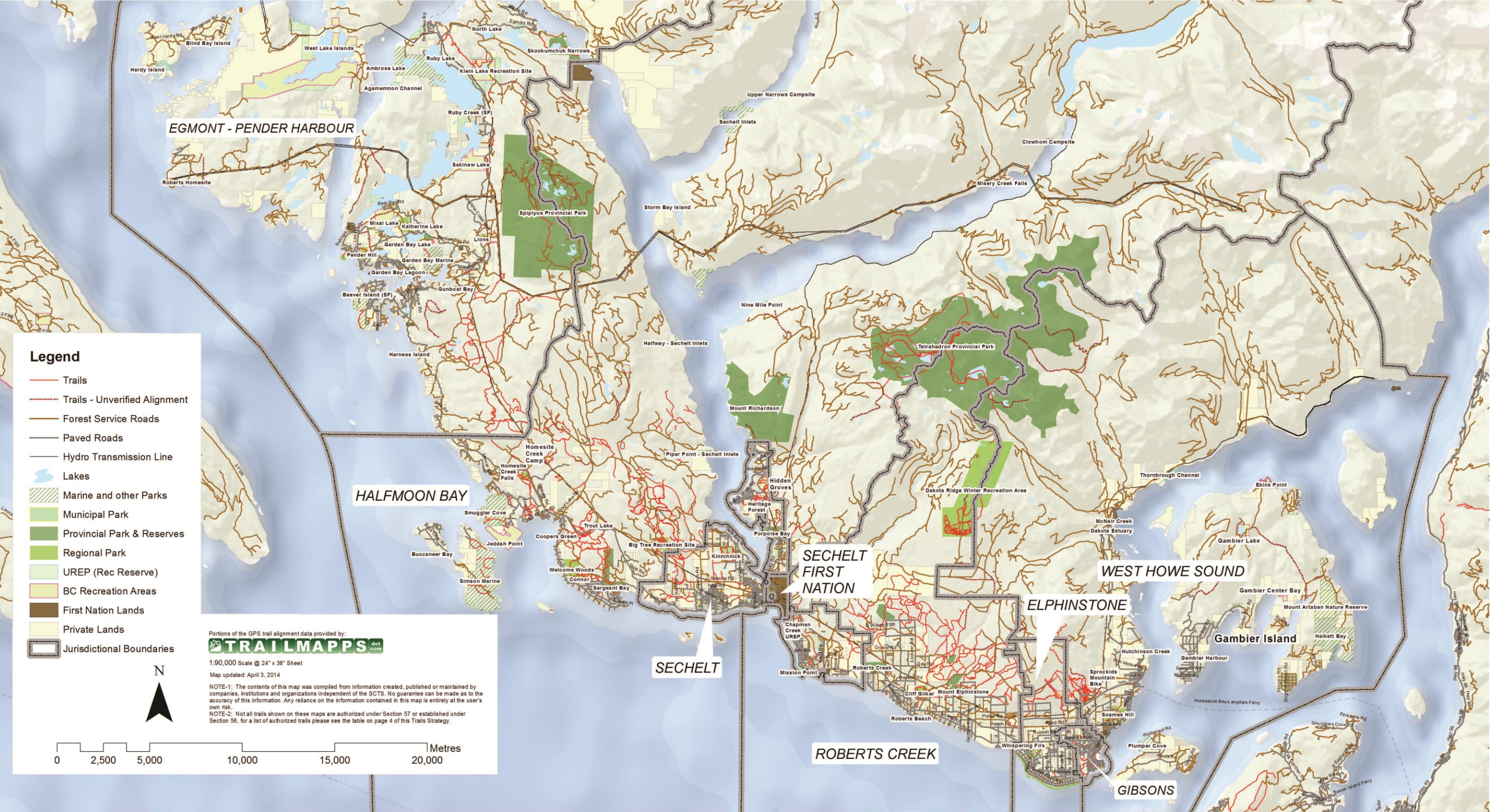
This Strategy builds off work undertaken by the SCTS including an extensive trail inventory as well as the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD) Trail Network Plan (2007) and a Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013). While the SCRД Trail Network Plan focused primarily on cycling paths, walking trails and beach access and the development of "community recreation routes", this Strategy looks at a broader geographic area, with a focus on Crown Land, and wider user group base. This Strategy is not meant to replace the SCRД Trail Network Plan which continues to provide the SCRД with guidance in the development of bikeways, paved multi-use paths, transportation oriented trails, beach access and the SunCoaster Trail.

The following are outlined in this strategy:

- Framework for future expansion and development;
- Design Guidelines and Classification System;
- Signage Standards;
- Community Outreach and Education Strategies;
- Implementation Plan, and
- Next Steps.



# SUNSHINE COAST - Trail System Overview





## EXISTING LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The majority of the trails on the Lower Sunshine Coast are on Crown Land. Provincial Recreation Sites and Trails on Crown Land are in a working forest – they are not in parks, nor are they protected. There are often other stakeholders who may have tenured rights on the site, or on the trail.

A primary goal of this strategy is to better protect and legitimize the trail network by prioritizing trails for which to apply for trail authorization through the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA).

Several Regulations apply:

- Section 57: Authorization to do work -
  - Provides authority to construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail on Crown Land.
  - Does not provide any formal tenure or rights.
  - Does not provide protection.
- Section 56: Establishes a Recreation Trail -
  - Provides authority to establish an interpretive forest site or recreation trail.
  - Objectives can be set for the site, but must be consistent with other government objectives for the area.
  - Implies a higher level of protection or negotiated use.
  - Provides the land manager with the authority to enter into agreements under section 118 of FRPA.
  - Makes the land manager more responsible for the safety of the recreating public.
- Section 118: Allows Ministry to enter into Partnership for Recreation Trail -
  - Provides authority for a land manager to enter into an agreement to develop, maintain, repair or close a recreation site or trail.

### Consultation and Cooperation with Stakeholders:

As any Authorization or Establishment must pass through a referral process it is key that the stakeholders have confidence their concerns are being evaluated and fairly reflected in the development of a proposal. In addition, it is key to ensure that the development of new trails is done through the Section 57 Authorization process. Through this process all stakeholders are given notice of the proposed development and an opportunity for input. This consultation process ensures that the proponent and stakeholder groups work cooperatively to resolve issues that arise, and thus develop a working relationship.

There is also an acknowledgement that proponent will be responsible for the proper construction and maintenance of the trail. Once on file with RSTBC an authorized or established recreation feature should be identified early in the planning of development activities and consultation mitigating land use conflicts and impacts on trails. A good working relationship and ongoing



effective communication between stake holders will ensure that the information that is needed to plan ahead and mitigate impacts on recreational infrastructure is shared.

More details on this legislation and the application process is found in Appendix B & C.

### Current Authorized and Established Trails

Over 25 of the Lower Sunshine Coast Trails are authorized under Section 57. The SCTS has acquired this authorization for 12 of these trails:

Trail Name	Approval	Sponsor Organization	Multi Use	Usage (High, Medium, Low)	Trail Length (m)
<b>Big Tree Crowston Beaver Pond Loop</b>	S57	SCRD	Y	High	
<b>Big Tree</b>	S56	Rec. Officer	Y	High	
<b>Homesite Creek Nature Trails</b>	S56/57	SCRD		High	475
<b>Homesite campsite</b>	S56	Rec. Officer	Y	High	
<b>Black Tower</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	1,250
<b>Kevin's (through middle of Mt. Elphinstone Provincial Park #2)</b>	S57	BC Parks	Y		
<b>Lower Tube</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	
<b>Pumpkin Patch</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	1,000
<b>Upper Tube</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	
<b>Caroline's Connector</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	Medium	500
<b>Dude's Bypass</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	Medium	500
<b>Highway 103</b>	S57	SCTS		High	
<b>Highway 102</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	
<b>Mach Chicken</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	1,500
<b>Trailfest Wagonroad</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	High	5,000
<b>JB Connector</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	Medium	
<b>Up 'n' Over</b>	S57	SCTS	Y	Medium	1,000

<b>Chapman Creek Trail</b>	S57	DOS		High	
<b>Trails in Hidden Grove</b>	S57	DOS		High	11,000
<b>Trails in Heritage Forest</b>	S56	DOS		High	4,500
<b>Dakota Ridge Trails</b>	S56	SCRD		High	27,000
<b>Sprockids Park Trails</b>	S57	SCRD		High	14,000
<b>Homesite Creek / Secret Creek Nature Trails</b>	S56	SCRD			
<b>Brown Lake (trail leading into Skookumchuck)</b>	S57	BC Parks			
<b>Trout Lake Picnic Area</b>	S56	SCRD (under agreement with Rec Sites BC)			
<b>Klein Lake</b>	S56	SCRD			
<b>Mount Crucil cabin</b>	S57	SnowSeekers			

## EXISTING USERS

The Sunshine Coast trail system supports a wide range of users:

- Walkers;
- Hikers;
- Trail runners;
- Nature Appreciators;
- Backpackers;
- Dog Walkers;
- Equestrians;
- Cyclists: Mountain bikers, cyclists and BMX riders, including cross country, freeriding, downhill and dirt jumping disciplines;
- Backcountry skiers/mountaineers, snowshoers;
- XC Skiers: classic and skate, and
- Motorized Users: ATV, motorcycle, snowmobile.

## PROJECT PROCESS

The Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy was completed in 6 phases:

- Review of Relevant Background Materials;
- Trail Evaluation and Consultation;
- Preparation of the Draft Trail Strategy;
- Draft Trail Strategy Review;
- Presentation to of Draft Trail Strategy, and
- Final Trail Strategy.

Stakeholder groups, including the Sechelt First Nation, Squamish Nation, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) and Recreation Sites and Trails BC were engaged early in the process and were invited to participate in bi-weekly project update meetings.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The public was engaged through three open house sessions, held in Pender Harbour, Sechelt and Roberts Creek in October/November, 2013. Attendees were invited to provide feedback, participate in a mapping exercise and contribute to the existing trail inventory. Over 125 community members attended. The open house mapping exercise provided each meeting attendee with three coloured stickers which they were asked to place on their three favorite trails. This was intended to gather high level information regarding the more intensely used and popular trails throughout the community.



*Figure 1: Public consultation in Sechelt. Credit: LEES+Associates*

Key Findings:

- Over 127 trails were identified as popular and currently being used by the community members;
- A significant amount of feedback was collected on new trail alignments and possible trail connections/loops on Crown Land, provincial and regional parks;
- Creating more accessible and less challenging trails was a reoccurring theme;
- The community reiterated that engaging stakeholders including the forest industry, First Nations, all levels of government and the various recreational user groups is very important, and
- A significant amount of information was provided to build on the SCTS's trail inventory. Updates continue to be made online.

The SCTS also presented presentation panels, and offered the public a further opportunity to provide feedback by placing a dot on their favorite trails at the Banff Film Festival showing at the Elphinstone Secondary School in Gisbons on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.



In addition to in person consultation, the public was invited to participate in an online questionnaire, hosted on Survey Monkey™ over a six week period. 394 responses were received. Full results are included in Appendix A.

Key Findings:

- A high proportion of questionnaire respondents indicated that exercise (84.2%) and being close to nature (83.2%) were a reason why they use trails;
- An overwhelming majority (70.9%) of respondents prefer trails that are narrow with some steep sections and challenging features;
- The majority (61.5%) of respondents indicated that they do not have significant conflicts with other trail users.
  - Respondents identified most frequently having conflicts with motorized users (ie ATV, snowmobile) and people who are mountain biking (XC/ downhill);
  - Geographically, Roberts Creek/Elphinstone had the highest reported conflicts (18.9% of respondents), and
  - Dog walking was identified as a source of trail conflicts in Gibsons to West Howe Sound. Even dog walkers see other dog walkers as one of the user groups with which they experience the highest potential for conflict.
- 60.1% of questionnaire respondents indicated that their favorite trails are in good condition;
- The three top trail issues identified were: “no signs or broken signs” (49.1%), “erosion” (48.8%) and “garbage” (46.9%), and
- The top three priorities for improvement were: “install trailhead maps and trail intersection signs” (66.8%), “improve trail linkages/ link trails together” (53.5%) and “add new trails” (40%). Repairing erosion problems and rerouting trails (36.1%) as well as repairing muddy trails (30.1%) was also important to respondents.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The following guiding principles, developed by the SCTS, are intended to direct the development and implementation of the Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy.

### **Partnership and collaboration**

A successful trail strategy needs the input of all stakeholders and users through a collaborative approach rooted in equality, fairness and diversity. This includes First Nations, diverse trail user groups, industry and all levels of government.

### **Protection and legitimization of trails**

Protecting and legitimizing the trails is key. A successful trail strategy will identify the key trail networks to be protected from environmental and human threats and to be legitimized through the formal process.

### **Environmental and cultural stewardship**

Trails must ensure environmental sustainability and respect for cultural values. The trail strategy and subsequent planning and management must maintain integrity of the environment and respect cultural values.

### **Recreational opportunities for all users**

Trail networks must provide recreational opportunities to a range of users including hikers, bikers, horseback riders and motorized users. The strategy will include an inventory of trails and designate appropriate usage as a result of stakeholders and users input.

### **Benefits (social, cultural, health, economic and environmental) for our local communities**

Trails must provide a suite of social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits to the local communities. A diversity of trails for a variety of trail users will help deliver the various benefits to community members and visitors.

## EMERGING TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS

A number of demographic shifts and emerging trends should be considered in the management and development of trails on the Sunshine Coast. Many of these highlight an increasing recognition of the importance of trails.

### Changing demographics

- At a median age of 51.6, the Lower Sunshine Coast has an older population than most Canadian communities – 10 years older than the median age across BC and Canada (Statistics Canada, 2012). Across Canada, the aging population is increasingly interested in experiences that offer personal growth, as well as recreational activities that are less strenuous. Walking and low/no-impact activities are increasingly popular over higher-impact activities such as jogging. Trail use in BC is growing in the baby boomer generation, as well as their children.
- From 2001 to 2006 the population of the Lower Sunshine Coast increased by 8.4%, but slowed to only 3% from 2006 to 2011. 78% of dwellings are occupied by year round residents (Statistics Canada, 2012).

### Diversity of users, increasing popularity in trail activities

- Over the last few decades, the Canadian government has changed its health promotion platform from the encouragement of vigorous physical activity to more moderate activities such as walking and cycling.
- As people's schedules become increasingly busy, there is greater demand for informal and individual leisure activities such as walking or cycling, rather than programs with set schedules. Many people who move to the coast are seeking a less structured lifestyle.
- Participation in outdoor recreation, and particularly in nature-based activities, has increased significantly overall. Interest in forests, wildlife and natural resources remains strong.
- Activities including mountain biking, cycling for recreation and transportation, horseback riding, motorized trail use and walking and hiking continue to increase in popularity – highlighting the importance of planning and managing for diverse use and possible conflicts associated with shared use of trails.
- Participation in particular activities such as mountain biking, once perceived to be a youth oriented activity, has shifted with the maturation of the sport. 41% of mountain bicyclists in the Sea to Sky Corridor are aged 30-39 and 21% are between 40-59 (Western Mountain Bike Tourism Association). Three clubs operate on the Lower Sunshine Coast – each of which cater primarily to a different age group.

*"The key trends all suggest increasing demand for community-based, highly connected and locally developed trail networks that provide linkages among communities and regions, as well as nearby parks and natural areas."*

- Trails Strategy for British Columbia



### **Access to nature**

- Growing awareness and concern about climate change, water quality, species declines, and other environmental issues is having an effect on peoples' perceptions and behavior. Further, the health, educational and cognitive development benefits of access to nature are becoming increasingly known and are prompting increasing numbers to seek regular access to nature.

### **Recognition of economic benefits**

- Recreational trails are increasingly recognized as drivers of economic development and tourism. This trend is explored in more detail on the following pages.

### **Role of trails in transportation**

- Trails are increasingly being valued as infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation that are sustainable, economical, healthy and environmentally friendly.



*Figure 2: Hikers in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park*

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TRAILS

With the rising popularity of outdoor recreation activities the economic value of trails has become increasingly evident. Trails have been shown to boost economic activity while contributing to community social development, education of citizens, and the environment. By designing and managing a connected network, these benefits can be further augmented.

Trails:

- Diversify local economies;
- Provide opportunities for active transportation – leading to reduced impact on road infrastructure and decreasing health care costs<sup>1</sup>;
- Are a tourism draw, and
- Increase property values - offering residents scenic views and on-hand recreational opportunities<sup>2</sup>.

Both recreational and active transportation based trail users are likely to spend money adjacent to trails, if the spending opportunities exist. If the economic revenue generating potential of trails and by trail users is considered early on, trails can be planned and built to encourage local spending in conjunction with trail use. Some examples of planning initiatives to increase trail use include:

- Connect community destinations such as businesses, schools and universities, recreation centres with residential areas;
- Links between the hierarchy of bikeway and natural surface trail networks (connecting bike lanes, urban paved trails and natural environment trails);
- Trail user safety (regularly maintained, hazard areas addressed, clear signage), and
- Trail amenities (washrooms, bike racks, benches, parking).

If designed with these features trails provide economic cost savings by attracting residents to use the trails in reaching businesses, attract businesses to set up near the trail system and will generate increased tax revenues.

In addition, by providing trails that link to destinations, more residents are likely to walk or bike, eliminating or reducing impacts on the roads and on air quality, which may be

*"The Federation of Canadian Municipalities for Sustainable Community Development also relates that active transportation increases economic viability because cyclists and walkers are likely to spend locally."*

*(Federation of Canadian Municipalities for Sustainable Community Development in Dunbar & Associates, 2011)*

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<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute and Federation of Canadian Municipalities for Sustainable Community Development both relate municipal savings and increased revenues associated with active transportation.

<sup>2</sup> Dunbar, 1999. Trail availability outranked 16 other options, including security, ball fields, golf courses, parks and access to shopping or business centre, according to a 2002 National Association of Realtors/National Association of Home Builders Survey. Only highway access was ranked as more important amenity by the 2000 homebuyers surveyed.

connected to greater automobile use. Trail systems can also provide indirect savings to the healthcare system, as an increase in free accessible based recreational opportunities, such as trails, can be connected to lower rates of obesity and other medical issues. These findings are documented below (Simcoe County Trails Strategy, 2011):

- A Transport Canada issue paper finds that a shift to greater levels of active transportation will lead to lower roadway costs, reduced congestion, decreased road maintenance costs, less costly infrastructure and increased road safety;
- The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute found that costs associated with obesity were 4.3 billion dollars in 2001 and that the economic cost associated with physical inactivity represented 2.7% of total health care costs in Canada, and
- The same bulletin states that physically active employees are absent less and are more productive, saving employers money.

A recent Economic Impact Analysis conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (Dunbar & Associates, 2011) studied the economic impacts of attracting local users and tourists to regional trail systems such as the Trans Canada Trail. The study found that the majority of users were locals, and although they tended to spend less money associated with their trail use per day than a tourist, at \$7-8 a trip, they are still generating the majority of the economic activity and expenditures on items such as food and cycling equipment.

Several municipalities in Canada (i.e., Kelowna, Whistler) have produced and implemented plans to increase the economic impact of tourism related to mountain biking on natural surface trails and bike facilities. Strategies to do the same have also been produced by the Scottish government (Scottish Mountain Bike Development Consortium, 2009) and the Australian province of Tasmania (Sport and Recreation Tasmania, 2009). Some estimated economic findings from these precedents are noted below:

- Whistler's network of cycling trails, Bike Park and Crankworx Freeride Mountain Bike Festival generated more than \$34 million in direct spending over a three month period in 2006. The Crankworx Festival alone attracted 55,000 visitors and generated more than \$11.5 million in non-resident expenditures (Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Association 2007). In 2006 the Western Canada Mountain Bike Tourism Association (MBTA) coordinated a regional economic impact study for mountain biking in the Sea to Sky corridor. The study found that \$10.3 million was spent by riders visiting the region over the summer of 2006. The majority were over 30 years old and spent on average, from \$39 (Squamish) to \$122 (Whistler) per person/per day, on an overnight trip.
- Tourism to Scotland based solely on people who visit specifically to use the mountain bike trails and facilities generates £46.5 million each year for the Scottish economy (Bryden et al. 2010).
- The Teton County trail system in Wyoming generated an estimated \$18 million in economic activity in 2010. Of this amount, almost \$17 million was generated by non-local trail users. Trail use includes mountain biking, trail running and hiking. 213 workers with total wages of \$3.6 million were supported by the trail system in the summer and fall of 2010 (Kaliszewski 2011).
- In the early 1990s, Rossland City Council and key stakeholders began looking for ways to revitalize the local economy. They chose to focus on 'health and wellness', including an extensive but relatively undeveloped trail system. By integrating the trail system as a key part of the OCP, and commissioning a trail master plan, the community is now beginning to see the tourism benefits.

# TRAIL EVALUATION

There are currently over 300 trails on Crown Land throughout the Lower Sunshine Coast. Many of these have been mapped with GPS and are shown in maps on the following pages. While this strategy is focusing on trails within Crown Land, the Lower Coast's provincial, regional and municipal parks also contain numerous trails, which provide links to Crown Land trails.

The SCTS has prepared, and continues to update, a detailed trails inventory. The public were given the opportunity to add to the inventory at the open house sessions, and it continues to be available for editing on the SCTS website (<http://sctrails.ca>) as it is too large to include in this report. The inventory is an ever growing document and should be considered a 'working document' that is continually updated as new trails are discovered and built.

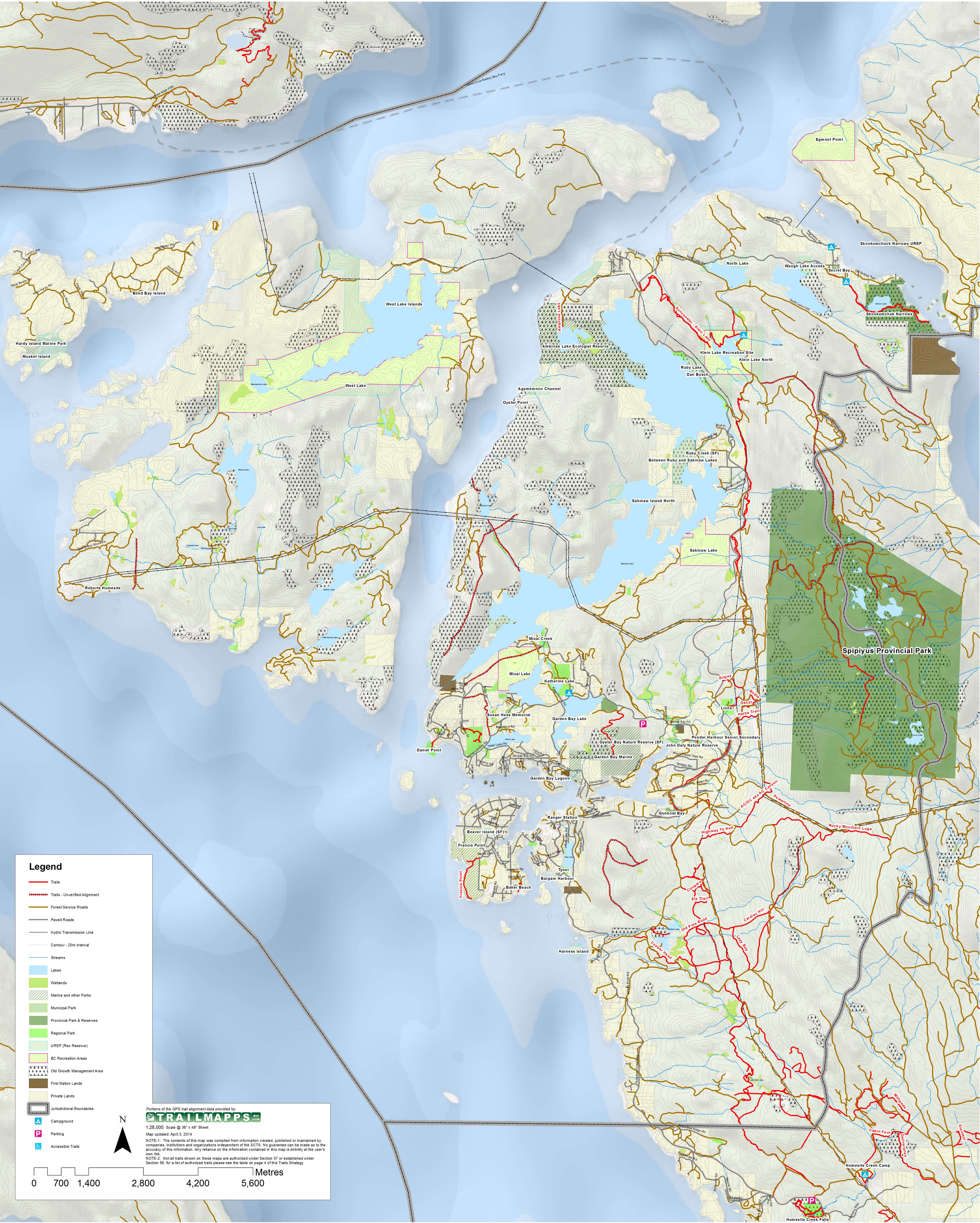
		BASIC INFORMATION										USAGE										ATTRIBUTES & INFRASTRUCTURE				
#	Area	Region	Trail Name	Approval Status	Sponsor Organization	Whistler Scale Trail Type	Multi-Use	Non-Motor Multi-Use	ATV	Motorized Bike	Bike	Horse	Direction (2-Way, One-Way, Downhill)	Elevation (Gain / Loss)	Difficulty Rating	Usage (High, Medium, Low)	Trail Length (m)	Elevation (Gain / Loss)	GPS Data	GPS Contact	Physical Features	#				
6	Roberts Creek	B & K	Black Tower	557	SCTS	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High	1,250		Y	Becky Wylie		double track	84				
7	Roberts Creek	B & K	Caroline's Connector	557	SCTS	2	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	Medium	500		Y	Becky Wylie		Connects B&K to another logging trail	85				
8	Roberts Creek	B & K	Dude's Bypass	557	SCTS	2	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	Medium	500		Y	Becky Wylie			86				
9	Roberts Creek	B & K	Highway 103	557	SCTS	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High			Y	Becky Wylie			87				
10	Roberts Creek	B & K	200			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High			Y	Becky Wylie			88				
11	Roberts Creek	B & K	2001			4	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Black	High			Y	Becky Wylie			89				
12	Roberts Creek	B & K	B&K Dirt Jumps			-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		MIXED	Low	Area		Y	Becky Wylie		Multiple Jumps	90				
13	Roberts Creek	B & K	Blazing Saddles			5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	2-way	Blue	Low			Y	Dale Sappich			91				
14	Roberts Creek	B & K	Branch 3 Logging Road	Forest Tenure		1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High			Y	Becky Wylie		single & double track	92				
15	Roberts Creek	B & K	Brodie			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High			Y	Becky Wylie			93				
16	Roberts Creek	B & K	Charlie Brown			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Medium			Y	Becky Wylie		single track	94				
17	Roberts Creek	B & K	Circle Trail			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High			Y	Becky Wylie			95				
18	Roberts Creek	B & K	Cunning Stunts			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Downhill	Black	Low			Y	Becky Wylie		wooden ladders, bridges, stunts	96				
19	Roberts Creek	B & K	DAVE JONES LOCKYER			5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Medium	2,000			Y	Becky Wylie			97			
20	Roberts Creek	B & K	DNZ			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Black	Medium			Y	Becky Wylie			98				
21	Roberts Creek	B & K	El Dorado			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Low				Rod Camposano		rough singletrack with bermed corners	99				
22	Roberts Creek	B & K	First Step			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High	2,000					downhill	100				
23	Roberts Creek	B & K	Gnome			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High	1,000		Y	Becky Wylie		single track downhill downhill spurs off Dude's way	101				
24	Roberts Creek	B & K	Grant's Grind			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Low	500							102			
25	Roberts Creek	B & K	Guy's Gulch			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High	1,000							103			
26	Roberts Creek	B & K	Highway 102			3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	High			Y	Becky Wylie		old japanese camp	104				
27	Roberts Creek	B & K	Highway 102 (OLD DBL TRACK)			2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Medium						downhill spurs off Dude's way	105				
28	Roberts Creek	B & K	Jane's Jungle			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Low	500		Y	Becky Wylie			106				
29	Roberts Creek	B & K	Kevins	557		5	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Low	500		Y	Becky Wylie			107				
30	Roberts Creek	B & K	Logger Sports			4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Blue	Low	500		Y	Becky Wylie		wooden bridge	108				
31	Roberts Creek	B & K	Lost 'n' Found				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High			Y	Becky Wylie		old logging materials ocean view at top jumps & obstacles, downhill	109				
32	Roberts Creek	B & K	Lower Tube	557		2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Green	High			Y	Becky Wylie			110				
33	Roberts Creek	B & K	Match Chicks	557		4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way	Black	High	1,500		Y	Becky Wylie			111				
34	Roberts Creek	B & K	Medium Road				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2-way					Y	Becky Wylie			112				

Figure 3: Sample Clip from the Online Sunshine Coast Trails Inventory, <http://sctrails.ca>

The following inventory maps detail the extensive network of existing trails, including those on Crown Land, Provincial Parks, Regional Parks and Municipal Parks.



# EGMONT - PENDER HARBOUR



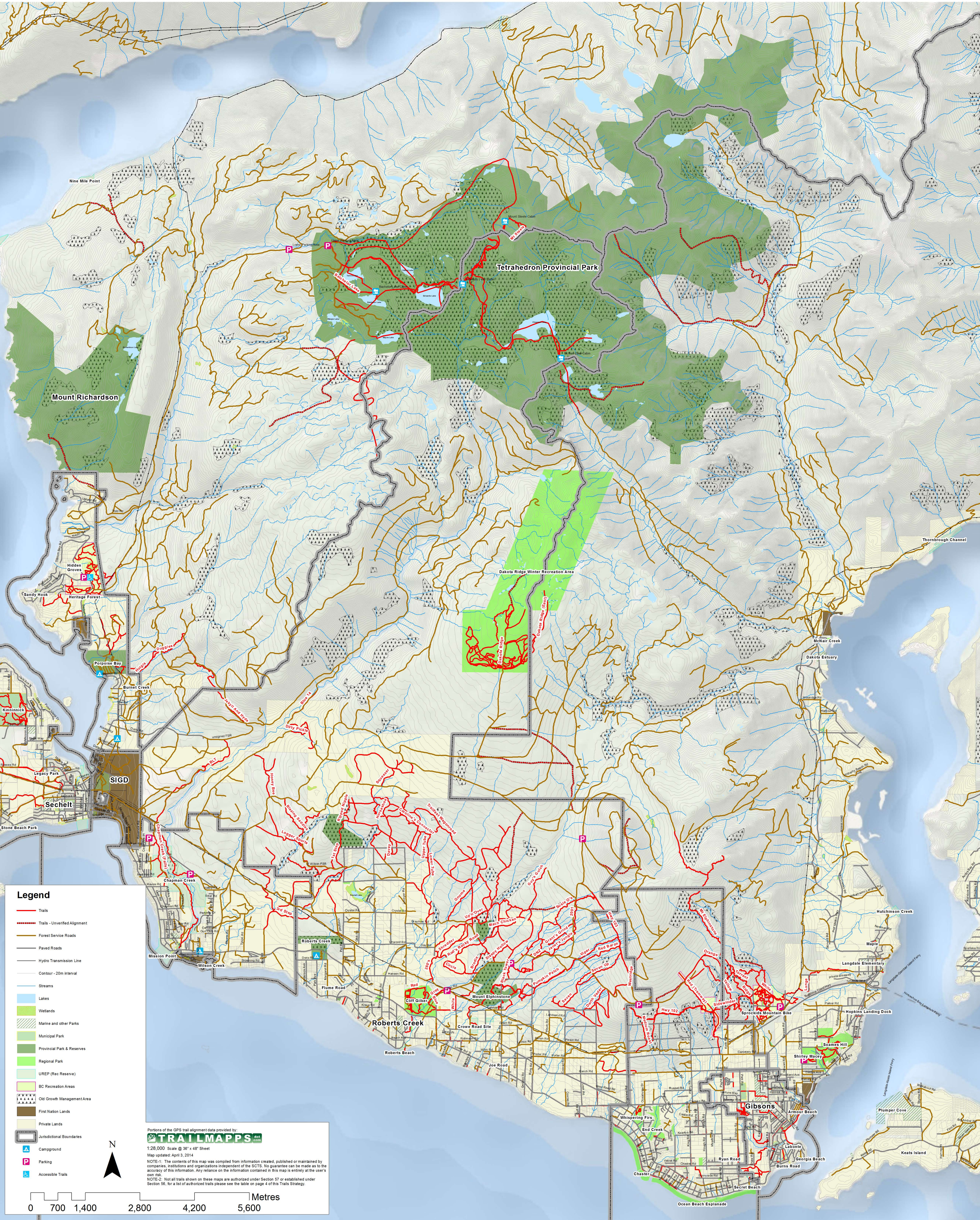


# HALFMOON BAY - SECHELT



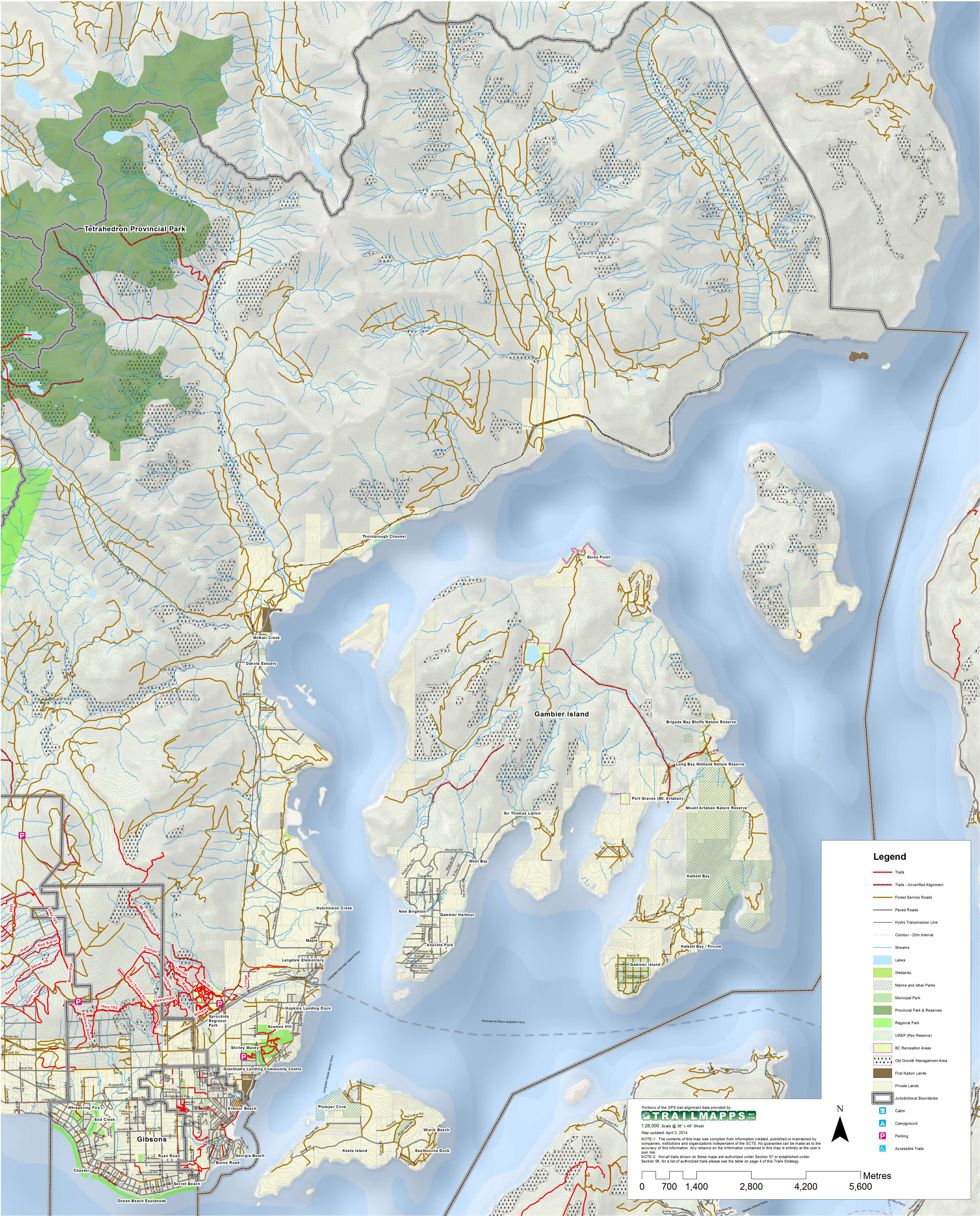


# ROBERTS CREEK - ELPHINSTONE - GIBSONS





# ELPHINSTONE - GIBSONS - WEST HOWE SOUND





## TRAILS ON CROWN LAND

85% of the trails on the Lower Coast are on Crown Land. These include four trail classification types (Rec Sites & Trails BC, 2012); including partially reclaimed Forest Service roads to professionally built high quality single track mountain bike trails. With increased education among many local trail builders and an increase in sustainable trail building techniques, the quality of trail construction has generally increased over the past 15 years. However, there are still many newer trails that do not follow sustainable principles, particularly with regards to their alignment. There are also a large number of trails with old infrastructure or woodwork that is at the end of its lifespan and in need of repair or replacement.



Figure 4: Hwy 103, 33 1/3 Trail, Cuning Stunts & Cabin Fever

## BC PARKS

Provincial parks are a major destination in drawing both locals and tourists to the Lower Coast trail system. The Lower Sunshine Coast contains 24 Provincial Parks, over 11,755 hectares. These are developed for recreational trail use to varying degrees. While Skookumchuck Narrows and Porpoise Bay Provincial Parks provide precedents of trail systems that are well received by the local community, due to the limited resources available, many others have been identified as having a lower level of trail maintenance. Feedback from the online questionnaire and open house sessions point to a need for improvements in several parks: Mt. Richardson, Spipiyus and Tetrahedron Provincial Parks. Management Plans have been completed for only one of these Provincial Parks, yet are key to providing trails that meet the needs of the public.

*The Ministry currently relies on purpose statements, zoning plans and management plans to guide the management of Provincial Parks. As a baseline, the majority of BC Parks have purpose statements and zoning plans— a high level overview of the area and significance, yet do not currently have management plans. Many of those with Management Plans have not been updated in the last decade.*

- Office of the Auditor  
General of British  
Columbia, 2010

### Mt. Richardson Provincial Park

The Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan for Mount Richardson Park classifies the park as primarily for ecosystem protection. Secondary to that goal is limited upland hiking trails and back-country camping. A Management Plan has not yet been completed for this park. Typically BC Parks discuss trail development through the management planning process.

Current conditions:

- This park is very close and visible to Sechelt yet has little value to the local community in its current uncared for state;
- It has unique and valuable natural history values including a wide variety of plant communities i.e. arbutus forests, pine ridge tops, extensive moss and lichen communities and most particularly, lake side floral communities. Its fauna include all of the birds and animals of this area, including cougars. The geological formations are unique and notable yet no formal inventories exist, and
- Access to Richardson Lake via a difficult 4x4 road is leading to degradation of the immediate lake shores.

### Spipiyus Provincial Park

Also known as the Caren Range, Spipiyus Provincial Park is located north of Halfmoon Bay on the Sechelt Peninsula. It protects pockets of old-growth forest, prime habitat for the marbled murrelet. Hiking trails lead to Mount Hallowell with views of the islands and fjords of Pender Harbour, the Strait of Georgia and Vancouver Island. A fire tower has recently been restored and may be one of the only remaining ones in the province. The park's Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan states the primary role of this park as the protection of higher elevation old-growth forest. The secondary role is identified as the provision of *local recreation opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, backcountry camping and nature appreciation.*

Current conditions:

An extensive system of logging roads creates access to many areas of the park, including areas of old-growth with hiking trails, small lakes and a lookout point on top of Mount Hallowell.



## Tetrahedron Provincial Park

Tetrahedron Provincial Park protects a wide range of landscapes, including mountain peaks, lakes, streams and wetlands, and the Sechelt area community watershed. Elevations in the Tetrahedron range from 900 to 1,800 metres and include Tetrahedron Peak, Panther Peak and Mount Steele. Recreational opportunities at this park are limited but include hiking, cross country skiing and overnight use of the cabins. A Management Plan was completed in 1997. However, some trail maintenance issues were noted during the public consultation process.

### *Current conditions*

The bridge over Chapman Creek, just below Chapman Lake in the Tetrahedron Park is in disrepair. The metal supports in the middle of the bridge have broken off making access across the creek challenging and potentially dangerous year round, especially with a large snow fall covering the bridge surface. Maintenance issues such as this can discourage visitors to the Sunshine Coast.



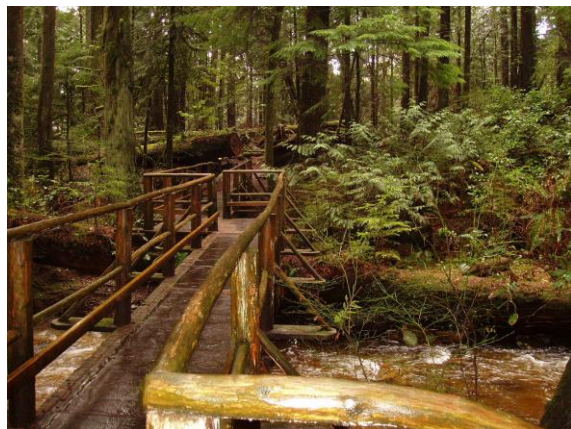
*Figure 5: Chapman Creek, just below Chapman Lake in the Tetrahedron Park*

## REGIONAL PARKS

The Sunshine Coast Regional District manages and maintains 18.5 kilometres of paved bike paths and over 70 kilometres of trails across 110 parks. This includes snowshoeing trails on Dakota Ridge, Sprockids Park and Secret Cove trails. The SCRD manages a vital portion of the Lower Sunshine Coast trail network, however, this involvement is limited for the most part to trails on SCRD land (maps of SCRD parks and trails can be found in Appendix F).



*Figure 6: Dakota Ridge, Source: Celia Robben*



*Figure 7: Cliff Gilker Regional Park, Source: Celia Robben*

## FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Seeing a need for improved planning and management of the Lower Coast's trails, the Sunshine Coast Trail Society was developed as a community driven initiative. The framework for future expansion and development of trails includes not only priorities for proposed SCTS led initiatives, but those for which they should advocate with other agencies and local associations. Further details on this breakdown of responsibilities are included in the implementation section of this report.

### TRAIL SYSTEM PRIORITIES

The future expansion and development of the Lower Coast trails focuses on two primary objectives:

1. Application for the legitimization of existing trails, and management of existing system, and
2. The planning, development and management of proposed priority trails.
  - a. SunCoaster Recreation Corridor Trail;
  - b. Accessible Loop Trails (improved surfacing and grade of 5% or less);
  - c. Sunshine Coast ATV, Motorcycle and Snowmobile Loops;
  - d. National Hiking Trail;
  - e. Equestrian Trails;
  - f. Improvements to Trails in BC Parks, and
  - g. Mountain Biking Trails as a Destination.
3. Network Trailhead Service Hubs

### LEGITIMIZATION OF EXISTING TRAILS

At present, few trails on Crown Land have been legitimized. Efforts to legitimize and manage these trails must be prioritized in order for the system to be manageable within anticipated management and financial resources. The following are proposed as priorities in the table below.



### PROPOSED PRIORITY EXISTING TRAILS FOR SECTION 57 AUTHORIZATION

1. Sidewinder	2. Fuzzy Hugs (outside Sprockids)
3. Halfmoon Bay Trail System (as S56 Trail Network) including Datsun Alley & Little Knives	4. 4D / 3D / DD
5. Brokeback / Dropback	6. VFR
7. Addernach	8. Cabin Fever
9. Chapman Creek UREP (as Rec Site)	10. Mount Elphinstone Summit Trail
11. Sakinaw Outflow	

Old Ministry of Forests section 102 agreements were in place for Datsun Alley and Little Knives in Halfmoon Bay when they were built by fire crews (all original signage still remains). These two trails should be top priority for sanctioning as they are used as connector trails in the proposed National Hiking Trail and may be used as part of the SunCoaster through Halfmoon Bay.

### PROPOSED PRIORITY TRAILS

The following trails should be considered as a priority for future trail development. These are prioritized for one of several key reasons: they provide long distance connections between communities and areas of existing trails, create or expand existing trail loops/circuits, or represent key trail destinations which will increase trail use in both local users and tourists. The SCTS should continue to monitor and assess priority trails, as they may change over time. Also focus on development of these priority trails should first be within existing BC Recreation Areas where possible.

Although a number of these trails are under the jurisdiction of agencies other than the SCTS, these are trails for which the SCTS could advocate, or assist. New trails should be developed in consultation with local First Nations.

#### ▪ SunCoaster Recreation Corridor Trail

The SunCoaster Trail provides an alternative transportation and recreation coordinator for local residents and visitors on the Sunshine Coast. The ultimate goal is for a complete ferry to ferry community connecting recreation corridor trail from Earls Cove to Langdale. Once completed, it will form a primary, community recreation trail corridor, or spine, to the Lower Coast connecting all the communities. Trail sections between Earls Cove in Pender Harbour and Homesite Creek in Halfmoon Bay have been constructed, while others are currently in the planning process (See Appendix E for more detailed maps).

The SunCoaster is not only important as a Sunshine Coast connection from ferry to ferry but also as access to smaller functional loop trails that exist all along it. Some examples include Cardiac Hill, Highway to Hell, AC Canyon, Cougars, Elk Trail and Horse Trail. Signage along the trail and marketing efforts around the trail should showcase those loops to maximize education and recreational value. The entire SunCoaster Trail should be established as a Section 56.

Connections that still need to be completed include:

- Homesite Creek to Sechelt, and
- Sechelt to Langdale Ferry (through Roberts Creek).



Figure 8: SunCoaster Trailhead Parking, Source: Celia Robben

#### ▪ Accessible Loop Trails

With the aging population on Sunshine Coast increasing and demand for accessible trails documented throughout the public process it is recommended that this is a high priority. Additionally the success and popularity of the Hidden Groves trails is a precedent for future development across the Lower Coast. Accessible or universal access trails should be designed to meet the Type I trail specification as outlined in the Trail Classification and Standards chapter of this strategy which includes an improved surfacing such as Asphalt or crushed aggregate and an average grade of 0 – 4%. These standards provide a smooth and even grade for all users including wheel chairs, scooters, walkers and parents with buggies who otherwise may be unable to access and enjoy the forest environment. Various distance loop trails should be considered and well signed with distance and average time to complete to give users options. The Crowe Road UREP could be an ideal location to further develop universally accessible trails.



Figure 9: Hidden Groves, Source: Daniel Scott



Figure 10: Hidden Groves, Source: Daniel Scott

#### ▪ **Sunshine Coast ATV, Motorcycle and Snowmobile Loops**

Work with the local motorized recreation community and clubs such as the Sunshine Coast ATV Club and the Sunshine Coast Snowseekers Snowmobile Club to develop more trails and loops.

Three old logging road trail circuits that could have potential include:

12. Salmon Inlet View Loop;
13. Narrows Inlet View Loop, and
14. Elk Forest Loop (existing, but requiring signage).

#### ▪ **National Hiking Trail**

The National Hiking Trail is Canada's footpath 40 years in the making. The connection alignment through Halfmoon Bay has been suggested in the Halfmoon Bay OCP. A well used hiking/biking route already exists from Sprockids to Cliff Gilker Park that the National Hiking Trail could consider for its alignment as well. Hike BC is interested in working with the SCTS on refining this alignment as part of a circle trail from Nanaimo, Comox and Powell River.



- **BC Bike Race Route** (Connection between Homesite Creek and Kinnikinnick Park)

#### ▪ **Equestrian Trails**

Work closely with the Sunshine Coast Equestrian Club and the Horse Council of BC to continue development of equestrian trails. Begin with improvements to existing trails and expand to new potential alignments. Consider funding opportunities through the BC Equestrian Trails Fund (See Funding Opportunities Chapter for more information).

#### ▪ **Improvements to trails in BC Parks**

- **Mt. Richardson Provincial Park** – The community would like B.C. Parks to prioritize this park. Further volunteer groups have expressed an interest in raising funds to assist in park planning, natural history inventories, mapping (much of Park already has LiDAR coverage), trail and parking area construction, and future signage and interpretive infrastructure.



- **Spippiyus Provincial Park** – Encourage BC Parks to pursue a Management Plan for the park so further discussions on trail development through the park can be had.
- **Tetrahedron Provincial Park** – Address maintenance issues such as the failing bridge over Chapman Creek.

- **Mountain Biking Trails as a Destination**

Mountain biking tourism across the Sunshine Coast has been steadily increasing (Tourism British Columbia, 2008; Geoscape Environmental Planners March, 2002). With this in mind these trails should be embraced by the mountain bike community and maintained, signed and managed to encourage tourism.



There is also a significant increase in mountain biking tourism expected with the recently announced Coast Gravity Park, which, once completed in the spring 2015 will provide almost year round lift access mountain biking. This is unique, as lift access mountain biking ends by October 16 elsewhere throughout Canada and the Pacific Northwest. The Coast Gravity Park is only a few hundred feet above sea level and rarely receives measurable or sustained snowfall making it a prime location for a year round mountain bike park (<http://coastgravitypark.ca/>).



Figure 11: Gravity Coast Park, Source: [www.harookz.com](http://www.harookz.com)

### **Network Trailhead Service Hubs**

In addition to future trail development, both proposed and existing larger trail networks require improved trailheads. A trailhead service hub should include facilities such as washrooms, parking (safe and free of theft and vandalism), staging areas for trailers and loading ramps for motorized vehicles (where permitted), water fountains, trash/recycling receptacles and picnic areas. The SCRD have a number of fully serviced parks with caretakers that should be considered as major trailhead service hubs which could be expanded. Discussions with the SCRD and Recreation Sites and Trails should be had to confirm if these are appropriate locations for future trailhead expansion. Due to prohibitive capital and maintenance costs, phased implementation of these initiatives should be considered.

- Klein Lake Park ( Egmont / Pender Harbour)
- Katherine Lake Park (Egmont / Pender Harbour)
- Madeira Park Visitor Centre (Egmont / Pender Harbour)
- Big Tree Recreation Site (Halfmoon Bay)
- Connor Park (Halfmoon Bay)
- Parking area on Mason Rd and Norwest Bay Rd (District of Sechelt)
- B&K Road – at the BC Hydro corridor (Roberts Creek)
- Top of Keith Road – at BC Hydro corridor near Elphinstone Pioneer Cemetery entrance (Elphinstone)
- Shirley Macey Park (West Howe Sound – near Gibsons)

### **Future Expansion and Development - Recommendations**

1. Focus efforts for trail legitimization on a range of trails to serve a range of user type and skill level.
2. Through the Crown Land legitimization process, focus efforts on securing, managing and constructing trail connections and signage improvements on major destination and loop/circuit trails.
3. Advocate to external agencies in the development and management of priority proposed trails.
4. Advocate to develop more accessible loop trails.
5. Work with the local motorized recreation community and clubs such as the Sunshine Coast ATV Club and the Sunshine Coast Snowseekers Snowmobile Club to develop more trails and loops.
6. Advocate and coordinate with BC Bike Race to legitimize the Connection between Homesite Creek and Kinnikinnick Park.
7. Advocate and coordinate with the Sunshine Coast Equestrian Club to improve and develop more equestrian trails.
8. Coordinate with BC Parks to advocate for and implement Management Plans for Mt. Richardson, Spipiyus, and Mt. Elphinstone Provincial Park, with Mt. Richardson being the priority.
9. Promote Sunshine Coast mountain biking trails as a destination.
10. Engage the SCR D and Recreation Sites and Trails BC on further development of major 'trailhead service hubs', and trailhead service hub requirements.

## **DESIGN GUIDELINES AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

The application of a formalized trail classification system would allow users to better select trails that meet their skill level and desired experience. A formalized system also allows all stakeholders a better understanding of the requirements for a particular trail during planning, construction and maintenance. An extensive trail system should include a range of trail widths, lengths, and degrees of difficulty.






It is recommended that the SCTS adopt the newly developed Recreation Sites and Trails BC DRAFT Trail Classification and Standards. These have been based off other successful trail classification standards such as Parks Canada, Government of Alberta and Whistler Trail Standards. As the majority of trails addressed in this Strategy fall within Crown Land in Recreation Sites and Trails BC jurisdiction, this standard will generally be the most applicable to the Sunshine Coast system. . Given the extent of advanced mountain biking trails on the coast there may occasionally be a trail that does not fit the current system. Although these situations will be infrequent, consideration could be given to developing a “made for the Coast” classification system over the long term.

### **DRAFT TRAIL CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS - RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS BC**

The following section outlines a recommended trail classification and standards system for the Sunshine Coast Trails System. This system has been established by the Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The application of the formalized trail classification system allows users to better select trails that meet their skill level and desired experience. A formalized system also allows all stakeholders with a better understanding of the requirements for a particular trail during planning, construction and maintenance.



OVERVIEW OF TRAIL TYPES AND SPECIFICATIONS

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Abandoned Resource Road
Trail Surface (typical)	Asphalt or crushed aggregate	Crush aggregate or natural mineral soil surface	Natural mineral soil surface	Natural surface, loose surface	Hardened road surface, road base and aggregates
Typical Average Width	1.5m to 3m	1.0 to 2.0m	0.3m to 1.2m	0.3m -0.5m	>3m
Average Grade	0%-4%	5%-8%	8%-10%	8%-12%	NA
Maximum Grade	7%	12%	10%	15%	20
Typical Uses	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, Equestrian, Snowshoe	Hiking , Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking, Cycling, XC Skiing, OHV, Equestrian, Snowshoe,	Hiking, backcountry skiing, limited cycling (usually not appropriate)	All
Typical Setting	Developed and urban areas, community connector	Semi-developed, front country, forested	Front country, backcountry, wilderness	Alpine, wilderness, remote	Forested, resource areas, wilderness, backcountry
Descriptor	Pathway	Double Track	Single or Double Track	Route	Abandoned Road
Examples					

## TRAIL CROSS SECTION (TYPICAL)

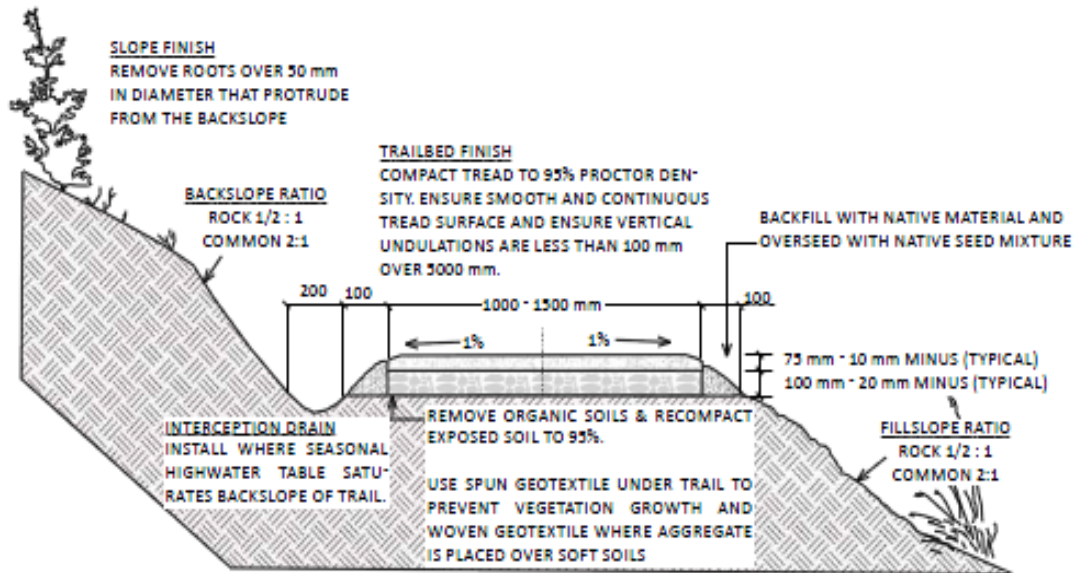


Figure 12: Draft trail classification and standards - Recreation Sites and Trails BC

**TRAIL PLAN VIEW (TYPICAL)**

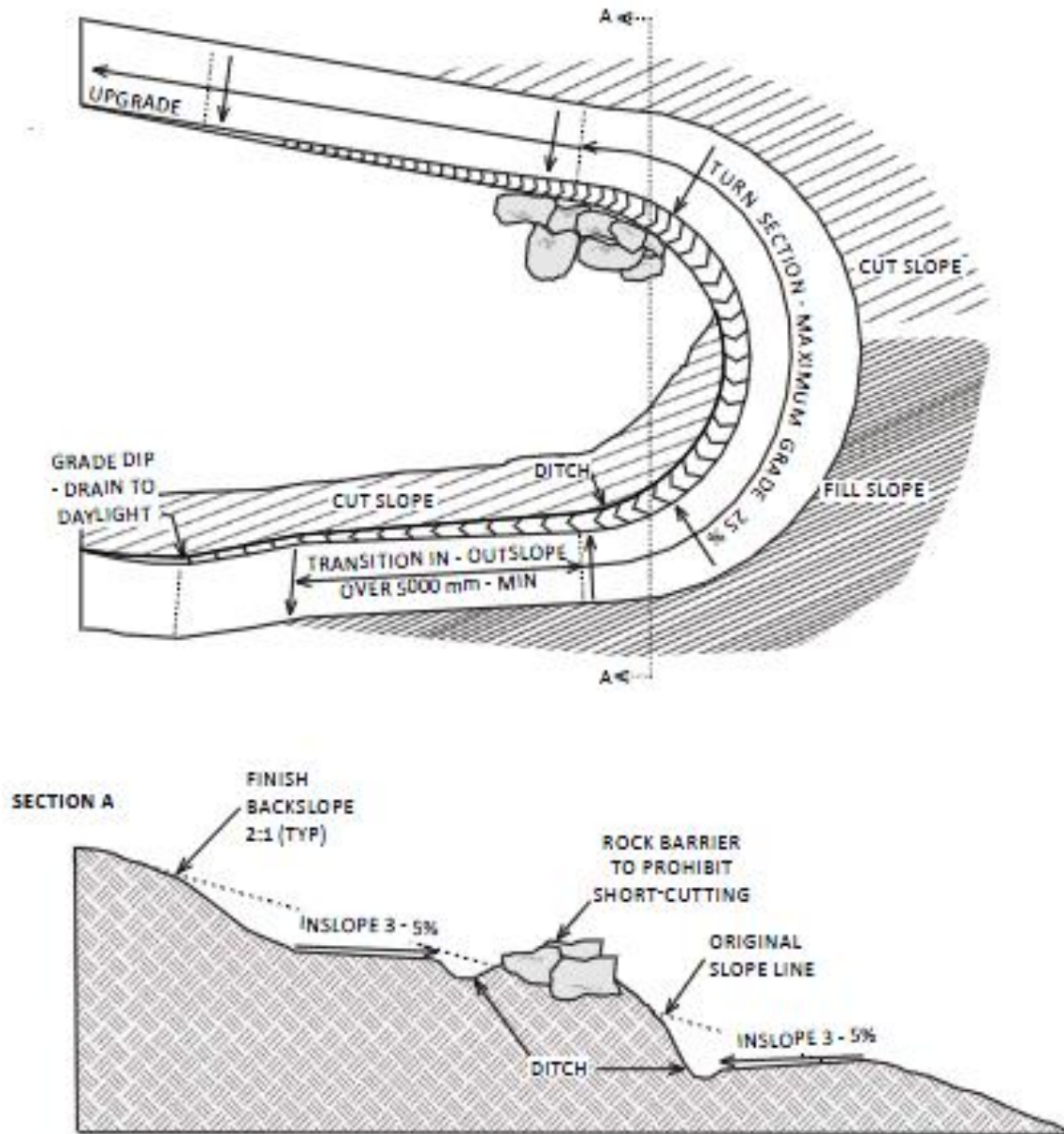


Figure 13: Draft trail classification and standards - Recreation Sites and Trails BC



## TRAIL PERSPECTIVE (TYPICAL)

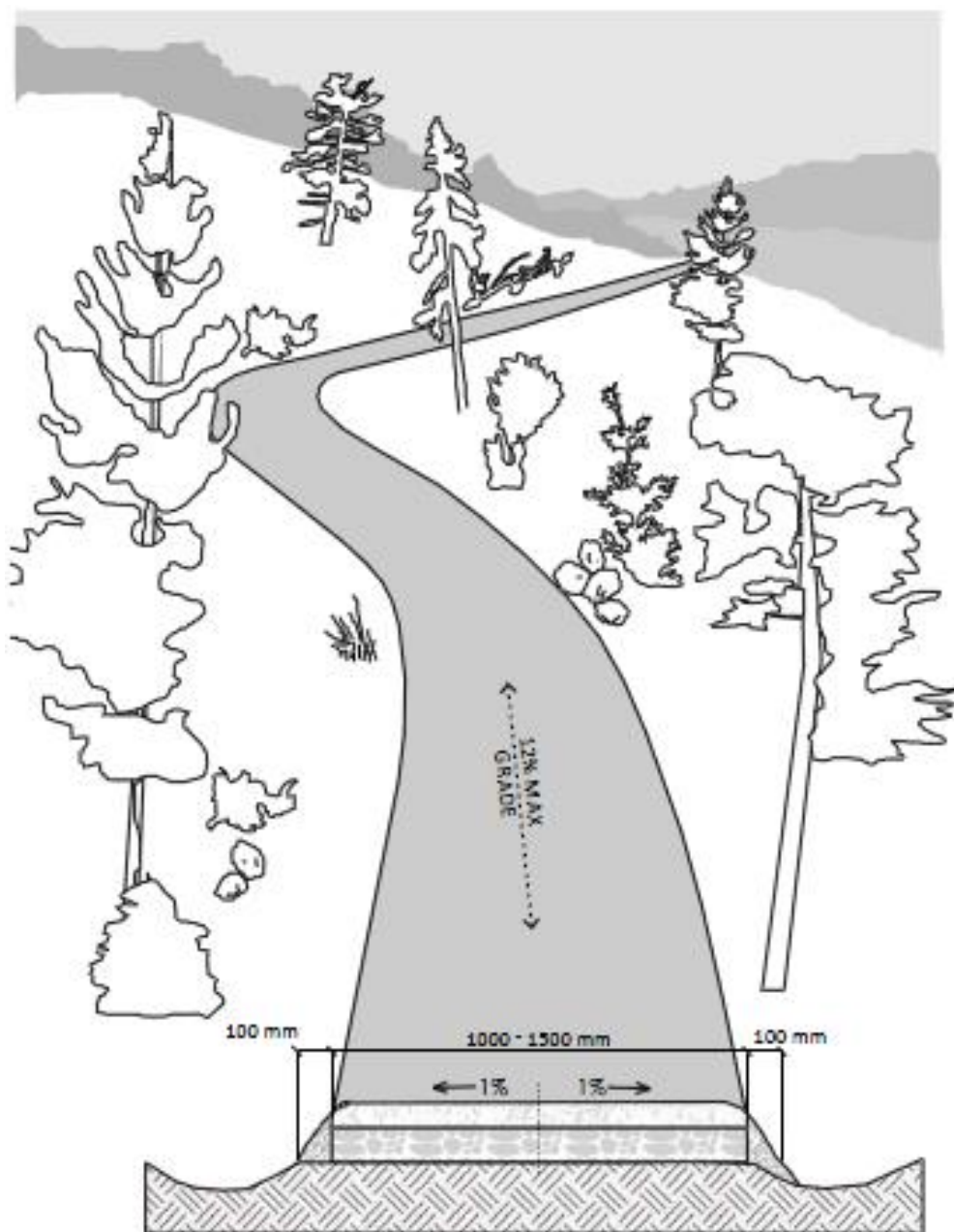


Figure 14: Draft trail classification and standards - Recreation Sites and Trails BC



**Design Guidelines and Classification System - Recommendations**

11. Adopt the newly developed Recreation Sites and Trails BC DRAFT Trail Classification and Standards.
12. If necessary develop a 'custom fit' Sunshine Coast Trail Classification System over the long term.



Figure 15: Mount Daniel, Source: Daniel Scott

# SIGNAGE STANDARDS

Proper signage, in tandem with the provision of a variety of trail experiences and progression of trail difficulty levels, will result in users being more likely to choose the most appropriate trail for their skill level, lowering the risk of injury, and leading to more enjoyable experiences. Trail signage is a vital component to the classification system outlined above – without adequate signage trail users are no better able to assess the suitability of a trail. Trail signage can also play a significant role in trails as a community and tourism amenity. Highlighting existing trails will assist in marketing trails to tourists and will also be more welcoming to new, residents, trail users, than an unmarked system. A good example over the last few years on the Coast is the new trail signage in Soames Hill, Cliff Gilker and Sprockids Regional Parks.

## Signage and Wayfinding

Signage is a crucial aspect of all trail systems as it provides a base level of information that reassures new and novice users, explicitly lists the rules and etiquette, underpins risk management, can add to the enjoyment of the walk or ride and enhances the understanding of the natural environment and ecology. A comprehensive, coordinated signage program is required in order to ensure consistent messaging, aesthetic fit, legibility, maintenance and affordability. It can also help to foster public pride in the cleanliness, maintenance and safety of the trails by using approachable language without being overly regulatory in nature.

*Trail etiquette signs that focus on positives - lists of "Don'ts" are condescending and don't encourage good behaviour, specify "Do's" and focus on a positive trail experience for all.*

## Trailhead Signage

Trailhead signs should be integrated at all major access points to managed trails in order to orient users, communicate and teach trail etiquette, and provide cautionary information about safety concerns and hazards - ensuring that trail users understand and assume risks associated with their activities along the trails. The signs should warn of major dangers (e.g. steep drop offs, etc), postings regarding maintenance, and details outlining that users are responsible for their own safety and use the trails at their own risk. At a minimum, all such signage:

*Trailhead signage should include contact information, addresses for emergencies, code of conduct, applicable by-laws, orientation maps and QR Codes linked to online maps and information. Standard symbols should be used to indicate the level of trail difficulty.*

- Must use simple, direct and clear language;
- Should reflect the language(s) of the neighbourhood;
- Should consist of wording, symbols or a combination, and
- Should be the only sign on a post where possible.

*Trailheads can also provide notice boards to centralize community events and park/trail work notices.*

Text for all trailhead and wayfinding signage should have high visual contrast with the background in order to assist with visual recognition and should include solid characters and appropriate use of fonts.



Figure 16: (images in order from left to right – top to bottom) Dakota Ridge, Guy's Gulch - off the B&K, Monty's Way - Hidden Groves, Chapman Trail, Sprockids Mountain Bike Park, Sprockids Mountain Bike Park, Homesite Creek, Hidden Groves.



## Wayfinding

Wayfinding signs should be used along trails in conjunction with trailhead maps to orient trail users and assist in route planning. Due to the relatively close proximity to built landmarks (i.e. roads, bridges), the comprehensive maps that will be included at each trailhead, and the aesthetic appeal of limited infrastructure in natural areas, wayfinding signage along trails should be limited. Signage at trail intersections should be limited to signage regarding the level of difficulty of the trails, direction to the closest “exit”, numbered markers to assist with map reading (i.e. 'You Are Here') and directions for emergency services.

## Classification Signage

The application of the formalized trail difficulty classification system described above requires a consistent signage system using simple and easily recognizable symbols as shown below.

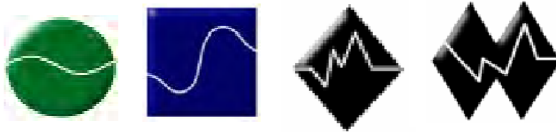


Figure 17: Whistler Trail Difficulty Standards

## Interpretive and Educational Signage

Interpretive and educational signage could be integrated to provide users with information on the natural and cultural history of the trails. In an effort to reduce “signage pollution”, or over-signing, of the trails, this signage could be integrated at trailheads, in tandem with way-finding signage or sensitively incorporated at key view points.

Developing Smartphone Apps and incorporating QR codes onto interpretive trail signage could allow users with Smartphones to scan the code to link directly to more in-depth web based information on the trail system, or upcoming stewardship events. It could also allow users to upload information on trail issues (degradation, disrepair, illegal dumping, garbage), including their GPS location. For those without access to a Smartphone a web address (URL) could be included at trailhead signage.



Figure 18a & b: QR code enabled interpretive signage Long Beach, Washington



Figure 19: QR code enabled interpretive signage Coquitlam, BC



### **Other Signage**

In order to avoid signage pollution, signage should be kept to a minimum on the trails. Additional signage may, however, be appropriate at trailhead kiosks. The Sunshine Coast Trail Society should ensure that information posted at kiosks has been pre-approved by the Society prior to posting. This may be achieved by delegating a board member to review requests, and providing appropriate contact information via the website, and posted on the kiosk notice boards.

#### **Signage Standards - Recommendations**

13. Collaborate with the SCRD to create a comprehensive, aesthetically fitting and approachable signage and wayfinding program for all managed trail systems that follows the Recreation Sites and Trails BC signage and wayfinding guidelines and standards and is consistent with trails signage across the Lower Mainland.
14. Provide educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural history, trail maps and up to date information through the SCTS website and at key trail heads.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES

The trails are a unique element of the Lower Sunshine Coast. They have the capacity to play an important role in supporting environmental education and building commitment to environmental conservation, providing a setting for natural history lessons and experiential education. At the same time, they provide local residents and visitors of all income levels with access to a space in which to be active and socialize – foundations of healthy residents and communities. In the absence of environmental education, users and non-users are more prone to destructive or unsafe behavior including illegal dumping, stream pollution, damage and removal of natural vegetation, building of unsafe and unsustainable informal trails and structures and activities leading to trail degradation, user conflict and safety issues. Awareness, education and advocacy of the trails, and of trails legitimized through the FRPA processes, are integral to fostering respect for the natural environment and an appreciation for the health and safety of the public recreating within it.

Recommended community outreach and education strategies include:

- Adopt-A-Trail Partnerships;
- Trail Stewardship Teams;
- Interactive Trail Inventory;
- Public Volunteer Trail Events;
- Sponsored Events;
- Public campaign initiatives and trail etiquette education, and
- Media components.

Given limited resources, it is not proposed that the SCTS undertake the full host of strategies included here. Rather, the SCTS should lead priority strategies, and should take on a position as an umbrella organization over other smaller groups who may take on other initiatives.

### **Adopt-A-Trail Partnerships and Trail Stewardship Teams**

As a volunteer led organization, the Sunshine Coast Trail Society is not in a position to oversee the management and maintenance of all of the Lower Sunshine Coast trails. However, they are in a position to act as an umbrella organization to other local groups interested in “adopting a trail”. Through this process, groups can take on the responsibility of applying for trail authorization through the Forest and Range Practices Act, and taking on ongoing maintenance responsibilities.

Stewardship teams could also be established, facilitating teams of volunteers, recruited from the community to participate in weekly or biweekly activities through-out the season (approximately May to September). Activities would be overseen by trained volunteers and may include control of invasive species, garbage collection, monitoring, outreach, minor trail repairs and closures, and planting of native plants.

### **Interactive Trail Inventory**

The Sunshine Coast Trail Society currently provides public access to their “living” inventory of trails. The Society should continue to do so, in order to ensure that the inventory is as up to date and complete as possible. Trails users should be encouraged to provide feedback on the state of the trails, and if there is a need for additional signage.

The Sunshine Coast Trail Society could also recommend a reporting page on the SCRD website in order to allow the public to provide feedback on the state of trails on SCRD land.

### Public Volunteer Trail Events

Volunteer trail maintenance or trail building events can be organized by community organizations. These events bring together resources (i.e. organization expertise, equipment, large group of volunteers, etc.) over a short period of time (i.e. half a day, a weekend) in order to complete a more complicated project such as a trail build while also acting as a community outreach tool to introduce potential new trail users to the system. These events could be used to encourage youth involvement in the Sunshine Coast trail system.

*Capilano University's Scuba Dive and Mountain Bike Operations Programs includes an event management course which requires the students to organize and hold three (typical) public events near the end of winter semester (April). Coordination of this opportunity is recommended.*



Figure 20: Trail Volunteer Event



Figure 21: Volunteer Event

## Sponsored Events

Sponsored events such as races, skills clinics including beginner rides, hikes, trail builds and nature walks can be offered through local bike shops, race organizers or other private entities.

## Public Marketing Campaign Initiatives

Public marketing campaign initiatives and events can be targeted to trail users and non-users. Promoting the existence and extent of the trail system, the ease in accessing them – often a short walk or bike ride from home or work - in addition to the health benefits of trail based activities and natural history may turn non users into users, and educate existing users to the extent of such an extensive trail system.

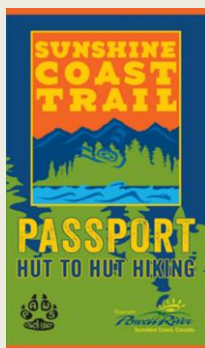
A comprehensive Marketing Strategy to off-coast visitors is also required in order to more fully maximize the potential of trail based tourism. This will be much more successful once trail loops are created, maintained, signed and marketed. There are currently some marketable loops trail systems on the Lower Coast including Sprockids, Halfmoon Bay, Kinnikinnick, B&K and Homesite Creek (West Sechelt), and now the newly announced Coast Gravity Park. These existing loop trail networks should be embraced as a starting point to maintain, sign and market until future loops are developed.

The Sunshine Coast is not 'a Whistler', but is a family oriented, environmentally friendly and affordable region close to Vancouver (e.g. consider stay vacationers, it's not a ferry it's a family cruise type thinking).

Some loops/circuits/destination trail networks that could be marketed once completed include:

- SunCoaster Recreation Corridor Trail;
- Equestrian loops;
- Sunshine Coast ATV and Motorcycle Loop Tour, and
- Sunshine Coast Mtn. Biking - Single Track/ Bike Parks (Coast Gravity Park).

Local Chamber of Commerce programs should be engaged to assist with networking with the broader community, as well as tying trails into wider sustainable tourism initiatives. This will further maximize outreach to non-trail users and tourists.



*Tourism Powell River's Sunshine Coast Trail Passport provides a good precedent case study. Launched in December 2013, the SCT Passport enables hikers to collect unique stamps for each of the huts on the Sunshine Coast Trail that they visit. When the hiker returns to Powell River, and takes their photo and the passport to the appropriate business (each hut is linked to a specific business) they receive that hut's UNIQUE stamp. Once the hiker has visited all 12 huts and received all their stamps they visit Tourism Powell River to receive their certificate of completion and entry into a draw for some great local prizes*



## Trail Etiquette Education

Public education informs users of the harm caused by activities such as dogs off-leash and the illegal dumping of garden waste close to trails. Users can be further educated in responsible trail use, sustainable trail management and the region's natural and cultural history.

Initiatives could include targeted public campaigns such as:

- Trail basics – promoting existing trails to new users and preparing them for their first trip;
- Health benefits of trail based activities;
- Trail code of conduct/etiquette;
- Existing governance and legislative framework of trails on Crown Land;
- Impacts of illegal dumping of garbage and garden waste in natural environment areas;
- Invasive species, sensitive species, water quality and habitat, and
- Impacts of off-trail activity and dogs off-leash on the forest understory.

*Display information on trail etiquette (i.e., passing, use of bell, dog waste and shared use)*

*Where appropriate, use friendly, humorous messages (Note: humorous messaging should not be used on regulatory or warning signs.)*

The Outdoor Recreation Council has developed a Trail Users Code of Ethics. The Trail Society may be interested in basing their trail etiquette off this document. Hard copies are available by contacting the Council and could be issued or posted at key trailhead locations. A copy of the document is included in Appendix D.

In order to reduce dog related conflicts, the Yellow Dog Project has emerged as a program geared at educating the public and dog owners to identify dogs needing space. The Sunshine Coast Trail Society, the SCRD, Town of Gibsons and District of Sechelt are interested in applying this program on their trails. The Society should consider contacting other local governments to expand the program.

## Media Components

Beyond the Sunshine Coast Trail Society, other local community groups are important resources throughout trail planning, building and maintenance processes. They are excellent vehicles for educational and marketing initiatives – providing points of contact to other local interest groups and the public, providing volunteer opportunities and support, and creating programs such as children's day camps and trail clean up and invasive species removal days. Stewardship groups could also lead educational trail walks.

### **Sunshine Coast Tourism - 52 Weeks of Trails – Blog**

*The Sunshine Coast Tourism blog is introducing a new trail on the Sunshine Coast every week in 2014 - trails of all different lengths, difficulties, and methods of travel (foot, bike, kayak....), and seek public participation via social media using #52weeksoftrails.*

*<http://sunshinecoastcanada.com/blog>*

The development of print and web-based resources is important in reaching out to local trail users and to tourists. This includes providing information at community centers, as well as areas known to be frequented by trail user groups. Web-resources, including the use of websites and social networking provide easy access to information about the trails and could be hosted through the SCTS website as well as government agency websites.

### **Community Outreach and Education - Recommendations**

15. Use public outreach marketing such as Tourism Powell River's Sunshine Coast Trail Recreation Passport Program to target both local Coast residents and tourists from farther afield.
16. Encourage local stewardship, trail activity based businesses and groups to undertake education based events on the trails and to participate in trail promotion activities.
17. Use the Outdoor Recreation Council's Trail Users Code of Ethics as a base for developing a Sunshine Coast relevant 'trail code of conduct'.
18. Focus marketing on the trails as a daily recreation resource for local residents and as a tourist destination, in connection to regional trail initiatives, or as an outdoor recreation eco-tour destination.
19. Work with the SCRD, SIGD, Gibsons and Sechelt to market tourism focused trails that fall within their jurisdiction.



*Figure 22: Winter use of the trails in Dakota Ridge, Source: Daniel Scott*

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A range of potential alternative funding strategies involving various types of partnering and sponsorships, are summarized below:

**Corporate Sponsorships:** Local companies and organizations such as bike shops, tourism board, B&Bs may be interested in contributing to the ongoing maintenance, development of trails or sponsorship of signage. Larger outdoor recreation companies and events such as Mountain Equipment Co-op and The BC Bike Race may provide funding for local projects. The forest industry may also be a possible funding source. A good example of corporate sponsorship is the 7-Eleven Bicycle Trail in Vancouver BC.

**User / Community Groups / Service Clubs:** Groups who have an interest in or a passion for specific initiatives or causes are often prepared to materially support their realization. Environmental groups may be interested in contributing to habitat and natural area protection or enhancements, and those with a stake in the tourism industry to signage.

Service Clubs such as the Rotary and Lions Club have assisted the SCRD on various park initiatives in recent years. Local clubs can often provide labour and/ or funding to support trail initiatives. In Port Coquitlam and Kelowna the Rotary Club provided funding for bicycle lanes.

Hike BC is interested in partnering with the SCTS to apply for grant funds for bridges required for the new National Hiking Trail alignment through the Lower Sunshine Coast, especially if the alignment connecting Sidewinder to Hwy 102 is chosen as the final trail route.



**Grants:** Such funding includes lottery funds, foundation grants and some private sector donations. The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) is one grant source that the SCTS could apply to for trail kiosks or signage, etc. However the grant does not fund: 'Soft Costs' (planning studies, feasibility studies, business plans, environmental or cultural impact assessments, engineering studies, site planning, architectural design etc.). More information can be found at their website: [www.islandcoastaltrust.ca](http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca).

### Other grant and funding opportunities:

- Work BC – Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) - Provides funding to organizations to assist with local projects that provide community benefit and that normally would not take place without project funding, while creating jobs that provide unemployed eligible EI Clients with Opportunities to gain meaningful work experience. Projects benefit the job seeker, community and the local economy; however, the primary focus must be on helping the job seeker. - See more at: [www.workbc.ca/Employers/Run-your-business/Community-and-Employer-Partnerships.asp](http://www.workbc.ca/Employers/Run-your-business/Community-and-Employer-Partnerships.asp)
- Walmart Evergreen Grants: [www.evergreen.ca/funding/grants/walmart.sn](http://www.evergreen.ca/funding/grants/walmart.sn)
- Whistler Blackcomb Foundation (The funding deadlines are October 1 and April 1 annually): [www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com/how-to-apply-for-funding/](http://www.whistlerblackcombfoundation.com/how-to-apply-for-funding/)
- Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council: [www.cohv.ca/indexe.html](http://www.cohv.ca/indexe.html)

- Bike BC – Ministry of Transportation Grant Funding - Local Governments may apply to Bike BC through the ministry's Cycling Infrastructure Partnerships Program or contact the ministry at [MoTcycling@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MoTcycling@gov.bc.ca)
- BC Equestrian Trails Fund – The BC Equestrian Trails Fund was established to provide support for HCBC member clubs and affiliates who have researched and planned a specific project related to the construction and/or maintenance of an equestrian trail, trailhead or horse camping site in British Columbia for public use. The fund for 2014 will total more than \$25,000, allocated by the Horse Council BC board of directors, and increased annually by individual and corporate contributions - See more at: [www.hcbc.ca/BC-Equestrian-Trails-Fund.html](http://www.hcbc.ca/BC-Equestrian-Trails-Fund.html)
- The SCCF Legacy Fund – This new funding for capital projects over \$25,000 has been created by the Community Forest and its shareholder, the District of Sechelt, to help finance long term projects which benefit all residents of the lower Sunshine Coast, from Port Mellon to Egmont - See more at: [www.sccf.ca](http://www.sccf.ca)



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A number of recommendations and directions are detailed in the previous sections. The table below provides a proposed framework detailing the role that the SCTS should endeavor to establish in each – whether it be to lead, advocate for/support or manage other smaller organizations/volunteer groups.

Government agencies that should be involved in the implementation of the recommendations in this Strategy include:

- Sechelt First Nation
- Squamish First Nation
- District of Sechelt
- Town of Gibsons
- The Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- BC Parks

In addition to these agencies, other community organizations and volunteer groups should be engaged. Almost half of the questionnaire respondents expressed an interest in joining a volunteer trail building/maintenance group on the coast. This level of interest is encouraging and should lead to a healthy volunteer base to get work done on the ground and provide maintenance support.

The SCTS has a significant mandate. In order to ensure ongoing success and longevity to the SCTS, it is recommended that a paid staff member be hired to support the volunteer run organization. This position would be responsible for overseeing the SCTS's role in trail planning and management, acting as a liaison to communicate with key government and community stakeholders to ensure the implementation plan moves forward and overseeing community outreach strategy implementation. Funding opportunities for this position are discussed in the Funding Opportunities section below. Whether this position be full or part time will be contingent on available funding.

### SECTION 57 APPLICATION PROCESS

*Although it may seem daunting at first, a Section 57 application can be accomplished easily by following these steps below. Small volunteer groups and organizations should not be discouraged from submitting Section 57 applications (See Appendix B for complete application and more details):*

1. Applications can be downloaded from Rec Sites BC website (<http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/about/application-for-trail-construction.aspx>) and must be submitted digitally;
2. A digital GPX or Kml file from a GPS unit of the trail alignment must be submitted with your application;
3. Applicants should share their plan with major stakeholders, garnering support prior to submission;
4. Provide letters of support and understanding from partners. In order for applications to proceed, the land manager must be satisfied that Rec Sites BC standards will be met and the applicant has demonstrated that they have the resources and will to carry through on the application, if successful;
5. The less work a land manager has to do to mitigate concerns identified the quicker the approval process.

Initiative	Electoral Area	Led by	SCTS Involvement	Other Agency Involvement	Time Frame
<b>Future Expansion and Development - Recommendations</b>					
<b>Apply for the legitimization of existing, priority trails. (see below)</b>					
1. Sidewinder	West Howe Sound	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
2. Fuzzy Hugs (outside Sprockids)	West Howe Sound	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
3. Halfmoon Bay Trail System (as S56 Trail Network) including Datsun Alley & Little Knives	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS & Rec Sites BC	Co-Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
4. 4D / 3D / DD	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)

Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy

5. Brokeback/ Dropback	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
6. VFR	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
7. Addernach	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
8. Cabin Fever	Halfmoon Bay	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
9. Chapman Creek UREP (as Rec Site)	District of Sechelt	DOS	Advocate and support Rec Sites BC and assist, and manage other groups.	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
10. Mount Elphinstone Summit Trail	West Howe Sound	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
11. Sakinaw outflow	Pender Harbour / Egmont	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	SIGD, Rec Sites BC & other community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)

Planning, development and management of proposed priority trails (see below)					
SunCoaster Recreation Corridor Trail	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCRD	Advocate		Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
Advocate to develop more accessible loop trails	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Advocate and support the local motorized clubs in this initiative	Rec Sites BC, SCR D	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
Sunshine Coast ATV, Motorcycle and Snowmobile Loops	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	Sunshine Coast ATV Club and Sunshine Coast Snowseekers Snowmobile Club	Advocate and support the local motorized clubs in this initiative	Rec Sites BC	Short term (1-3 years)
National Hiking Trail	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	Hike BC			Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
BC Bike Race Route (Connection between Homesite Creek and Kinnikinnick Park)	Halfmoon Bay and District of Sechelt	BC Bike Race	Advocate and support BC Bike Race	Rec Sites BC	Short term (1-3 years)
Equestrian Trails	All Electoral Areas in Project	Sunshine Coast Equestrian Club	Advocate and assist with	Rec Sites BC and SCR D	



	Boundary		implementation.		
Improvements to trails in BC Parks	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	BC Parks	Advocate and assist with implementation.	community/ stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
Promote Sunshine Coast mountain biking trails as a destination	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	Mountain bike community	Advocate		Short term (1-3 years)
<b>Development / improvement of major trailhead service hubs (see below)</b>					
1. Klein Lake Park	Egmont / Pender Harbour	SCRD	Advocate	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)
2. Katherine Lake Park	Egmont / Pender Harbour	SCRD	Advocate	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)
3. Madeira Park Visitor Centre	Egmont / Pender Harbour	SCTS	Lead	Madeira Park Tourist Bureau, SCR D	Short term (1-3 years)
4. Big Tree Recreation Site	Halfmoon Bay	SCRD	Advocate	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)
5. Connor Park	Halfmoon Bay	SCRD	Advocate	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)

6. Parking area on Mason Rd and Norwest Bay Rd	District of Sechelt	SCTS	Lead	District of Sechelt and SCRD	Short term (1-3 years)
7. Top of Keith Road – near Elphinstone Pioneer Cemetery entrance	Elphinstone	Rec Sites BC and SCRD	Advocate and support Rec Sites BC and assist, and manage other groups.	SCRD	Short term (1-3 years)
8. B&K Road (at the BC Hydro corridor)	Roberts Creek	Rec Sites BC	Advocate and support Rec Sites BC and assist, and manage other groups.	SCRD	Short term (1-3 years)
9. Shirley Macey Park	West Howe Sound – near Gibsons	SCRD	Advocate	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)
<b>Design Guidelines and Classification System - Recommendations</b>					
<b>The SCTS adopt the newly developed Recreation Sites and Trails BC DRAFT Trail Classification and Standards.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC	Short term (1-3 years)
<b>If necessary a 'custom fit' Sunshine Coast Trail</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC	Medium term (3-7 years)

<b>Classification System could be developed in the future.</b>	Boundary				
<b>Signage Standards - Recommendations</b>					
<b>Collaborate with the SCRD to create a comprehensive, aesthetically fitting and approachable signage and wayfinding program for all managed trail systems that follows the Recreation Sites and Trails BC signage and wayfinding guidelines and standards and is consistent with trails signage across the Lower Mainland.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	Rec Sites BC & other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
<b>Provide educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural history, trail maps and up to date information through the SCTS website and at key trail heads.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS		Work with government agencies, including First Nations, on content.  Link SCTS website to government agency websites, and external websites (i.e. tourism websites), where	Short term (1-3 years)

				possible.	
<b>Community Outreach and Education - Recommendations</b>					
<b>Use public outreach marketing such as Tourism Powell River's Sunshine Coast Trail Recreation Passport Program to target both local Coast residents and tourists from farther afield.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years)
<b>Encourage local stewardship, trail activity based businesses and groups to undertake education based events on the trails and to participate in trail promotion activities.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS/SCRD/ Rec Sites BC	Oversee, <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Any stewardship or volunteer programs with the Recreation Sites BC would need to be coordinated through the SCRD as we have an agreement with the government to manage these sites.</i>	Other local groups	Short term (1-3 years)
<b>Use the Outdoor Recreation Council's Trail Users Code of Ethics as a base for developing a Sunshine Coast</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS		Begin with Outdoor Recreation Council's Code of Ethics. Consider developing Coast specific code in	Short term (1-3 years)

relevant 'trail code of conduct'.				the future.	
<b>Focus marketing on the trails as a daily recreation resource for local residents and as a tourist destination, in connection to regional trail initiatives, or as an outdoor recreation eco-tour destination.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Oversee and collaborate with local government and tourism agencies.	Local tourism agencies, local government.	Medium term (3-7 years)
<b>Work with the SCRD, SIGD, Gibsons &amp; Sechelt to market tourism focused trails that fall within their jurisdiction.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCRD	Advocate to SCRD		Medium term (3-7 years)
<b>Implementation Plan - Recommendations</b>					
<b>Develop a protocol for information sharing between industrial users, first nations, government agencies, recreational users and other active stakeholders.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing



Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy

<b>Hire a paid trail coordinator to facilitate the trails program.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
<b>Continue to update the trail inventory excel spreadsheet as a “living” records keeping document.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing
<b>Complete GPS inventory of remaining unverified trails.</b>	All Electoral Areas in Project Boundary	SCTS	Lead, manage other groups	other community/stewardship groups	Short term (1-3 years) and ongoing

## NEXT STEPS

This strategy sets the framework to help the SCTS work with the community, local governments and First Nations to move forward to achieve a sustainable trail network for the Lower Sunshine Coast. In order to adapt to changing priorities and trends it is recommended that this strategy is considered a “working document” which will need to be updated regularly. It is recommended that at a minimum this document should be formally updated every three - five years. Additionally detailed master planning, design and studies (environmental, geotechnical and archeology) could be required for various individual trail projects such as new bridge construction and trail construction in sensitive habitats.

Some short term (1-3 year) tasks that should be prioritized include the following:

- Develop a protocol for information sharing between industrial users, first nations, government agencies, recreational users and other active stakeholders;
- Negotiate a multi-year agreement with corporate sponsors to help fund softs costs such as the SCTS administrative overhead and staff salaries such as a part-time trails coordinator. Eventually an endowment could be setup to provide a steady stream of funding for the trails coordinator position;
- Grants, corporate sponsors and service club funding should be established to cover hard costs such as signage, trail building tools and trail infrastructure such as bridges;
- Conduct a series of sustainable trail workshops to help educate the various Society clubs as to the basic design theory and construction practices required to develop and maintain sustainable trails.
- Hire a part-time paid trail coordinator to facilitate the trails program;
- Develop a student summer work program with Capilano University's Mountain Bike Operations to assist in upgrading and maintenance of existing and new trails;
- Apply for the legitimization of existing, priority trails as outlined in the Implementation Plan table;
- Planning, development and management of proposed priority trails as outlined in the Implementation Plan table;
- Development / improvement of major trailhead service hubs as outlined in the Implementation Plan table;
- The SCTS adopt the newly developed Recreation Sites and Trails BC DRAFT Trail Classification and Standards;
- Create a comprehensive, aesthetically fitting and approachable signage and wayfinding program for all managed trail systems that follows the Recreation Sites and Trails BC signage and wayfinding guidelines and standards;
- Work with SCRD and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to improve signage throughout regional parks, recreation sites and trails (i.e. Conner Park, Big Tree and B&K Road);

- Encourage local stewardship, trail activity based businesses and groups to undertake education based events on the trails and to participate in trail promotion activities;
- Continue to update the trail inventory excel spreadsheet as a “living” records keeping document, and
- Continue to complete GPS inventory of remaining unverified trails and update maps accordingly (See Appendix G for details on Recommended Mapping Procedures).

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## **APPENDIX A - QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS/SUMMARY**

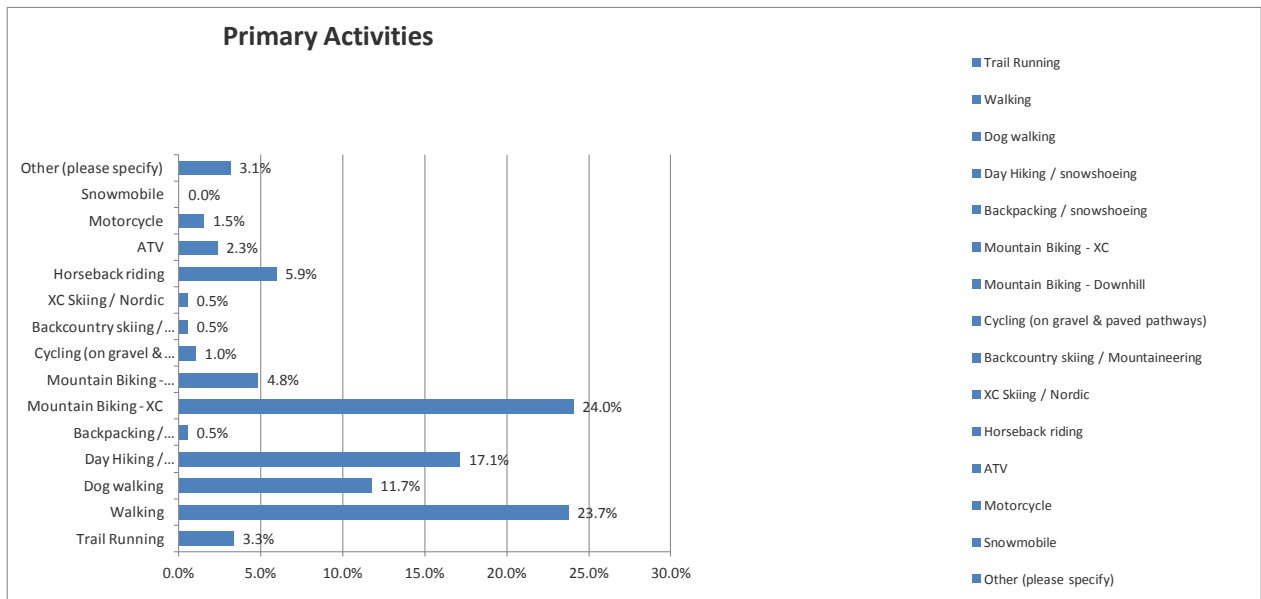


## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Sunshine Coast Trails Strategy Questionnaire – October- November 2013

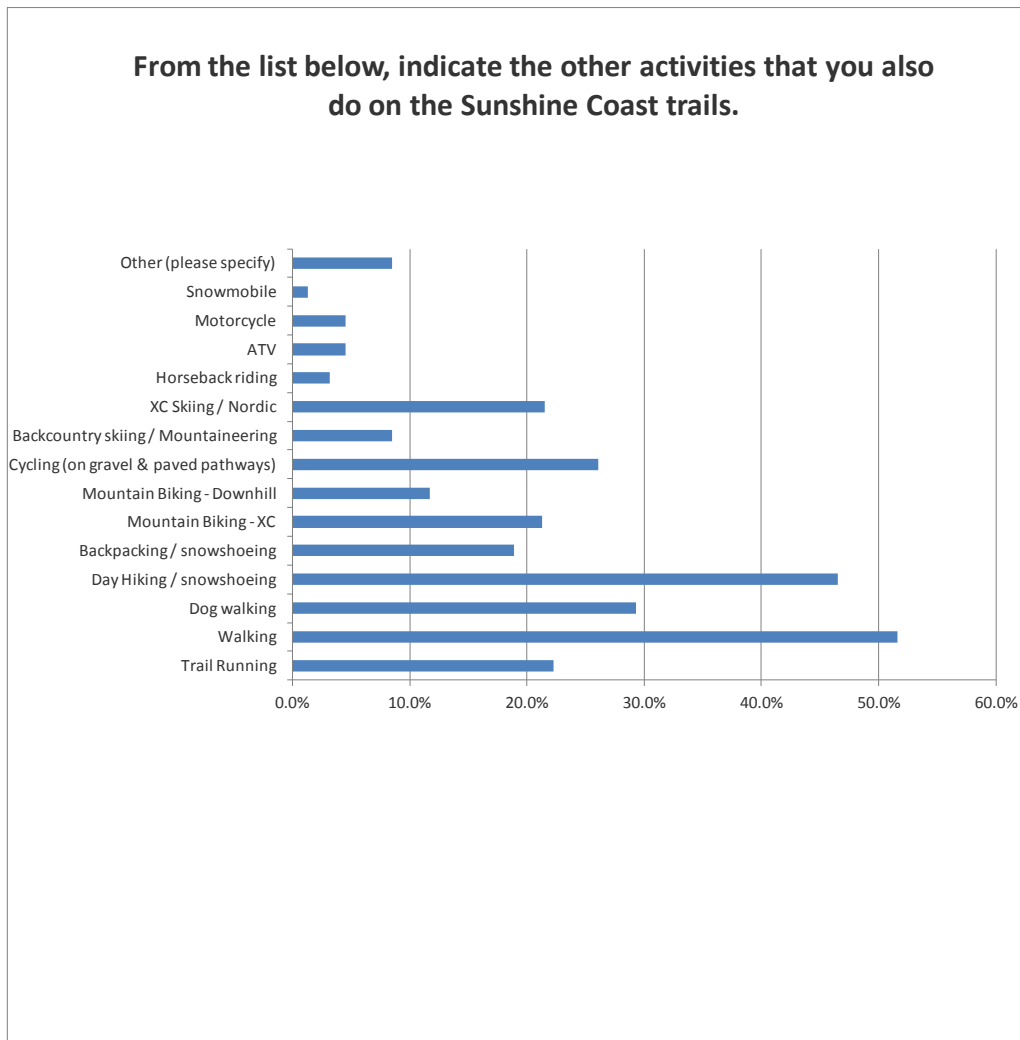
**Question 1 (n=392): From the list below, indicate the primary activity that you do on the Sunshine Coast trails (choose only one).**

- Almost a quarter of survey respondents indicated that cross-country mountain biking (24%) or walking (23.7%) is the primary activity they participate in on Sunshine Coast Trails.
- Day hiking/snowshoeing (17.1%) and dog walking (11.7%) are also popular primary activities amongst survey respondents.
- A number of survey respondents noted activities in the “other” field that were already listed as activity choices. These responses are too few to significantly affect the findings.
- Mushroom picking and geocaching were identified in the “other” field and each represents 0.5% of survey respondents.



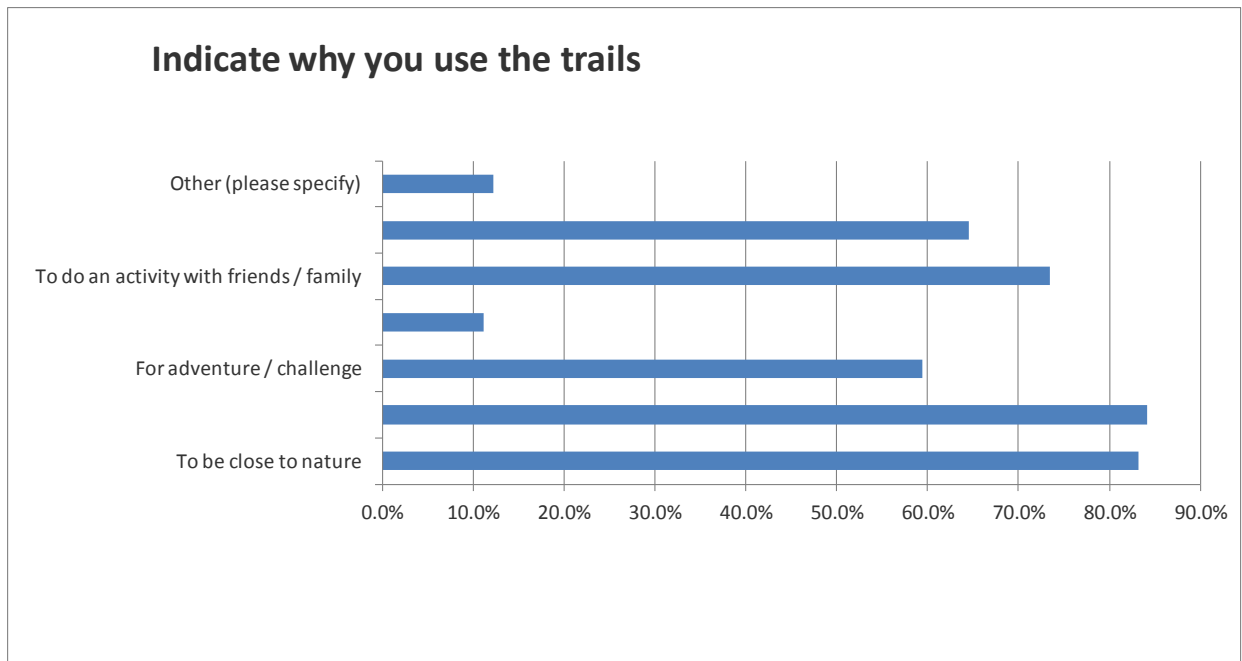
**Question 2 (n=376): From the list below, indicate the other activities that you also do on the Sunshine Coast trails.**

- Responses which tabulated the secondary activities that people participate in on Sunshine Coast trails were mixed. Near half of respondents indicated that walking (51.6%) or day hiking/snowshoeing (46.5%) were activities that they participate in. Dog walking (29.3%), Cycling (on gravel & paved pathways) (26.1%), cross-country skiing/Nordic (21.5%) and backpacking/ snowshoeing (18.9%) were also indicated as popular activities.
- Mushroom picking (2.4%) was the most significant activity identified in the “other” field. Plant identification/foraging (1.3%) and tail maintenance (1.1%) are other activities of note.



**Question 3 (n=392): From the list below, indicate why you use the trails. Check all that apply:**

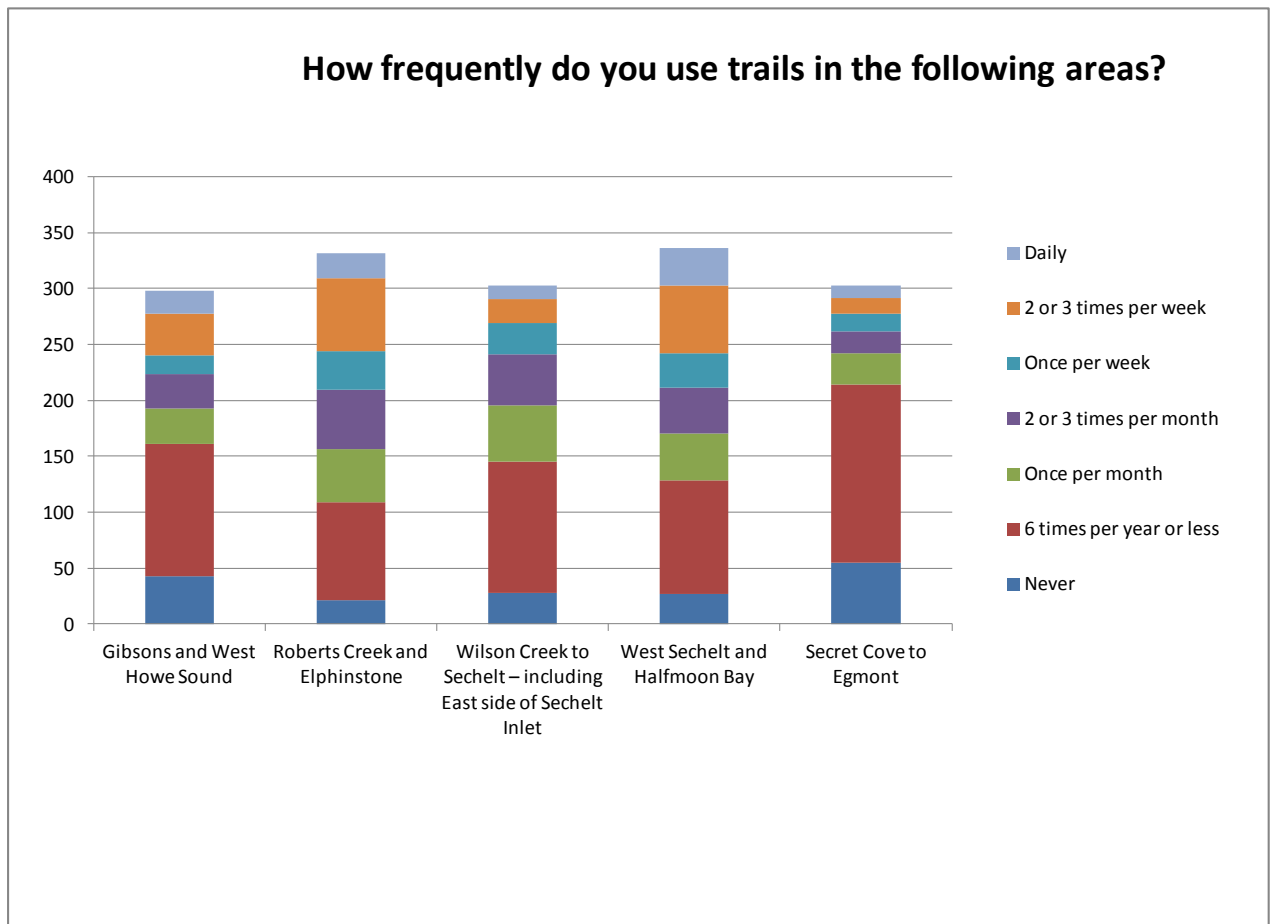
- A high proportion of survey respondents indicated that exercise (84.2%) and being close to nature (83.2%) were a reason why they use trails. “To Commute” and Other were the only response that fell below 50% response rate.
- In the “other” field a number of survey respondents indicated specific activities they participate in on Sunshine Coast Trails rather than broad themes as to why they use the trails. “Just plain fun” (1%) was indicated as a popular reason for using the trails as well as providing exercise for one’s horse (1%) or dog (1.5%).



**Question 4 (n=391) How frequently do you use trails in the following areas?**

For the purposes of the survey The Sunshine Coast trail system area split up into 5 geographic areas (1.Gibsons and West Howe Sound, 2.Roberts Creek and Elphinstone, 3.Wilson Creek to Sechelt – including East side of Sechelt Inlet, 4.West Sechelt and Halfmoon Bay, 5. Secret Cove to Egmont)

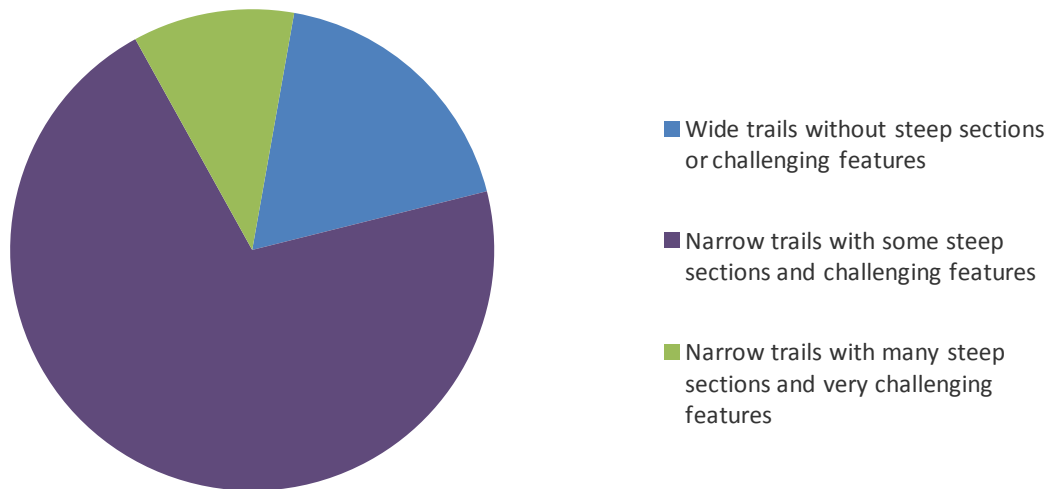
- 9.8% Respondents indicated that they use trails in Area 1 daily, however only 30.1% of respondents use this area six times per year or less. Conversely 52.5% of respondents use trails in Area 5, six times per year but only 4% use the area daily.



**Question 5 (n=388): From the list below, please select the type of trail you like best. Select one.**

- An overwhelming majority (70.9%) of respondents prefer trails that are narrow with some steep sections and challenging features.

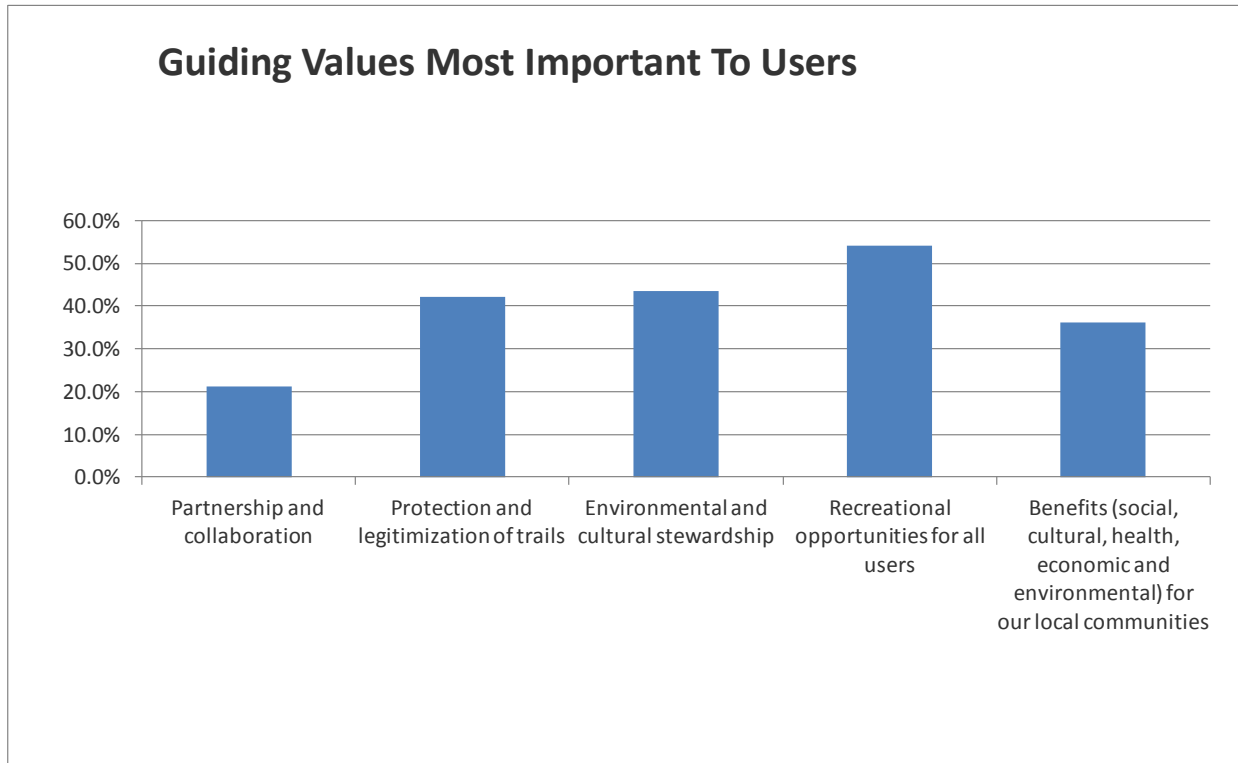
### The type of trails users like the best





**Question 6 (n=389): The Sunshine Coast Trails Society has outlined guiding principles for the trail system. Which of these guiding values are most important to you?**

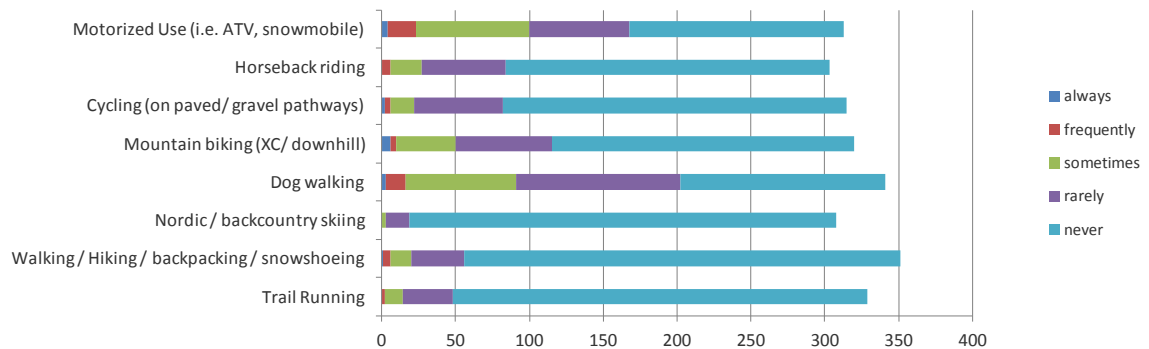
- Responses as to the most important guiding values for the Sunshine Coast trail system were mixed. Providing “recreational opportunities for all users” was important to 54.2% of survey respondents. However “protection and legitimization of trails” and environmental and cultural stewardship” garnered (42.2% ) and (43.4%) of the vote respectively.



**Question 7 (n=383): From the list below, indicate the frequency of CONFLICTS that you have had with EACH of the following activities:**

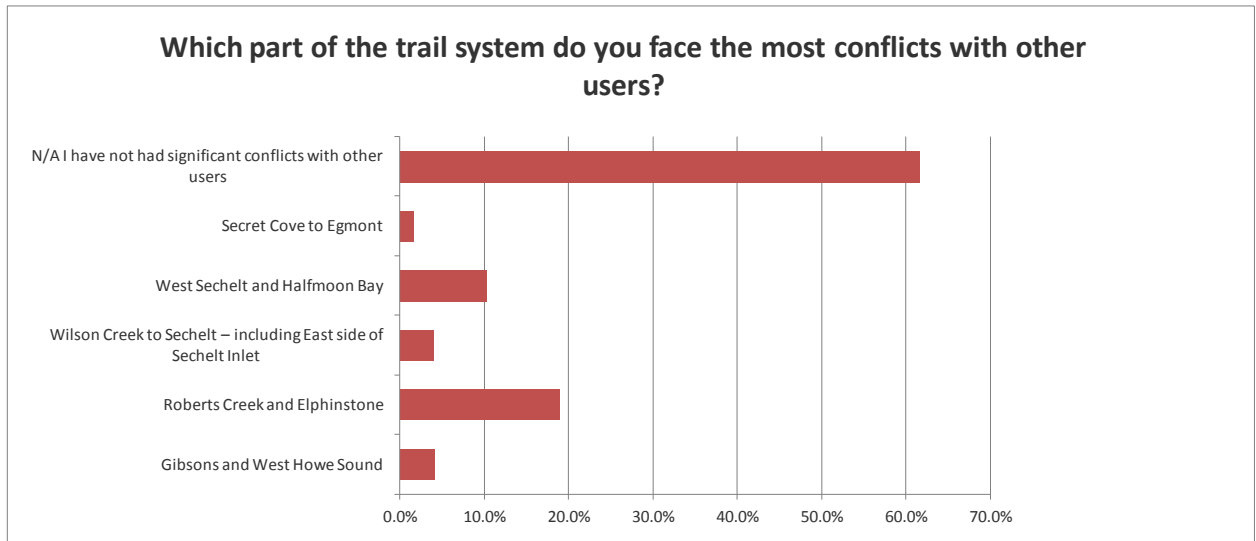
- Dog walking and motorized Use (i.e. ATV, snowmobile) has the lowest % of respondents who indicated that they are never involved in conflict with people in these groups. (This can be interpreted as: these groups have the most conflict with other trail users);
- Conversely, people who nordic/backcountry ski, trail run, and walk/hike/backpack/snowshoe have the greatest % respondents who indicated that they are never in conflict these groups;
- Motorized Users (i.e. ATV, snowmobile) and people who are mountain biking (XC/ downhill) had the greatest % of respondents that indicated they always have a conflict with these groups, and
- This question allowed respondents to indicate “other” as a response to a question. Conflicts with logging were mentioned by 1.8% of respondents.

**Frequency of Trail CONFLICTS**



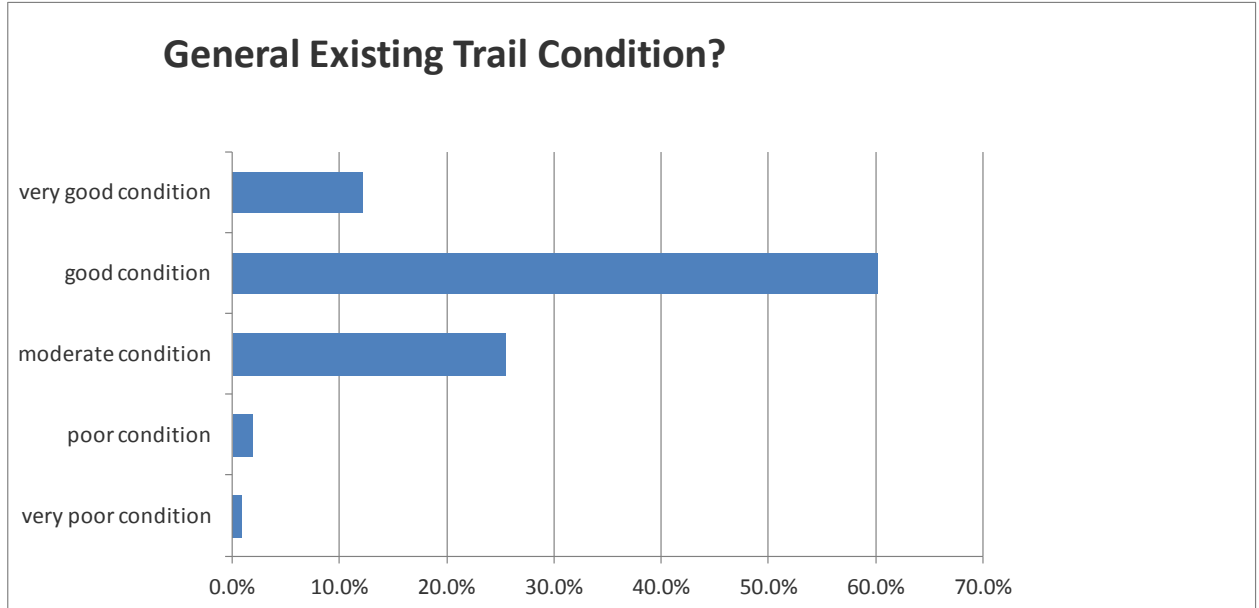
**Question 8 (n=371): Which part of the trail system do you face the most conflicts with other users?**

- Geographically speaking the area where highest % of respondents get into conflict is Roberts Creek/ Elphinstone (18.9%). However the majority (61.5%) of respondents indicated that they do not have significant conflicts with other trail users.



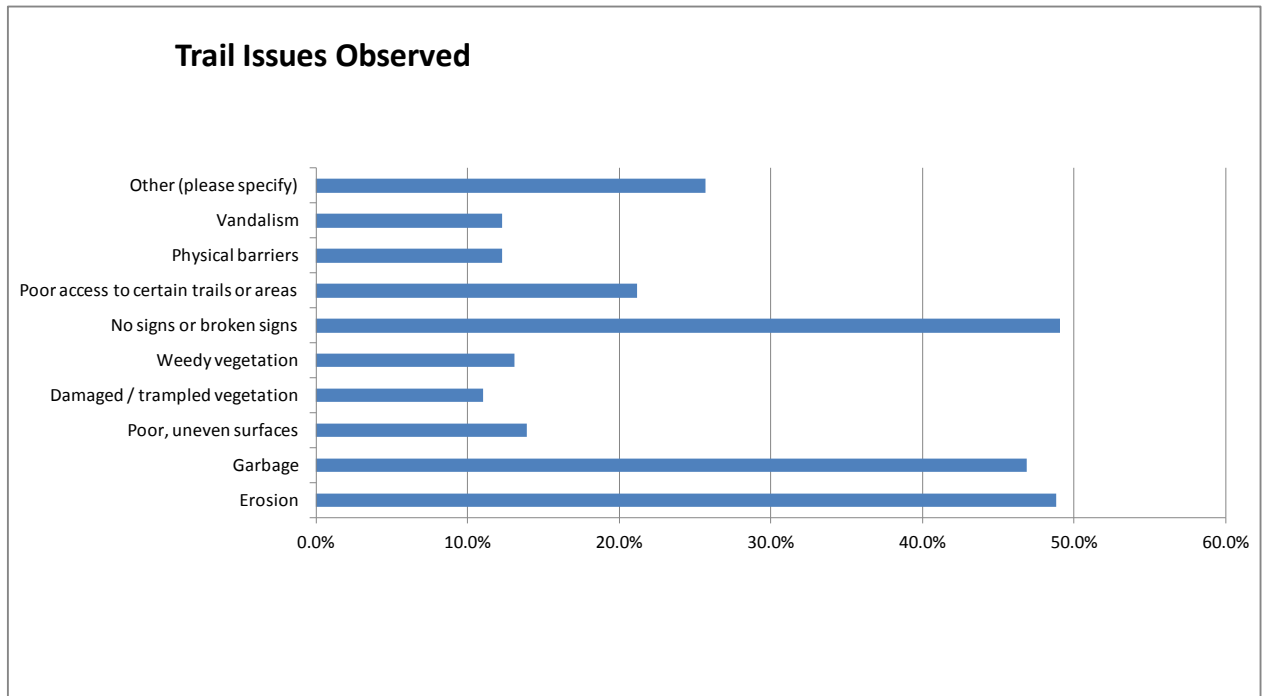
**Question 9 (n=388): Thinking about the trails you use most often, how would you rate their general condition?**

- 60.1% of survey respondents indicated that their favorite trails are in good condition.



**Question 10 (n=373): From the list below, indicate what type of trail issues you have observed. Check all that apply.**

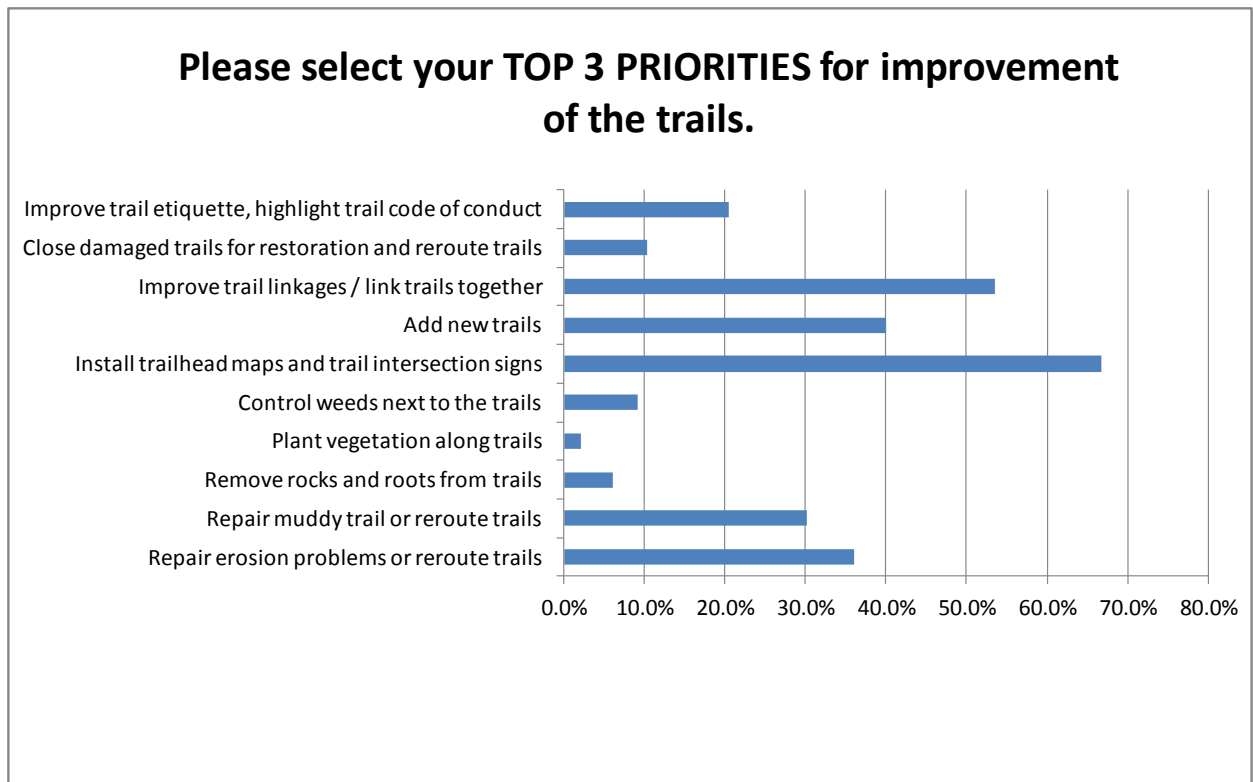
- The three top trail issues, as indicated by survey respondents are “no signs or broken signs” (49.1%), “erosion” (48.8%) and “garbage” (46.9%).
- Compromised access due to flooding/mud was indicated by 5% of survey respondents in the “other” field. Blowdowns (4.3%) and damage due to use by motorized users (2.7%) were also highlighted as issues.





**Question 11 (n=385): Please select your TOP 3 PRIORITIES for improvement of the trails.**

- The top three priorities for improvement, according to survey respondents, are “install trailhead maps and trail intersection signs” (66.8%), “improve trail linkages/ link trails together” (53.5%) and “add new trails” (40%).
- Repairing erosion problems and rerouting trails (36.1%) as well as repairing muddy trails (30.1%) were also important to survey respondents.



**Question 12 (n=371) In which community do you live?**

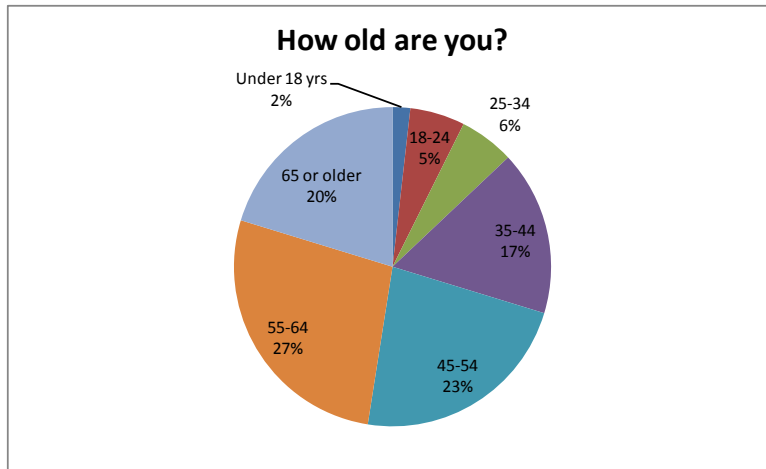
The majority of respondents were from 4 communities: Roberts Creek (19%), Gibsons (17%), Sechelt (16%) and Halfmoon Bay (16%). 6% of the respondents were from Pender Harbour.

**Question 13 (n=390) What gender are you?**

46.9% of survey respondents are male and 53.1% female.

**Question 14 (n=390): How old are you?**

The best represented age demographic amongst survey respondents is 55-64 at 27.2%



**Question 15 (n=333) Are you interested in joining a trail building/ maintenance group on the Sunshine Coast?**

43.5% of respondents indicated that they have interest in joining a trail building/ maintenance group and 56.8% are not interested.

## **APPENDIX B - SECTION 57 APPLICATION, INFORMATION & GUIDELINES**

### **Section 57 Authorization Process**

An application is received by the Recreation Officer, via FRONTCOUNTER BC (<http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/apps/app139.html>), and vetted for completeness of information. The application must also meet certain conditions to proceed, such as (not restricted to):

- It is made by an organized group with the demonstrated ability to construct/maintain the trail or other recreational works;
- Have no major conflicts with applicable land use plans;
- It must be entirely on crown land or have the written consent of the local government, government agency, landowner, leasee etc, and
- If needed a significant development may need a management plan for the development submitted as part of the proposal.

If the Recreation Officer finds that the proposal passes the initial screening it will be sent out for referral to:

- All Recognized Stakeholders, such as: Local and Provincial Government, First Nations, Clubs, Tenure holders, licensees;
- Comments are received from these groups. If possible identified problems are addressed through negotiation between the proponent, RSTBC and the referee, and
- If relevant issues raised are successfully addressed the works can be authorized under Section 57 of the Forest and Range Practices Act.

### **Section 56 Establishment Process**

A Section 56 Establishment is essentially the granting of a tenure; resulting in a change in status of Crown Land and must be referred out to stakeholders. Once established the Provincial Government is directly responsible for the management of the recreational feature (Site or Trail) and the Forest Recreation Regulation applies. Due to the limited resources of the RSTBC branch only trails for which a Partnership Agreement can be signed, with an appropriate organization, will be considered for establishment. If the Recreation Officer determines that it is appropriate to establish a recreational feature a proposal will be sent out for referral to all recognized stakeholders for comments. Identified problems are addressed through negotiation between the Recreation Officer and the Referee. If issues raised can be successfully addressed the outcomes are included in a Management Intent document which is written to direct the future management of the recreation feature. This is attached to a request for Establishment that is sent to the Minister of FLNRO for signing. Once signed by the Minister the recreation feature is established under Section 56 of FRPA as a Provincially Managed Recreation Feature.



## Application Information and Guidelines for Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities

The purpose of this information package is to assist proponents of trail and recreation facility applications in meeting the requirements for authorization according to *Section 57, of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and Part 3 of the Forest Recreation Regulation*.

### These Guidelines:

- Outline and clarify which activities do or do not or require authorization;
- Provide direction on how a proponent should prepare a proposal (for activities that do require consent);
- Explain the process for review and adjudication of a proposal;
- Identify the criteria for a decision and how it will be communicated to applicants;
- Outline enforcement of unauthorized activities (i.e., non-compliance with Section 57); and
- Provide additional resources and information for trail or recreation facility proponents.

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

*Authorization for constructing, maintaining, rehabilitating trails or recreation facilities on Crown land under the Forest and Range Practices Act.*

Section 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) prohibits construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of a trail or recreation facility unless authorized in writing by the Minister or under another enactment. Section 57 of FRPA applies to all provincial Crown land outside of parks. If you are in doubt as to the status of an area and whether or not section 57 applies, please contact the nearest District Recreation Officer (DRO).

### Some activities **DO NOT** require authorization under section 57:

Section 57 does not apply to basic public access or basic recreational use of Crown land. The following activities do not require authorization:

- Basic access or travel through the forest or across the land, by individuals or groups, whether on a one-time basis or repetitive use of the same route.  
*For example:* hiking on Crown land and the normal ground disturbance associated with this activity.
- Route finding or route marking using ribbons, cairns or other directional indicators.  
*For example:* marking one's way with cairns in an alpine area or with ribbons in a forest.

**Note:** the standard practice of nailing route markers to trees is an allowable practice and is not considered tree spiking under Section 55 of the *Act* (Tree Spiking Prohibited).

- Minor, piecemeal or incidental clearing of brush or downed trees either on or off established trails.  
*For example:* bushwhacking, or clearing branches or deadfall that has fallen across an existing path or trail.
- Emergency repairs to a trail or recreation facility that is necessary to prevent imminent damage to the environment, the trail or the facility.  
*For example:* repairing a water bar on a section of trail where flooding is occurring and immediate repair is needed.

- Emergency construction or maintenance of a trail when this is the only reasonable way of minimizing risk to personal safety.  
*For example:* placing a log over a stream that is necessary to cross to get out of the woods by dark.
- Basic recreational use of a localized area, by individuals or groups.  
*For example:* camping on Crown land and the normal ground disturbance associated with this activity.
- Construction of small, rustic structures of a temporary nature.  
*For example:* construction of rock fire rings, latrines, etc.

If you are uncertain whether or not your intended activity requires consent, please contact the nearest District Recreation Officer

### **Activities that DO require authorization under section 57:**

The following activities are considered trail or recreation facility construction, rehabilitation or maintenance and do require authorization before the activity may begin:

- Ground disturbance
  - significant, continuous grubbing of the soil or rocks along a linear route to establish a visible, long lasting treadway
  - significant ground excavation for the purpose of parking vehicles, launching boats, etc.
  - significant ground or root disturbance associated with corralling horses.
- Clearing or cutting of vegetation
  - significant, continuous uprooting of shrubs or understory plants along a linear route or over an extended area
  - cutting of standing trees.
- Construction of structures:
  - water bars, stairs, bridges, signs, corrals, etc.
  - other significant structures of a long-term or permanent nature.

## **2. PREPARING A PROPOSAL**

*Individuals or groups planning to construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail or recreation facility must prepare and submit a proposal and all required accompanying information to the appropriate Front Counter BC Office location. A list of Front Counter BC Office locations is provided at the end of this document.*

***Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements as specified by these Guidelines will be returned to the applicant without review.***



Before you begin a proposal please consider if the intended activity or facility is of a “commercial” or “exclusive” nature.

- “commercial” means there is locally recognized business entities using the area for commercial or ‘for-profit’ purposes.
- “exclusive” means there is a membership requirement for use or a facility is locked with no key available to the public”.

In these cases, please contact Front Counter BC about their requirements under various authorities, including their commercial recreation policy.

<http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/>

## Proposal Requirements

- ☐ Completed Proposal Form
- ☐ Overview Map (recommended scale 1:50,000 to 1:250,000)
- ☐ \*General location map (recommended scale 1:20,000 to 1:30,000)
- ☐ \*Specific location map (recommended scale 1:2,000 to 1:10,000)
- ☐ \*Digital geo-spatial information of proposed trail or facility (.gpx, .kml or shape file)

*\*for proposals to construct, rehabilitate or maintain un-managed or new trails.*

*To assist personnel in processing of applications, please complete and submit the proposal in a digital format. If providing the completed form in .pdf version, please also include an editable Word version of the document.*

## Part 1. Proponent Name and Contact Information

Please provide the full legal name and contact information for the proponent. If the proponent is not an individual, please provide the name and contact information for the most appropriate representative of the organization.

## Part 2. General Proposal Description

### 1. Purpose of proposed trail or recreation facility

Briefly describe the overall purpose of the proposed trail or recreation facility including its relation to existing trails or other recreation features. Is the proposed trail part of an existing network of trails? Does the proposed trail provide access to a particular recreation feature or connect to other trails?

*For example:* The purpose of the proposed trail is to provide scenic hiking and cycling access to Pine Lake and an alternate linkage to the Fir Mountain Trail Network. The trails and/or facilities established will be of a non-commercial, non-exclusive nature.

### 2. Brief description of the proposed trail or recreation facility.

Briefly describe the type of trail or facility being constructed or maintained including length, type of terrain, type of trail etc.

*For example:* Work will consist of constructing 15 km of naturally surfaced single track hiking and cycling trails through second growth forest and into the alpine. An existing, abandoned road will be used for the first 3 km, and new trails will be constructed for the remaining 12 km.

### 3. Location of the proposed trail or recreation facility

Describe the general location of the proposed trail or recreation facility using commonly referred to landmark names such as valley or watershed names, mountain peaks, proximity and orientation to local communities or other descriptors.

*For example:* The proposed 5 km trail is located on the north slope of Deer Lake, approximately 3 kilometers southwest of Maryville.

#### 4. *Managed trail or recreation facility*

If known, please identify if the trail is recognized and currently managed by Recreation Sites and Trails BC (i.e. is the trail or recreation facility being proposed currently established under section 56 of FRPA).

##### ***Managed trail or recreation facility***

A managed trail or recreation facility has been designated as a recreation trail or site under section 56 of FRPA and is being actively managed by the Province. Normally, mapping information will not be required for an application to maintain or rehabilitate a managed trail or recreation facility. If known, please reference the REC number in the application. The recreation district office may be contacted for information about the current status of a recreation trail or facility.

##### ***Un-managed trail or recreation facility***

An un-managed trail or recreation facility has not previously been designated as a recreation trail or site under section 56 of FRPA and is not being actively managed by the Province. If an existing trail or recreation facility is not formally managed and not in the Ministry records, a general location map, specific location map and submission of digital geo-spatial information identifying the proposed trail track or facility as described in this document will be required. The recreation district office may be contacted for information about the current status of a recreation trail or facility.

##### ***New trail or recreation facility***

If a trail or recreation facility does not exist, a general location map, specific location map and submission of digital geo-spatial information as described in this document will be required.

##### ***Heritage Trail***

A heritage trail is a trail having cultural significance by reason of established aboriginal use or use by early immigrants. Many heritage trails have received official status as designated heritage trails, having been designated under the Heritage Conservation Act.

Please specify if the proposal is for construction, rehabilitation or maintenance (or all that apply).

### **Part 3. Detailed Trail Description**

1. Specify the approximate length of the proposed works. If the proposal includes new construction and maintenance of existing trails, please specify.
2. Specify the proposed width of new or rehabilitated trail. Refer to trail construction guidelines and standards identified in this document for guidance on appropriate trail construction widths.
3. Specify proposed work initiation and completion dates.
4. Please identify the intended primary users of the trail (i.e. hikers, cyclists, snowmobiles, equestrians etc.). The primary intended users will guide appropriate trail or facility construction standards. Note: specifying intended primary users on this proposal will not guarantee use restrictions as determined by district recreation officers. Also specify anticipated season of use and estimate of annual number of users.
5. If known, specify if the proposed works fall within a designated community watershed.
6. Describe any trail construction guidelines or standards that will be followed when conducting works. Guidelines may include specific user type construction guidelines such as *IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack* for mountain bike trails, general construction guidelines or could include best management practices for protecting specific resource values. For a more detailed list of standards, guidelines and other documents, see the References section of this document.

7. Describe any significant water features including creeks, streams, rivers or wetlands the proposed trail might cross or potentially impact. Include water features that will require any crossing infrastructure such as bridges, boardwalks or culverts. Identify any water courses where the trail may impact the associated riparian area. For further information on regulations and guidelines related to water features refer to B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's [Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works \(2004\)](#), and other documents listed in the References section of this document.

## **Part 4. Mapping Requirements**

Applications for construction of new trails or maintenance/rehabilitation of previously unmanaged trails must include three (3) maps as described below. Maps are to be provided on paper at 8 ½" x 11" or 8 ½" x 14" or 11" by 17". In addition, applicants are required to submit digital GPS data for trails as described below. Maps can be created using the public imap mapping function ([iMapBC](#)) or the FrontCounterBC "Discovery Tool" (<http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/mapping/index.html>).

**Applications with incomplete mapping or incomplete GPS data will be returned.**

### **1. Overview Map (1:50,000 to 1:250,000)**

The purpose of this map is to indicate the relationship of the site to the overall area. An overview map should indicate the relationship of the proposed area to nearby communities, major watercourses, public highways, etc.

### **2. General Location Map (1:20,000 to 1:30,000)**

The purpose of this map is to indicate the general location of the site. Information on this map may include topography, water courses, existing access including primary resource roads, any known private lands and/or forest tenures and any known cultural or historic sites.

### **3. Specific Location Map (1:2000 to 1:10,000)**

A Site Specific map is a detailed version of the proposed site or trail showing the boundary of recreation sites or location of linear trails, including points of commencement and termination, and connections to existing trails or recreation resources. Multiple separate trails should be individually named and identified. If the application site or trail crosses a stream provide an indication of proposed culvert or bridge locations.

*Maps should be provided at the best appropriate scale depending on the area and scope of the application.*

### **4. GPS Data**

Applicants for proposals to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain un-managed trails must provide digital GPS data for each proposed trail.

GPX files or equivalent, depending on GPS device manufacturer, are preferred. KML/KMZ files may be accepted, but must be derived from field collected GPS data.

Shape (.shp) files will be accepted but are not required.

## **Part 5. Additional Requirements**

1. *Describe any discussions or communications with potentially impacted stakeholders, interest holders or First Nations regarding this proposal.*

This information will assist the district recreation officer in completing the referral and consultation process. Specifying indications of support or opposition from other interest groups will ensure the district recreation officer completes the referral and any required consultations in an efficient manner.

2. *Describe your or your organization's capacity and commitment for ongoing maintenance of the proposed trail or recreation facility.*

This information will assist the district recreation officer in assessing the capacity for long term management or maintenance of the proposed trail or facility, and the Ministry's requirements for the management of a trail or recreation facility, in the event that an applicant is unable to follow through. Include information about the current membership, current trail or facility maintenance commitments, past maintenance experience and commitments and any other relevant information. Attach additional pages as necessary.

3. *Will you be seeking designation of the proposed recreation site or trail under section 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act? (Yes/No)*

Recreation Sites and Trails on Crown land outside of Parks and settled areas can be 'legally established' by the Minister's order under section 56 of the Forests and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Established trails are managed within an integrated land base framework and receive consideration in forest planning and practices. Prior to establishing recreation sites and trails under FRPA, Recreation Sites and Trails staff will consider numerous factors including public safety, environmental impacts, potential for conflict with other users, impact on stakeholders and potential to impact on asserted First Nations' right or title.

### 3. PROCESSING A PROPOSAL

Upon receiving a proposal to construct, rehabilitate, or maintain a trail or recreation facility, Recreation Sites and Trails BC will respond to a proposal as follows:

#### **Step 1. FrontCounter BC will receive Trail or Recreation Facility Proposals**

Proposals must be submitted in the format described in this document to the appropriate FrontCounter BC Office location. When a proposal is received, a *cursory review will be undertaken to determine* if:

- All necessary information required to accompany an application has been provided.
- The proposal contains all the information necessary to evaluate and adjudicate the proposal.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements as specified in these guidelines will not be processed and the applicant will be informed.

#### **Step 2. Assess the Proposal**

To obtain information needed to adequately assess proposals, the DRO or FrontCounter BC staff will, as appropriate, review existing plans/objectives; conduct a status check; refer the proposal, notify or consult with First Nations; conduct a site visit; meet with the proponent and meet with other interests, agencies or stakeholders.

Complete Section 57 proposals will be assessed to determine if the proposal will:

- Present obvious conflicts or issues that make the proposal unsuitable,
- Conflict with existing management direction,
- Present a risk to public safety,
- Result in unacceptable damage to the environment,

- Result in unacceptable conflicts with other resource values or users,

In addition, the DRO may also assess the proposal to determine if it will:

- Include the proponent entering into a long-term trail management agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC,
- Be supported by a proponent that has the capacity (e.g., knowledge, experience and resources) to undertake the required trail works and maintenance,
- Require the recreation district to undertake the required level of trail management when the proponent may not have the capacity to do so.

If an approved plan (e.g., Trail Management Plan or Strategy) exists which confirms the general acceptability of the proposed trail use, the assessment process may be simplified. In these cases, DROs may, at their discretion, limit the amount of information collection and consultation that goes into assessing the proposal. A current status check should be conducted in all cases, and First Nations consultation must occur unless the First Nations have previously agreed that their involvement in the planning process may substitute for proposal-by-proposal consultation.

If the proposal cannot proceed due to irreconcilable issues, FCBC will notify the applicant and provide reasons for not proceeding with the application.

### Step 3. Adjudicate the Proposal

Following an assessment of the Proposal, a decision will be made to:

- Approve the proposal, as proposed;
- Approve the proposal subject to some modifications to prevent or mitigate an issue, as negotiated with the proponent;
- Refuse the proposal where it would result in an unacceptable level of risk to public safety, environmental damage, resource value or user conflict, or in cases where a Trail Management Agreement is required and the proponent cannot demonstrate sufficient capacity.
- Defer a decision pending the resolution of an issue or the provision of additional information needed to adjudicate the proposal.

The timeline for completing the assessment and adjudication of an application may vary depending on the nature and complexity of the proposal. Where conflict, competing interests, environmental issues or First Nation concerns exist, proposal adjudication may be significantly delayed.

### Step 4: Notify Proponent of Decision

The DRO will communicate with the proponent to discuss the adjudication result, as follows:

- If the proposal is *approved*, discuss next steps and timing.
- If the proposal is *approved with modifications*, discuss and agree upon the modifications.
- If the proposal is *refused*, specify the reasons and discuss potential alternatives that may satisfy the interests of the proponent.
- If a decision on the proposal is *deferred* because further information is required, indicate what additional information is required and identify timeframes.

Adjudication decisions, actions and any follow-up agreed upon with the proponent are documented in writing and a copy is provided to the proponent. If a proponent is dissatisfied with a decision on a FRPA Section 57 trail or recreation facility proposal, they may request a decision review. The general process is for the proponent to contact the DRO to first try to address the issue informally at the local level. The issue may be referred to the Regional Manager or the Recreation Sites and Trails BC Director, if necessary.

## 4. ENFORCEMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

**Note:** This section only summarizes and sketches, for reference purposes, the enforcement provisions regarding Section 57 that are provided for under the *Act*. This section is neither a complete or official presentation of this broad and complex subject. For more information on enforcement, please contact the nearest district recreation office.

Experience has shown that information, education, and voluntary compliance is the most effective means of managing recreation activities and enforcing recreation management rules and objectives. This can be expected to be the case with Section 57 and its intent to bring about a more planned approach to trail and recreation facility management in British Columbia.

This section deals with regulatory, as opposed to voluntary, enforcement of Section 57 as set out in the *Act* and regulations. It outlines the actions an official may take if he/she believes a person is illegally constructing, rehabilitating, or maintaining a trail or recreation facility on Crown land.

In summary, the actions that may be carried out, either individually or in various combinations, are as follows:

### **Written warning**

If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may inform them through a written notice of the apparent contravention. The notice should contain information pertaining to the alleged contravention, including the name and phone number of the official. Failure to heed the warning may lead to penalties.

### **Stop work order**

If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may order the contravention to stop, or to stop to the extent required for the person(s) to get the required consent. Such a stop work order may or may not name, or apply to, specified persons. The minister may apply to the courts for an order for compliance if the minister considers that a person(s) is not complying with a stop work order.

### **Violation ticket (specified penalty ticket)**

If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, a ticket may be issued under the authority of the *Offence Act*. A person may appeal a ticket issued under the *Offence Act*.

### **Remediation order**

A senior official may order a person(s) to remedy a contravention of Section 57 by requiring them to repair any damage caused by the contravention. Such a remediation order must set out all information required by the *Act* and regulations, including:

- the nature of the contravention
- the nature of the work to be done to remedy the contravention
- the date by which the work must be completed
- the person's right to a review or an appeal
- the right of the government to carry out the work and levy a penalty if the person fails to comply with the order

### **Prosecution**

If an official believes that a person(s) is contravening Section 57, he/she may prosecute. A person(s) prosecuted by the Crown for contravening Section 57 is subject to a maximum penalty of \$5,000 in fines and six months in jail.

## 6. REFERENCES

### **Legislation Regulations and Policy**

Forest and Range Practices Act

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/legislation.htm>

Forest Recreation Regulation, Forest and Range Practices Act

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/14\\_16\\_2004](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/14_16_2004)

B.C. Ministry of Environment. A Users Guide to Working In and Around Water - Understanding the Regulation under British Columbia's Water Act. 2005.

[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water\\_rights/cabinet/working\\_around\\_water.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/cabinet/working_around_water.pdf)

BC Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Authorizing Public Recreation Trail on Crown land: Policy Statement.

### **Guidelines and Standards**

International Mountain Bike Association. Trails Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack. 2004.

Resort Municipality of Whistler. Whistler Trail Standards: Environmental and Technical Trail Features. 2003.

BC Ministry of Forests. Recreation Manual Chapter 10

BC Ministry of Environment. Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia. 2006.

### **Best Management Practices**

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works. 2004.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/iswstdsbpsmarch2004.pdf>

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. A guide to using and developing trails in farm and ranch areas. 2002.

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/trails/TrailGuide\\_CompleteBook.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/trails/TrailGuide_CompleteBook.pdf)

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Best Management Practices for Recreational Activities on Grasslands in the Thompson and Okanagan Basins. 2004

## 7. GLOSSARY

**“determination”** means an act, decision, procedure, levy, order, or other determination made under the *Act*, or the regulations by an official or a senior official.

**“establishment ”** means the legal declaration by order of the minister of an area covered by a recreation map notation as a recreation site or trail and the public notification of that declaration via a notice in the *British Columbia Gazette*.

**“facility”** means any area or portion of a recreation site, recreation trail, or interpretive forest site that serves as or provides for a day use area, boat launch area, trail head, or other similar functions.

**“minister”** means the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Minister may delegate his authority under the *Act* and the *Recreation Regulation*.

**“official”** means a designated forest official.



**“Recreation site” or Recreation trail**, means a recreation site or recreation trail:

- designated under the *Forest Act*, or,
- established under Section 6 of the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* or,
- established under Section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

**“standards”** are recommended design and construction specifications for recreation structures.

**“status” check** means the process of determining rights, titles, or interests in a particular area or parcel of land by searching records, maps, and other documents for jurisdictions, tenures, or expressed interests by other agencies or parties in the area in question. Status checking means “checking the status of” an area with respect to existing reports, titles, or interests.

**“structure”** means any improvement of a long-term or permanent nature that is fixed to the ground or permanently secured in a fixed location and includes cabins, bridges, litter barrels, shelters, signs, corrals, etc.





## Proposal Form for Trails and Recreation Facilities

All applications must include a completed application form and for proposals involving 'un-managed' trails or facilities or new trail or facilities, application must include a general location map, a specific location map and submission of digital geo-spatial information as described in the *Application Information and Guidelines* associated with this Form. **Incomplete applications will be returned.**

### Part 1. Proponent Name and Contact Information

**Proponent Name:**

FULL LEGAL NAME of Individual(s), Organization or Society

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proponent Mailing Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name for Organization or Society:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proponent Contact Numbers:**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2. General Proposal Description

**Purpose of proposed trail or recreation facility:****Brief description of proposed trail or recreation facility:****Location of proposed trail or recreation facility:****This proposal is for:** (refer to *Application Information and Guidelines* for explanation of proposal types)**1. Authorization to construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail or facility:** (please select one choice from each column)

<input type="checkbox"/> construction <input type="checkbox"/> maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> a managed trail or recreation facility <input type="checkbox"/> an unmanaged trail or recreation facility <input type="checkbox"/> a new trail or recreation facility	<i>For an existing trail, is it a Heritage Trail or known to have heritage, or historic values?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> designated Heritage Trail <input type="checkbox"/> known Historic or Heritage Value <input type="checkbox"/> no known heritage values
--	--	---

**2. Consideration of a recreation trail or facility for designation under Section 56 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

### For Office Use Only

(date received)

Region

Recreation District

File no (if applicable)



**Part 3. Detailed Trail Description** (if proposing a recreation facility other than a trail, please use this space to further describe the proposed recreation facility)

Approximate trail length: _____ km	Proposed work start dates: _____
Approximate trail width: _____ m	Proposed work completion dates: _____
Describe the anticipated or proposed trail uses:	Is the proposed trail or recreation facility located in a community watershed?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Identify any trail construction or maintenance guidelines or standards that will be followed when conducting works:	
Describe any significant water features including creeks, streams, rivers or wetlands the proposed trail might cross or potentially impact:	
<b>Digital geo-spatial information provided with application</b> Format: <input type="checkbox"/> gpx file <input type="checkbox"/> shape file <input type="checkbox"/> kml file (must be based on field collected gps data) File name(s): _____	<b>Maps included</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Overview Map <input type="checkbox"/> General Location Map <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Location Map
(see Application Process Information Package for spatial data requirements and map requirements associated with this application)	

**Part 4. Additional Information**

Describe any discussions or communications with potentially impacted stakeholders, interest holders or First Nations regarding this proposal:

Describe your or your organizations capacity and commitment for ongoing maintenance of the proposed trail or recreation facility:

(attach additional pages as necessary)



<b>Applicant Signature</b>    <b>Name</b>	<b>Date:</b> _____
---	--------------------

**PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS APPLICATION FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**NOTE:** The information you provide will be subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions regarding the treatment of your personal information, please contact the Manager, Privacy, Information Access and Records Management.

The submission of this form does not in any manner convey any rights to use or occupy Crown land.

## FrontCounter BC Contact Information

Call FrontCounter BC toll free at: **1-877-855-3222**

Call from outside North America at: **++1-604-586-4400**

Follow the links below to see the address, hours of business, location map, local links and other information for the FrontCounter BC office location nearest you.

[FrontCounter BC 100 Mile House](#)

[FrontCounter BC Burns Lake](#)

[FrontCounter BC Campbell River](#)

[FrontCounter BC Castlegar](#)

[FrontCounter BC Chilliwack](#)

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[FrontCounter BC Quesnel](#)

[FrontCounter BC Revelstoke](#)

[FrontCounter BC Smithers](#)

[FrontCounter BC Surrey](#)

[FrontCounter BC Terrace](#)

[FrontCounter BC Vanderhoof](#)

[FrontCounter BC Vernon](#)

[FrontCounter BC Williams Lake](#)



## **APPENDIX C – FOREST RECREATION REGULATION 16/2004**



**PDF Version**

[Printer-friendly – ideal for printing entire document]

# **FOREST RECREATION REGULATION 16/2004**

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## **FOREST RECREATION REGULATION 16/2004**

B.C. Reg. 16/2004

[includes B.C. Reg. 206/2006 amendments (effective July 13, 2006)]

### *Contents*

#### **PART 1 – Definitions**

1. Definitions

#### **PART 2 – Public Recreation Orders on Crown Land**

2. Public notice of recreation order

#### **PART 3 – Unauthorized Trail or Recreation Facility Construction**

3. Authorization under section 57 of the Act not required
4. How to obtain authorization under section 57 of the Act
5. Right of review

#### **PART 4 – Use of Recreation Sites, Recreation Trails and Interpretive Forest Sites**

6. Operation of vehicles and equipment
7. Safety helmet
8. Discharge of holding tanks
9. Disposal of refuse
10. Disposal of game residue
11. Traps and firearms
12. Pets
13. Duration of stay at a recreation site
14. Firewood
15. Structures
16. Other uses requiring authorization
17. Respect for property and the environment
18. Quiet and peaceful enjoyment
19. Responsibility for minors
20. Limitations on occupancy and use

#### **PART 5 – Fees**

21. Fee collection period
22. Fees for use of recreation site or trail

#### **PART 6 – Enforcement**

23. Order to vacate
24. Offence



[Provisions of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, SBC 2002, c. 69, relevant to the enactment of this regulation: section 141]

## PART 1 – Definitions

### Definitions

(AM)  
Jul  
13/06

**1.** (1) In this regulation:

**"Act"** means the *Forest and Range Practices Act*;

**"camp"** means to occupy a campsite by setting up a tent or parking a motor vehicle to remain overnight;

**"campsite"** means that area within the developed portion of a recreation site designed to accommodate a person or party that wishes to camp;

**"commuter motor vehicle"** means a motor vehicle that is used for travelling back and forth from the campsite and that is not used for camping;

**"developed portion"** when referring to a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, means that portion of the site or trail that is composed of

- (a) any structure that is ancillary to a day use area, camping area, trail staging area or other similar area, and
- (b) a buffer zone consisting of an area that extends out 100 m in all directions from the structure, except where limited by the boundary of the recreation site, interpretive forest site or recreation trail;

**"motor vehicle"** means any land vehicle intended to be self-propelled, that is designed primarily for travel on surfaces other than rails, and includes any trailer or equipment designed to be attached to the vehicle;

**"natural resource"** means land, water and atmosphere, their mineral, vegetable and other components and includes the flora and fauna on and in them;

**"newspaper"** means a newspaper circulating in the area to which an order applies, or if no newspaper circulates in the area, then a newspaper that circulates nearest to the area and includes a newspaper that is free and that does not have subscribers;

**"party"** means individuals who

- (a) together, form a group of
  - (i) not more than six persons, or
  - (ii) parents and their unmarried children under the age of 19, or guardians and their unmarried wards under the age of 19, and
- (b) arrive at a recreation site
  - (i) in not more than one motor vehicle, other than motorcycle, unless the additional motor vehicle is a commuter vehicle or is towed,
  - (ii) on foot, by bicycle, motorcycle or watercraft, or
  - (iii) by a combination of the means in subparagraphs (i) and (ii);

**"recreation officer"** means an official designated for the purpose of this regulation;

**"recreation site or trail operator"** means a person or class of persons authorized in writing under section 22 (6) to act as a recreation or trail operator;

**"regional manager"** means an official designated as a regional manager for the purpose of this regulation;

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**"structure"** means any improvement of a long-term or permanent nature and includes any road, parking space, launching ramp, campsite, cabin, trail tread, bridge, litter barrel shelter, corral, picnic table, sign, outhouse or fire pit.

- (2) For the purposes of section 59 of the Act, the permit referred to in that section includes a proof of payment referred to in section 22 (8) (c).

[am. B.C. Reg. 206/2006.]

## **PART 2 – Public Recreation Orders on Crown Land**

### **Public notice of recreation order**

2. (1) Before establishing, amending or cancelling an order that restricts, prohibits or attaches a condition to a recreation use on Crown land under section 58 (1) (b) of the Act, the minister must publish in a newspaper a notice stating the following:
- (a) that an order is proposed to be established, amended or cancelled under section 58 (1) (b) of the Act;
  - (b) the restriction, prohibition or condition;
  - (c) the area to which the order applies;
  - (d) the date on which the order takes effect;
  - (e) the period during which the order is to remain in effect;
  - (f) the period during which, and the address to which, comments may be sent.
- (2) When an order is established, amended or cancelled under subsection (1), for the purposes of section 58 (3) of the Act, the minister must publish in a newspaper and post in the area to which the order applies a notice stating the following:
- (a) that an order has been established, amended or cancelled under section 58 (1) (b) of the Act;
  - (b) the condition, restriction or prohibition contained in the notice;
  - (c) the area to which the order applies;
  - (d) the period during which the order remains in effect.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), if the minister is of the opinion that the establishment, variance or cancellation of the order does not significantly affect the public, the minister does not have to publish a notice in the newspaper.

## **PART 3 – Unauthorized Trail or Recreation Facility Construction**

### **Authorization under section 57 of the Act not required**

3. (1) For the purposes of section 57 of the Act, the construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of a trail or recreation facility does not include
- (a) marking a route with ribbons, cairns or other directional indicators, or
  - (b) minor clearing of brush, downed trees or repairs to a trail or recreation facility.
- (2) Despite section 57 of the Act, a person may construct, rehabilitate or maintain a trail without the authorization of the minister if doing so is the only reasonable



means of minimizing a risk to personal safety.

### How to obtain authorization under section 57 of the Act

4. (1) For the purposes of section 57 (1) of the Act, a person who is required to obtain the authorization of the minister before constructing, rehabilitating or maintaining a trail or recreation facility on Crown land must deliver a proposal regarding the matter to the minister.
- (2) A proposal must contain
  - (a) the name and address of the person making the proposal,
  - (b) the description of the proposal, including the purpose, location and date of the proposed work, and
  - (c) the action requested of the minister.
- (3) A person submitting a proposal must satisfy the minister that the proposal will not cause one or more of the following:
  - (a) significant risk to public safety;
  - (b) unacceptable damage to the environment;
  - (c) unacceptable conflicts with other resource values or users.
- (4) The minister must notify the person named in the proposal of the minister's determination to grant, or to refuse to grant, the authorization that is the subject matter of the proposal.

### Right of review

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
5. (1) A person who is not granted an authorization referred to in section 4 (4) may have the refusal reviewed by the minister or by a person designated in writing by the minister as authorized to conduct the review.
  - (2) Sections 78, 80 and 82 of the Act apply to the review under subsection (1) of this section as if the review was requested under section 80 of the Act.

[am. B.C. Reg. 206/2006.]

## PART 4 – Use of Recreation Sites, Recreation Trails and Interpretive Forest Sites

### Operation of vehicles and equipment

6. (1) A person must not operate a motor vehicle or a bicycle on a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site in a manner that is likely to do any of the following:
  - (a) cause damage to a structure or natural resource;
  - (b) endanger, injure or damage people or property;
  - (c) harass, injure or kill wildlife or any other kind of animal.
- (2) A person must not operate a motor vehicle on the developed portion of a recreation site or interpretive forest site at a speed exceeding 20 km/hr.
- (3) A person must not park a motor vehicle on a recreation trail, or on the developed portion of either a recreation site or an interpretive forest site, in a manner that impedes traffic or inhibits a person from using the site or trail.
- (4) If a motor vehicle has been parked on a recreation trail or on the developed portion of either a recreation site or an interpretive forest site contrary to

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13/06



subsection (3), an official, a recreation officer or a peace officer may impound the vehicle.

- (5) Any costs incurred due to the removal of a motor vehicle under subsection (4) are a debt owed by the owner of the vehicle to the person who impounded the vehicle, payable before release of the vehicle.
- (6) The person who impounds a vehicle under subsection (4) must exercise reasonable care to avoid damage to the vehicle, but neither the person nor the government is liable to the owner for any damage to the vehicle that arises, directly or indirectly, from that impoundment.

[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

### Safety helmet

- 7. (1) A person must properly wear
  - (a) a bicycle safety helmet, or
  - (b) a motorcycle safety helmet
 while operating, or riding as a passenger on, a bicycle or motorcycle in a recreation site or interpretive forest site or on a recreation trail.
- (2) The provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act* and the regulations made under that Act, with respect to bicycle safety helmets and motorcycle safety helmets, apply for the purposes of subsection (1).

### Discharge of holding tanks

(AM)  
Jul  
13/06

- 8. A person who owns, or is responsible for, a motor vehicle that has a holding tank must ensure that the contents of the holding tank are not deposited or discharged at a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, unless authorized by a recreation officer.

[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

### Disposal of refuse

- 9. A person must not deposit or otherwise dispose of any kind of refuse at a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, except refuse that the person has accumulated while using the site or trail, and then only if the refuse is deposited in a container provided for that purpose.

### Disposal of game residue

- 10. Despite section 9, a person must not dispose of game offal, entrails, hides or bones within the developed portion of either a recreation site or an interpretive forest site.

### Traps and firearms

- 11. (1) In this section, “**firearm**” means a rifle, shotgun, handgun, spring gun or any device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, a spring or compressed gas.
- (2) Unless authorized by a recreation officer, a person must not set a trap, discharge a firearm or shoot a bow or crossbow
  - (a) on or into the developed portion of a recreation site or interpretive forest site, or

(AM)  
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13/06



- (b) on or into any portion of a recreation trail, if a prohibition against doing so has been posted at the trail.
- (3) The authorization granted under subsection (2) may specify conditions including the type of devices, time and area, supervision and purpose.
- (4) The regional manager must make available in district and regional offices a list of trails within the region that are subject to the prohibition under subsection (2) (b), describing the nature of the prohibitions.  
[am. B.C.Reg. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

**Pets**

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 12.** (1) A person who owns, or is responsible for, a pet must ensure that the pet does not, while on a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site
- (a) present a threat to a person's property or to the life or safety of any person or animal, or
  - (b) cause an unnecessary disturbance to other persons or animals.
- (2) An official, a recreation officer or a peace officer who determines that a person has contravened subsection (1) may require the person
- (a) to keep the pet under physical restraint, or
  - (b) to remove the pet from the recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site.
- [am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

**Duration of stay at a recreation site**

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 13.** (1) A person must not camp at a recreation site for a period exceeding 14 consecutive days unless authorized by a recreation officer.
- (2) For the purposes of calculating 14 consecutive days under subsection (1), a period of consecutive days is cumulative unless the person and their vehicle and equipment, as the case may be, are not present on the recreation site for a period of at least 72 consecutive hours.  
[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

**Firewood**

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 14.** A person must not remove firewood from a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site unless authorized by a recreation officer.  
[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

**Structures**

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 15.** (1) A person must not erect a structure or post a sign or a poster on a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site unless authorized by a recreation officer.
- (2) A recreation officer may cause a structure, sign or poster referred to in subsection (1) to be altered or removed without compensation, whether or not it was erected or posted with the official's permission.  
[en. B.C. Reg. 354/2004; am. B.C. Reg. 206/2006.]

**Other uses requiring authorization**

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 16.** Unless authorized by a recreation officer, a person must not use
- (a) a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site for
    - (i) a competitive sporting event, or
    - (ii) a business or industrial activity, or
  - (b) a recreation site as



- (i) part of a gathering of 15 or more persons, or
  - (ii) a place of temporary residence while engaged in a business or industrial activity outside the site.
- [am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

### Respect for property and the environment

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 17.** A person must not,
- (a) in a careless or negligent manner, damage, or cause any alterations to, a structure or natural resource on a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, or
  - (b) unless authorized by a recreation officer, move a structure that is on a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site.
- [am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

### Quiet and peaceful enjoyment

- 18.** (1) A person using a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site must not create or cause a deliberate or unnecessary disturbance to other persons on the site or trail.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a person using a recreation site must not make noise between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. that interferes with the enjoyment of other persons occupying the recreation site.

### Responsibility for minors

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 19.** A parent, guardian, custodian or other person in charge of a minor must make a reasonable attempt to stop the minor from contravening the Act, this regulation or the *Wildfire Act* or a regulation made under that Act with respect to a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site.
- [am. B.C. Reg. 206/2006.]

### Limitations on occupancy and use

- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- 20.** (1) A person who camps at a recreation site where a fee for camping is required under section 22 must
- (a) camp in a campsite;
  - (b) occupy only one campsite;
  - (c) not leave personal property on a campsite unless the person is camping, under the authority arising from payment of the camping fee, at that campsite, or has been authorized to leave the property on the campsite by a recreation officer.
- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- (2) A recreation officer
- (a) may limit the occupancy of a campsite or recreation site, including the number of parties and motor vehicles, if the official is satisfied that the limit is necessary to adequately manage the recreation site, and
  - (b) must take reasonable steps to make persons who arrive at the recreation site aware of the limit.
- (AM)  
Jul  
13/06
- (3) A recreation officer may establish rules for the use of a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, other than a matter referred to in subsection (2), by posting a sign containing the rules to be followed at the site or trail.
- (4) A person, with respect to a sign posted under subsection (3), must not
- (a) contravene the rule expressed in the sign, or
- (AM)  
Jul  
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13/06

- (b) remove, alter, cover, destroy or deface the sign.
- (5) A recreation officer may, in writing, authorize a recreation site operator to close all or part of a recreation site to protect the public or site.
- (6) A person must comply with a prohibition, requirement, limitation, rule or closure made pursuant to this section.  
[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

## PART 5 – Fees

### Fee collection period

- 21. The fee for overnight camping under section 22 authorizes camping for 24 hours beginning at 12 noon on the day in which camping begins.

### Fees for use of recreation site or trail

- 22. (1) In this section, “**service**” means, in relation to a recreation site or trail,
  - (a) maintenance and repair of the recreation site or trail,
  - (b) supervision at the recreation site or trail,
  - (c) provision of overnight camping facilities, parking facilities, boat launch ramps, mooring buoys, warming huts or cabins on the recreation site or trail,
  - (d) grooming or setting ski tracks on the recreation trail, or
  - (e) provision of similar improvements for recreation purposes included in the list described in subsection (5).
- (2) The minister may determine that a fee is required to use a recreation site or trail if he or she is satisfied that the fee is justified by the provision of the service at the site or trail.
- (3) If a determination is made under subsection (2) the minister must set the fee at an amount that does not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the following formula:

Amount (AC/N)

where

**AC** is the annual cost of providing the service, estimated by the minister when the fee is first set for the year, and

**N** is the number of times the service will be used by the public, estimated by the minister when the fee is first set for the year.

- (4) The minister may cancel a determination made under subsection (2), if satisfied that the service provided at the recreation site or trail does not justify the fee.
- (5) The regional manager must
  - (a) make available at district and regional offices a list of sites and trails within the region that have fees, including a description of the services available at those locations and the fee for each service,
  - (b) keep that list current with determinations made under subsection (2) and cancellations made under subsection (4), and
  - (c) post a sign at the site or the trail notifying the public that a fee is required and the amount of the fee.
- (6) The minister may authorize a person to act as a recreation site or trail operator, and may rescind the authorization.



(AM)  
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13/06

- (7) On request of a person who is paying or providing proof of payment to use a recreation site or trail, a recreation site or trail operator must provide written proof of authorization by the minister to act under this section.
- (8) The user of a recreation site or trail must
  - (a) pay a fee to the recreation site or trail operator to use the recreation site or trail, if the fee is listed under subsection (5),
  - (b) provide his or her name and address and any other information reasonably required by the recreation site or trail operator to identify the person or party,
  - (c) produce proof of payment on request of an official, a recreation officer, a peace officer or a recreation site or trail operator, and
  - (d) if the person owns or is in control of a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, ensure that the vehicle is not parked in a campsite without proof of payment for camping prominently displayed in the windshield, unless another vehicle that displays a proof of payment for camping is parked in the campsite at the same time.
- (9) A right to use a recreation site or trail, arising from payment of a fee under this section, is not transferable, and is valid only for the period of time indicated on the proof of payment.

[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

## PART 6 – Enforcement

### Order to vacate

(AM)  
Jul  
13/06

- 23.** (1) On being satisfied that, with respect to a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, a person has contravened the Act, this regulation or the *Wildfire Act* or a regulation made under that Act, an official, a recreation officer or a peace officer may, by notice served on the person, order the person
- (a) to vacate a recreation site, recreation trail or interpretive forest site, and
  - (b) not to enter or attempt to enter or camp on Crown land within one km of the site, or trail
- for a period specified in the notice.
- (2) A person who receives a notice under subsection (1) must comply with the order.
- (3) A person who is ordered to vacate is not entitled to a refund of any fee which may have been paid.

[am. B.C. Regs. 354/2004; 206/2006.]

### Offence

- 24.** (1) A person who contravenes section 6 (1) to (3), 8 to 11, 12 (1), 13 to 17, 18 (1) or (2) or 23 (2) commits an offence.
- (2) A person who commits an offence referred to in subsection (1) is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5 000 or to imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or to both.
- (3) A person who contravenes section 20 (1) or (6) or 22 (8) (a) or (c) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.
- (4) A person who contravenes section 7 (1) (a) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25.
- (5) A person who contravenes section 7 (1) (b) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100.



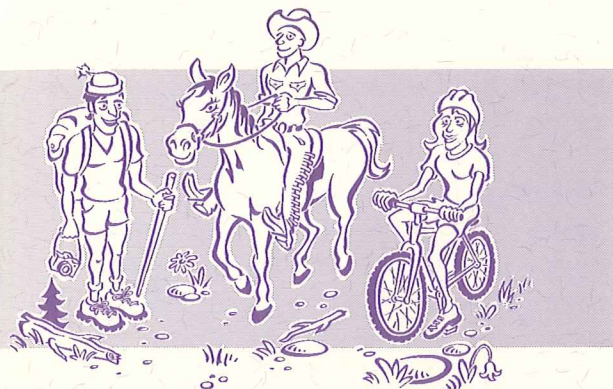
[Provisions of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, SBC 2002, c. 69, relevant to the enactment of this regulation: section 141]



## **APPENDIX D – OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL – TRAIL CODE OF ETHICS**



# A TRAIL USER'S CODE OF ETHICS



Hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders are increasingly sharing the trails they travel. They also have concern for minimizing their impact on the backcountry.

Some dangers exist when different users share the same trails. However, all recreationists who are aware of others and practise "treading lightly" will help reduce conflicts and environmental damage, making everyone's trip outdoors more enjoyable.

## TRAIL ETIQUETTE



Certain etiquette practised by all trail users is easy to do and contributes to a better outdoor experience for everyone. A simple way to adopt the essential habits is to remember the "3 C's": Common Sense, Communication and Courtesy.

**1. Common Sense** - Common Sense begins with planning your trip and continues to your encounters with others on the trail. Although trail travellers' protocol calls for the most mobile to yield the right of way, assess the situation and use common sense to determine who can get out of the



way most easily. In ideal cases, cyclists yield to everyone and hikers yield to horses. A loaded string of horses going uphill always has the right of way, and a cyclist climbing a steep pitch will appreciate the same consideration.

**2. Communication** - A friendly word of greeting reassures horses and lets others know of your presence. Communicate with other trail users to warn them of dangers or adverse trail conditions, but also to share with them an exceptional view stop or picnic area that you found. It is a good idea to tell other travellers how many people are in your group, so they can prepare to pass them on the trail.



Peer group policing is everyone's responsibility - if you see someone acting irresponsibly in the backcountry, warn him or her about the potential dangers.

**3. Courtesy** - Treat other trail users with courtesy. User conflicts can lead to trail closures - an unnecessary measure if people cooperate and practice the "3 C's".



## HIKERS



It is essential for everyone to be aware of the fragility of backcountry areas, and to treat them with care. "Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints" is the backpackers motto which can be adopted by other trail users as well.

**Upon encountering horse riders**, a group of hikers should all step off to the same side of the trail, the lower side if possible. Horses can be frightened by backpack equipment, so allow two to three metres for them to pass. A friendly exchange of greeting between hiker and horse rider will help calm the horses.

**Use existing trails** as much as possible. But if you are not on an established trail, avoid marking trees or building rock piles to point out your path, and dismantle makeshift bridges required to cross streams. When walking through brush, bend rather than break branches.

Groups should spread out so as not to create a trail, especially in vulnerable tundra or meadow areas. For off-trail travel limit groups at four to six hikers to minimize damaging vegetation.

**Above the treeline**, walk on rocks and snow as much as possible. Alpine vegetation is delicate and takes a long time to re-grow at high elevations.

## MOUNTAIN BIKERS



Mountain biking is a relatively new way to enjoy the outdoors and is increasing in popularity. For the safety both of you as a rider and of others on the trail, certain aspects of bicycle travel require special attention.

**Be aware** of other trail users. Always anticipate a horse or hiker around a blind curve and slow down. Prevent the sudden and unexpected encounters made possible by a bike's quick and silent approach by using your bell and a friendly greeting to let others know of your presence.

**Yield** to hikers and equestrians. Get off your bike and move to the lower side of the trail to let horses pass because they are less easily spooked by an object lower than themselves. A clearance of two to three metres is recommended between you and the horse, depending on the terrain. In any case, follow passing directions given by the horse rider.



**Learn** how to minimize damage to trails through proper riding techniques. Develop your cycling skills so that you are able to ride and not slide when on the trails. Contact Cycling BC for information on riding clinics.

**Practice erosion-free cycling or soft cycling.** Bicycle on designated trails - meadows are easily damaged by bicycle tires. Stay off trails during wet and muddy conditions as tire ruts will become pathways for water erosion. Remember that south-facing trails dry out fastest.

**HORSE RIDERS**



A steady, well-trained horse is essential to a good trail ride. Encounters with other trail users will be smoother if your horse is an experienced mount.

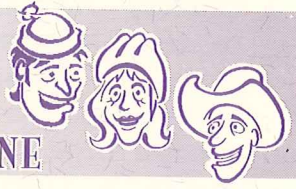
**When passing other recreationists,** steady your horse and give the hiker or cyclist clear instruction on how you would like them to stand clear. For example, ask them to stand on the low side of the trail, and to continue chatting.

**Yield** to a loaded pack string, is the general rule. In steep rough country, downhill traffic yields the right of way to uphill travellers. But use common sense - whoever can pull off the trail easiest should do so.

**Warn others of danger on the trail.** Wire, potholes and boggy areas can be a hazard to hikers and cyclists too.

**Reduce damage to trails** by using a minimum number of pack animals and avoid riding on trails when they are soft and muddy. Reschedule your trip for when the trail has dried out.

**TRAIL COURTESY AND ETHICS FOR EVERYONE**



Remembering the "3 C's", Common Sense, Communication and Courtesy, as well as a few guidelines for trail use will ensure your impact on the environment is minimal and encounters with other recreationists are enjoyable.

**Check with local land managers** for trail conditions and closures. Respect trail closures and use restrictions because sensitive environmental conditions or safety concerns may be the cause.



Look after the trails you travel on.

**Respect private property** and "no trespassing" signs, and leave gates as you find them.

**Protect yourself** from unnecessary slips and falls by staying on existing paths. A successful trip is one without injury. You will also be helping to maintain your favourite trails by not short-cutting switchbacks and corners. It may be messy, but march or ride through a muddy spot and scramble over or under fallen trees to avoid causing multiple paths created by travelling on the edge of the trail.

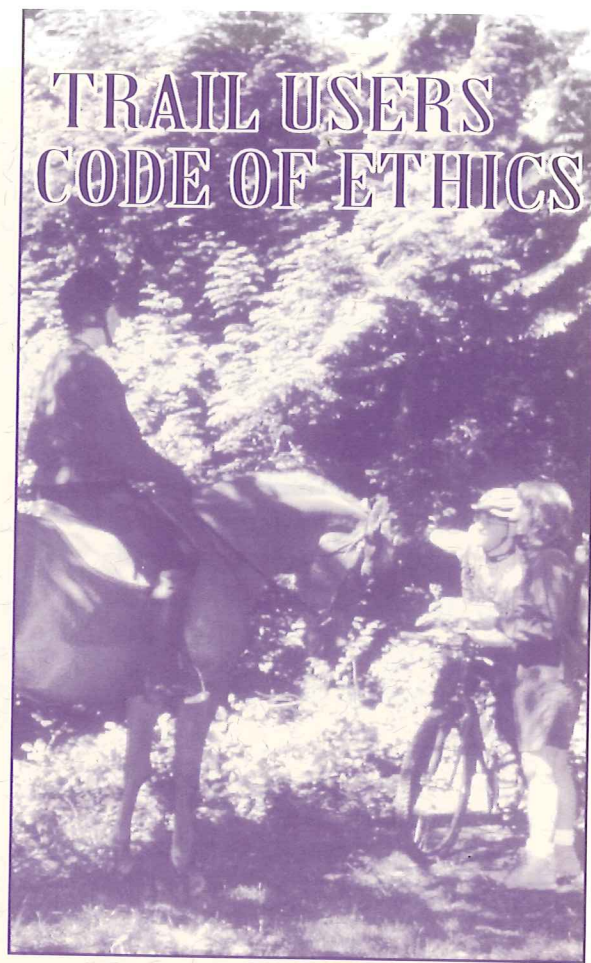
**Look after the trails** you travel on. They are easily damaged and hard to maintain. When you encounter a trail maintenance problem, fix it if you can, if not, report it to the appropriate managing agency. The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC can assist you in determining who to contact.

To order more copies of this and other brochures:  
♦ Outdoor Recreation Council of BC  
Phone: (604) 737-3058 Fax: (604) 737-3666  
Email: [orc@intergate.bc.ca](mailto:orc@intergate.bc.ca)  
[www.orcbc.bc.ca](http://www.orcbc.bc.ca)

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Graphics: Kelly Pearce  
Photography: Andy Mons



**TRAIL USERS CODE OF ETHICS**

**Minimizing your impact on the trails and other trail users**

A safety and education brochure published by:

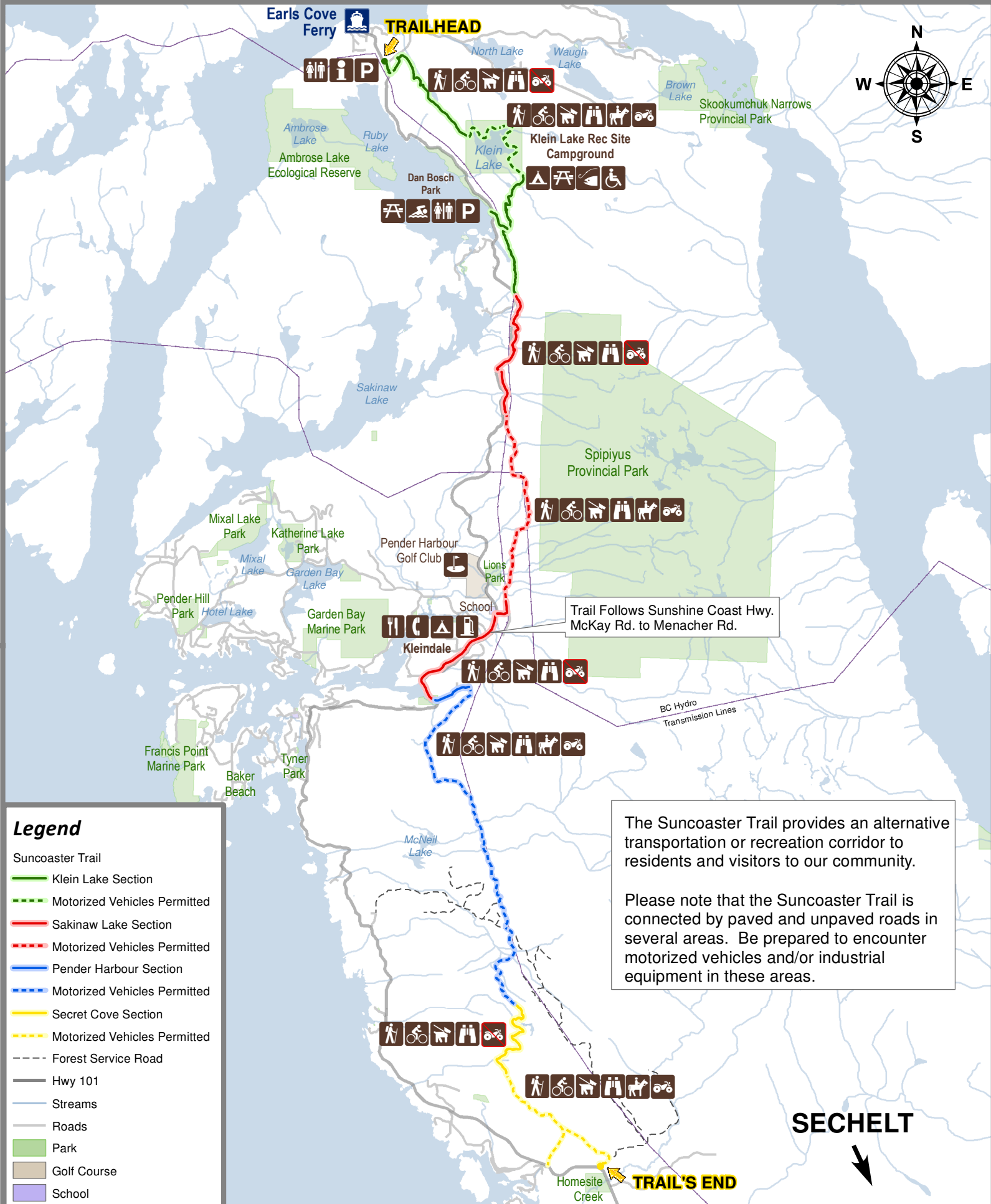


Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia



## **APPENDIX E – SUNCOASTER TRAIL MAPS**





**Legend**

Suncoaster Trail

- Klein Lake Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Sakinaw Lake Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Pender Harbour Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Secret Cove Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Forest Service Road
- Hwy 101
- Streams
- Roads
- Park
- Golf Course
- School

The Suncoaster Trail provides an alternative transportation or recreation corridor to residents and visitors to our community.

Please note that the Suncoaster Trail is connected by paved and unpaved roads in several areas. Be prepared to encounter motorized vehicles and/or industrial equipment in these areas.










# Suncoaster Trail sections November 2011



(aerial photographs March 2009)

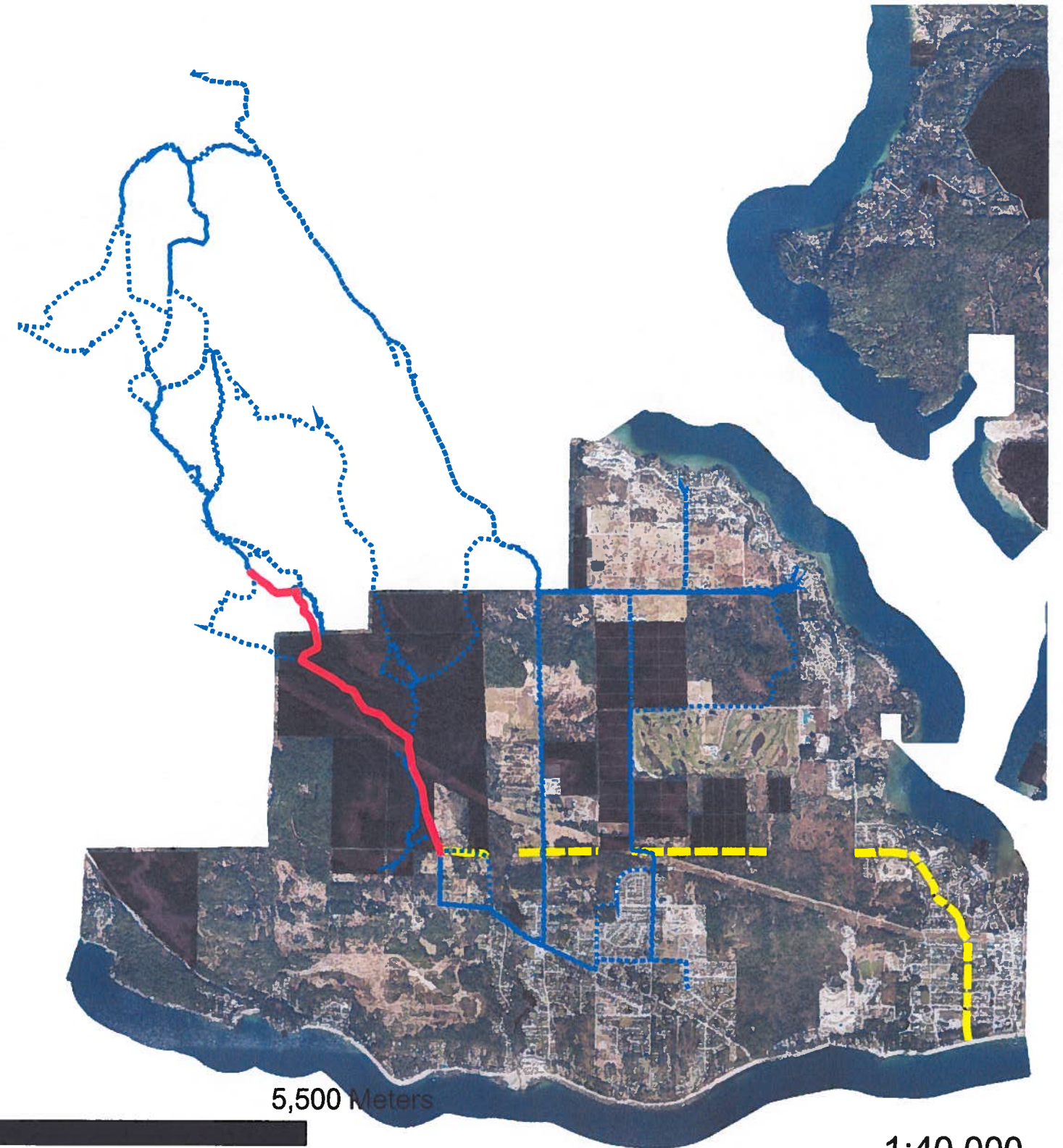
## Legend

-  Suncoaster Trail DOS westbound
-  West Sechelt existing trails
-  Existing Selma Park area trails
-  Chapman Creek proposed east bank trail
-  Roads part of Suncoaster Trail
-  Suncoaster Trail DOS eastbound
-  Crown lands

0 1,375 2,750 5,500 Meters



1:40,000

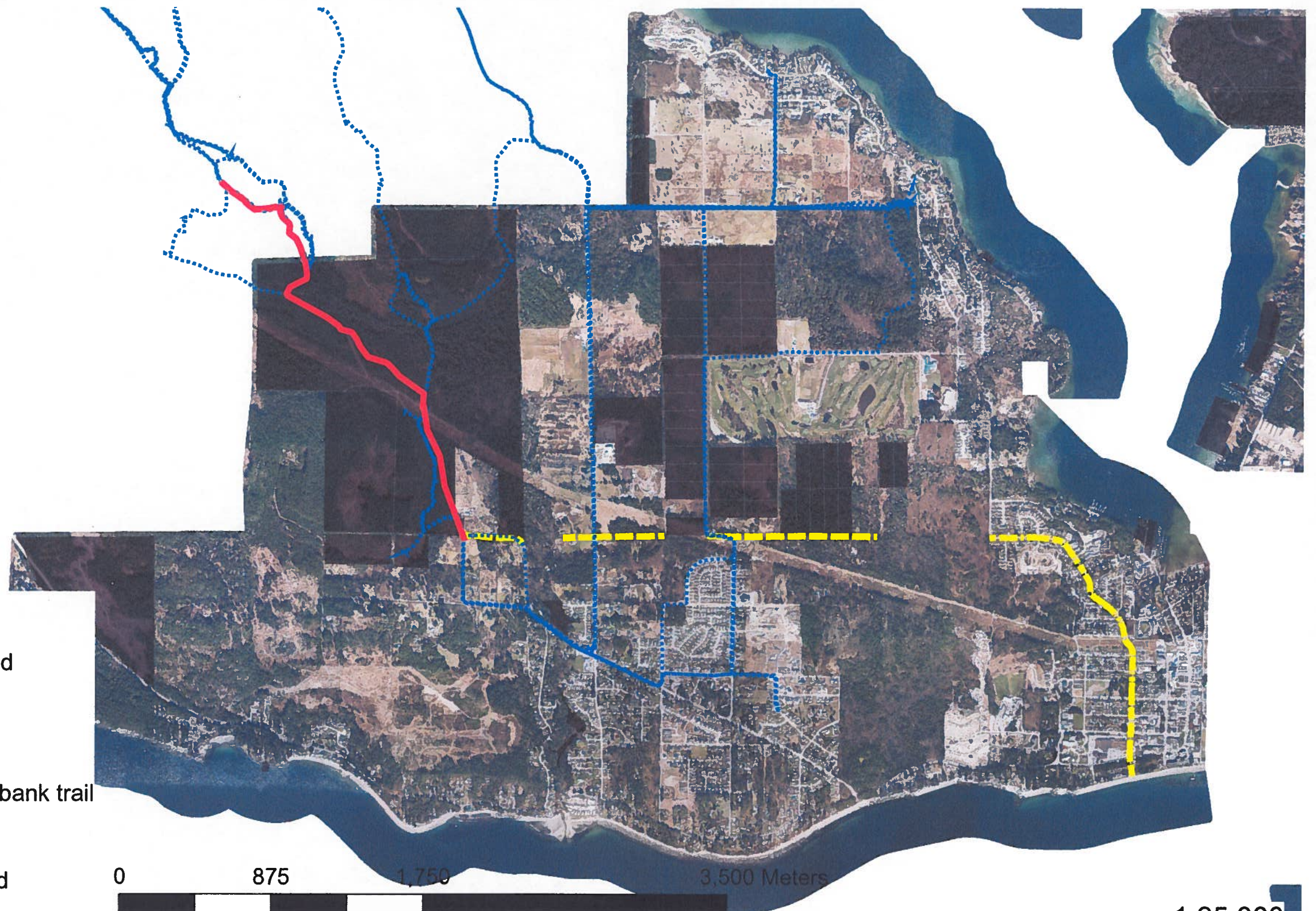











# Suncoaster Trail sections November 2011



(aerial photographs March 2009)

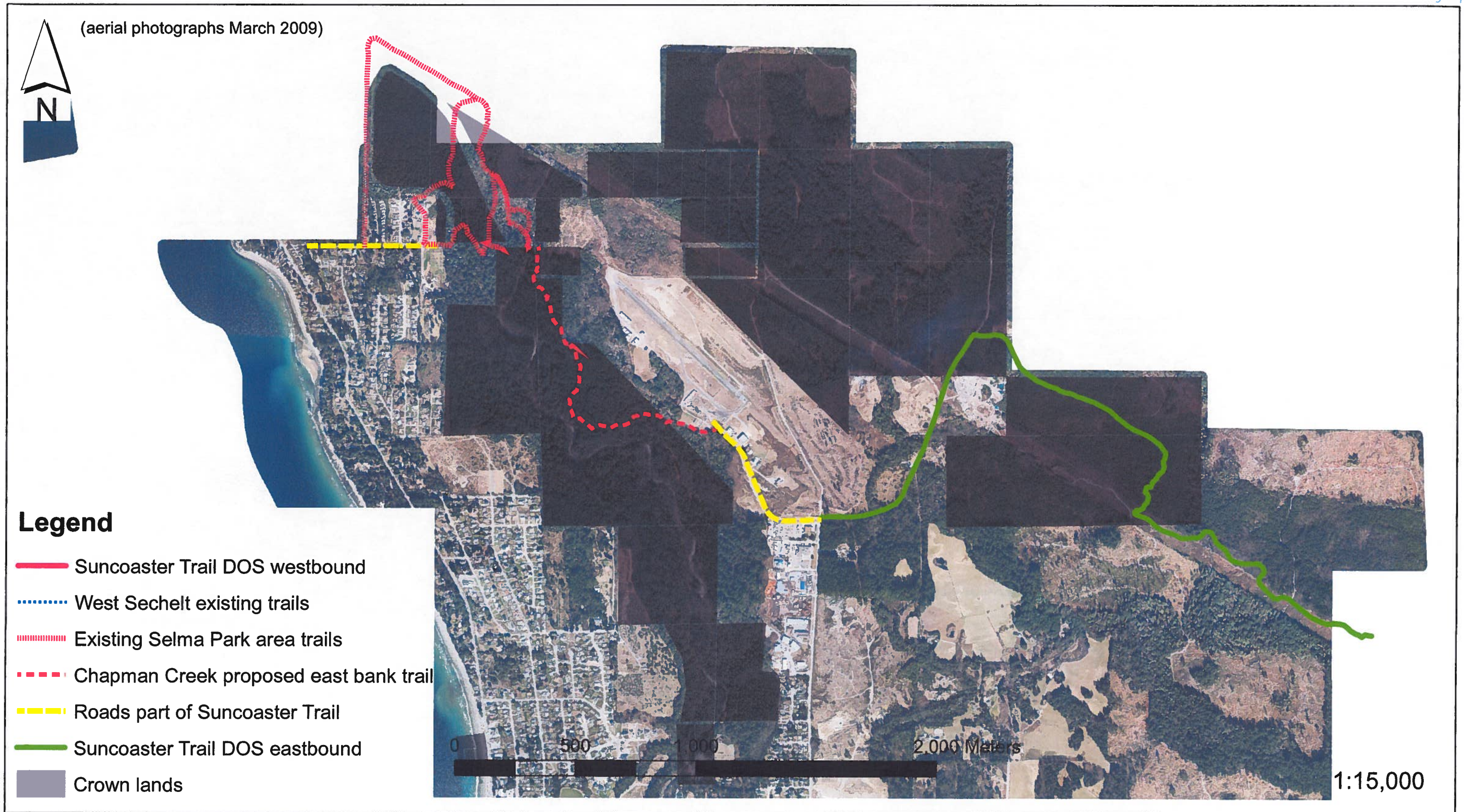


## Legend

-  Suncoaster Trail DOS westbound
-  West Sechelt existing trails
-  Existing Selma Park area trails
-  Chapman Creek proposed east bank trail
-  Roads part of Suncoaster Trail
-  Suncoaster Trail DOS eastbound
-  Crown lands



# Suncoaster Trail sections November 2011














## **APPENDIX F – SCRD PARK AND TRAIL MAPS**



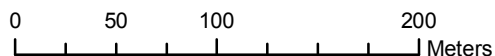


-  BBQ Cook House
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area
-  Playground
-  Potable Water
-  Public Toilet
-  Trail
-  Fitness Course
-  Park

### Whispering Firs Park

This park is accessed from Hwy 101 and has a large grassy area with a sheltered picnic site, a B-B-Q cook-house and public toilet. There is also a playground and hiking trail with fitness course.

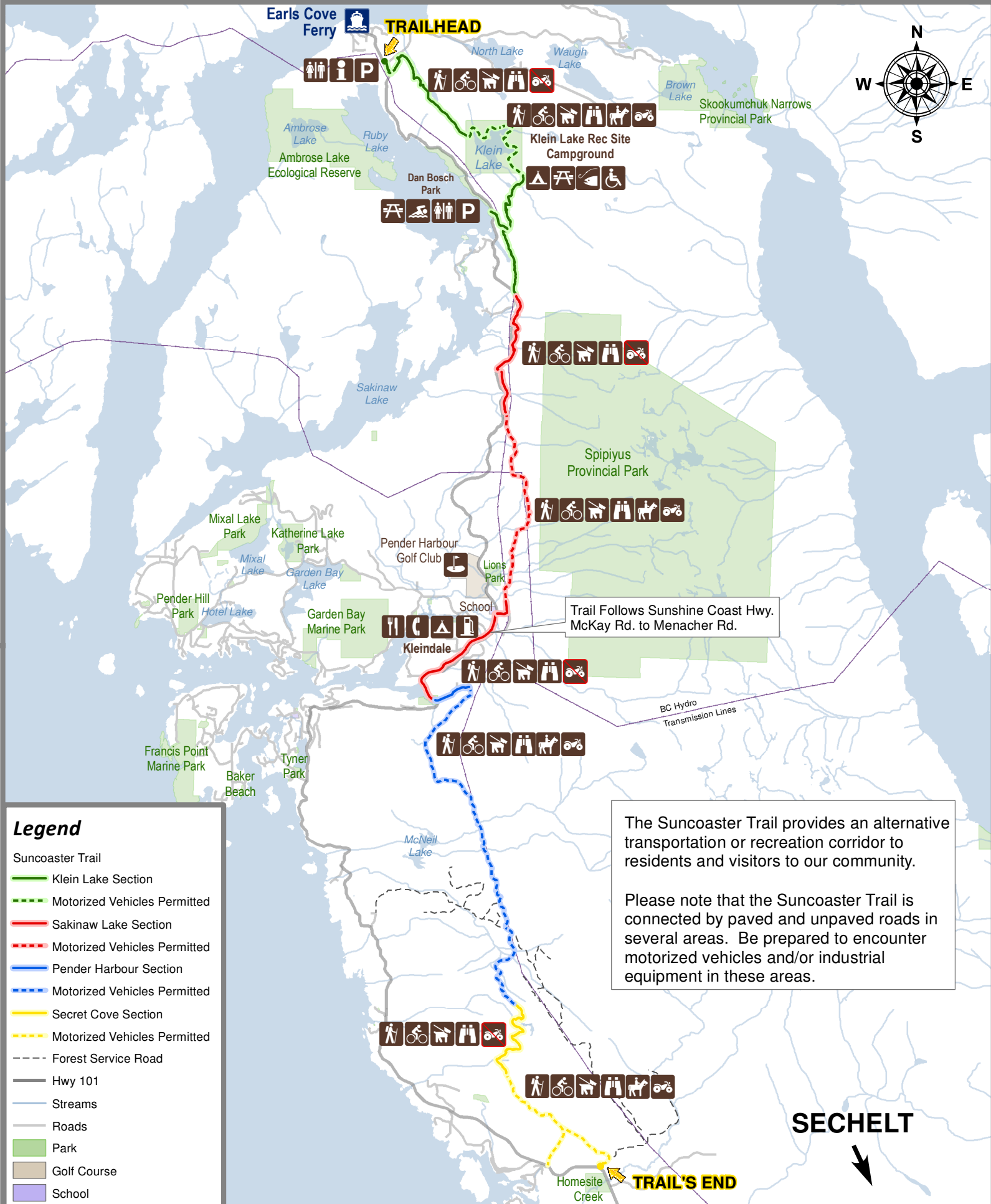
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted



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**Whispering Firs Park**  
Elphinstone





**Legend**

Suncoaster Trail

- Klein Lake Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Sakinaw Lake Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Pender Harbour Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Secret Cove Section
- Motorized Vehicles Permitted
- Forest Service Road
- Hwy 101
- Streams
- Roads
- Park
- Golf Course
- School

The Suncoaster Trail provides an alternative transportation or recreation corridor to residents and visitors to our community.

Please note that the Suncoaster Trail is connected by paved and unpaved roads in several areas. Be prepared to encounter motorized vehicles and/or industrial equipment in these areas.

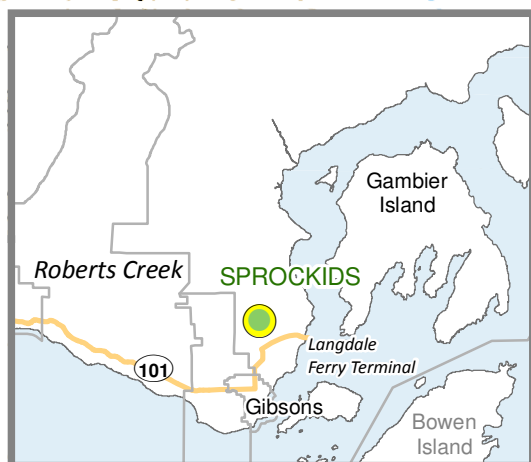
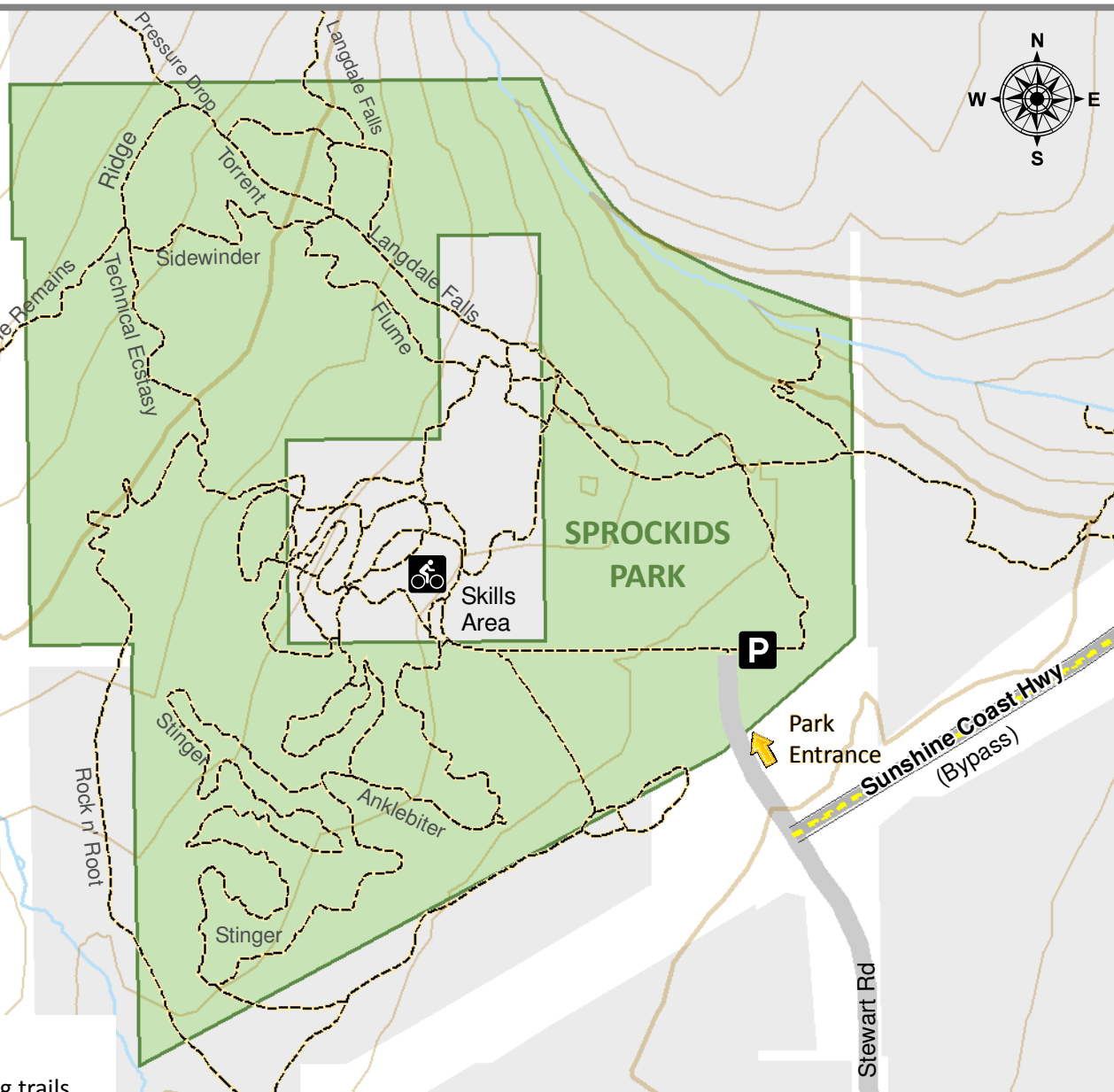




SUNSHINE COAST  
REGIONAL DISTRICT  
www.scrd.ca

# Sprockids Park

## West Howe Sound

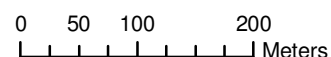


### Sprockids Park

There are numerous hiking and mountain biking trails that wind through Sprockids park and beyond. All trails are maintained by the local Sprockids organization: <http://www.sprockids.com/coastriders.html>

To access the park, drive up the Langdale ferry bypass until you reach the top. Turn right at the top of the hill (the traffic lights), follow the pavement to the top of the small hill, then left onto the dirt access road.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

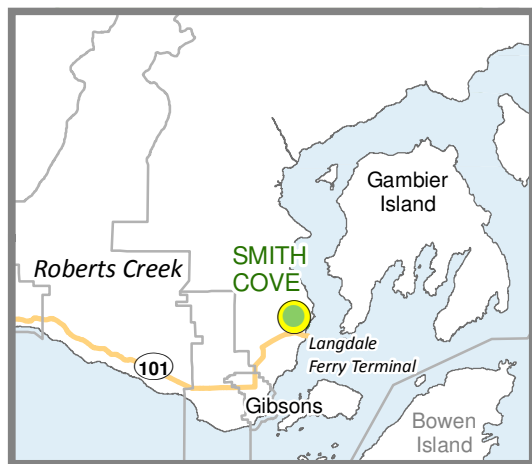


- Beach Access
- Viewpoint
- Contours - 20m
- Trail
- Park





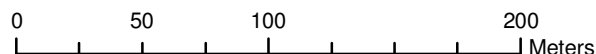
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REGIONAL DISTRICT  
www.scrd.ca



## Smith Cove Park

Smith Cove park features a beautiful viewpoint to Gambier Island and surrounding waters. The Smith Road beach access consists of a long set of stairs leading down to a rocky beach overlooking the Langdale Ferry Terminal and surrounding area.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted



Beach Access



Viewpoint



Park

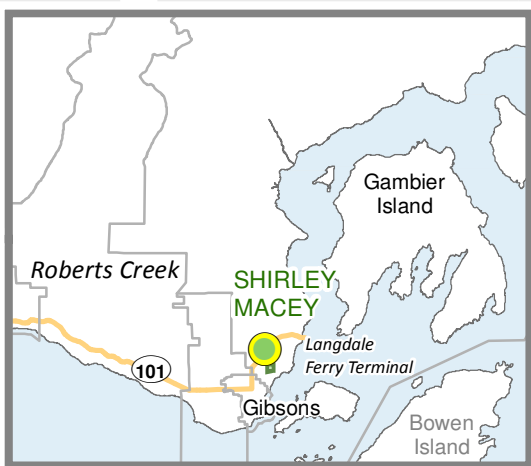
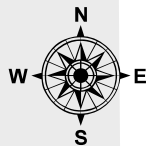
Contours - 20m

Trail

## SMITH COVE PARK











**Smith Cove Park & Beach Access**  
West Howe Sound





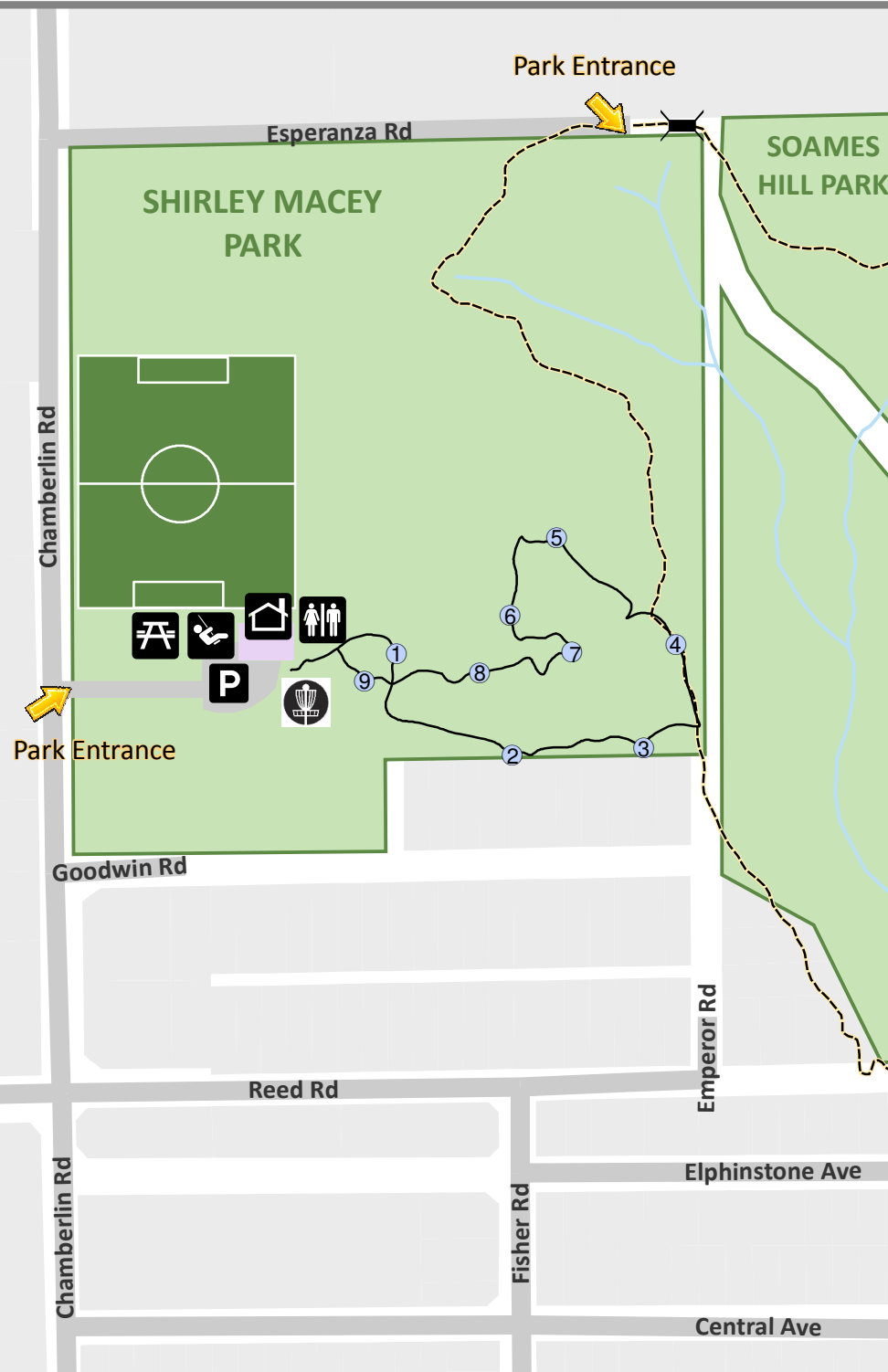
## Shirley Macey Park

A 34 acre park containing 2 grass playing fields, childrens playground and water park, change rooms, public washrooms, Eric Cardinal Hall and a Frisbee Disc Golf course. The community hall has a full kitchen and can accomodate up to 82 people. Contact SCR D Recreation for booking information.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Parking Area            |  Park              |
|  Eric Cardinal Hall      |  Trail             |
|  Public Washroom         |  Disc Golf Course  |
|  Playground / Water Park |  Disc Golf Basket  |
|  Picnic Area             |  Frisbee Disc Golf |

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Fires are not permitted

0 50 100 200  
Meters



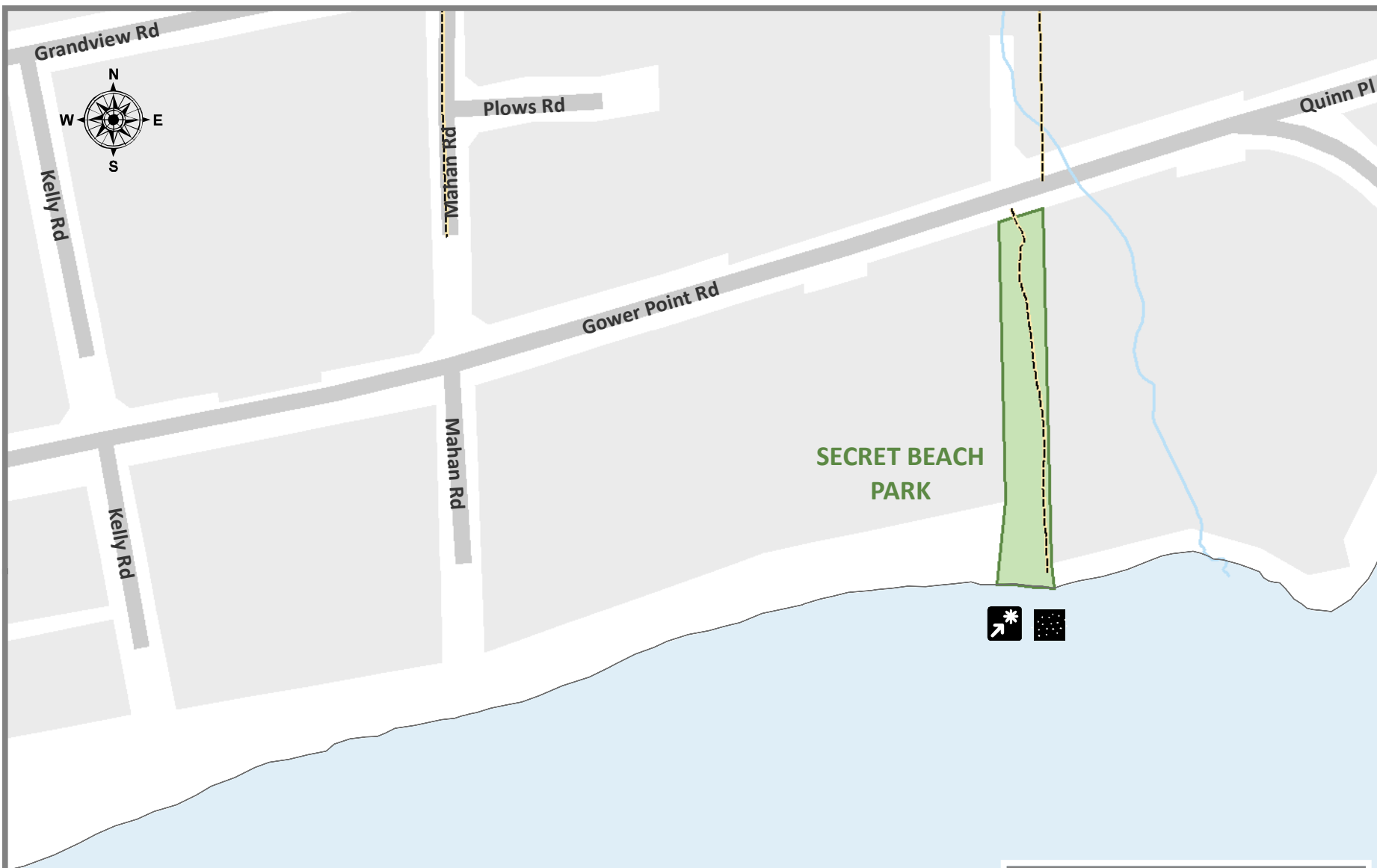
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**Shirley Macey Park**  
West Howe Sound





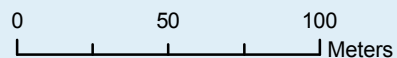
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REGIONAL DISTRICT  
www.scrd.ca



### Secret Beach Park

A beach access via a long set of cement stairs leading to a pebble beach overlooking Georgia Strait and Vancouver Island.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Fires are not permitted

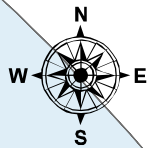


- Beach Access
- Pebble Beach
- Trail
- Park



**Secret Beach Park**  
Elphinstone



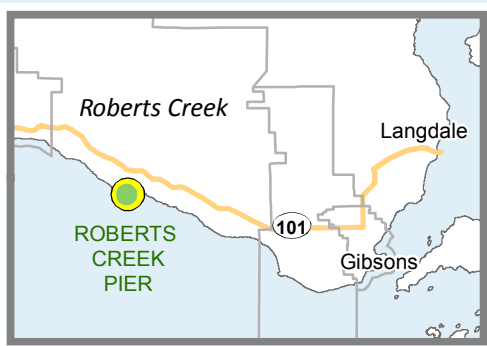


Edmonds Rd

Beach Ave

Roberts Creek Rd

**ROBERTS  
CREEK PIER**



### Roberts Creek Pier

This waterfront park has a large pier that provides stunning views of Georgia Strait. There are benches at the end of the pier and low tide exposes beautiful sandbars. There are wheelchair accessible public toilets located at the bottom of Roberts Creek Rd.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

0 50 100 200 Meters



Parking Area



Washrooms



Trail



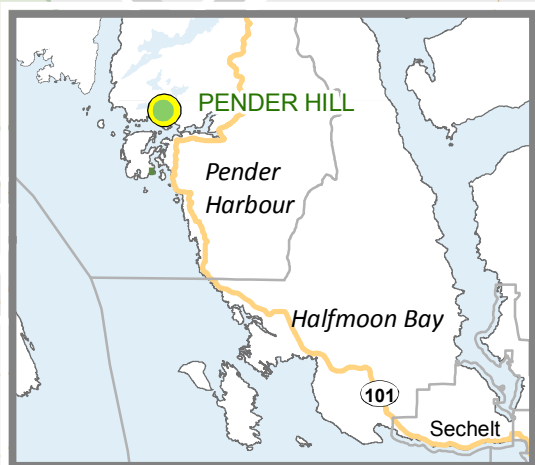
Park









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**Roberts Creek Pier**  
Roberts Creek



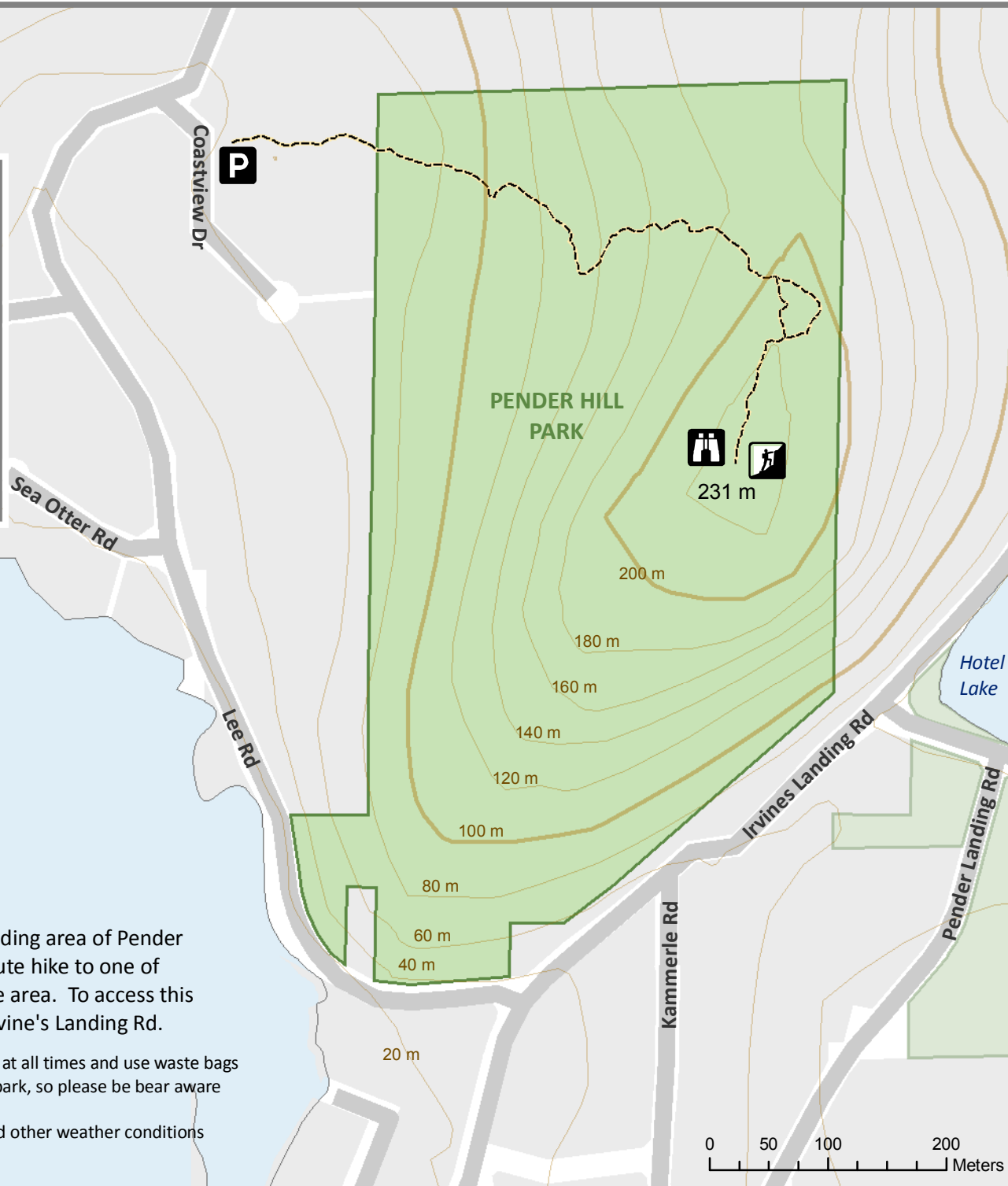


-  Parking Area
-  Viewpoint
-  Summit
-  Contours - 20m
-  Trail
-  Park

### Pender Hill Park

Pender Hill park is located in the Irvine's Landing area of Pender Harbour. This park features a steep, 30 minute hike to one of the most spectacular panoramic views in the area. To access this park, travel 1.1 km down Lee Bay Rd from Irvine's Landing Rd.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted



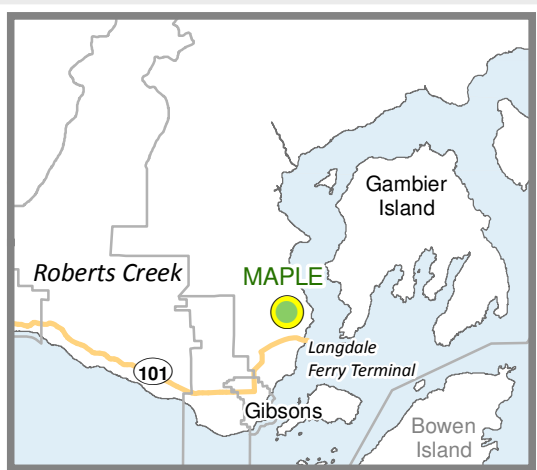
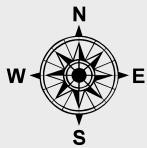
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**Pender Hill Park**  
**Pender Harbour**





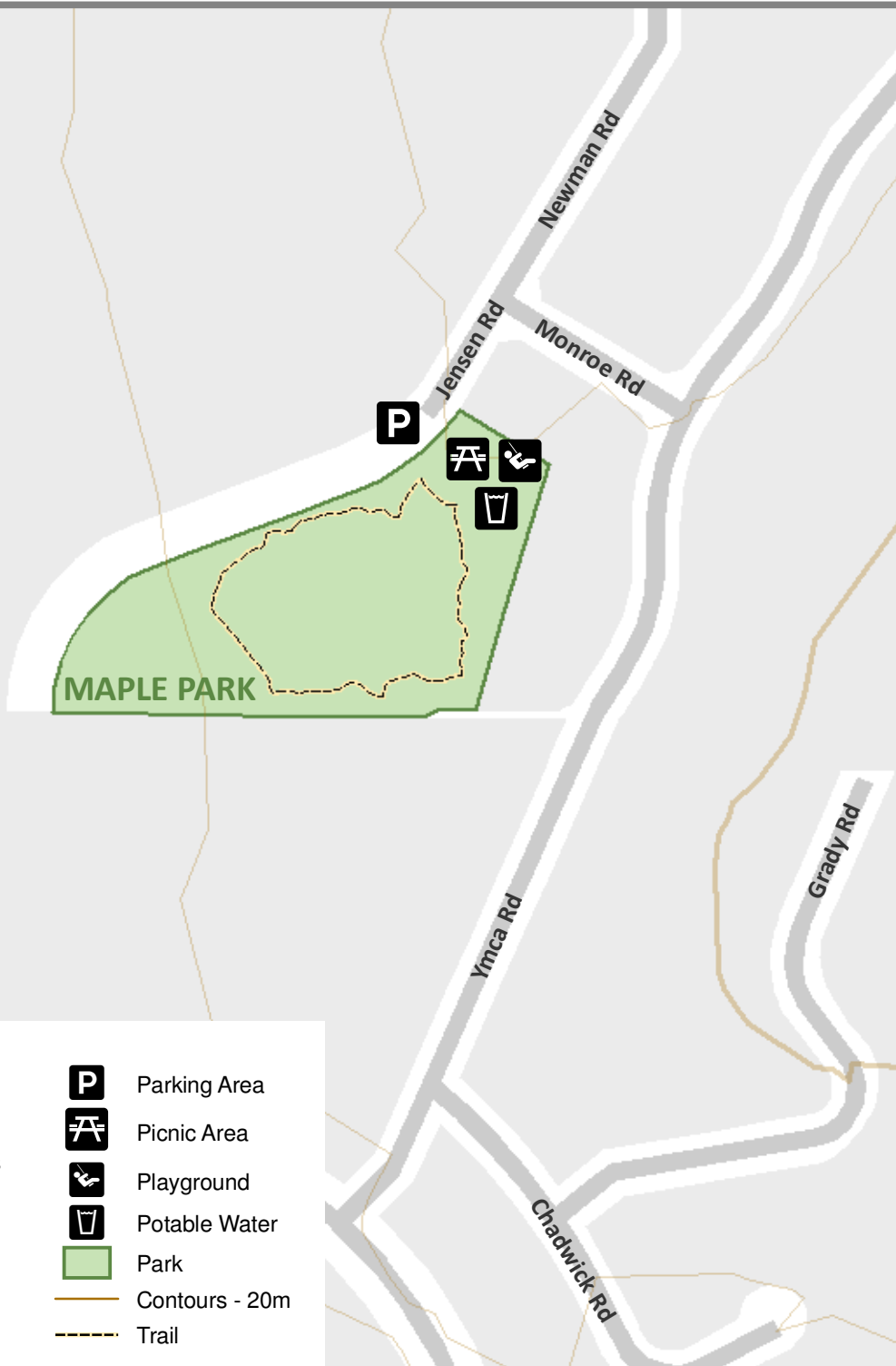
## Maple Park

A 3.7 acre park located in Langdale featuring a playground, short walking trail, picnic sites and potable water.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

0 50 100 200 Meters

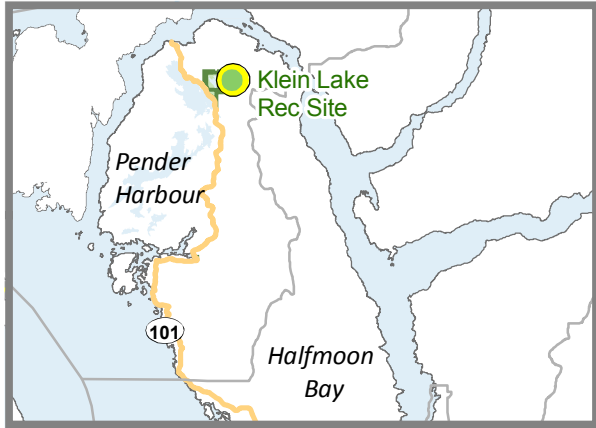
- Parking Area
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Potable Water
- Park
- Contours - 20m
- Trail










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REGIONAL DISTRICT  
[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca)

**Maple Park**  
West Howe Sound



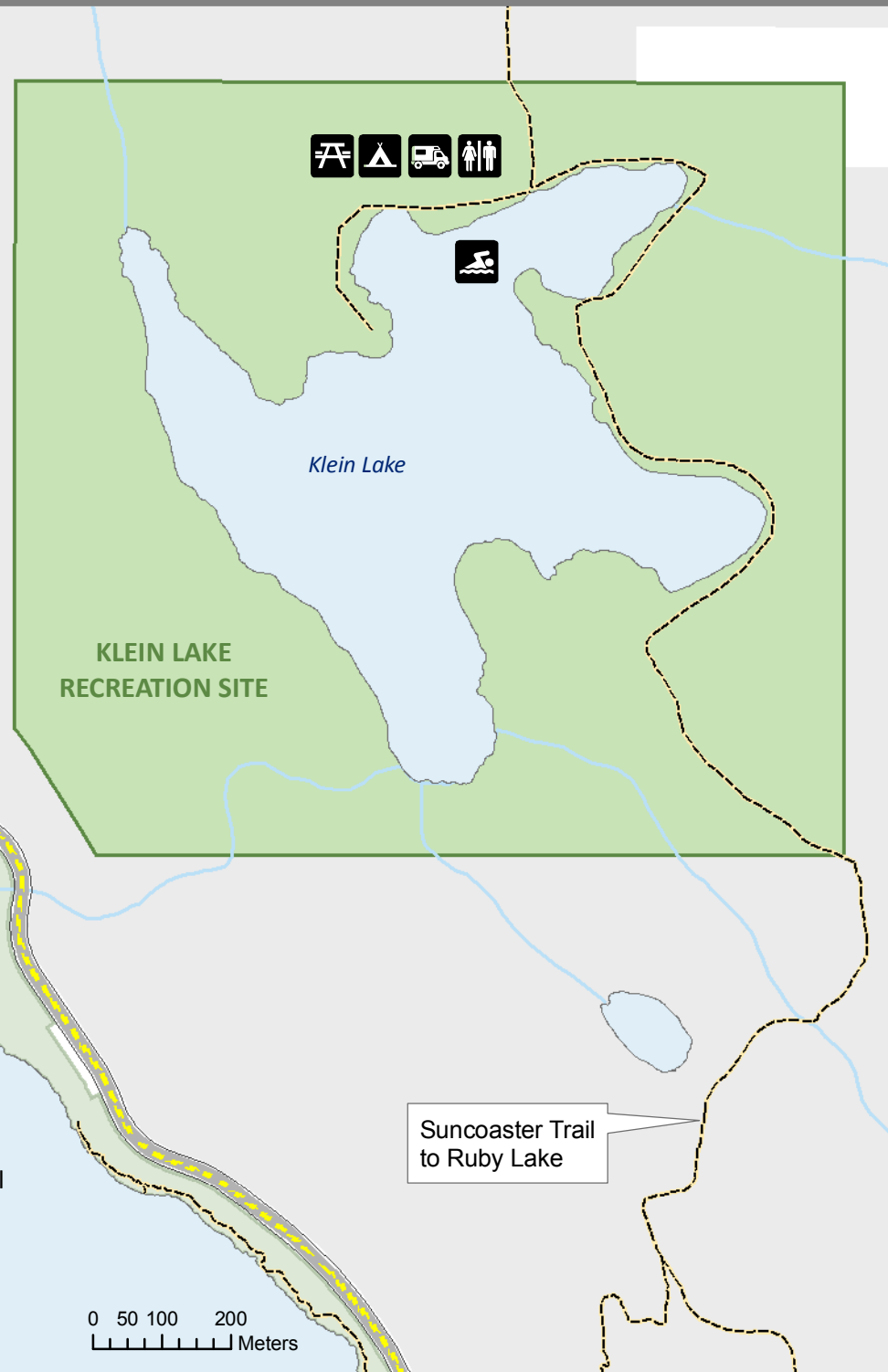


-  Picnic Area
-  Tent Sites
-  Swimming
-  RV Sites (no h/u)
-  Toilets
-  Trail
-  Park

### Klein Lake Recreation Site

This 179 acre park is a popular camping spot with 23 tenting sites, RV sites (no hook-up), public toilets and a day use picnic area. Information on fees and camping can be found on the SCRd website. The park is accessed from North Lake Rd off Egmont Rd. The beautiful Suncoaster Trail can also be accessed from Klein Lake.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions



0 50 100 200  
Meters



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**Klein Lake Recreation Site**  
**Pender Harbour**





## Katherine Lake Park & Campground

This picturesque lake is located on Garden Bay Rd in Pender Harbour and is a popular swimming spot. There are RV and camp sites, washroom facilities with showers and an onsite caretaker. The lake has a sandy swimming beach and a hiking trail. To access the park, turn right at the Katherine Lake sign on Garden Bay Rd. To book a campsite, call 604-883-9557.

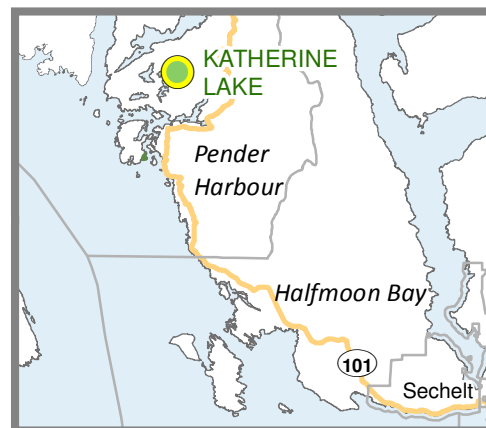
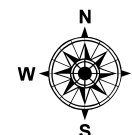
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Fires are permitted
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by weather conditions

Park entrance gates are open from dawn to dusk.

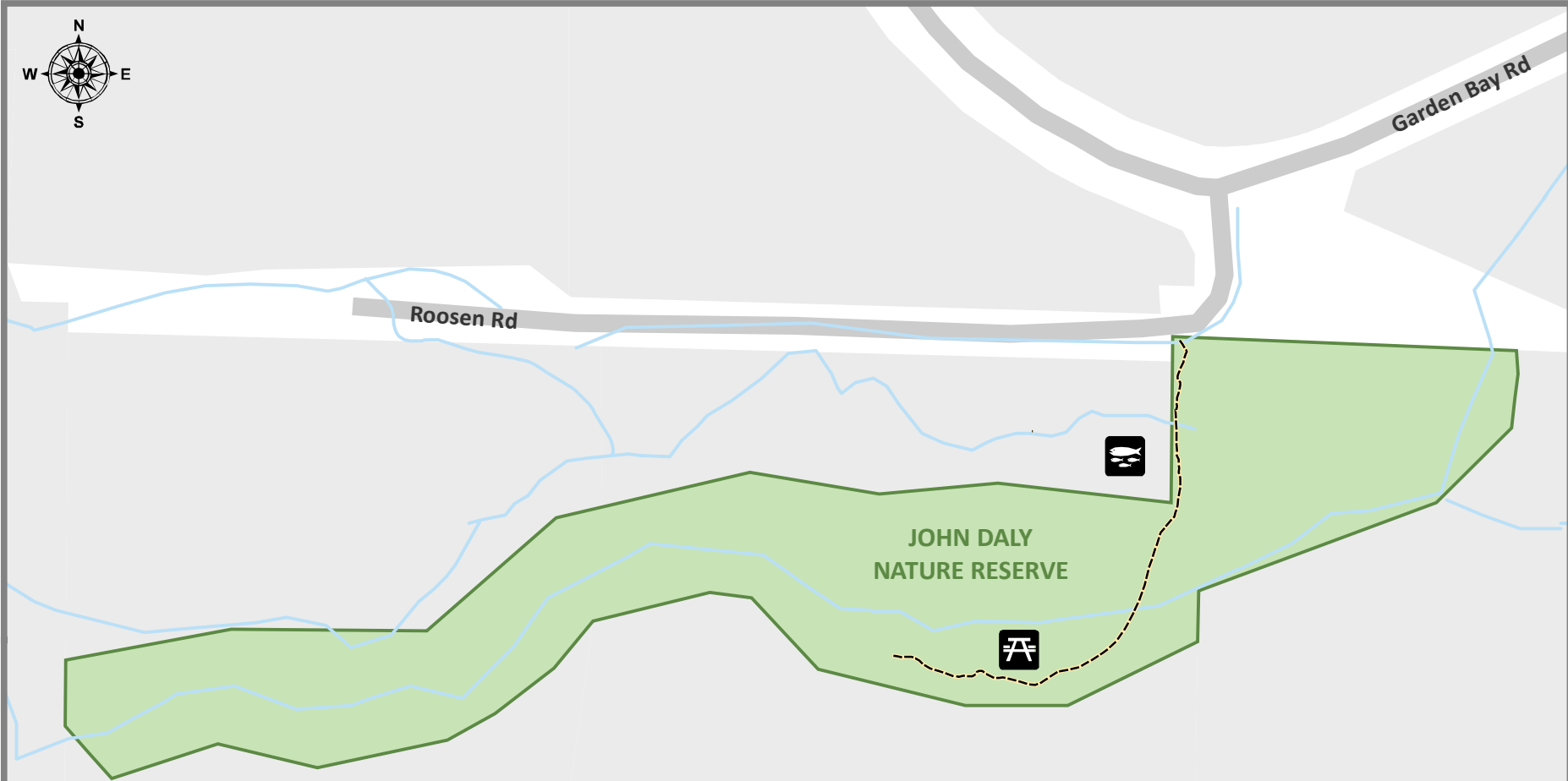


- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Information Sign | Caretakers Cabin |
| Parking          | Picnic Area      |
| Washrooms        | Potable Water    |
| Shower           | Campground       |
| Telephone        | Trail            |
| Beach            | Park             |
| RV Hookup        |                  |

0 50 100 200 Meters



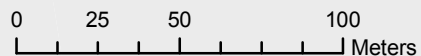
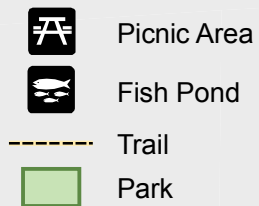




### John Daly Nature Reserve

This 2.6 acre park has a beautiful grassy meadow suitable for picnics next to a salmon wintering pond. The park is accessed from Roosen Rd.

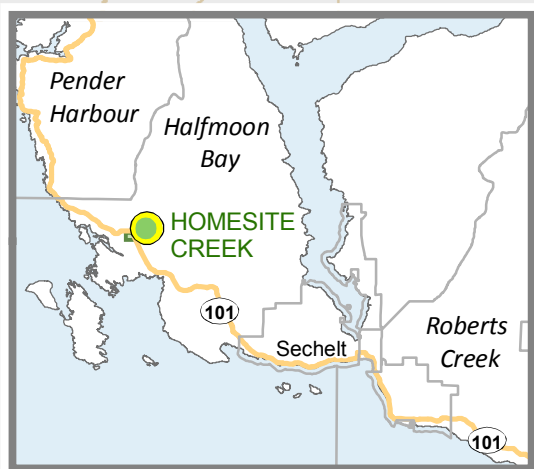
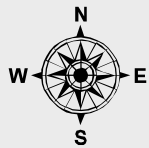
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Fires are not permitted
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions



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REGIONAL DISTRICT  
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**John Daly Nature Reserve**  
**Pender Harbour**





## Homesite Creek / Secret Cove Recreation Site

Homesite Creek / Secret Cove Recreation Site is a 45 acre Provincial Recreation Site managed by SCRD Parks. The area features beautiful trails and scenic waterfalls and connects with an extensive trail network. Homesite Creek is accessed off of Highway 101.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted



Parking Area



Waterfalls

Contours - 20m

Trail



Park

To Brooks Rd

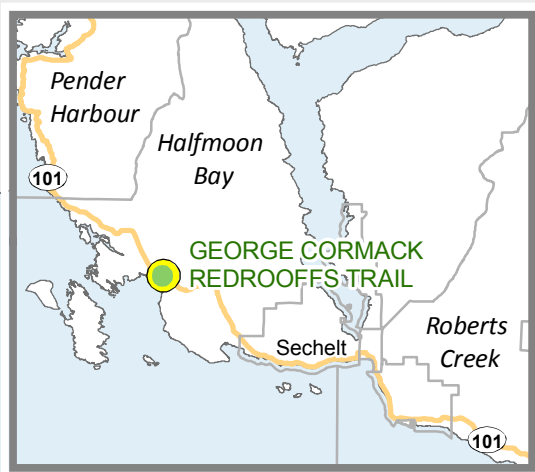
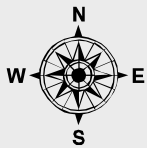
0 100 200  
Meters







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**Homesite Creek / Secret Cove Recreation Site**  
Halfmoon Bay





-  Spawning Habitat
-  Beach Access
-  Trail
-  Park

### George Cormack & Redrooffs Circle Trail

George Cormack park is protected for its salmon spawning habitat. Redrooffs Circle Trail is 250 m in length and accesses a pebble beach.

- Fires are not permitted
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions

0 50 100 Meters



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George Cormack & Redrooffs Circle Trail  
Halfmoon Bay





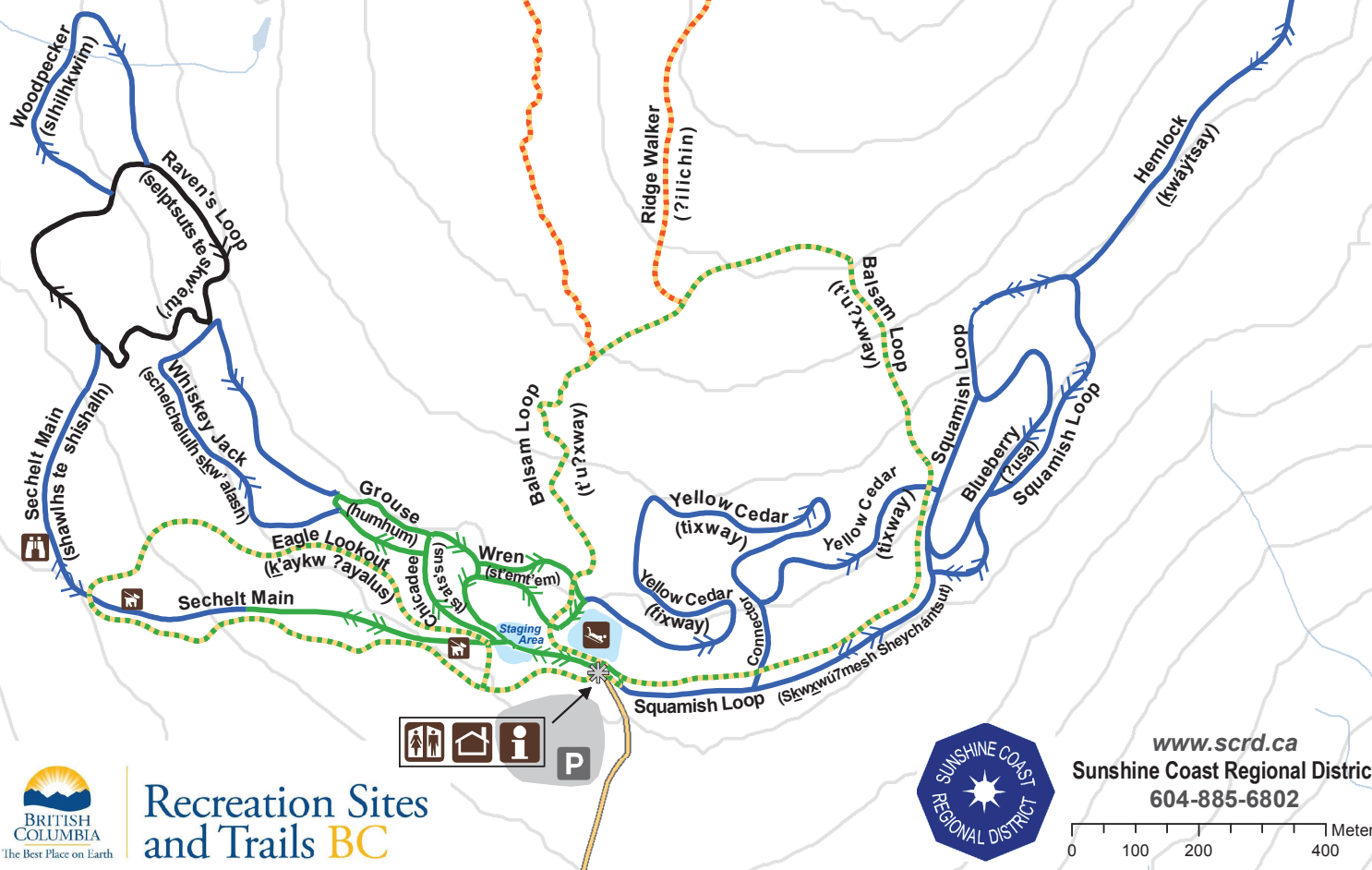
## EMERGENCY 911

Cell phone reception  
is intermittent.

### Trail Name Distance

Balsam Loop	2,195 m
Blueberry	562 m
Chicadee	486 m
Eagle Lookout	1,733 m
Grouse	358 m
Hemlock	1,407 m
Raven's Loop	518 m
Ridge Walker	2,713 m
Sechelt Main	1,263 m
Squamish Loop	1,757 m
Whiskey Jack	915 m
Woodpecker	325 m
Wren	432 m
Yellow Cedar	1,732 m

# Dakota Ridge Winter Recreation Area Trail Map



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The Best Place on Earth

Recreation Sites  
and Trails BC



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Sunshine Coast Regional District  
604-885-6802

0 100 200 400 Meters

## Cross Country Ski Trails

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced



Information Sign



Washrooms



Warming Hut



Parking Area

Forest Service Road

Contours (20 m interval)



Viewpoint



You Are Here

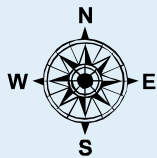
## Snowshoe Trails

- Beginner
- Ungroomed Wilderness Trail



Close to nature.  
Close to home.





### Dan Bosch Park

A popular family park and swimming area located on Ruby Lake. The park has a sandy beach, 3 picnic tables, public toilet facilities, and a 400 m rustic trail to rocky bluffs and the shoreline.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Fires are not permitted
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions

- Parking Area
- Picnic Area
- Public Washroom
- Sandy Beach
- Trail
- Park

0 50 100 200  
Meters

Klein Lake

Klein Lake  
Recreation Site

DAN BOSCH  
PARK

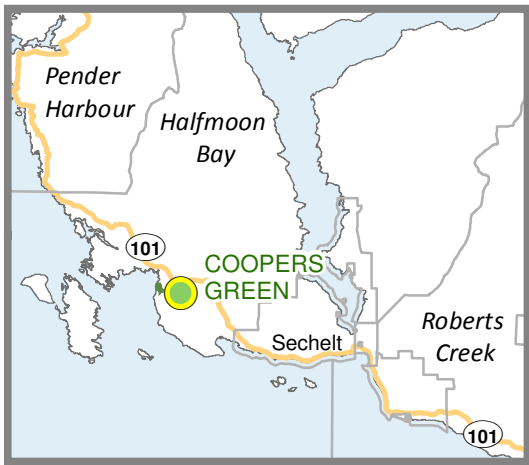
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SUNSHINE COAST  
REGIONAL DISTRICT  
[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca)

**Dan Bosch Park**  
Pender Harbour



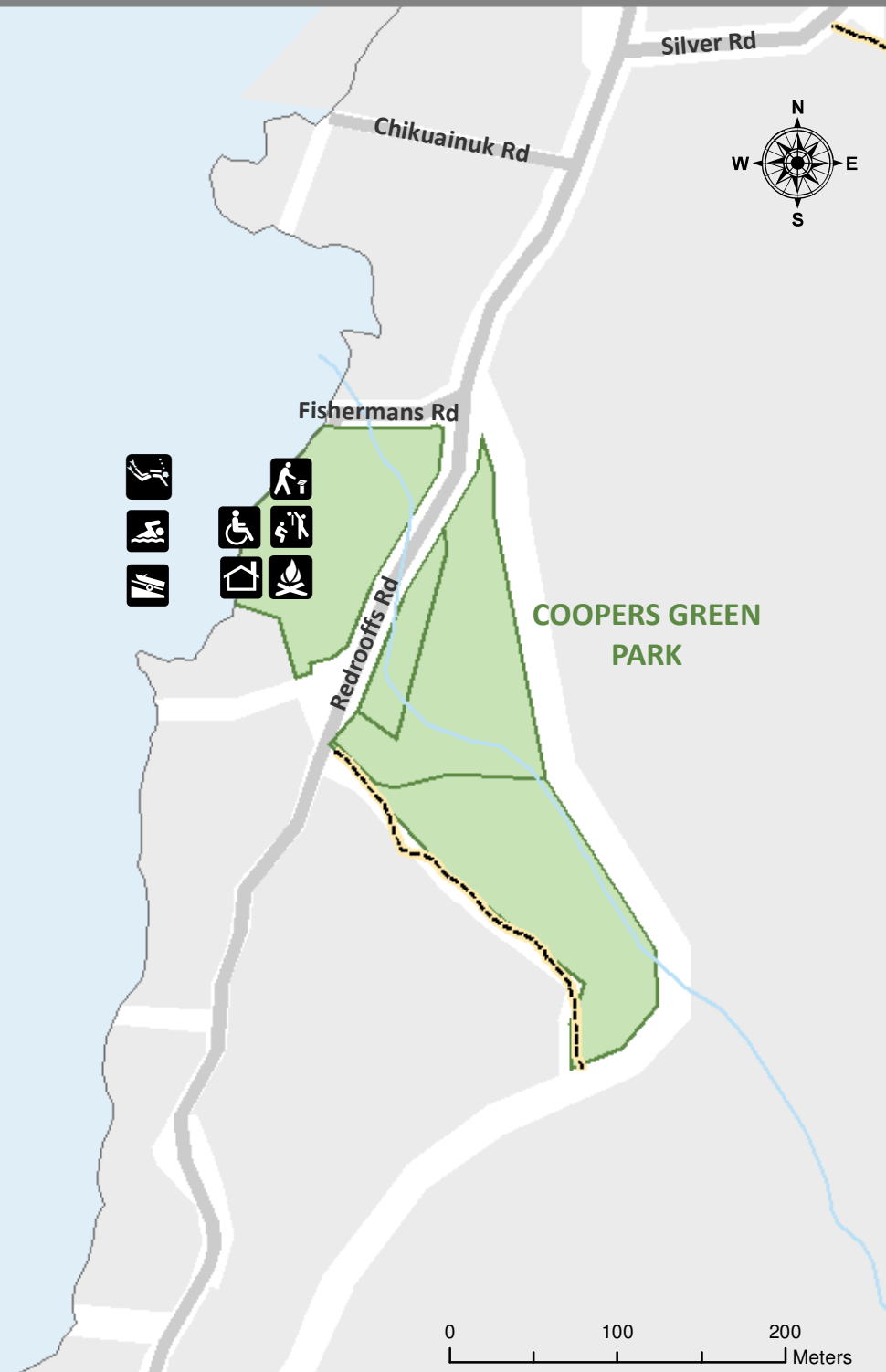


- |  |                                 |  |                |
|--|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
|  | BBQ Pit                         |  | Contours - 20m |
|  | Boat Launch                     |  | Trail          |
|  | Community Hall                  |  | Park           |
|  | Horseshoe Toss                  |  |                |
|  | Scuba Diving                    |  |                |
|  | Swimming                        |  |                |
|  | Volleyball Court                |  |                |
|  | Wheelchair Accessible Washrooms |  |                |

## Coopers Green Park

Coopers Green park has a large grassy area containing a volleyball court, horseshoe pit, BBQ pit, washroom facilities, swimming beach and boat ramp. It is a popular location for divers. Coopers Green Hall has a full kitchen and fireplace and can accommodate up to 82 people. Contact SCRD Recreation for booking information. The parkland across the road features a scenic walking trail through natural wetlands.

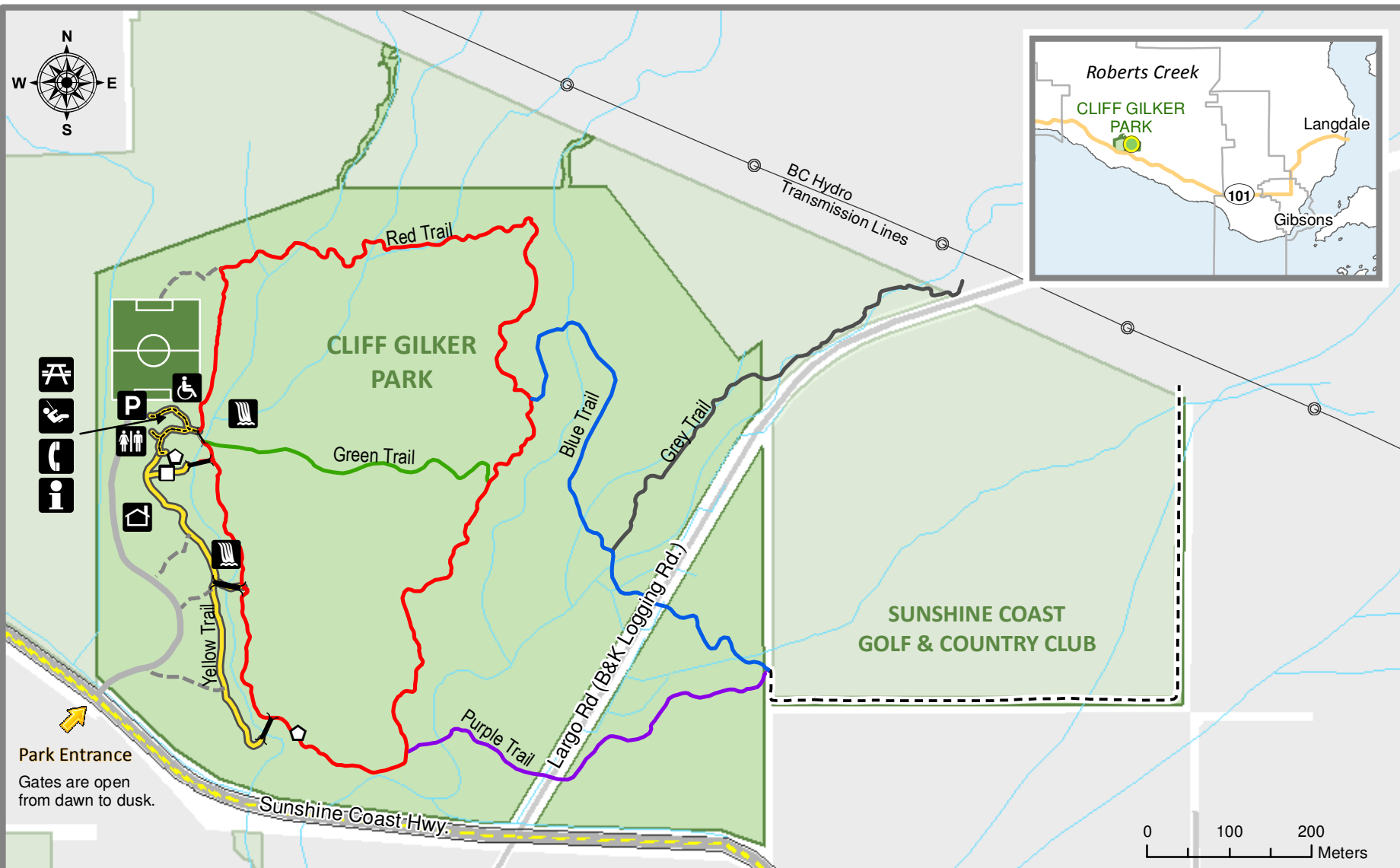
- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions



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**Coopers Green Park**  
Halfmoon Bay





## Cliff Gilker Park

Cliff Gilker park is located off Hwy 101 in Roberts Creek approximately 15 km from the Langdale ferry terminal. With over 7 km of scenic nature trails, a grass playing field, children's play area, washroom facilities and parking, it is a favorite spot for local residents and visitors. The park gates are closed each evening at dusk.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

Blue Trail
Purple Trail
Green Trail
Gray Trail
Red Trail
Yellow Trail
Wheelchair Access
White Trail

	Caretakers Cabin		Telephone
	Public Washrooms		Waterfall
	Information Sign		Wheelchair Access Platform
	Parking Area		Park Bench
	Picnic Area		Viewing Platform
	Playground		Park





Access via  
Halfmoon/Carlson FSR  
2.5 km from Hwy 101

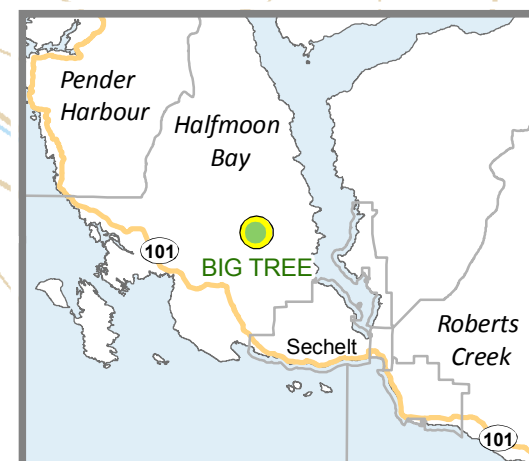
## Big Tree Recreation Site

Big Tree park is a 109 acre Provincial Recreation Site managed by SCRD Parks. It is known for its beautiful large trees. The site features a number of trails, including a wheelchair accessible path to a big fir tree.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

0 50 100 200  
Meters

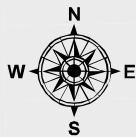
- Parking Area
- Wheelchair Access
- Washrooms
- Big Fir Tree
- Contours - 20m
- Trail
- Park



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**Big Tree Recreation Site**  
Halfmoon Bay





Davis Rd

Greaves Rd

Baker Rd

Billy Goat Rd

Cochrane Rd

Warnock Rd

BAKER BEACH  
PARK



### Baker Beach Park

A 5 acre park with a small swimming beach and picnic site.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Fires are not permitted
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails



Picnic Area



Swimming



Park

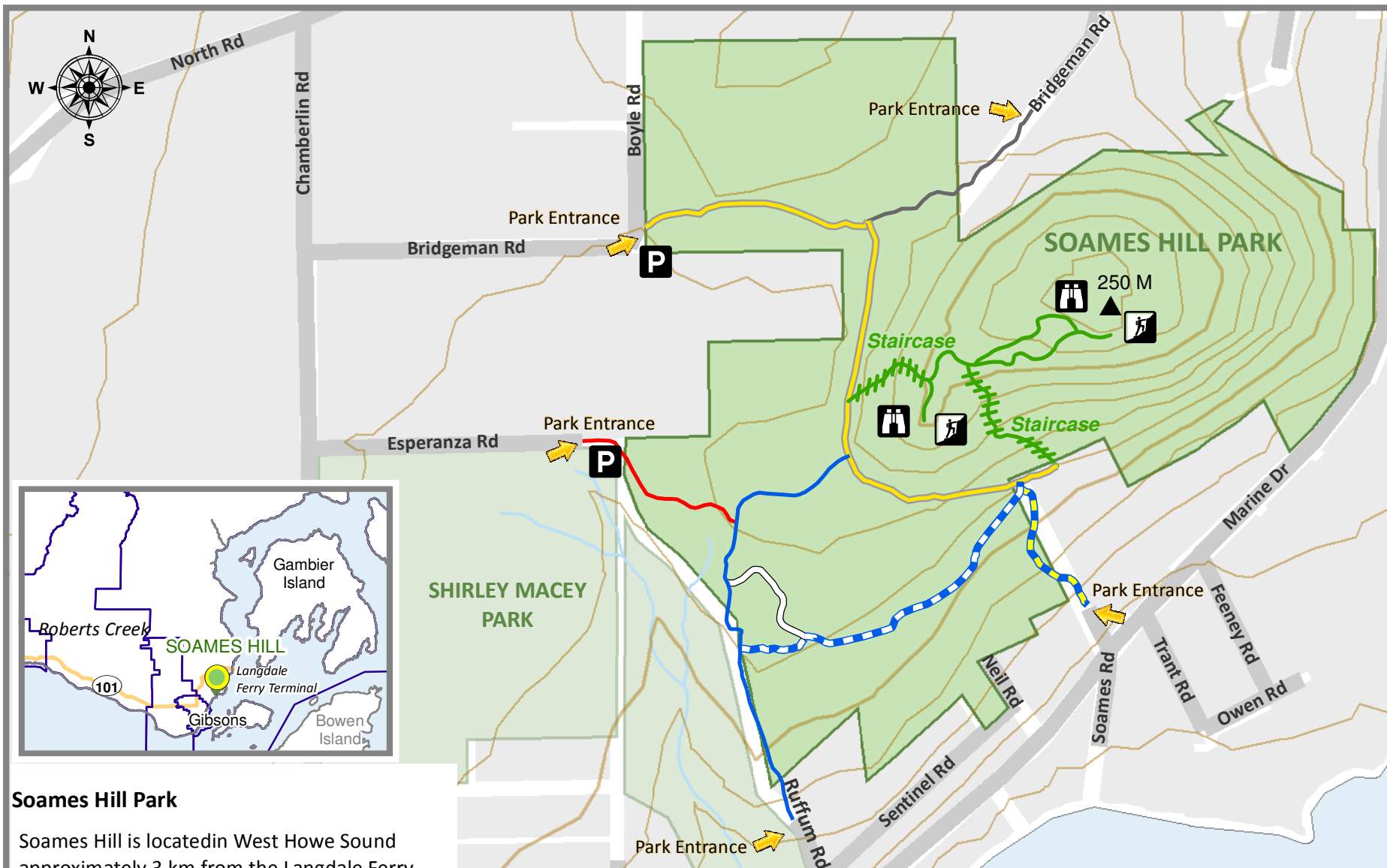
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REGIONAL DISTRICT  
[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca)

**Baker Beach Park**  
Pender Harbour

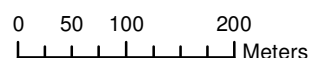




## Soames Hill Park

Soames Hill is located in West Howe Sound approximately 3 km from the Langdale Ferry Terminal. The forested park is 150 acres in size and is adjacent to Shirley Macey Park - a popular recreation area with a sports field and community hall. With over 5 km of trails, Soames offers both moderate and strenuous hiking opportunities - through forests, past ravines, and up to the summit of the hill, at 250 m above sea level. If hiking to the summit, you should allow at least 40 minutes each way.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted



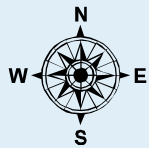
- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>P</b> Parking Area | Blue Trail        |
| Summit                | Blue/White Trail  |
| Viewpoint             | Blue/Yellow Trail |
| Contours - 20m        | Green Trail       |
| Park                  | Grey Trail        |
|                       | Red Trail         |
|                       | White Trail       |
|                       | Yellow Trail      |











SUNSHINE COAST  
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**Soames Hill Park**  
West Howe Sound





-  Bike Skills Area
-  Grass Field
-  Public Washrooms
-  Potable Water
-  Playground
-  Contours - 20m
-  Trail
-  Park

## Connor Park and Welcome Woods

Connor Park is a popular community park with a grass sports field, playground, bike skills area and a number of short forest trails. Welcome Woods is a 179 acre wilderness park with extensive hiking and mountain biking trails that wind through the Halfmoon Bay area and are maintained by the local Sprockids organization. Welcome Woods is accessed from Fullerton Rd.

- Dogs are welcome, but please keep them on a leash at all times and use waste bags
- Bears and other wildlife are known to frequent the park, so please be bear aware
- Unmarked hazards may exist in parks and on trails
- Trail conditions vary and can be affected by wind and other weather conditions
- Fires are not permitted

WELCOME WOODS  
WILDERNESS PARK



CONNOR  
PARK



Halfmoon Bay  
Elementary  
School

Park Entrance

Park Entrance



Redroofs Rd

Fullerton Rd

Frances Rd

Westwood Rd

Wildwood Rd

Dogwood Dr

Southwood Rd

0 100 200 400  
Meters



Connor Park and Welcome Woods  
Halfmoon Bay



## **APPENDIX G – PENDER HARBOUR HIKING TRAILS**



The following hiking trail descriptions were kindly prepared and provided by the Pender Harbour Hiking Club.

## **PENDER HARBOUR HIKING TRAILS**

### **ST THOMAS TRAIL – MODERATE + - 2 HOURS**

Start at the north end of the Suncoaster Trail on Egmont Road. Hike the Suncoaster through a clear cut and into the forest and up a series of switchbacks. . After you reach the top of the switchbacks you'll see the beginning of 4 Acre Lake on your left. Continue on the trail. It will take you up and over another hill and down. Just a little ways past a small trail on your left that would take you back along the lake(the lower road) you see on your right at about 300 degrees (very sharp right) a well used trail. That's it! You can't miss it unless you have walked too far and you find yourself at Klein Lake. St. Thomas' trail is well traveled, wide but steep. Follow it up until it dead-ends and hopefully, on a clear day you have an amazing view to the left over Jervis Inlet.

### **FIGURE EIGHT - KLEINDALE - 1.5 HOURS - EASY**

Take McKay Road off Highway 101 (across from the secondary school); turn left on Sunview and park at the end of the road. You are entering the Suncoaster Trail at this point. Enter the trail heading North at the end of the Sunview. Cross the first bridge and take the first trail to the right - you will see an old picnic table. This trail goes some distance up to a Hallowell logging road. Turn left on Hallowell and follow it all the way down (North and then West) – do not take any of the trails off to the right - to a T junction at the bottom of the hill where it meets the Suncoaster Trail. There is a bridge across the creek on the right. Cross the bridge and you are now back on the Suncoaster. Follow the Suncoaster all the way up to the hydro lines. You may be able to see the Malaspina Substation from here. Take the road to the right (the road to the left goes to the substation) and follow this road past the first creek and at the second creek, there is a trail heading into the forest on your right (Birdie). This trail cuts through the forest and drops you back on the Suncoaster Trail just before the bridge that you crossed earlier. Turn left on the Suncoaster towards the bridge and follow the Suncoaster back to your cars.

### **TRIPLE SALCHOW – 2 HOURS – MODERATE TO EASY**

Take McKay Road off Highway 101 (across from the secondary school); turn left on Sunview and park at the end of the road. You are entering the Suncoaster Trail at this point, headed North.

1. Cross the first bridge and take the first trail to the right - you will see an old picnic table. This trail goes a fair distance up to a Hallowell logging road.
2. Turn left on Hallowell and follow it all the way down (North and then West) – stay on this trail and don't take any of the trails off to the right - to the bottom of the hill where there is a T junction. Turn right and go to the bridge across the creek. Cross the bridge and you are now back on the Suncoaster Trail.
3. Follow the Suncoaster Trail until you come out at the hydro lines. Turn left and head North toward the Malaspina Substation. Follow this road until it splits (left to the substation, right to the logging road). Turn right and take the logging road and follow it until you are above the substation.
4. You come to a junction of logging roads just above the power station but always keep left – if you go right, you are on the road leading to Mount Hallowell. Follow the logging road



down to the substation until it ends at a logging road that runs across behind the substation.

5. Turn right and walk around the substation. Keep left down the hill beside the substation and down to the Suncoaster Trail that goes around the power station on the West side. Follow the Suncoaster back around the power station and along the power lines. Follow it until the trail turns to the right and the hydro line road keeps going straight. Stay on the hydro line road here.
6. Follow this road past the two creeks that cut across the trail. At the third creek, staying to the right of the power lines, the road goes under the power lines and onto a trail heading into the forest on your right. This trail cuts through the forest and drops you back on the Suncoaster Trail.
7. Turn left on the Suncoaster, cross the bridge and keep going straight on the Suncoaster. Just after a fenced field on your right, under the power lines, turn left, staying on the Suncoaster, over the bridge and back to your cars.

### **HIGHWAY TO HELL TO COUGAR – MODERATE+ TO START - THEN EASY. 2 HOURS.**

Drive up Menacher Road and park at the Horse Trail sign, just before Menacher Road turns to the right and becomes McNeil Lake Road. Park here.

1. Walk up the road a very short way where it splits off: McNeil Lake Road to the right, a logging road to the left. Take the logging road to the left - you come out beside the field where the horses are kept under the hydro lines.
2. Follow the logging road up a fairly steep incline for about 1 Km to the top of the clear cut. The road splits: left into AC Canyon or right along the top of the clearcut (Highway to Hell). Turn right and follow the logging road across the top of the clearcut.
3. Just before the end of the clearcut (where the forest starts) there is a narrow bike/hiking path off to the right (very easy to miss so keep your eyes open). Follow this trail through the clearcut until you come to a trail that turns left into the forest.
4. Follow the trail through the forest until it comes out under the power lines. Turn left and follow the power line road until it comes out at the Suncoaster Trail at Scary Hill bypass. Scary Hill bypass is the end of the hydro line - keep to your right. This road comes out on the Suncoaster Trail/road. The road splits to the right and left - turn left.
5. Follow the Suncoaster Trail to Cougar which is well marked on the right. Take Cougar on your right and that takes you back through the forest out to a logging road through a clearcut. Turn right and follow the logging road until you come to another road which is McNeil Lake Road. Turn right on McNeil Lake Road and follow it down to your cars.

### **EMERALD ROAD – 4 HOURS – MODERATE +**

Park about ½ Km up Menacher Road where there is lots of space – before it turns right into McNeil Lake FSR. Walk up McNeil Lake Road to the Horse Trail sign and turn left and the new logging road. There has been active logging in the area (Fall 2014) so be careful.

1. Follow logging road up under the power lines and straight up the hill.
2. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> road off to the right (start of Highway to Hell). Pass the entrance to Highway to Hell and keep hiking up the road to the start of Rocky Mtn Luge (the road is steep and rocky). Hike about 1.5 Km and watch for a road off to the right. This is Emerald Road. It has been tagged for logging so you need to check to make sure it is still accessible.
3. Follow Emerald Road about 2.5 Km through the forest – a beautiful old logging trail filled with brilliant green moss. You come out to Cardiac Hill after you have crossed a creek.
4. Follow Cardiac Hill down to the Suncoaster Trail under the power lines. You are now on Lazy Boy. The last time we hiked this, the bridge on Lazy Boy had been washed out so needs to be checked.



5. Follow Lazy Boy out to McNeil Lake Road. Turn right and walk back to the cars.

### **CECIL HILL/RIZLA**

Drive up Menacher Road and swing right onto McNeil Lake FSR, about ½ Km from the highway. Drive about 2 Km along the FSR until you reach a pullout where there is enough space to park 2-3 cars (we usually leave the cars on Menacher Road and carpool to this point. The area has been severely clear cut this year. Walk up the logging trail through the clearcut. At the top of the clearcut, the road divides off to the right and left – but look carefully straight ahead and the old trail up to Cecil is there – as well as the old trail sign. This part of the trail is fairly rough and steep (and can be wet). Continue uphill for about 15 minutes and you will come to a steep trail off to the left that is marked Rizla. Take this trail and when it starts to even off, watch for a trail that intersects the trail you are on. You must turn to the right; if you carry on straight ahead you will end up at the highway at Rona!

Follow the trail and the geography changes from forest to coastal – with beautiful views off to Texada and Vancouver Island. Follow the trail and it will bring you back to the trail you turned left off earlier. Follow it back down to the clear cut and back to the cars.

### **SAKINAW OUTFLOW**

Drive along Garden Bay Road to Irvines Landing Road. Turn onto Lee Road before you reach Irvines Landing. 1.7 Km along Lee Road turn onto Milne Road and then right onto Spence Lane. Spence Lane is now very overgrown with alder so best to park on the road and walk up Spence Lane.

You are going to end up in what appears to be someone's back yard and facing 188 stairs down to Sakinaw Lake. Be mindful of the stairs as they can be icy and slippery – but handrails are provided. This is not private property. Take the stairs down to the lake and turn right along the lake. You will come to a bridge across the lake to the other side. Take the bridge and turn left and walk to the fish ladder then onto the beach at Lee Bay. Part way along the beach there is a trail off to the right that takes you up onto the bluff over Agamemnon Channel and beautiful views to Texada and Nelson Island.



