



POWELL RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

November 18, 2010

# REGIONAL DISTRICT PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN

*Submitted to:*

Powell River Regional District  
5776 Marine Avenue  
Powell River B.C.  
V8A 2M4

*Submitted by:*

HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd.  
604-688-9769  
Suite 200, 420 Hastings Street West  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 1L1

*In Partnership with:*

Alofi Consultancy  
Madrone Environmental Services Ltd.

## *A Note to Readers*

This “Regional District Parks and Greenspace Plan” is the result of an extended planning process that involved the general public, recreation stakeholders, business interests, and government agencies. It reflects the value residents place on the Region’s many beautiful places and significant natural features, including our coastline, rivers, lakes and back country.

The Plan represents an ambitious and long term vision, and it includes many recommendations for achieving this vision. These recommendations are advisory and their inclusion in the Plan does not obligate or guarantee the implementation of any particular one.

As the next step, the Regional Board will develop an implementation strategy. This strategy will select from among all the recommendations those that are most important to the overall vision and that are achievable, given financial and other constraints, and will determine a schedule for executing them.

On its own, the Regional District has limited resources available and, in some instances, limited authority to act on the Plan recommendations; therefore, the cooperation and participation of various government agencies, private interests and community volunteers is vital to the Plan’s implementation. The Regional District will work to build partnerships that will generate this cooperation as it is through these partnerships that we, as a unified community, will ultimately convert the Plan recommendations into reality.

The Regional Board acknowledges and thanks all those who participated in developing this important community vision.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Regional District Parks and Greenspace Plan is an initiative of the Powell River Regional District. The Plan was developed through the leadership, ideas and dedication provided by its many contributors. The project team would like to acknowledge the following Regional District staff and the Parks and Greenspace Advisory Committee members for their contributions.

### **Powell River Regional District**

- Don Turner, Regional Planner
- Frances Ladret, Administrator
- Pat Christie, Administrative Assistant
- Nancy Schmeister, Planning Assistant

### **Parks and Greenspace Advisory Committee:**

- Patrick Brabazon, Electoral Area A Director
- Debbie Dee, City of Powell River Director
- Bill Reid, City of Powell River, Director of Parks & Recreation
- Blake Fougere, Stewardship Officer
- Ryan Barfoot, Manager, Sustainability & Ecological Education – SD47
- Steve Gallagher, Sliammon First Nation Planner
- Eagle Walz, Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society, Ministry of Forest Committee for Parks & Tourism
- Janet May, Sierra Club, PR Community Forest
- David Moore, Friends of Eagle River & Stillwater Bluffs,
- Sandy McCormick, Texada Recreation Commission
- Dave Hodgins, ATV Club, Rod & Gun Club
- Don Turner, Regional Planner
- Pat Christie, Administrative Assistant

We would also like to recognize the community organizations, additional regional and provincial government staff contributors, agencies and individual members of the public for their input and consideration of this plan. The firm of HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd. was retained to develop the Parks and Greenspace Plan in partnership with Alofi! Consultancy and Madrone Environmental Services.



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# PART 1: BACKGROUND

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

In July 2009 the Powell River Regional District issued a request for proposals for the preparation of a Parks and Greenspace Plan. The following document is intended to provide the foundation for a parks and greenspace system that will address the long-term needs and interests of the region as a whole, and of its rural communities.

The Powell River Regional District (PRRD) has a wealth of diverse and unique ecosystems, recreational opportunities and great natural beauty. Increasing demands on natural resources have prompted the Regional Board to develop this plan to promote regional sustainability from an environmental, social and economic perspective.

Specifically, the Plan's objectives are to:

- protect areas of significant ecological value;
- ensure the availability of public areas for passive and active recreation for future generations;
- preserve and enhance the Region's aesthetic [scenic] qualities for the enjoyment of the local and visiting public; and
- develop a parks and greenspace acquisition strategy.

The Plan is written as a strategic document that is system-wide in scope. It does not undertake detailed planning for each element in the system; rather, it provides recommendations and direction for the entire parks and greenspace system. The plan is designed to assist the Regional District in prioritizing realistic, short- to medium-term (10-year) investments. The plan will facilitate acquisition strategies, funding, and overall park development over the next 10 years and beyond.

### 1.2. WHAT ARE PARKS + GREENSPACES?

A park designation refers to land that is owned and managed by the Regional District for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Greenspace is a 'catch-all' label that is used in the context of this plan and in rural areas generally to describe places that are not formally incorporated within a park system, but which have an important cultural or environmental benefit, or which are commonly used for recreational enjoyment by local residents. As rural areas throughout the province change

incrementally over time, some of this informal recreational use may be abruptly and permanently altered.

Parks and greenspaces are important. They allow us to meet some of our most important community objectives through providing outdoor recreational experiences and protecting the natural environment. Parks provide spaces for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy a variety of different recreational activities, to learn about wildlife and the environment and to experience the scenery of natural landscapes. Parks can be places of education, scientific study and relaxation for both residents and visitors. Parks protect significant and diverse ecological features and species, ensuring that wildlife habitat and ecological services are maintained.

To further highlight the importance of parks in our communities, the 2009 British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association (BCPRA) Report, "A Time for Renewal," documents five essential services that parks and recreation provide:

**Health and Recreation:** Access to parks and recreation helps increase physical activity and contributes to a healthier community.

**Social Engagement:** Participation in recreation helps build stronger interactions between people. Children and youth, in particular, benefit from recreation opportunities; recreation participation has been shown to reduce negative youth behaviours.

**Community Spirit:** Parks serve as locations for the community to come together in enjoyable, interactive settings. Recreation activities and programs can foster mutual respect, inclusion, civic pride and participation that stimulate positive community growth.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Effective parks planning protects open space and environmental features, builds green facilities and encourages people to participate in the reduction of their carbon footprint by providing transportation alternatives and access to quality, low-impact activities.

**Economy:** Parks and recreation services strengthen the local economy by supporting tourism, providing employment, encouraging local spending and stimulating urban renewal.

### **1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Key environmental issues impacting greenspaces and ecosystems that are considered in the context of this plan are:

#### ***Biodiversity***

The United Nations declared 2010 the Year of Biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of all plant and animal species that make up an ecosystem, either globally or in a locally defined



area. Diverse ecosystems tend to be more resilient, allowing them to withstand and recover more quickly from disturbances such as natural disasters. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is important because networks of living species function through their relationships with each other. As the diversity of plant and animal species are reduced, ecosystems are less able to function properly and to provide important services such as cleaning water, assimilating wastes and providing food and fiber. Biodiversity sustains life on earth and provides human society with a myriad of resources. Raw materials, foods, medicines, cultural and recreational goods are all underpinned by healthy biodiversity. Direct drivers of biodiversity loss are habitat disruption, climate change, invasive species, overexploitation of resources, and pollution.

### ***Climate Change***

Climate change can impact biodiversity through further disruption to already fragmented or disturbed ecosystems. Some plant and animal species may have difficulty in adapting to new conditions rapidly enough to keep pace with a changing climate that exerts pressure to adjust breeding times, migration routes and the location of their habitat.

"A New Climate for Conservation: Nature, Carbon and Climate Change in British Columbia" (Pojar 2009), a report commissioned by the Working Group on Biodiversity, Forests and Climate, explores the impact of climate change on ecosystems in BC:

Recent observations reported by the scientific community at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, March 2009, confirmed that "given high rates of observed emissions, the worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories (or even worse) are being realized. For many key parameters, the climate system is already moving beyond the patterns of natural variability within which our society and economy have developed and thrived. These parameters include global mean surface temperature, sea-level rise, ocean and ice sheet dynamics, ocean acidification, and extreme climatic events. There is a significant risk that many of the trends will accelerate, leading to an increasing risk of abrupt or irreversible climatic shifts.

Climate change is already significantly impacting healthy ecosystems in British Columbia, and will likely cause more dire consequences for fragmented or degraded ecosystems.

Conservation and restoration of B.C.'s natural ecosystems and biodiversity is the best risk-management approach for adaptation to climate change and, as such, can stand alone as a key climate action strategy. The conservation argument becomes even more compelling when combined with the huge benefits of a conservation strategy for ecological mitigation through: 1) protection of the carbon sink and sequestration functions of ecosystems; 2) immediate avoidance of emissions caused by deforestation and/or degradation of forest carbon stocks; and 3) expansion of sinks through ecological restoration, to enhance carbon sequestration and storage in the long term.

## **Water**

When viewed from a watershed perspective, it is clear that there are close interrelationships between our communities, water supply, and the health of our ecosystems. Water quality continues to deteriorate due to urbanization, agricultural practices, industrialization and over-population. As water demand increases, competition amongst uses (such as electricity generation, fish habitat and recreation) also increases. Greenspace conservation and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems contributes to protecting our water quality. For example, intact wetlands help to purify surface runoff through filtering and breaking down pesticides, sediment and organic waste.

### **1.4. A NETWORK OF PARKS + GREENSPACES**

The connectivity of our greenspaces is important to maintaining biodiversity because species and organisms rely on adjoining networks of greenspaces to move, reproduce and adapt to changes in the environment. As natural space diminishes due to development or industry, so does the variety of habitats for wildlife species. Land conversion fragments land into smaller and more isolated patches of natural space and the result is a decline in the number of species with a lower survival rate for individuals within surviving species.

Connections between greenspaces or “greenways” ensure that wildlife populations are not isolated from habitat and other individuals of their species. In addition, these areas of vegetation act as a sink for trapping sediment or toxins, a natural buffer zone to protect water bodies, and enjoyable walking or cycling routes that contribute to clean transportation. A network of well-connected parks and greenspaces provides multiple benefits for the region and its residents.

### **1.5. PLANNING PROCESS**

The PRRD retained HB Lanarc Consultants, a planning and design firm, to develop the Parks and Greenspace Plan in partnership with Alofi! Consultancy and Madrone Environmental Services. The project team worked closely with Regional District staff and a project Advisory Committee, as well as undertaking consultation with agencies, community organizations and residents. The planning process included background research, public and stakeholder consultation, defining future acquisition priorities, developing strategies for preserving parks and greenspaces and providing recommendations for funding. This document is a compilation of the planning process as illustrated in the following four phases:

- Phase 1: Analysis of the Current System
- Phase 2: Outreach – Community Inventory and Priorities
- Phase 3: Development and Review of the Draft Plan
- Phase 4: Finalizing the Plan

Input and guidance were provided throughout the planning process by the following:

**Regional District Staff:** Regional District staff worked to provide the project team with information on existing context and policies, direction for a parks and greenspace network, and insight on regional opportunities and challenges.

**Advisory Committee:** An Advisory Committee with region-wide representation guided the development of the Plan, assisting the project team by providing realistic direction and local knowledge.

**Public:** Members of the public provided input on parks and greenspace opportunities, challenges, and regional and ecological sites of interest.

**Stakeholders:** The Regional District requested input from a variety of stakeholders including representatives from government agencies, community organizations, industry and First Nations.

## 2.0 REGIONAL CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

### 2.1. CONTEXT

The Powell River Regional District is a semi-rural region with a population of approximately 19,000. The PRRD is located at the north end of the Sunshine Coast, with boundaries stretching from Jervis Inlet in the south to Toba Inlet in the north. The area includes the City of Powell River, several mainland rural communities, the Sliammon First Nation, a small section of the Sechelt Indian Government District lands, and Lasqueti, Texada, Savary and Hernando Islands.

**PRRD Stats:**

*Area:* 528,467 hectares

*Population:* 19,599

#### Community Features

The region has a number of natural and community features related to parks and recreation. It is important to recognize the role that these features play in parks and recreation.

**Coastal Communities:** Many settlements in the PRRD are situated within the narrow band of Coastal Douglas-fir that runs along the mainland coast from Saltery Bay to Lund and on the scenic islands off the coast. The community is defined by its location

on the Strait of Georgia and Malaspina Strait. Ferry travel and ocean-related businesses and recreational activities are an intrinsic part of the region's history and culture.

**Forested Crown Lands:** Much of the region's upper elevations consist of forested slopes. Many of the undeveloped areas are Crown Lands and are favourite destinations for hikers, rock climbers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and off-road vehicles. It should be noted that while Crown Lands are used extensively for outdoor recreation, their future use for recreation is not guaranteed. A large portion of Crown Land in the PRRD is forest land reserved for timber harvesting.

**Forest Industry:** Historically, communities in the PRRD have been resource-based with an emphasis on the forest industry. Logging and pulp and paper production began around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, drawing on the abundant timber resources in the region. Most forests in the region are now second or third growth with some pockets of old growth remaining. Forestry increased access to the backcountry and alpine areas of the region through the construction of logging roads and forest recreation site development and maintenance.

**Provincial Parks:** The region enjoys some significant provincial land-based and marine parks. These recreational areas often draw international tourists and visitors from other BC communities. For example, Desolation Sound Marine Park is one of the most popular destinations for kayaking and sailing on the south coast of BC.

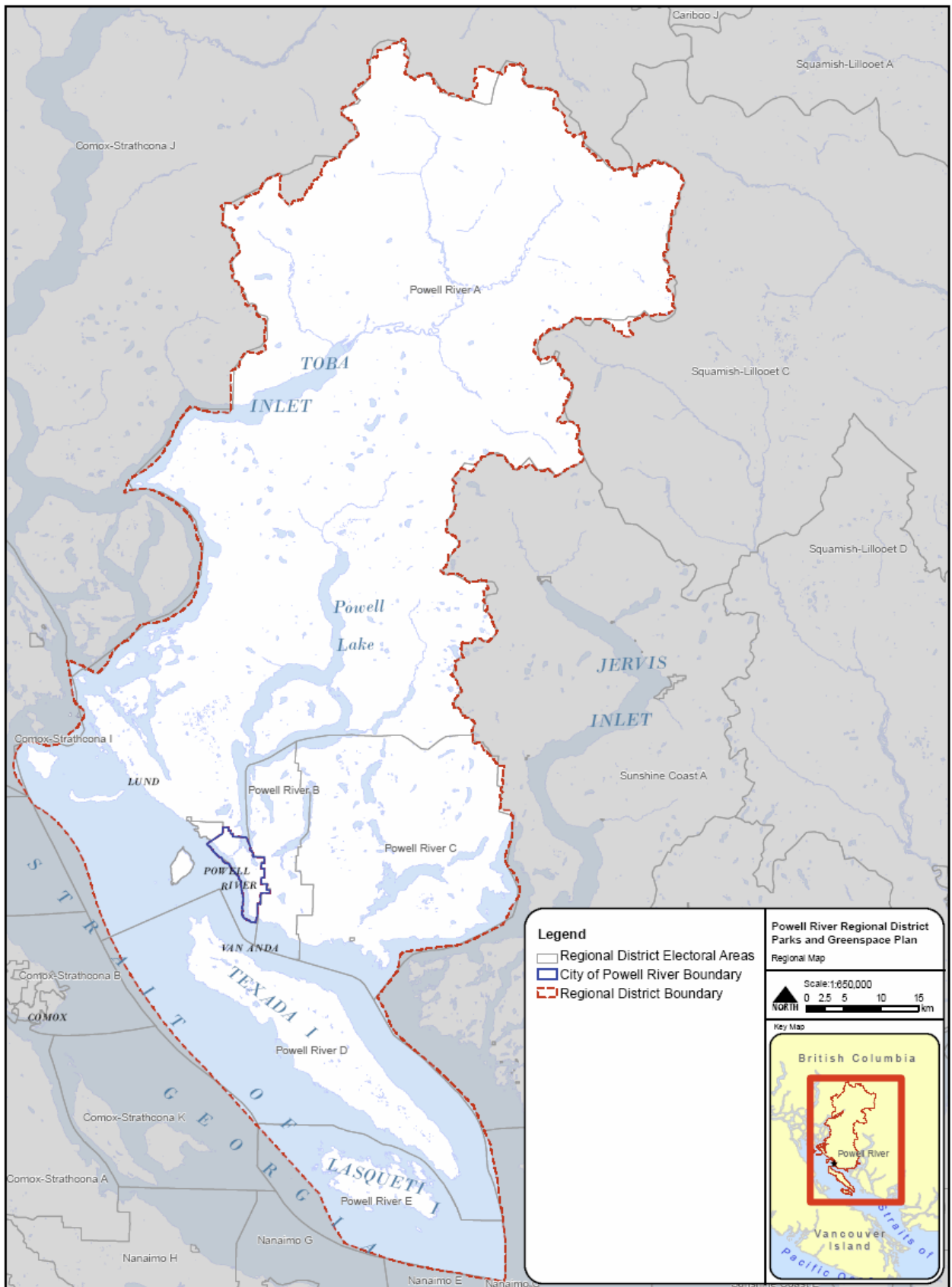


Figure 1: Powell River Regional District

## 2.2. REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING & REGULATION

Regional districts can use a range of land use planning and regulatory tools to achieve responsible land use and environmental protection on public and private lands:

- **Official Community Plans (OCPs):** OCPs provide long term plans for specific areas, including goals and policies for environmental protection and community parks (see the PRRD website for links to OCPs: [www.powellriverrd.bc.ca](http://www.powellriverrd.bc.ca)).
- **Development Permit Areas (DPAs):** OCPs can designate DPAs for the purpose of protecting environmentally significant sites or types of areas.
- **Zoning Bylaws:** Zoning Bylaws can be used to establish setbacks from environmentally sensitive features such as watercourses and nest trees.
- **Restrictive Covenants:** As part of re-zoning, subdivision and development permit approvals, restrictive covenants can be placed on land parcels to protect environmental features.
- **Other:** Partnerships can be formed with conservation organizations and stewardship groups to acquire non-regional district protected areas, negotiate conservation covenants (environmental agreements) with landowners, and provide public education on environmental issues and solutions.

To be effective, a park and greenspace system must link to other planning initiatives. Not every environmentally significant site, wildlife habitat or corridor can be incorporated with a parks and greenspace plan. As such, many of the recommendations provided in later chapters of this report are designed to trigger actions outside of the mandate of a regional park service. The intent in this is to be both comprehensive and efficient. This is how great park and greenspace assets are created over time.

## 2.3. BACKGROUND REPORTS & STUDIES

Providing recreation and protecting ecosystems have long been a part of provincial and regional planning for the PRRD. Various studies and plans have provided valuable background information the Parks and Greenspace Plan. The following key documents inform and provide direction for the Plan:

### **Lund Official Community Plan (1998)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Preserve and protect the quality and quantity of all water resources for all uses appropriate to the planning area.
- Maintain the natural beauty of the planning area.
- Minimize the adverse effects of increased land use on the natural environment and residents of the area.
- Maintain the coastal area as an economic, aesthetic and recreational resource.

- Encourage and improve pedestrian and bicycle use and access
- Provide opportunities for recreation development to serve the future needs of the local community and the visiting public.
- Ensure that the type and intensity of recreational use is compatible with the surrounding natural environment and other land uses.
- Coordinate recreational uses with an “open space” concept for the planning area.

#### **Savary Island Official Community Plan (2006)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

To protect natural areas and the Island’s ecological integrity by:

- a. striving for a high degree of individual and community environmental consciousness and stewardship;
- b. maintaining representative areas of the Island's unique natural environment for open space, greenbelt or environmental reserve; and
- c. establishing development assessment provisions for the use of those lands that are subject to hazardous conditions and/or that may be environmentally sensitive or at risk as determined by the BC Conservation Data Centre.

#### **Texada Island Official Community Plan (2005)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Retain and enhance the rural character and natural amenities of the Island.
- Identify, protect and restore environmentally significant areas.
- Reduce risk to sensitive ecosystems, rare and endangered species, Crown land resources and the community from unintended or unnecessary change to the natural environment.
- Retain and utilize the native vegetation for practical and aesthetic purposes.
- Preserve for public enjoyment, areas of particular biological, recreational, scenic or historical significance.
- Ensure sustainability of sea life in the planning area.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient and suitable recreational land and facilities to meet the present and future recreational needs of Island residents and the visiting public.
- Encourage and facilitate the identification, protection and conservation of heritage and archaeological sites located in the Plan area.
- Foster an awareness and understanding of the importance of traditional use and culturally significant sites on Texada Island to Sliammon and possibly other First Nations.

### **Lasqueti Island Official Community Plan (2006)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Support the creation of a public trail network throughout the Island.
- Ensure compatible parks and recreation areas on the island are designed and located appropriately.
- The Community aims to ensure that 12% of the land base of Lasqueti Island is preserved and protected with appropriate representation of all ecosystems in the area.
- Assist, where possible, in the establishment and maintenance of Ecological Reserves.
- Encourage that the renewable resource base is maintained in a sustainable manner.
- Encourage and promote the protection of foreshore and marine areas for public enjoyment, public access and conservation.
- Promote the preservation of fresh and salt water purity.
- Promote the retention of native flora and fauna and areas of both typical and unique ecosystems.
- Promote a safe and healthy environment for all residents.

### **Southern Region Official Community Plan (2010)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Maintain or enhance the environmental, economic and recreational values of the Plan area as development occurs;
- Preserve or limit from development sensitive ecosystems, environmentally-sensitive areas, hazardous areas and those areas of particular biological, recreational, scenic or historical significance, and wildlife habitat;
- Environmentally-Sensitive Areas may be used for parks, open space or low-impact recreational uses, such as walking and hiking trails. The type and intensity of use permitted will be determined on a site-specific basis with regard for the particular environmental features, land ownership and the acquisition of a Development Permit.
- To prevent the degradation of recreational beaches and estuaries, physical structures (such as log dumpsites, booming grounds, barge facilities, mariculture and aquaculture facilities, launching ramps, breakwaters or docks) should be located where they will not interfere with the natural shore processes.
- Lands subject to flooding should, wherever possible, be left in a natural state or used for parks or natural preserves.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient parks, recreation and open space areas to meet the long-term diverse recreational needs of the local residents and visiting public.
- Work with forest companies, the Ministry of Forest and Range, MOTI, BC Hydro and other organizations to provide improved access and linkages to backcountry experiences.



- Support the Ministry of Forests and Range’s policy to develop recreational sites on Provincial Forest land and, where possible, work in co-operation with the Ministry in developing a system of alpine hiking trails, cross-country ski trails and campsites.
- Support the use of lands designated Resource for outdoor recreation uses, including wilderness or primitive campgrounds (not RV parks), canoe routes, hiking trails and wilderness lodges which are compatible with resource operations.
- The Regional District’s policy with respect to the acquisition of land for regional parks or community parks is to acquire such land at no cost from the Crown, by gift from the registered owner, by funds acquired through Section 941 of the Local Government Act or by dedication upon subdivision. Priorities for parkland acquisition in the planning area by these methods will be as follows:
  - a. ocean-fronting land in the vicinity of medium- to high-capability recreational beaches identified as potential park sites;
  - b. an upland area adjacent to the existing Myrtle Rocks Regional park in order to provide parking and increased public access and use of the area;
  - c. small, neighbourhood parks in areas of existing or anticipated higher density, particularly where no other community recreational facilities exist or where access to existing facilities may be impeded by topography or major traffic routes, e.g. Phillips Road/Dixon Road area;
  - d. areas identified as Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Areas on Map No. 3 or wildlife habitats may be acquired as nature parks. These parks will be used and managed in a manner that will preserve their sensitive or unique features.

**Sliammon First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (2007)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Protect Sliammon cultural sites and ensure traditional ecological knowledge is linked with technical and scientific knowledge in managing Sliammon forest lands.
- Protect wildlife and cultural plant resources within Sliammon forest lands to ensure sustainability of resources for hunting and gathering for cultural purposes.
- Protect recreational opportunities (trails and campsites) within Sliammon forest lands.

**Land and Water Use Plan for Tla’amin Traditional Territory (2005)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Protect traditional use sites and archaeological sites from the impacts of development, resource use and recreational activities.
- Raise public awareness about the sensitivity and importance of cultural resources, and of the application of the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Protect, and enhance, where appropriate, fish and fish related habitat.
- Conserve the biological diversity of the traditional territory.
- Protect and restore the ecological integrity of Tla’amin forest ecosystems.

- Ensure maintenance of healthy populations of all Tla’amin cultural plant resources and associated plant communities, for social, cultural and economic purposes.
- Promote and support sustainable tourism and recreation development opportunities, based on the core value of exploring the natural and cultural history of the land and its people.
- Ensure that the location, development and operation of tourism and recreation uses are controlled so as to minimize any adverse effects on the natural environment and the shellfish industry.
- Ensure that the location, development and operation of tourism and recreation uses are controlled so as to preserve and enhance the cultural and heritage values of the Tla’amin traditional territory.

### **A Sustainability Charter for the Powell River Region (2009)**

The Sustainability Charter was co-created by community members, local and regional governments, educational institutions and local organizations to form a clear vision of a sustainable future for the region. It provides a set of principals and goals that lay the foundation for maintaining and increasing community sustainability in the future. Key goals that relate to parks and greenspace include:

#### **A Healthy Environment**

- Marine and aquatic health: Ocean and freshwater ecosystems are robust and secure, and contribute significantly to local food production. Local salmon populations are restored to historical levels and have regained their key role in Tla’amin diet, culture and heritage.
- Sufficient, good quality water: Water is used wisely to ensure an on-going supply and good quality of surface water and groundwater, to serve both human and ecosystem needs.
- Environmentally sensitive land use: Development and economic activity respects natural systems and habitats. Natural and historical features are valued as environmental, aesthetic and economic assets and are incorporated into site designs causing minimal disturbance.

#### **A Vibrant Society**

- Cultural heritage: Archaeological and historical sites important to the Tla’amin First Nation and other community ethnic groups are identified, protected and celebrated to maintain the community’s connection to its cultural heritage.
- Social inclusion: Residents experience a high quality of life, and overall health and wellness. Services – such as health care – housing, recreation, food and transportation are affordable and accessible. The region is a model community where people of all demographics, cultures and abilities are included and interact in neighbourhoods, public spaces and community events.

#### **Governance**

- The alignment and coordination among our governments, businesses, and community organizations is strong. Regular dialogue and collaboration are

hallmarks of our working relationships, which increase our efficiency and our focus on shared goals.

- Relationships between First Nations and local governments are strong and close, characterized by respect and honour of one another's traditions, culture and knowledge, and by on-going learning about one another and how to live in this place. These relationships acknowledge and respect each party's independent jurisdiction and authority to act independently.

### **Haslam Lake and Lang Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (1999)**

Key recommendations related to parks and greenspace:

- Maintain and, where possible and feasible, enhance water quality in Haslam Lake and Lang Creek.
- Minimize any adverse impacts of resource development (historic and planned) on water quality
- Maintain, as near as possible, natural stream flow regimes in the watershed.
- Maintain or enhance current fish populations and fish habitat.
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat and maintain/enhance species diversity and viability of populations.
- Ensure that valued First Nations traditional use and cultural heritage sites are identified and protected.
- Ensure that forest harvesting activities are carried out in such a way as to minimize the impacts to water quality, quantity and timing of flows.
- Manage the type, location, and intensity of recreational activities in the watershed in a way that minimizes risks to water supplies.
- Maintain historic recreational use of the watershed, where appropriate.

### **Sunshine Coast Tourism, Public Recreation and Commercial Recreation Study (2002)**

The study contains a discussion of high value recreational areas, identifies challenges and provides recommendations for future recreational opportunities.

**The following other studies and reports were also reviewed to gather background information:**

- Savary Island Dune and Shoreline Study (2003)
- Powell Lake Landscape Unit Plan (2002)
- The Malaspina Okeover Coastal Plan (2004)
- Malaspina Provincial Park Management Plan (2005)
- Desolation Sound & Copeland Island Marine Parks and Okeover Arm Provincial Park Management Plan (2005)
- The Distribution of Eelgrass in Okeover and Malaspina Inlets (2003)
- Draft Finola Fogarty's Park Plan

## 2.4. REGIONAL GROWTH TRENDS

The composition and size of a region's population provides insight into how parks and trails should be planned to accommodate particular user groups, age ranges and predicted growth.

The "Powell River Regional District Growth and Development Analysis" Report (Vannstruth 2008) provided an assessment of how growth in the region will occur over the next 20 years. The results of this study, in addition to information on national trends, are summarized below.

### Population Growth

According to the Statistics Canada Census, the population size of the PRRD remained almost unchanged between 1981 and 2006, as compared to the BC average of 1.6% growth per year. The Growth and Development Analysis proposed two scenarios that projected how growth in the region might occur over the next 20 years. The Baseline Scenario was based on BC Statistics figures and showed a decline of approximately 600 people. The Worker Migration Scenario is based on an assumption that labour shortages may appear due to an aging population and resulting in working-age migrants and their families moving to the region. This scenario estimates a population increase of approximate 1200 people.

### Population Age

The population of Canada and British Columbia in particular, is aging. The following facts highlight the declining birth rate and the aging of the country:

- Fertility rate in 1947 was 3.6 children; it is now 1.53 children
- Proportion of 65+ went from 13.6 to 14.6% in 2006 in BC
- As Boomers become 65+, their proportion of the population will go to 24% by 2031, then much more slowly to about 29% by 2056 (Hunter 2009)

The largest segment of the population is the "Baby Boom" generation, those born between 1947 and 1966. The youngest Boomers turn 44 in 2010 and the oldest will be 63. This age cohort makes up over one-third of the Canadian population. As a whole, Boomers are more affluent, tend to be more active than preceding generations, and think of themselves as younger than their parents at the same age. As they age, Boomers are shifting from activities such as tennis and aerobics to less strenuous ones such as walking, cycling, tai chi and yoga (Foot 2000).

Between 1986 and 2006, the PPRD's median age increased by 10 years from 34 to 47. The region's population is aging faster than the BC average, due to out-migration of young adults and the area's attraction as a retirement destination (Vannstruth 2008). The region's appeal as a retirement destination will likely increase demand on land supply, particularly for waterfront property and acreages.

*PRRD Growth & Development Analysis Recommendations:*

- *Plan for the provision of services within the region that reflect the needs of an aging population, such as public transit, health and wellness services, care facilities and changing recreational needs (e.g. walking paths and more passive activities).*
- *Encourage clustering of new residential lots in appropriate residentially-zoned areas with waterfront access or water views and with communal water and sewer systems where significant community benefits/amenities can be provided such as trail systems, large park space and the preservation of sensitive ecosystems. Clusters should be designed with greenspace between them to break the impact of continuous waterfront development.*

## **2.5. EXISTING PARKS + GREENSPACES**

In addition to Regional Parks, the PRRD contains a wide range of noteworthy parks and greenspaces including Provincial Parks and Conservation Areas, City of Powell River Parks, passive recreation sites, Forestry Recreation Sites and Texada Island Recreation Sites.

### **2.5.1. Regional Parks**

In this Plan, “Regional Parks” refer to those parks that are secured and administered by the Powell River Regional District. These parks are intended to provide recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors. The Regional District has five Regional Parks which are financed by taxpayers in all areas of the region. These are:

- **Craig Road Regional Park**  
Craig Road Park is a day use park located north of the City of Powell River in Area A. The park provides a community recreation area that includes a play area, sports fields, a gazebo and picnic tables. This is an inland park that is surrounded by young forest and rural residential areas.
- **Palm Beach Regional Park**  
Palm Beach Regional Park is a day use park located on Palm Beach road in Area C south of the City of Powell River. This oceanside park provides a community recreation area that includes an open space for activities, picnic tables, a play area and trails.
- **Haywire Bay Regional Park**  
Haywire Bay Regional Park is located in Area B on the shore of Powell Lake. It is a large park with a campground providing both waterfront and RV campsites. The park offers recreational activities such as canoeing, swimming and picnicking. Facilities include a boat launch, 1 shower, toilets, playground and day use picnic area.

- **Shelter Point Regional Park**  
Shelter Point Regional Park is located in Area D on Texada Island near Gillies Bay. The beach and trails at this oceanfront park make it a popular location for both camping and day use. Park facilities include both tent and RV campsites, showers, and toilets.
- **Myrtle Rocks – Passive Foreshore Park**  
Myrtle Rocks is a passive foreshore park located south of the City of Powell River in Area B. The area is used by residents for beachcombing, bird watching and kayaking.

The Regional District also owns lands in some of the electoral areas that are managed as community parks or community recreation facilities, meaning they are financed only in part by the Regional District. These include the Lund Community Building, a recreation centre and playground managed financed by part of Area A under the Northside Recreation Service.

There are numerous public recreation facilities and properties on Texada Island. Some are passive parks and others are managed under the Texada Recreation Commission, which is financed only by Area D.

### **2.5.2. Texada Island Recreation Sites**

The Texada Island Recreation Commission is a volunteer board made up of Texada residents that works with the Powell River Regional District to manage recreational facilities on Texada. Active and passive recreational facilities on Texada Island include:

- Gillies Bay Ball Field and Farmers Market area
- Gillies Bay – Old School
- Gillies Bay tennis courts
- Texada Island Community Hall
- Sturt Bay (including Marble Bluffs)
- Smithson Park (Van Anda Baseball Field)
- Van Anda Cove Property
- Erikson Beach

### **2.5.3. City of Powell River Parks**

The City of Powell River has a comprehensive system of parks which include greenspaces, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds and a major waterfront park and campsite.

#### **Neighbourhood Parks**

- Grief Point Park
- Joyce Gardens
- Alberni/Marine Park

- Harbour Park
- Firehall Grounds
- City Hall Grounds
- Dwight Hall Cenotaph
- Whyte's Beach
- Townsite Park (Henderson Park)
- McAndrew Park
- Westridge Park
- Tripar Park

#### **Community Sports Parks**

- Sunset Park
- D.A. Evans Park
- Timberlane Park
- Cranberry School Field
- Larry Gouthro Park
- J.P. Dallos Park
- Gordon Park
- Townsite Tennis Courts & Lawn Bowling Club

#### **City Parks**

- Gibsons Beach
- Valentine Mountain
- Mowat Bay
- Scout Mt. Park
- Willingdon Beach
- Willingdon Beach Campsite
- Millennium Park
- Recreation Complex
- Cranberry Lake Wildlife
- Marine Avenue Viewpoint and Waterfront
- Lindsay Park

### **2.5.4. BC Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas in the PRRD**

BC Parks is responsible for the designation, management and conservation of a system of Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas located throughout the province. The PRRD contains a wide variety of Provincial Parks and Recreation Sites. While Provincial Parks are an essential part of PRRD's recreation fabric, they are not owned or operated by the Regional District and as such are not specifically addressed in this plan. However, this plan does endeavour to recognize the significant role that Provincial Parks play within the community.

#### **Land-based Parks**

- Malaspina Provincial Park
- Okeover Arm Provincial Park

- Inland Lake Provincial Park
- Saltery Bay Provincial Park (campground and day-use area)
- South Texada Island Provincial Park
- Anderson Bay Provincial Park
- Squitty Bay Provincial Park
- Sabine Channel Provincial Park

#### **Marine Parks**

- Desolation Sound Marine Park
- Copeland Islands Marine Park
- Jedediah Island Marine Provincial Park

#### **Protected Area**

- Duck Lake Protected Area

#### **Forest Recreation Sites** (Managed by *Recreation Sites and Trails BC*)

- Emma Lake
- Appleton Creek Site and Trail
- Dinner Rock
- Windsor Lake
- North Dodd Lake
- Dodd lake
- Beaver North
- Beaver South
- Little Horeshoe North
- Lewis Lake
- Ireland Lake
- Nanton Ireland North
- Middle Point
- Nanton Lake
- Tony Lake
- Lois Point
- Lois Lake
- Khartoum Lake
- Bob's Lake
- Shingle Beach

#### **Powell Forest Canoe Route**

The Powell Forest Canoe Route begins at Lois Lake Campground, allowing paddlers to visit 8 lakes over 57 km. The Canoe Route is located in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. It is overseen by the Recreation, Sites and Trails Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.



### 2.5.5. Land Trusts

A land trust is an independent organization committed to protecting ecosystem or heritage values on land. A land trust will purchase land or form an agreement with private property owners, governments, businesses or other organizations for the purpose of conserving one or more properties. Management of conservation lands is often done in partnership through long term leases with other conservation organizations or governments. For example the land parcels owned by The Nature Trust at Squitty Bay have a long term lease (99 years) with the provincial government and with this type of tenure, the parcels are able to be included and managed as part of the Squitty Bay Provincial Park.

The Malaspina Land Conservancy Society, the Savary Island Land Trust and the Islands Trust Fund are land trusts that are focused on preserving land located in the Powell River Regional District. There are also international, national and provincial land trusts working to protect BC landscapes, including Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

The following sites are lands owned by land conservation organizations/agencies in the PRRD:

- **Cranberry Lake**, City of Powell River (4 ha) - *Nature Trust of British Columbia*
- **Kwel Sanctuary**, Lasqueti Island (21 ha) - *Islands Trust Fund*
- **Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve**, Lasqueti Island (57.87 ha) - *Islands Trust Fund*
- **DL 1375**, Savary Island ( ½ undivided interest of 133 ha) - *Nature Trust of British Columbia*
- **Lots 35 and 36**, Savary Island (½ undivided interest of 8.94 ha) - *Nature Trust of British Columbia*
- **Squitty Bay**, Lasqueti Island (5.7 ha) - *Nature Trust of British Columbia*

Many land trusts are members of the Land Trust Alliance of BC, an umbrella organization that provides research and resources for conservation organizations to better steward, protect and restore valuable ecological landscapes.

The Land Trust Alliance website ([www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca)) provides more detailed information on protected lands in the PRRD, including a searchable database, the BC Lands in Trust Registry ([www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry/index.html](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry/index.html)).

## 2.5.6. Informal Greenspaces

Some of the greenspaces in the region that are used by residents are not intended for recreational purposes. The land use descriptions below are intended to provide a better understanding of land ownership and designations within the region.

**Private Managed Forest Land:** Managed Forest is a BC Assessment property classification (class 7) established in 1988 to encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production (Private Managed Forest Land Council).

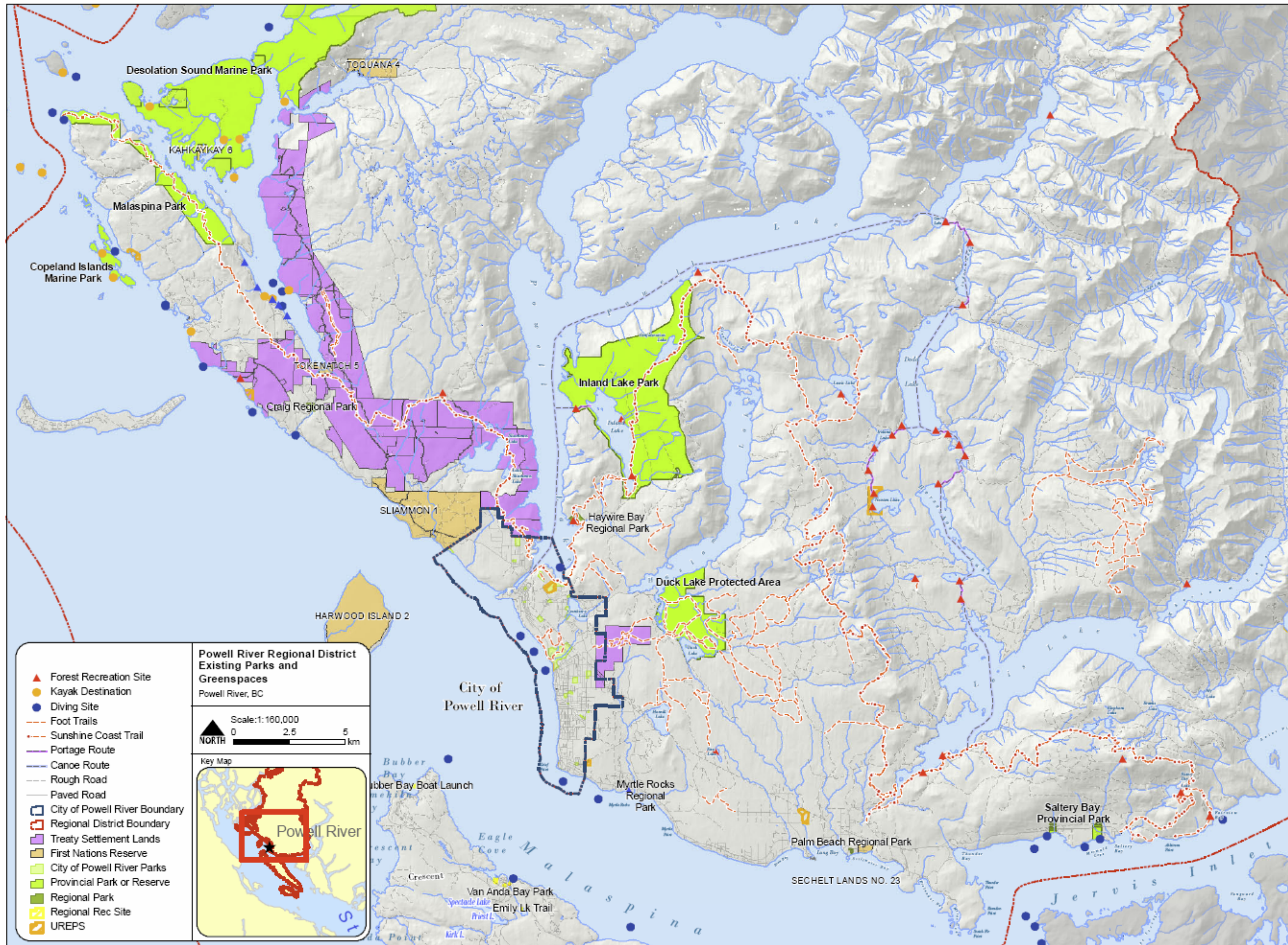
**UREP:** An area set aside for the "Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public." A UREP is established by the Province to reserve a portion of land for the public interest. Other uses in the area are then restricted for a specified period of time, after which time the designation is reviewed and can be renewed for another term.

**Crown Land:** 94% of the land in British Columbia is Provincial Crown land. The Crown land base is a public asset and the Province endeavours to manage these lands to maximize and sustain the flow of economic, social and environmental benefits to communities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and delegated agencies, through an application process, may grant the use and occupation of Crown land to citizens and registered organizations for a variety of purposes, such as utilities, agriculture, and commercial recreation.

Placeholder page – Existing Parks and Greenspace Map

**Figure 2: Existing Parks & Greenspaces - PRRD North**

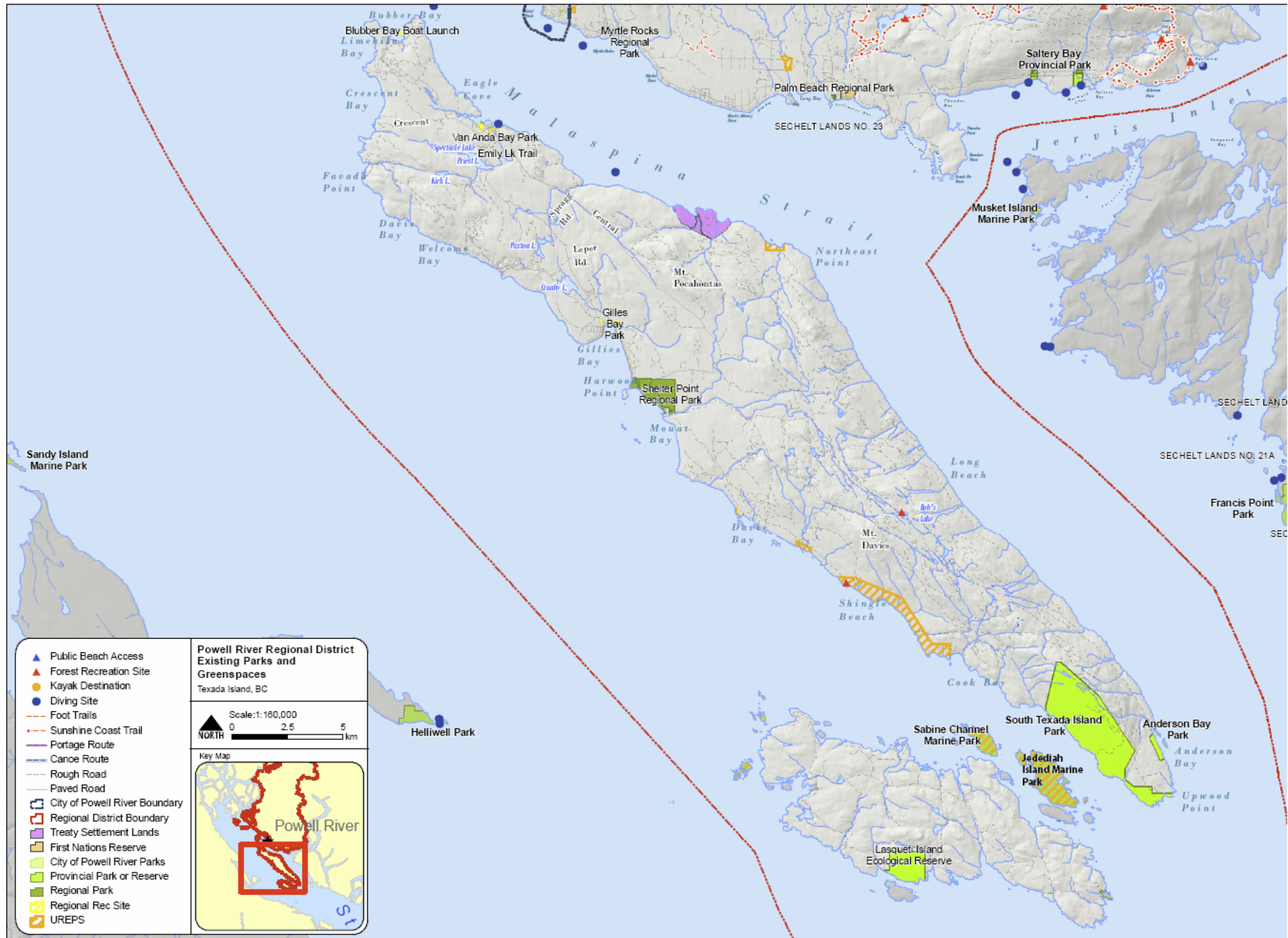






Placeholder page – Existing Parks and Greenspace Map

**Figure 3: Existing Parks & Greenspaces - PRRD South**



## 2.6. SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM ANALYSIS

Sensitive ecosystems are defined as ecosystems that are fragile and/or rare or are ecologically important because of the diversity of species they support. The following information on sensitive ecological occurrences and ecosystem reserves was prepared by Madrone Environmental Services for the Regional District Parks and Greenspace Plan. Note that information in this section is based on available data and research. Local knowledge may be able to identify smaller occurrences of habitat and species than is reported here.

### 2.6.1. Sensitive Ecosystems Overview

The Powell River Regional District is situated on the coast of BC where ecological health plays an important role in the economic and social health of the local communities. Sensitive ecological attributes and conservation areas contribute to the biological diversity of the region. The variety and richness of our landscapes, ecosystems and species produce a wide range of ecological "goods and services" such as clean air and water, food, medicine, productive soils, fibre, regulation of local climate and much more. These benefits can be maintained as long as the ecosystems continue to be healthy.

The following summary presents generalized sensitive ecological information in the PRRD study area. We outline important ecological features in the region that are vital for parks and greenspace planning; including, sensitive ecological occurrences, wildlife trees, wildlife habitat areas, old-growth management areas, fish habitat, estuaries and marine protected areas.

#### BIOGEOCLIMATIC SUBZONES

The regional district spans eight biogeoclimatic subzones from sea-level to alpine elevations:

1. **CDFmm – Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime subzone (0-150m)**

The Coastal Douglas-fir zone (CDF) occurs as a narrow strip of land along mainland coast from Greater Vancouver to Lund, including many Gulf Islands. The climate is influenced by a rainshadow effect from Vancouver Island and the Olympic mountains. Consistent westerly winds and the Pacific Ocean result in warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

The majority of forests in the CDFmm have regenerated after logging that occurred at the turn of the century. Old growth remains in only a few areas, such as parks. Many sensitive and rare vegetation and wildlife inhabit these coastal communities that contribute to the greater biodiversity in the province (Meidinger and Pojar [eds.], 1991).

2. **CWH - Coastal Western Hemlock**

- a. **CWHxm – Coastal Western Hemlock very dry maritime subzone (0-200m)**

- b. **CWHdm – Coastal Western Hemlock dry maritime subzone (0-650m)**

- c. **CWHvm – Coastal Western Hemlock very wet maritime subzone (0-650m)**
- d. **CWHds – Coastal Western Hemlock dry submarine subzone (0-650m)**
- e. **CWHms – Coastal Western Hemlock moist submarine subzone (650-1000m)**

The Coastal Western Hemlock zone (CWH) is, on average, the rainiest biogeoclimatic zone in British Columbia. The zone typically has a cool mesothermal climate: cool summers and mild winters.

Ten subzones are delineated in the CWH zone. They can be separated along gradients of continentality (hypermaritime, maritime, and submarine subzones) and precipitation (very dry, dry, moist, wet, and very wet) (Meidinger and Pojar [eds.], 1991).

**3. MHmm – Mountain Hemlock moist maritime subzone (1000-1600m)**

The subalpine elevations of the coastal mountains fall in the Mountain Hemlock zone (MH). The MH occupies elevations of 900-1800 m in the south (lower on windward slopes, higher on leeward slopes), and 400 to 1000 m in the north. The coastal subalpine climate is characterized by short, cool summers, and long, cool, wet winters, with heavy snow cover for several months (Meidinger and Pojar [eds.], 1991).

**4. CMA – Coastal Mountain-Heather Alpine zone (1600-2000m+)**

The Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine Zone (CMA) occurs along the windward spine of the Coast Mountains and the mountains of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte islands where the snowpack is deep and summers are moderated by maritime influences. The treeline in this environment is lowered by heavy and prolonged snow cover and can be as much as 900 m lower than in the alpine of comparable latitudes in the dry interior. Alpine begins at 1600 m in the south, descending to 1000 m in the north. Though this zone is extensive, most of the land area is occupied by glaciers or recently exposed bare rock at the elevation of true alpine (BC Ministry of Forests and Range, 2006b).

**SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS**

The purpose of the Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory (SEI) is to identify, classify and map sensitive terrestrial. The goal of the SEI is to encourage informed land-use decisions that will conserve sensitive ecosystems. SEI data provides site-specific ecological information that can be used to flag sites of conservation concern, to prompt detailed field studies prior to development projects, and to provide input to Forest Stewardship Plans. See figures 4 and 5 for maps of sensitive ecosystems in the PRRD.

***Sensitive Ecosystems***

- 1. Old Forest:** Conifer-dominated dry to moist forest types, generally older than 250yrs.



2. **Woodland:** Dry open forests, generally between 10 and 30% tree cover, can be conifer dominated or mixed conifer and arbutus stands; because of open canopy, will include non-forested openings, often with shallow soils and bedrock outcroppings.
3. **Herbaceous:** Non-forested ecosystems (less than 10% tree cover), generally with shallow soils and often with bedrock outcroppings; includes large openings within forested areas, coastal headlands, shorelines vegetated with grasses and herbs, sometimes low shrubs, and moss and lichen communities on rock outcrops.
4. **Riparian:** Areas adjacent to water bodies (rivers, lakes, ocean, wetlands) which are influenced by factors such as erosion, sedimentation, flooding and/or subterranean irrigation due to proximity to the water body.
5. **Wetland:** Areas that are saturated or inundated with water for long enough periods of time to develop vegetation and biological activity adapted to wet environments. This may result from flooding, fluctuating water tables, tidal influences or poor drainage conditions.
6. **Cliff:** Very steep slope, often exposed bedrock, may include steep sided sand bluffs; habitat for rare species.

***Other Important Ecosystems:***

7. **Mature Forest:** Usually conifer-dominated, occasionally deciduous, dry to moist forest types, generally older than 80yrs; larger than 25 ha or buffering sensitive ecosystems.
8. **Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Fields:** Annually flooded cultivated fields or hay fields; important migrating and wintering waterfowl habitat.

## **2.6.2. Methods**

We analyzed existing terrestrial and marine ecological information and used six indicators to assess the important terrestrial and marine ecological features in the study area. The following five ecological features indicate sensitive ecological occurrences or reserves that can be accounted for when looking at parks and greenspace planning:

1. Sensitive species or ecosystem occurrences from the Conservation Data Centre (CDC).
2. Wildlife tree stewardship atlas (WiTS).
3. Wildlife habitat core areas (WHAs).
4. Old-growth management areas (OGMAs).
5. Fish Habitat and Estuaries.
6. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

In addition to known occurrences of sensitive ecological features, we also queried the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory mapping (SEI) and Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) data to locate any further sensitive or important ecological units that may add value to the parks and greenspace planning process.

These two mapping methods are similar in that they provide a spatial representation of ecosystem types, but they use different map codes and modifiers to describe the ecosystems contained within the landscape. TEM offers a complete coverage of ecosystem types, distribution, structural stage and terrain information within a given area. Whereas, SEI mapping concentrates on the map units that only represent sensitive ecosystems and is therefore a patchy spatial representation of a given area.

The terrestrial mapping information (SEI & TEM) can be analyzed to locate sensitive ecosystem units adjacent to each existing park area. For example, areas of old-growth forest, mature forest, woodland, riparian, wetland, cliff and herbaceous vegetation are located near existing parks in the region and can be considered for additional parks and greenspace planning. Specific sensitive ecosystems near designated parks will need to be examined for possible inclusion to the Powell River Parks and Greenspace planning process.

Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory mapping in the PRRD was completed by Environment Canada and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management in 2005. For this mapping ITF developed a landscape classification system which provides coverage for both modified and natural ecosystems; and within these two general types of areas a series of classes and subclasses.

### **2.6.3. Results**

#### **1. BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) Occurrences**

A total of 109 at-risk occurrences (CDC, 2009) are located within the study area, including:

- 22 plants (19 herbs, 2 ferns, and 1 moss);
- 5 at-risk ecological communities;
- 9 freshwater fish (6 endemic stickleback species, Dolly Varden, Bull Trout, and Cutthroat Trout);
- 3 saltwater fish (Coho, Chinook, and Sockeye Salmon,);
- 2 birds (Marbled Murrelet and Great Blue Heron); and
- 1 reptile (Western Painted Turtle).

#### **2. Vegetation**

There are 80 at-risk plant occurrences mainly concentrated on Texada and Lasqueti Islands (see Appendix 12.2).

#### At-Risk Ecological Communities

Three at-risk ecological communities have been identified on Lasqueti Island representing red-listed, imperiled ecosystems in the CDFmm subzone. Two other at-risk ecological communities occur in the northern areas of the regional district on the Tahumming and Toba Rivers.

There are many more known at-risk ecosystems in the PRRD, but these additional sites have not been identified by the CDC. The two mapping systems (SEI & TEM) contain spatial information on the ecosystems that occur in the region, including many more instances of at-risk ecological communities. As mentioned above, it is possible to query the mapping data to find where these additional at-risk ecosystems occur and what they represent.

For example, sensitive dune ecosystems with rare vegetation assemblages are located on Savary Island that are sensitive to human disturbance. The Savary Island Dune and Shoreline Study completed by Strix Consulting in 2003 explains that the dunes are considered “the greatest remaining example of dunes within the Coastal Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone and one of the best examples of coastal sand dunes in Canada.” Several rare plants and vegetation communities were found on the shoreline dune ecosystems of Savary Island, including the provincially red-listed plant contorted-pod evening-primrose (*Camissonia contorta*) and the red-listed vegetation community dominated by large-headed sedge (*Carex macrocephala*).

On Texada Island, many rare vegetation groups have been identified by botanists that do not occur anywhere else in the province.

#### Wildlife Trees

At least 78 wildlife trees have been identified in the Powell River Regional District through environmental stewardship programs (Wildlife Tree Stewardship program, 2008).

The Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas (WiTS) <http://www.wildlifetree.org/> provides locations of active nest trees. Bald eagle nest trees dominate the region with a total of 67 wildlife tree locations on the Powell River coast (33) and islands [Texada (15), Lasqueti (2), Harwood (6), and Hernando (11)].

Two significant trees in the region are included on the Big Tree Registry (BC Ministry of Forests and Range, 2006a). The largest trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the province occurs on the south end of Hernando Island, measuring nearly 4m in circumference. An arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) is located on Savary Island that represents the 7<sup>th</sup> largest arbutus tree in the province.

### **3. Birds**

At least eleven Great Blue Heron nest trees are located on the coastal sections of the region from Okeover Inlet south to Myrtle Point on the mainland and near Maple and Gilles Bay on Texada Island. Important bird areas occur in Desolation Sound and between Saltery Bay and Hardy Island in the opening of Jarvis Inlet. Sixty-seven Bald Eagle nest trees have been located along the coastal sections, including 15 nest trees on northern Texada Island; 33 nest trees along the mainland portions of Powell River scattered from Ahlstrom Point to Lund; 11 nest trees on Hernando Island; 6 on Harwood Island; 1 on Lasqueti Island; and 1 on Jedidiah Island. Nest tree locations are not current, therefore new nest trees may exist as well as others becoming in active. There are 13 nest occurrences of Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), however this number only represents a fraction of the possible nest locations.

### **4. Reptiles**

The two known Western Painted Turtle breeding colonies are located in Case and Priest Lakes on Texada Island.

## 5. Core Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs)

Seven core wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) are present in the study area in two general areas, in the northwest near Toba Inlet and in the southwest on the Bunster Range. The total area of the WHAs occupy 2259 hectares. The Toba Inlet grizzly bear WHA occupies 111 hectares of subalpine forest (MHmm1) at the upper end of a valley east of Mount Barner. The Bunster Range WHAs (Marbled Murrelet) cover about 2148 hectares of old-growth montane forest (CWHvm2 and MHmm1).

## 6. Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs)

Old growth management areas cover about 13500 hectares and are scattered throughout the southeast region of the study area, mainly located east and north of Powell Lake. There are also large patches of old-growth reserves west of Powell Lake on Bunster Range closely tied to the WHAs. A few large tracts are present on Gifford Peninsula and sporadically on the north tip of Malaspina Peninsula.

## 7. Fish Habitat

At-risk stickleback species pairs are endangered in BC due to their restricted distribution and threats from anthropogenic activities. Stickleback species pairs are small fish that currently live in a few lakes on Vancouver Island and Texada Island (Emily, Priest, Spectacle and Paxton Lakes). These closely related species pairs have descended from the common, three-spined, marine stickleback and have evolved to inhabit distinct freshwater niches in lakes. Where they have been found, these pairs are morphologically and behaviourally distinct; one species pair (Benthic) occupies lake bottom habitats and is large, whereas the other species pair (Limnetic) occupies the water column and are small. Four living (extant) stickleback species pairs are located on Texada Island while the population on Lasqueti Island (Hadley Lake) has gone extinct. These living stickleback species pairs are endemic to BC, meaning they only occur in these lakes and no where else in the world.

The Powell River Regional District has several important freshwater and saltwater fish-bearing rivers and lakes. Over 10 species of trout and salmon live and breed in the PRRD coastal systems, including the following species:

- Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
- Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)
- Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
- Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
- Sockeye Salmon / Kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)
- Rainbow Trout / Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia clarkii*)
- Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*)
- Northern Pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*)

## 8. Estuaries

Six estuaries have been identified in the regional district from the Pacific Coast Resources Atlas (Community Mapping Network, 2005), mainly located on the southwestern shores near Powell

River. There are also smaller estuaries along the coast that are not identified in the Pacific Coast Resource Atlas, but that provide valuable habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species. Estuaries occur where significant sized rivers enter and mix with the salty ocean waters at low gradients. Estuaries are important for recycling nutrients and providing forage and habitat areas for terrestrial and marine wildlife (BC Ministry of Environment, 2006). Some significant estuaries in the region are:

- Lang Creek
- Myrtle Creek
- Powell River
- Eagle (Lois) River
- Sliammon Creek
- Theodosia River
- Toba River
- Okeover Inlet (Toquenatch Creek)

In addition to estuary locations, three eelgrass beds have been mapped in the region, including one location at Squatter Creek 'bay' about 3km south of the City of Powell River and two locations on Lasqueti Island (Mud Bay and Tucker Bay). A report titled "The Distribution of Eelgrass in Okeover and Malaspina Inlets" was completed in 2003 by Coastal & Ocean Resources Inc.

#### **9. Marine Protected Areas**

Marine Protected Areas MPnAs are legally established areas to protect all or a portion of the sea surface, water column, seabed, and / or associated flora, fauna and recreational, scientific, cultural and historical features. MPnAs may include an area established under one or more of the following provincial or federal designations:

- Ecological Reserves (ER)
- Provincial Park (PK)
- Protected Area (PA)
- Conservancy (CON)
- Recreation Area (RA)
- Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Oceans Act (MPA)
- National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)
- National Park (NP)
- Marine Wildlife Area (MWA)
- National Wildlife Area (NWA)
- Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS)

Thirteen Marine Protected Areas (MPnAs) have been identified in the region by using the Decision Support Tool on the Geographic Gateway site <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/omfd/ocean-resources/mpa.html> (note that this designation includes some areas which are not located on or adjacent to the ocean shoreline, yet contribute to preserving marine ecosystems):

- Saltery Bay Park (Electoral Area C)
- Duck Lake Protected Area (Electoral Area B)

- Inland Lake Park (Electoral Area B)
- Okeover Arm Park (Electoral Area A)
- Copeland Islands Marine Park (Electoral Area A)
- Malaspina Park (Electoral Area A)
- Desolation Sound Marine Park (Electoral Area A)
- Anderson Bay Park (Electoral Area D)
- South Texada Island Park (Electoral Area D)
- Sabine Channel Marine Park (Electoral Area E)
- Jedediah Island Marine Park (Electoral Area E)
- Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve (Electoral Area E)
- Squitty Bay Park (Electoral Area E)

These MPnAs protect biological, cultural, commercial and recreational resources in and around the marine environment, such as clam beds, herring spawning grounds, kelp beds, rockfish conservation areas and unique glass sponge reefs.

Clam beds occur around Hernando, Harwood, Savary, and Texada Islands as well as scattered along mainland coast near Powell River. Herring spawning grounds occur along the entire mainland coast near Powell River as well as adjacent to Hernando, Harwood, and Savary Islands. Kelp beds are found south of Savary Island and in Desolation Sound. Rockfish Conservation Areas are located adjacent to Malaspina Peninsula, Desolation Sound, and off the east, west and south of Texada, Lasqueti and Jedediah Islands in Malaspina and Georgia Straits. Commercial and recreational fisheries can be found throughout the Strait of Georgia, Malaspina Strait and Jervis Inlet.

Sponge reefs exist off the Canadian west coast and are the only known siliceous sponge reefs in the world. These 9000-year-old glass sponge reefs, some living 250 metres deep in Hecate Strait, form complexes of up to 300 km<sup>2</sup>, covering a total area of over 700 km<sup>2</sup>. Scientists recently discovered smaller sponge reefs off B.C.'s Sunshine Coast and in the Strait of Georgia. Sponges are animals that filter water through their porous body surface to extract food particles and dissolved substances. They are not mobile but stay their whole adult lives in one place, much like a plant. There are more than 7,000 described species of sponges alive today in both fresh and marine waters and many more that remain to be described and named by scientists. Different groups of sponges make their skeletons out of different materials. These materials may include silica, carbonate and protein fibres. Glass sponges make their skeletons out of silica (glass) (CPAWS, 2009).

#### **2.6.4. Sensitive Ecosystem Conclusions**

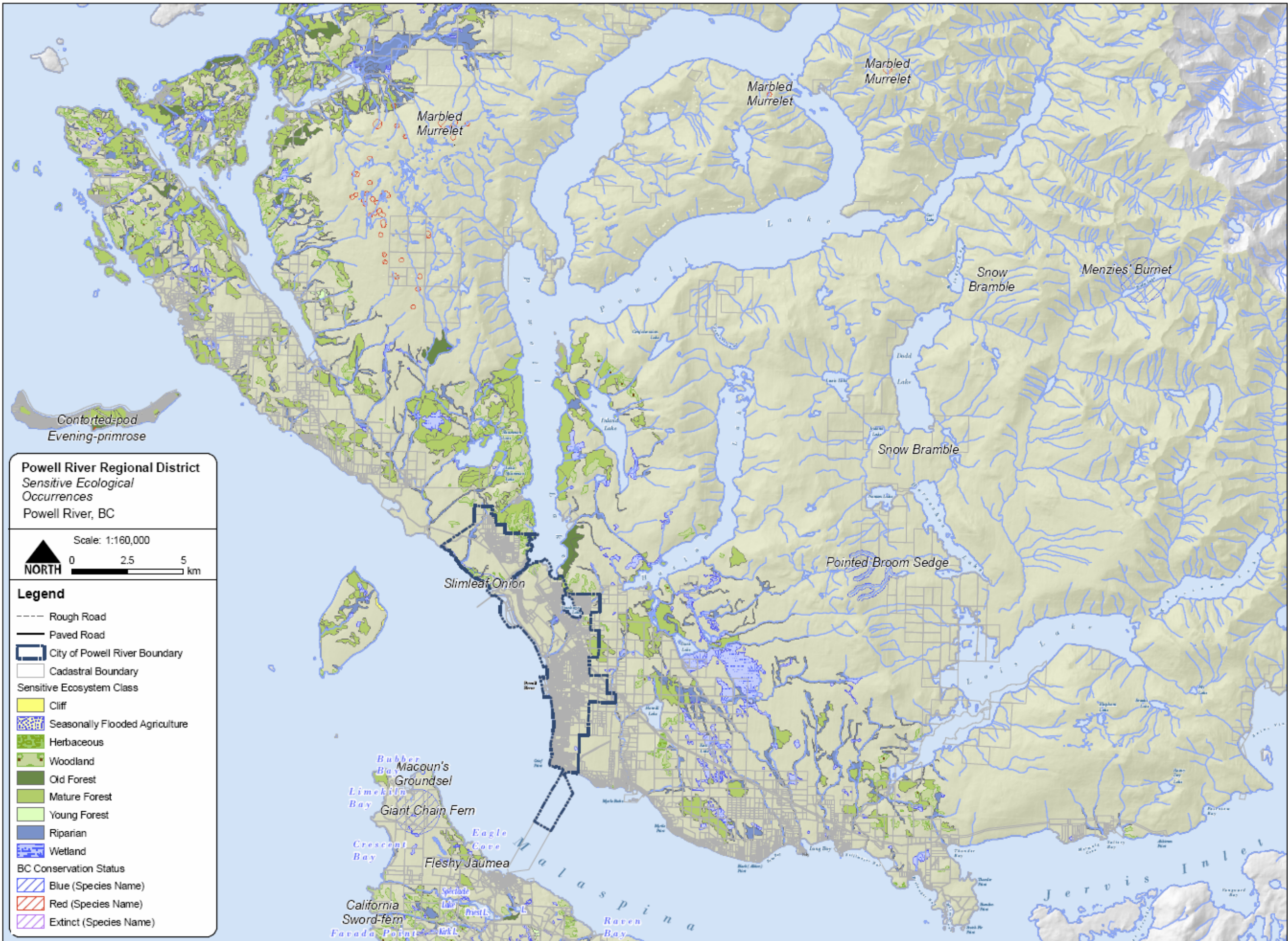
The PRRD area contains significant biological diversity as a result of its geographic position in the Strait of Georgia. Unique climatic influences and the interactions between the saltwater and the freshwater environments have produced a diverse ecological landscape. Of particular significance are the rare ecosystems that occur on the islands in the CDFmm subzone such as Texada, Savary, Hernando, Harwood, Lasqueti, and Jedediah Islands. Many rare plant species and sensitive ecosystems that are found on these islands are not found anywhere else in BC. Not only are the coastal portions ecologically valuable, the inland lakes and river valleys that

extend to alpine elevations are also rich in biota. Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic and marine environments and mountainous terrain all contribute to the overall biodiversity of the region, providing ecological services that ensure the regional district is a healthy place to work and live. Ecosystem-based management must sustain the biological richness and biological services provided by natural ecosystems, while stimulating the social and economic health of the communities that depend on and are part of those ecosystems.

Placeholder page – SEI Map 1

**Figure 4: Sensitive Ecological Occurrences - PRRD North**





**Powell River Regional District**  
*Sensitive Ecological Occurrences*  
 Powell River, BC

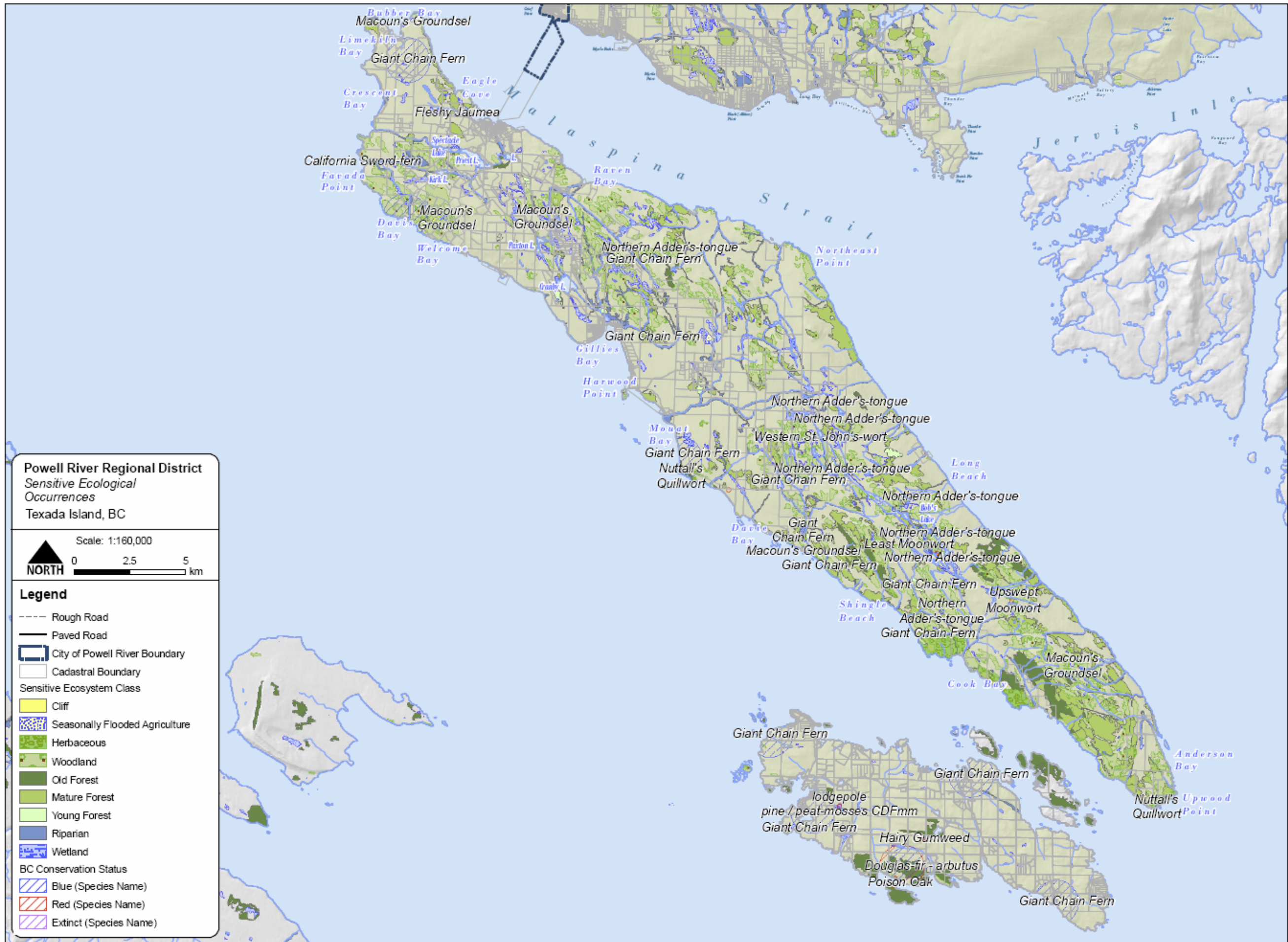
Scale: 1:160,000  
 0 2.5 5 km  
 NORTH

- Legend**
- Rough Road
  - Paved Road
  - ▭ City of Powell River Boundary
  - ▭ Cadastral Boundary
  - Sensitive Ecosystem Class**
  - ▭ Cliff
  - ▭ Seasonally Flooded Agriculture
  - ▭ Herbaceous
  - ▭ Woodland
  - ▭ Old Forest
  - ▭ Mature Forest
  - ▭ Young Forest
  - ▭ Riparian
  - ▭ Wetland
  - BC Conservation Status**
  - ▨ Blue (Species Name)
  - ▨ Red (Species Name)
  - ▨ Extinct (Species Name)

Placeholder page – SEI Map 2

**Figure 5: Sensitive Ecological Occurrences - PRRD South**





Map labels include:

- Bubber Bay
- Macoun's Groundsel
- Limekiln Bay
- Giant Chain Fern
- Crescent Bay
- Eagle Cove
- Fleshy Jaumea
- California Sword-fern
- Macoun's Groundsel
- Macoun's Groundsel
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Giant Chain Fern
- Harwood Point
- Giant Chain Fern
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Western St. John's-wort
- Giant Chain Fern
- Nuttall's Quillwort
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Giant Chain Fern
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Least Moonwort
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Giant Chain Fern
- Upswept Moonwort
- Shingle Beach
- Northern Adder's-tongue
- Giant Chain Fern
- Macoun's Groundsel
- Cook Bay
- Anderson Bay
- Nuttall's Quillwort
- Upwood Point
- lodgepole pine / peat-mosses CDFmm
- Giant Chain Fern
- Hairy Gumweed
- Douglas-fir - arbutus
- Poison Oak
- Giant Chain Fern

## 3.0 DEVELOPING A VISION & DIRECTION

### 3.1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Consultation with the public and stakeholders (identified interest groups related to recreation, environmental protection, and ecological concerns) was an important aspect of developing this Plan. The project team worked with the Regional District staff to develop approaches, resources and materials for consultation on parks and greenspaces. Consultation occurred in two phases, Phase 2: *Outreach – Community Inventory and Priorities* and Phase 3: *Development and Review of the Draft Plan*.

Phase 2 consultation included the development of a webpage to provide the community with information and updates on the planning process, public and stakeholder workshops, an online mapping tool and a survey. In this phase, information was gathered about sites of community interest, as well as the challenges and opportunities for parks and greenspace planning in the region. Public input collected in this phase informed the overall structure of the plan.

Phase 3 consultation included public open houses and a survey (in a mail-out to households in the region and an online format) that provided residents an opportunity to comment on the draft plan before it was finalized.

### 3.2. KEY THEMES

During the public and stakeholder consultation, a series of key themes (i.e. important issues that the plan should address) emerged.

#### 3.2.1. Public and Stakeholder Workshops

##### *Key Themes*

##### **Protecting our Natural Environment**

Protecting sensitive ecosystems and wildlife habitat emerged as a fundamental priority for the residents of the PRRD. Input reflected interest in the protection of overall biodiversity, salmon habitat, old growth forest areas, wildlife corridors (ecological greenways) and riparian habitat. In addition, input highlighted the importance of protecting heritage and archaeological sites.

### **Parks**

As the demand for recreational properties increase and other land uses in the region shift, there is an interest in exploring strategies for park acquisition to protect traditional recreational patterns in the region. Input showed that there is strong support for securing protection for key areas suitable for public recreation.

### **Access**

Powell River residents value the many outdoor recreation opportunities in the region. Gaining access to these locations, including the waterfront, backcountry and alpine areas, and addressing the complex ownership and liability issues related to access was viewed as a significant objective in parks and greenspace planning.

### **Trails**

The region has a wealth of trails, many of which have been created and maintained by a sizable number of dedicated volunteers who have been working on the trail system for several years. Input called for a continued focus on developing a comprehensive trail system to support a wide variety of recreational trails for activities such as walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding and motorized vehicle use. There was also an interest in improving the Sunshine Coast Trail, overall trail connectivity, adequate trail buffers and continued access to frequently used trails.

### **Shared Responsibility**

Input acknowledged the challenges to parks and greenspace planning for the region and highlighted that our parks and greenspaces are a shared responsibility that will require cooperation and collaboration between various levels of government, industry, community organizations and individuals. Issues related to land ownership, jurisdiction and communication were seen as key areas in which progress can be made.

### **Implementation**

Input revealed an understanding of the complexities related to implementing a parks and greenspace plan. Access to funding, adequate ongoing management and balancing community objectives were seen as topics that the plan should address to ensure short and long-term implementation of priorities.

## **3.2.2. Survey #1 (community values and objectives)**

The Regional District Parks and Greenspace survey obtained a broad sample of community values, desires and concerns with respect to areas or lands in our region that people think are important and want to see protected. The survey was offered to residents online and in a household mail-out. The survey closed on March 15, 2010 and was completed by approximately 500 Powell River Regional District residents. See appendix 12.3 for survey results.

Key survey findings included:

- Residents indicated that walking, running and cycling was the type of recreation most frequently used in the past year.
- Residents indicated that lack of access is a factor that limits use of parks and greenspaces in the region.
- Residents indicated that it is critical to address protecting ecological/environmental areas in the Parks and Greenspace Plan.
- 84.5% of residents indicated that there are places in the regional district traditionally used for recreation that should be preserved for public use.
- 79.9% of residents indicated that there are places in the regional district that should be protected in order to protect sensitive ecosystems.

### **3.2.3. Survey #2 (draft plan review)**

The second survey obtained a broad sample of community input on the direction of the draft plan. The survey was offered to residents online and in a household mail-out. The survey closed on October 30, 2010 and was completed by approximately 300 Powell River Regional District residents. See appendix 12.3 for survey results.

Key survey findings included:

- 85.7% of residents indicated that they either strongly support or support the general direction of the plan.
- 67.9% of residents indicated that they strongly support the Regional District setting aside lands for recreation and conservation purposes.
- 78% of residents indicated that they either strongly support or support the Regional District appointing a Parks & Greenspace Advisory Committee.



### 3.3. VISION

*The Powell River Regional District will preserve a diverse network of ecological natural spaces and recreational environments from shorelines to alpine areas, maintaining the natural beauty and biodiversity of the region and providing opportunities for a wide variety of recreational uses in a cost-effective, sustainable manner.*



# PART 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

## 4.0 LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.0 PARKS

#### 5.1 Park Acquisition Priorities

- Recommendation 1: Eagle River
- Recommendation 2: Heischolt Lake
- Recommendation 3: Orpana Lakes
- Recommendation 4: Savary Island Waterfront Park
- Recommendation 5: Stillwater Bluffs
- Recommendation 6: Stromberg Falls
- Recommendation 7: Parkland Implementation Strategy

#### 5.2 Conservation Priority

- Recommendation 8: Lang Creek Partnership & Management Plan

#### 5.3 Secondary Park & Greenspace Priorities

### 6.0 TRAILS

#### 6.1 Regional Trails

- Recommendation 9: Regional Trails Plan
- Recommendation 10: Sunshine Coast Trail Linear Park

### 7.0 ACCESS

#### 7.1 Waterfront

- Recommendation 11: Waterfront Access
- Recommendation 12: Boat Launch

#### 7.2 Backcountry

- Recommendation 13: Backcountry Access Strategy



## **8.0 RECREATION**

- Recommendation 14: Recreation Sites Protection & Preservation

## **9.0 PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **9.1 Sensitive Ecosystems**

- Recommendation 15: Protect the Region's Most Sensitive Ecosystems

### **9.2 Heritage**

- Recommendation 16: Inventory of Culturally Significant Sites

## **10.0 SHARED RESPONSIBILITY & IMPLEMENTATION**

### **10.1 Parks & Greenspace Advisory Commission**

- Recommendation 17: Park and Greenspace Advisory Commission

### **10.2 Resources & Funding**

- Recommendation 18: Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund
- Recommendation 19: Property Tax Exemptions
- Recommendation 20: Donations and Fundraising
- Recommendation 21: Community Amenity Contributions

### **10.3 Administrative Strategies**

- Recommendation 22: Senior Government Funding
- Recommendation 23: Coordination with Infrastructure Upgrades
- Recommendation 24: Park Zoning

### **10.4 Partnerships & Communication**

- Recommendation 25: Protocol Agreements on Treaty Settlement Land
- Recommendation 26: General (Partnerships)
- Recommendation 27: Information & Communication

### **10.5 Environmental Management Strategy**

- Recommendation 28: Landscaping with Native Plants
- Recommendation 29: Invasive Plant Species Management
- Recommendation 30: Water Stewardship
- Recommendation 31: Parks Clean-up Program
- Recommendation 32: Barrier-Free Access

## 5.0 PARKS

### 5.1. PARK ACQUISITION PRIORITIES

This section describes the priority areas for expansion of the regional parks and greenspace network. Three broad principles were used to guide the selection of priority options for potential park and greenspace sites. The identification of individual sites and the development of the overall park plan are assessed against the ability to respond to these community values:

#### **Provide Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**

The provision of recreational opportunities is a fundamental objective of the regional parks and greenspace system. Whereas historically there has been fairly unrestricted access to wilderness and waterfront areas, competing land uses have increasingly limited informal public access to traditionally enjoyed recreation areas. High priority park acquisition options should provide recreational opportunities for PRRD residents.

#### **Protect Natural Areas**

The protection of natural areas to preserve wildlife habitat and maintain ecosystem function is another key objective of this Plan. To take advantage of opportunities for natural area protection, the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory mapping was incorporated into the assessment of potential sites for acquisition.

#### **Be Regionally Significant**

The regional park and greenspace system will provide outdoor opportunities and experiences for all people within the region. Some excellent recreational opportunities may not be part of the parks and greenspace system because they are more appropriately protected and managed through other mechanisms. Parks and greenspaces acquired and/or managed by the Regional District should be significant not only to residents in the surrounding local area, but represent a unique or representational landscape for use by the entire region.

Sites of community interest, as identified by the public and stakeholders, were assessed to determine the unique values they provided for the overall regional park system. In this way, an understanding for all of the sites was developed and those with regionally significant characteristics were given a higher priority for subsequent review. A further comparison of individual sites was undertaken to determine the most appropriate sites to include within the regional parks and greenspace network based on their ability to respond to community values. From these assessments, a number of sites were identified as priority sites for acquisition. These sites were further assessed by the Regional Parks and Greenspace Advisory Committee and the consultants to evaluate each site's potential for further consideration as a regional park.

### **5.1.1. High Priority Acquisition Sites List**

The following list of sites have been identified as high priority for acquisition due to their potential to meet all of the key criteria: provide outdoor recreation opportunities, protect natural areas and be regionally significant. The sites are not listed in order of importance and each site will undergo further, more detailed evaluation as part of a parkland acquisition strategy.

1. **Acquisition Priority – Eagle River** (Mainland – south of town)
2. **Heischolt Lake** (Texada Island)
3. **Orpana Lakes** (Mainland – north of town)
4. **Savary Island Waterfront Park** (Savary Island – specific location to be determined)
5. **Stillwater Bluffs** (Mainland – south of town)
6. **Stromberg Falls** (Texada Island)

The following pages provide descriptions of each of the above sites.

**Recommendation 1: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – EAGLE RIVER (MAINLAND – SOUTH OF TOWN)**

**Prioritize the acquisition of the Eagle River Corridor.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

The Eagle (Lois) River corridor contains a number of sensitive ecosystem classifications including wetlands, riparian areas, and mature forest. The area is a popular informal recreation area with uses including swimming and fishing in the river’s natural pools, hiking, and wildlife viewing in the estuary. Eagle River has long been an area of interest for the community, prompting the formation of a conservation group, The Friends of Eagle River, to raise awareness and lobby for its preservation as wildlife corridor with recreational access. Maintaining recreational and environmental values in the river corridor is currently in question, as the majority of the lands are private managed forest lands set aside for timber harvesting.

Acquiring all or part of the Eagle River corridor is a high priority due to its ecological sensitivity, importance to wildlife, high recreational value and significance to the people of the Powell River Regional District.



**Location**

Eagle River is located south of the City of Powell River in Electoral Area C, beginning in Lois Lake and emptying into Stillwater Bay.

**Existing Land Ownership**

On the east side of Eagle River, a portion of the area is crown land and the remainder is owned by Island Timberlands. On the west side of the river, ownership is divided between private residential lots, Island Timberlands and Sechelt First Nations.

**Recommendation 2: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – HEISCHOLT LAKE (TEXADA ISLAND)**

---

**Prioritize the acquisition of Heischolt Lake.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

Heischolt Lake on Texada Island is characterized by its striking landscape of cliffs and pools formed by a former limestone quarry. Although the lake is manmade, it creates an uncommonly beautiful setting of limestone rock formations and clear, blue-green water that makes the area a popular summertime destination for swimming and picnics. However, the site is privately owned by a mining company and all recreational use of the site is currently unauthorized.

Heischolt Lake is recommended as a priority for acquisition due its regionally unique and visually dramatic landscape and ecology, and its historic community use and high value as a popular swimming hole.



**Location**

Heischolt Lake is located in Electoral Area D on Texada Island, southeast of the ferry terminal at Blubber Bay and northwest from the community of Van Anda.

**Existing Land Ownership**

Heischolt Lake is privately owned by a mining company.

**Recommendation 3: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – ORPANA LAKES (MAINLAND – NORTH OF TOWN)**

---

**Prioritize the acquisition of Orpana Lakes.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

Orpana Lakes is a significant ecologically sensitive area that provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species as well as the opportunity for passive recreation (trails, boardwalks) and education. Sensitive ecosystem classifications on the site include wetlands, riparian areas and mature forest.

Orpana Lakes is adjacent to Hurtado Point, a former UREP and now part of the Treaty Settlement Lands that is a valued recreational sites by PRRD residents. In moving forward to acquire the Orpana Lakes site, Hurtado Point should be considered as part of an expanded protected area with appropriate recreational access. As this is Treaty Settlement Land, any acquisition or access to Hurtado Point will involve discussion and partnership with Sliammon First Nation.

The Orpana Lakes area is recommended as a priority for acquisition due its regionally unique representation of a wetland ecosystem, value to wildlife habitat and opportunities for environmental education.



**Location**

Orpana Lakes is located in Area A, north of the City of Powell River and south of the community of Lund.

**Existing Land Ownership**

Portions of the Orpana Lakes area are Crown Land and other portions are privately owned.

**Recommendation 4: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – SAVARY ISLAND WATERFRONT PARK (SAVARY ISLAND)**

**Prioritize the acquisition of a site appropriate for a waterfront park on Savary Island.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

The waterfront on Savary Island is characterized by long, sandy beaches, warm tidal waters, and unique cliff and dune ecosystems. Savary’s beaches are popular in the summer months when they are enjoyed by locals and residents from the entire region, who come to swim and enjoy the sandy beach and ocean views.

Currently, there are no regional parks on Savary Island. Some areas that are informally used for recreation by the public pose management challenges for the island, such as a lack of public facilities, and issues related to bank erosion, litter and public disturbance.

The optimal location for a regional park on Savary Island has not yet been identified. Choosing a location for and acquiring a waterfront park on Savary Island is recommended as a priority for the purpose of protecting the unique cliff and dune ecosystem, formalizing and managing traditional recreational access to Savary Island waterfront and providing regional public access to a Savary Island beach.



**Location**

Specific location to be determined.

**Recommendation 5: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – STILLWATER BLUFFS (MAINLAND – SOUTH OF TOWN)**

---

**Prioritize the acquisition of Stillwater Bluffs.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

Stillwater Bluffs is a popular recreational destination for both residents and visitors to the PRRD. The area is characterized by rocky coastal bluffs, spectacular ocean views and waterfront access. It is highly valued by the public as an area for hiking, rock climbing, wildlife viewing and swimming. However, the site is privately owned all recreational use of the site is currently unauthorized. Portions of the site have a sensitive ecosystem classification of “herbaceous,” containing shallow soils with bedrock outcroppings, grasses, moss, lichen and low shrubs.

Due to the site’s conservation values, traditional public use, recreational potential and use by residents from all areas of the region and beyond, it is designated as having high potential for a waterfront park.



**Location**

Stillwater Bluffs is located south of the City of Powell River in Electoral Area C, on a point between Frolander Bay and Stillwater Bay.

**Existing Land Ownership**

The site is owned by a private forest company, Island Timberlands.



**Recommendation 6: ACQUISITION PRIORITY – STROMBERG FALLS (TEXADA ISLAND)**

---

**Prioritize the acquisition of Stromberg Falls.**

**Rationale**

**Description**

Stromberg Falls is characterized by a 20+ metre high waterfall, rapids and ravine. It is a regionally unique site because of its karst topography made up of limestone bedrock that has been eroded by water to create underground caves, fissures and streams. To many residents in the region, the area is known as the “caves on Texada Island.” Popular recreational uses include hiking and caving (or “spelunking”).

The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) has established a map reserve of 7 ha over the area to ensure that the karst features are protected. In addition, Lehigh Hanson Materials Ltd., the company that holds a mineral lease on the site, has offered to remove all of District Lot 589 from their ILMB application, adding an additional 28 ha buffer around the karst area.

Stromberg Falls is recommended as a priority for acquisition due to the unique representation of the waterfall, surrounding karst landscape and associated recreational activities for the region to preserve in perpetuity.



**Location**

Stromberg Falls is located on the west side of Texada Island, upland from Davie Bay.

**Existing Land Ownership**

Stromberg Falls is located on Crown Land under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) and the ILMB.

**Recommendation 7:            PARKLAND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**Objectives**

**Acquire high priority sites for parkland in the Powell River Regional District.**

**Rationale**

Based on the acquisition priorities outlined in this plan, a detailed strategy for proceeding with parkland acquisitions will be necessary. This strategy will include investigating acquisition opportunities for each site, potential partnerships, the extent of the area for acquisition, and a detailed cost estimate.

**Recommendation**

**Undertake a detailed strategy for proceeding with identified parkland acquisitions.**

## 5.2. CONSERVATION PRIORITY

### Recommendation 8: LANG CREEK PARTNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### Objectives

- Increase opportunities for recreation and environmental education in the region.
- Balance environmental, recreational, industrial and social values in the Lang Creek area.

#### Rationale

Lang Creek is important for wildlife habitat. In addition, to its estuary at the mouth of the creek which supports numerous bird and invertebrate species, it is one of the remaining north-south wildlife corridors south of the City of Powell River. The creek's corridor links the shoreline to backcountry areas, allowing wildlife to move freely along the corridor.

Lang Creek and the nearby Mahood Beach are also popular greenspaces used extensively by local residents. Currently, is no formal public access to this area. The Powell River Salmon Society's Duck Lake hatchery is located on the creek and is open to the general public, tourists and school classes.

Habitat protection should be prioritized in this area, with public access limited to appropriate areas (such as Mahood Beach). The Regional District would collaborate on the development of a management plan that outlines the appropriate level of conservation versus public access to Lang Creek. This may involve partnerships with the PR Salmon Society and private landowners in the area.

*The Duck Lake Hatchery on Lang Creek has been enhanced with facilities for visitors including an information kiosk, an outdoor classroom and a garden project.*

#### Recommendation

**Develop a management plan and work with partners such as the Powell River Salmon Society and private landowners to provide public access to designated areas of Lang Creek and Mahood Beach.**

### 5.3. SECONDARY PARK AND GREENSPACE PRIORITIES

The Regional District acknowledges the value of the following sites for recreation or natural area protection. Some of these sites may be more appropriately guaranteed protection under an agency other than the PRRD. However, the Regional District recognizes the potential of all of these sites , supports their protection by other organizations or governments and may review them for regional acquisition or recreational access partnerships in the future (beyond 2020). In addition, if any of the secondary priority sites become immediately available through purchase or partnerships, the Regional District will prioritize their consideration for acquisition at that time.

#### **Mainland**

1. Coode Peninsula (see appendix 12.4)
2. Dinner Rock
3. Douglas Bay/Donkersley Beach
4. Fairview Bay
5. Frolander Bay Beach
6. Manzanita Bluffs
7. McCrae Islands
8. Myrtle Rocks (refers to further development of public access to the existing regional site)
9. Old Golf Course
- 10(A).Penticton Area Forest
- 10 (B).Penticton Street Heronry
11. Scotch Fir Point
12. Southern Area: District Lot 3873
13. Thulin Pass Bluffs (UREP)
14. Wildwood Bluffs
15. Powell Forest Canoe Route

#### **Texada Island**

16. Cabin Cove
17. Cox's Lagoon

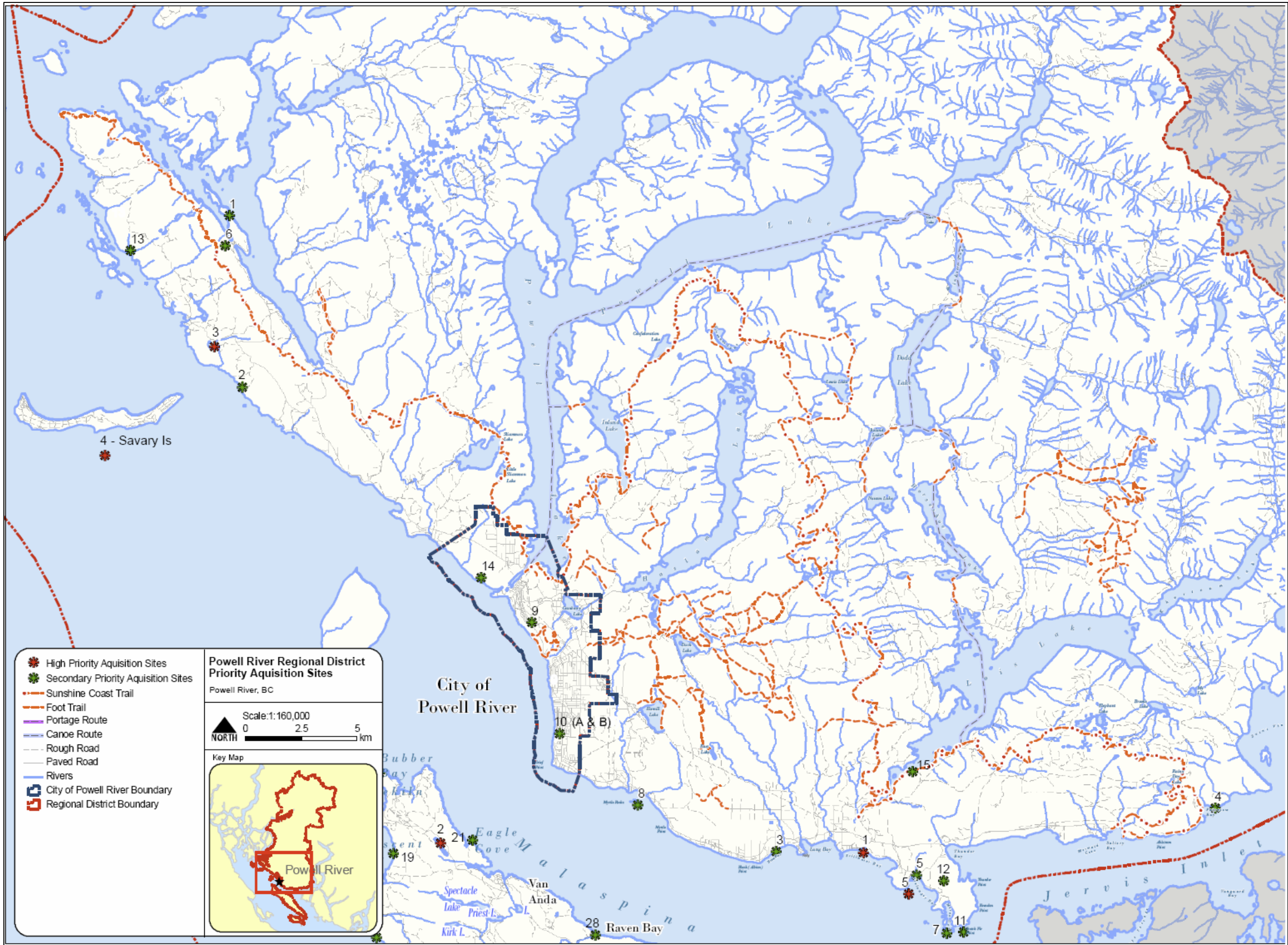
18. Cook Bay
19. Crescent Bay
20. Davie Bay Foreshore
21. Dick Island
22. Eagle Cove
23. Hunting Camp Area
24. Kiddie Point
25. Long Beach
26. Mount Pocahontas
27. Myrtle Lake
28. Raven Bay
29. Sand Banks
30. Welcome Bay/Davis Bay Uplands

#### **Lasqueti**

31. False Bay Park
32. Fractional South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 10
33. Fractional Southwest Quarter of Section 10
34. Parcel C
35. Northeast Quarter Section of Section 16

PLACEHOLDER PAGE –map of priority acquisition sites.

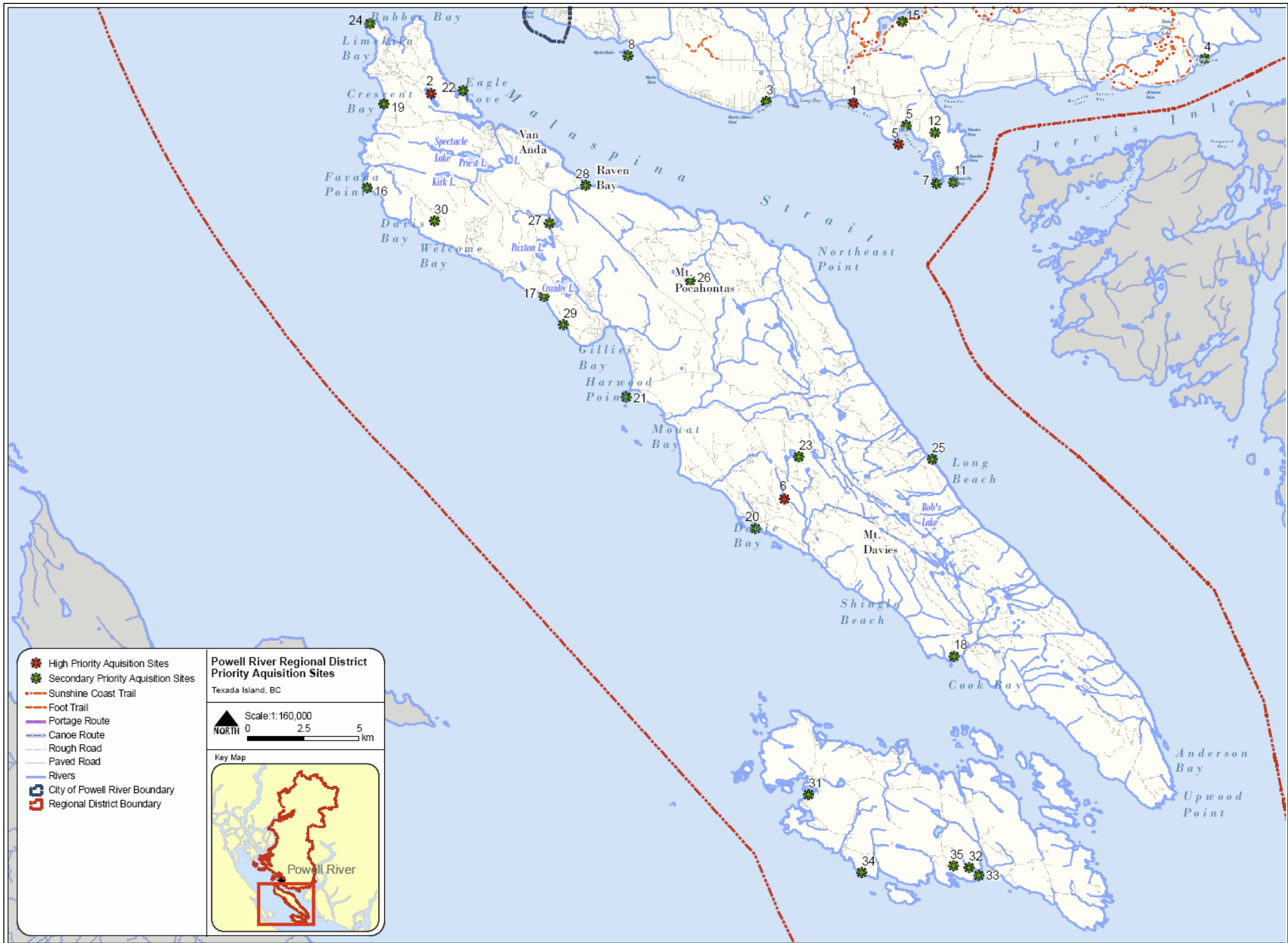
**Figure 6: High Priority and Secondary Priority Sites for Park Acquisition (North)**



PLACEHOLDER PAGE – map of priority acquisition sites.

**Figure 7: High Priority and Secondary Priority Sites for Park Acquisition (South)**







## 6.0 TRAILS

### Recommendation 9: REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN

#### Objectives

- Increase the number and variety of trails in the region for walking, cycling, hiking and other recreational activities.
- Provide options for safe, active and green transportation, contributing to healthy communities and reducing GHG emissions.
- Increase regional connectivity by creating a trail from the northern to the southern end of the regional district.
- Increase resident and visitor access to clear, accurate information on both regional and community trails.

#### Rationale

A Regional Trails Plan will improve and expand the existing trail network in the region to provide residents and visitors with safe, non-motorized transportation and recreation options throughout the region. Public consultation indicated a desire for walking, cycling and other types of recreational routes that:

- **Connects existing neighbourhoods to amenities and established trails or corridors:** The community expressed the desire to develop a linked, safe trails system that facilitates walking and cycling. Walkable communities encourage residents to adopt more sustainable lifestyles, promote healthy living, and increase safety. The development of trails in the Regional District should build on the work completed by the Powell River Greenways Society who completed a greenways map and trail standards guidelines in the mid-1990s. In addition, a regional trail network should consider and connect to the City of Powell River Trails and Bike Paths as outlined in the OCP.
- **Work toward a continuous walking and cycling trail connection between Lund and Saltery Bay:** An informal trail currently runs alongside Highway 101, but most of the route is undeveloped and several sections are unsafe for walking and cycling. The highway is bordered by vegetation, providing a valuable green corridor for the region. It will be necessary to assess a

*The BOMB squad is a group of volunteers comprised of Powell River retirees who have spent two decades improving and building new trails in the region. They have contributed to building more than 200 kilometres of new trails and constructing more than 100 footbridges in the region.*

variety of trail types before selecting the most appropriate option for this route including multi-use trail or grade separated pathway. Options to advance the development of this trail include the funding of access points and adding sections of the trail as part of future subdivisions.

- **Promote safe, active and green transportation options:** Active transportation contributes to increasing the health and wellness of residents, and reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).
- **Provide comprehensive and accurate maps on the region's trail system for residents and visitors:** Current data on trails is inconsistent and there is room to improve information on trail locations and ownership. Many trails in the PRRD have already been mapped by various partners, resulting in a variety of trail data sources, some of which are incomplete due to the extensive number and length of trails in the region. Recently, approximately 325 km of trails were mapped by BC Timber Sales through funding from the Forest Investment Account. It would be beneficial for the Regional District to take the lead on consolidating and integrating trail information in a central database, working closely with various partners.
- **Increase the safety of shared use trails and minimize the impacts of trail recreation on the environment:** Trails in the PRRD are enjoyed by a wide variety of recreational users including hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, off-road vehicle riders and snowmobilers. In order to reduce conflicts between users and increase safety on trails, a set of recommendations for best practices in trail conduct is suggested. Powell River Outdoor Recreational User Groups (ORUG) convenes to address recreational issues in the region. ORUG includes representation from groups such as the Alpine Club, PR Horseback Riders, and the ATV Club of Powell River. Representatives from all user groups could be invited to take part in discussions on multi-use trails and best practices for all users.
- **Explore trail access on private land and utility corridors, where appropriate:** Utility corridor rights-of-way and access to private lands (where appropriate) can contribute to communities through the development of

greenways and recreational corridors. The BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro have developed a program called Partners in Use that allows the use of transmission rights-of-way for activities that are compatible with public safety and the security of the transmission system. In Europe, there is a tradition of private landowners providing public access to their properties in rural areas. This occurs primarily in areas where there are private properties with fields or tracts of land in a secluded location. Private landowners can agree to allow access or trails on portions of their properties, where appropriate.

### Recommendation

**Develop a Regional Trails Plan to improve and expand the region's existing trail network.**

## Recommendation 10: SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL

### Objectives

- Provide a visible and marketable destination trail that invites visitors from around the world to get to know Powell River.
- Improve the recreational qualities of the Sunshine Coast Trail.

### Rationale

The Sunshine Coast Trail is a highly valued, regional recreational trail that connects several important old growth areas, environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife habitat areas and traditionally used trails. The trail stretches 180 km from the Saltery Bay ferry terminal in the south to Sarah Point in the north.

Although the Sunshine Coast Trail is continually improved by community organizations and local volunteers, consultation indicated that long-term protection and enhancement of the trail should be increased. The Regional District may consider the acquisition of portions of the trail and/or staging areas for access to the trail.

*The development of the Sunshine Coast Trail was led by community members who formed a local organization, the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PRPAWS). Since the initial idea in 1992 of linking areas of old growth with a regional trail, the trail has been extended to 180 kilometres in length.*

### Recommendation

**Support the maintenance and improvement of the Sunshine Coast Trail.**

## 7.0 ACCESS

### 7.1. WATERFRONT

#### Recommendation 11: WATERFRONT ACCESS

##### Objectives

- Increase public knowledge of and access to the waterfront at ocean, lake and river recreation sites in the region.

##### Rationale

Residents and visitors to the region have long been drawn to the area's impressive ocean shoreline, lakes and rivers for recreational activities. The PRRD Regional Growth and Development Analysis report noted the increasing demand on waterfront lands for residential development in recent years. As the shoreline is both recreationally and culturally significant for the public, it is important for the Regional District to ensure that waterfront access in key locations is preserved. This access can be provided in a variety of ways, such as partnership with the Ministry of Transportation to secure and improve road ends, access agreements with private land owners and acquisition of waterfront land.

Partnerships with the Ministry of Transportation to secure public access through road end rights-of-way will allow the public to enjoy the shoreline along the region's oceanfront and lakes. Some road ends will remain inaccessible due to constraints of topography and surrounding land use. On the other hand, select locations can provide excellent opportunities in areas which might otherwise have limited waterfront access.

In addition, the Regional District should consider access agreements with private landowners to ensure that access to public recreational areas is not unduly limited by private land ownership. It may be important to address and monitor issues that have historically caused landowners to deny access through their land, such as excessive noise, parking on private property and littering. It is beneficial to consider strategies that encourage public users to respect private lands, such as signage, boundary markers and garbage receptacles.

*Access to the waterfront was noted in public workshops and the survey as an important aspiration for the region's parks and greenspace strategy.*

*A right-of-way is the land established by the Ministry of Transportation for the purposes of a road corridor.*

*An "adopt a beach access" program, encouraging private land owners to steward and improve beach access points, can improve waterfront access throughout the region and encourage positive relationships between property owners and the public.*

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**Recommendation**

**Protect waterfront access through partnerships and acquisition.**

## Recommendation 12: BOAT LAUNCH

### Objectives

- Increase awareness of and access to boat launch sites in the PRRD.
- Enhance recreational boating opportunities in the region.

### Rationale

Boating is a very popular recreational activity in the PRRD, both on the ocean and lakes. Boating recreation includes, but is not limited to sailing, white water kayaking, ocean kayaking, canoeing, fishing excursions, and power boating.

Input provided in the public consultation suggested that a new boat launch would be a useful addition to the region's park and greenspace system. Specifically, the Southern Area is noted as the optimal location for an additional boat launch. Once a suitable location is determined, a feasibility study on developing the facility may be undertaken.

Parking strategies for informal, non-motorized water recreation should also be considered. Non-motorized boating, such as canoeing and kayaking, does not always require a boat ramp; however, informal boat launch locations (where boats are placed in the water directly from the shoreline) can lead to issues such as inadequate parking, littering and infringement on private property.

*Recreational boating draws many tourists to the region to visit salt and freshwater attractions such as the Powell Forest Canoe Route, Desolation Sound Marine Park and the Copeland Islands.*

### Recommendation

**Determine a suitable location for a public boat ramp, launch or dock south of the City of Powell River on the coast of the Malaspina Strait.**

## 7.2. BACKCOUNTRY

### Recommendation 13: BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS STRATEGY

#### Objectives

- **Maintain public access to backcountry recreation areas.**
- **Achieve a cost-effective and balanced approach to maintenance of backcountry access roads.**
- **Quantify expectations for cost sharing, risk management, and decision making.**

#### Rationale

The Powell River Regional District has several backcountry areas that have historically been popular outdoor wilderness recreation destinations. Backcountry areas currently have trail/road networks that are used to access locations for hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing and camping. The following sites were noted in public input as significant recreational areas: Eldred Valley, South Powell Divide, Diadem Area/Lois Valley access, A-Branch, Knuckleheads, Road to Elephant Lake, Tin Hat Mountain Lookout, Mount Alfred Glacier, Centre Lakes, Emma Lake, Triple Peaks, Freda Lake, Goat Lake, and Valentine Mountain.

These recreational areas are situated largely on Provincial Crown Lands. Changing patterns of industrial use of crown lands within the region has meant that recreational areas that were previously accessible may no longer be open due to the deactivation of industrial roads. A backcountry access strategy should include assessments of existing road conditions and estimates of ongoing maintenance practices and costs. The significance of backcountry recreational areas as future economic drivers should also be noted.

Stakeholders from outdoor user groups, industry, Integrated Land Management Bureau, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, the Ministry of Forests and Range and the Powell River Regional District have been engaged in access roundtable meetings to achieve the shared goal of maintaining access to Powell River's backcountry areas. Joint use partnership

*Powell River's backcountry areas are a recreation tourism resource that has the potential to further diversify the region's economy.*

*The Regional District will enter into a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts to provide trail maintenance for backcountry access road Goat 2 under the regional parks service authority.*



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agreements arising from this dialogue will ensure that roads are maintained and safe for use by community members.

### **Recommendation**

**Develop a strategy for use of the forest road network to allow public access to the backcountry.**

## 8.0 RECREATION

### Recommendation 14: RECREATION SITES PRESERVATION

#### Objectives

- Accommodate a wide range of recreational activities in the region.

#### Rationale

The Regional District should undertake a review of areas used for recreation in the region and integrate these areas into a recreation and trails database. It may also be valuable to acquire and develop recreational area access points (trailheads) to ensure continued public access into these significant recreation areas.

Crown land contributes to the preservation of significant habitat areas and the protection of local watersheds. In addition, Crown lands, lakes and oceans throughout the region are currently used informally as outdoor wilderness recreation destinations. These areas are popular with residents and visitors for canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, outdoor recreational vehicle use and other recreational activities.

While Crown designation permits access for recreation in these areas, continued access may not be guaranteed in some locations. Land can be removed from the Crown Land reserve and under private tenure can be developed, mined, forested or changed in significant ways. Access to lakes and ocean waters can also be restricted by upland owners. Some of the valued recreation areas identified during the public consultation for this planning process are as follows (note that these sites have been identified by residents and that the recreational use of private lands is unauthorized):

#### Powell Forest Canoe Route

- The Route is a valuable asset for the PRRD. Consultation indicated that residents would like the route to be preserved in perpetuity and that there are opportunities for it to be improved. Input also referenced the need for the canoe route to achieve a balance between the natural, scenic environment and the educational opportunities related to the history

*Participants in the public consultation identified that access to wilderness recreation near their community is highly valued. Residents enjoy being able to access these areas within minutes of their homes.*

*The Eldred Valley is known for its extensive granite walls which are popular with local and visiting climbers. It has been compared to Yosemite National Park, one of the most favoured places for rock climbing in North America.*

*Divers from outside the PRRD are often drawn to the "Emerald Princess," bronze statue in the waters off Mermaid Cove Provincial Park, a famous scuba diving destination.*

and practice of logging.

#### Horseback Riding

- Base of Scout Mountain
- Maywood/Nassichuk Rd Trail Network
- Happy Face Trail Network
- Poleline Trails Network

#### Rock Climbing

- Stillwater Bluffs
- Eldred Valley
- Higgyland
- Lake Bluffs
- Scotch Fir Point
- Khartoum Bluffs

#### Scuba Diving

- Iron Mine Dive Site
- Diver's Rock
- Mowat Bay
- City of Powell River Wrecks
- Breakwater
- Octopus City
- Cathedral
- Fairview Bay
- Wall Dive
- The Wreck

### Recommendation

**Identify, protect and maintain access to valued recreation sites in the region.**

## 9.0 PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### 9.1. SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS

#### Recommendation 15: PROTECT THE REGION'S MOST SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS

##### Objectives

- Protect wildlife habitat.
- Provide protection for the region's most sensitive ecosystems.

##### Rationale

To achieve the vision of the park and green space network, it is important to identify and protect significant environmental resources within the region.

Public input revealed a very strong interest in protecting sensitive ecosystems, old growth trees, estuaries and habitat corridors. These sites should be identified and reviewed to note opportunities for acquisitions, partnerships, covenants or management policies that will protect habitat and ecosystem values within regional parks or on lands owned/managed by others.

Although many of these areas will fall outside of the formal park and green space network, the identification of specific sensitive ecosystems and features, such as old growth tree groves, can be helpful to planning and land use decisions throughout the region.

- **Sensitive Ecosystems:** Based on Provincial mapping by the BC Conservation Data Centre, the SEI maps (figures 4 and 5) provide an extensive inventory of sensitive ecosystems in the region. In addition, the following sites have been identified as ecologically valuable through local knowledge gathered during the consultation process:

##### Mainland

- Nanton Lake Slough
- Paradise Valley lowlands
- One Tree Island, Lund
- Steams (e.g. Jeffered, Whittal, Kelly etc)

*BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer provides conservation status, taxonomic, and distribution information for vertebrate animals, vascular plants, mosses, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, tiger beetles, non-marine molluscs and many ecological communities in British Columbia. BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer represents a "snapshot" of dynamic data that are continually being refined by the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC).*

### **Texada Island**

- Marshall Point
- Angel Lake Plateau
- Priest Lake Watershed
- Raven Bay Creek
- Central Lakes
- Partington Point
- Kiddy Point
- Karst topography

### **Savary Island**

- DL 1375
- Beacon Point
- Goose Pasture
- Meadow Beach
- Duck Bay (foreshore DL 1375)
- Death Camas Meadow
- Indian Point

**Old Growth Forest:** Old growth forest is categorized as Mature Forest (over 250 years old) in the sensitive ecosystem inventory. Over the years, much of the original old growth forest in the region has been removed and public input revealed a very strong interest to protect remnant stands. Valued old growth areas identified in public consultation include:

- Mount Troubridge
- Sitka Spruce Forest
- Rasmussen Forest
- Appleton Creek
- Bunster Plateau
- Turtle Lake, Texada Island
- High Falls
- Daniel's River

**Estuaries:** Estuaries are important for recycling nutrients and providing forage and habitat areas for terrestrial and marine wildlife. See section 2.6.3 for a list of significant estuaries in the region.

**Habitat Corridors:** Habitat corridors are interconnected networks of undeveloped open space that allow wildlife to move through developed residential, commercial or industrial areas. Although many of these habitat connections remain intact, incremental growth meant that some connections have already been lost. Wildlife

corridors are important because they provide greater options for sustained genetic biodiversity along riparian corridors and upland forest corridors. Habitat connectivity should be considered as a key component of future parks and greenspace planning.

**Shorelines:** Shorelines have ecological and recreational values for our communities, but are often threatened by overuse, pollution or overdevelopment. The maintenance of healthy shorelines systems are important as they are complex biological systems that help moderate the effects of storms , cleanse and assimilate waste products, and maintain functional habitat for fish and other wildlife.

### Recommendation

**Identify environmental resources that may appropriately be incorporated as part of a park and greenspace network.**

**Develop protective policy for environmental resources as part of individual park management plans.**

## 9.2. HERITAGE

### Recommendation 16: INVENTORY OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

#### Objectives

- Celebrate the Powell River Regional District's heritage and culture.

#### Rationale

Public survey results showed support for protecting culturally significant sites. Parks and greenspaces can provide opportunities to preserve and raise awareness about heritage and First Nations cultural sites, providing a glimpse into the history and culture of a community.

*Artefacts displayed along the Willingdon Beach Trail in the City of Powell River showcase the equipment and history of the town's early logging era. The display is maintained by the Powell River Forestry Museum.*

#### Recommendation

Develop an inventory of culturally significant sites and consider strategies to preserve them.

## 10.0 SHARED RESPONSIBILITY & IMPLEMENTATION

### 10.1. PARKS & GREENSPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### Recommendation 17:        PARKS & GREENSPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Objective:**

Maintain a committee of dedicated members who are able to assist the Regional District with future parks and greenspace planning.

**Recommendation:**

Set up a parks and greenspace advisory commission.

### 10.2. RESOURCES & FUNDING

#### Recommendation 18:        REGIONAL PARKLAND ACQUISITION FUND

**Objectives:**

- Acquire natural areas for conservation and recreation.
- Maintain biodiversity.
- Protect wildlife habitat areas.

**Recommendation:**

Implement a yearly property tax to fund the acquisition of priority parklands and conservation areas.

#### Recommendation 19:        PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

**Objective:**

- Protect wildlife habitat areas.
- Maintain the region's biodiversity.
- Provide property owners with an incentive to protect natural areas.

**Recommendation:**

Implement property tax exemptions for environmental conservation.



**Recommendation 20: DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING**

**Objective:**

Support and enhance the community's willingness to donate time and resources toward parks and greenspaces.

**Recommendation:**

Develop a structure to encourage fundraising, donations, commemorative giving and/or in-kind donation for parks and greenspaces.

**Recommendation 21: COMMUNITY AMENITY CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Objective:**

Consider amenity bonusing to increase funding for developing and upgrading parks or increasing dedicated parkland.

**Recommendation:**

Develop schedule of park & greenspace contributions suitable for inclusion with rezoning requests.

### **10.3. ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGIES**

**Recommendation 22: SENIOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

**Objective:**

Secure grant funding for priority parks and recreation projects.

**Recommendation:**

Research and pursue senior government and non-government grants to supplement funding for parks and recreation projects.

**Recommendation 23: COORDINATION WITH INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**

**Objective:**

Ensure that planning for future infrastructure upgrades consider parks and trails development.

**Recommendation:**

Identify areas where community improvements overlap and can be tied together to efficiently facilitate parks projects.

**Recommendation 24: ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATION ZONES WITHIN PARKS**

**Objective:**

Ensure that parks balance environmental and recreational objectives.

**Recommendation:**

Develop a system for park zoning (within parks) to provide varying levels of environmental protection to designate areas for specific uses within each park, as appropriate.

## **10.4. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNICATION**

**Recommendation 25: PROTOCOL AGREEMENTS ON TREATY SETTLEMENT LAND**

**Objective:**

Form mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations to enhance recreational use and enjoyment of lands in the region.

**Recommendation:**

Work with First Nations to develop protocol agreements where recreational resources are identified on Treaty Settlement Lands.

**Recommendation 26: PARTNERSHIPS (GENERAL)**

**Objectives:**

- Support and cultivate partnerships to meet the goals of the Parks and Greenspace Plan.
- Work with educational institutions to achieve common goals for outdoor recreation and environmental education.
- Acquire high priority parks and greenspace sites.
- Protect wildlife habitat.
- Increase opportunities for recreation in the region.

**Recommendation:**

Collaborate with a variety of partners, including community groups, educational institutions, other levels of government and industry, to develop a comprehensive park and greenspace network.

**Recommendation 27: INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION**

**Objective:**

- Ensure all community members are aware of the recreation opportunities available.
- Effectively identify public areas, minimize encroachment on private property and facilitate public way-finding to key destinations.
- Develop a visual, clear and durable sign standard.
- Encourage residents to participate in their parks and recreation system to benefit both the community and the individual.
- Encourage a better understanding of the role of natural systems in the community.

**Recommendation:**

Develop information materials to effectively inform residents and visitors about recreation opportunities available in the Powell River Regional District.

## **10.5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**Recommendation 28: LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

**Objective:**

- Maintain the region's biodiversity.
- Provide food and habitat for wildlife.

**Recommendation:**

Include the use of native plants when any park landscaping is required.

**Recommendation 29: INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

**Objective:**

- Maintain the region's biodiversity.
- Maintain the productivity of the region's forests and agricultural lands.

**Recommendation:**

Develop a management plan to control the spread of invasive plant species in parks and greenspaces.

**Recommendation 30: WATER STEWARDSHIP**

**Objectives:**

- Ensure that water resources are protected now and in the future.
- Demonstrate responsible water stewardship practices.

**Recommendation:**

Utilize water stewardship strategies when planning parks and greenspace projects.

**Recommendation 31: PARKS CLEAN-UP PROGRAM**

**Objectives:**

- Encourage a spirit of collaboration within the community.
- Create cleaner, garbage free parks.

**Recommendation:**

Implement a parks and greenspace clean-up program.

**Recommendation 32: BARRIER-FREE ACCESS**

**Objective:**

Create a parks and recreation system that considers all members of the community regardless of age or ability.

**Recommendations:**

- Consider accessibility when planning and developing parks, trails and recreation projects.
- Undertake discussions with partners (e.g. Model Community) on the optimal approaches to increasing barrier-free access in the PRRD.

**Recommendation 33: FIVE YEAR REVIEW**

**Objective:**

Ensure parks and greenspace planning is responsive and continues to meet the needs of the Powell River Regional District's residents in the future.

**Recommendations:**

Provide an annual report on work accomplished under the Plan and a review of the Plan every 5 years.

## 11.0 APPENDICES

### 11.1. KNOWN OCCURENCES OF AT-RISK WILDLIFE, VEGETATION, & ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

(This list refers to known occurrences of at-risk species and ecological communities as identified by the BC Conservation Data Centre only.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Global Rank	BC Rank	BC Status	COSEWIC	SARA Schedule	General Location
<b>Plants</b>							
Slimleaf Onion	<i>Allium amplexans</i>	G4	S3	Blue			Powell River, south of Gibson's Beach
Chaffweed	<i>Anagallis minima</i>	G5	S3	Blue			Texada Island
Upswept Moonwort	<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	G2G3	S2	Red			Texada Island, Anderson Bay Road
Least Moonwort	<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	G5	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island, Anderson Bay Road
Contorted-pod Evening-primrose	<i>Camissonia contorta</i>	G5	S1	Red	Endangered (APR 2006)	1	Savary Island
Green-sheathed Sedge	<i>Carex feta</i>	G5	S2	Red			Texada Island, Mouat Creek
Pointed Broom Sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	G5	S2S3	Blue			Tony Lake west
Hairy Gumweed	<i>Grindelia hirsutula var. hirsutula</i>	G5T3T4	S1	Red			Lasqueti Island, Trematon Mountain
Rareflower heterocodon	<i>Heterocodon rariflorum</i>	G5	S3	Blue			Lasqueti Island, Trematon Mountain
Western St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum scouleri ssp. nortoniae</i>	G5T3T5	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island
Nuttall's Quillwort	<i>Isoetes nuttallii</i>	G4?	S3	Blue			Texada Island
Fleshy Jaumea	<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	G4G5	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island
Grey beach peavine	<i>Lathyrus littoralis</i>	G5	S2	Red			Savary Island
White Adder's-mouth Orchid	<i>Malaxis brachypoda</i>	G4Q	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island
Northern Adder's-tongue	<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i>	G5	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island
Snow Bramble	<i>Rubus nivalis</i>	G4?	S3?	Blue			Dodd Lake and Windsor Lake
Menzies' Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba menziesii</i>	G3G4	S2S3	Blue			Freda Lake
Macoun's Groundsel	<i>Senecio macounii</i>	G5	S3	Blue			Texada Island
Poison Oak	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	G5	S2S3	Blue			Texada Island & Lasqueti Island

California Sword-fern	<i>Polystichum californicum</i>	G4	S1	Red			Texada Island, Maple Bay
Giant Chain Fern	<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>	G5	S3	Blue			Texada Island
Apple Moss	<i>Bartramia stricta</i>	GU	S2	Red	Endangered (MAY 2000)	1	Lasqueti Island, Jenkins Cove
<b>Ecological Communities</b>							
Amabilis Fir - Sitka Spruce / Devil's Club (CWHvm1)	<i>Abies amabilis - Picea sitchensis / Oplopanax horridus</i>	GNR	S3	Blue			Tahumming River, 11km South of Tolo Mountain
Sitka spruce / salmonberry Dry (CWHdm)	<i>Picea sitchensis / Rubus spectabilis Dry</i>	G1G2	S1S2	Red			Toba River, mouth
Lodgepole pine / peat-mosses (CDFmm)	<i>Pinus contorta / Sphagnum spp.</i>	GNR	S1	Red			Lasqueti Island
Douglas-fir - arbutus (CDFmm)	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii - Arbutus menziesii</i>	GNR	S2	Red			Lasqueti Island
Douglas-fir / Dull Oregon-grape (CDFmm)	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii / Mahonia nervosa</i>	G2	S2	Red			Lasqueti Island
<b>Fish</b>							
Vananda Creek Limnetic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 16</i>	G1	S1	Red	Endangered (MAY 2000)	1	Texada Island, Spectacle, Priest, and Emily Lakes
Vananda Creek Benthic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 17</i>	G1	S1	Red	Endangered (MAY 2000)	1	Texada Island, Spectacle, Priest, and Emily Lakes
Paxton Lake Limnetic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 4</i>	G1	S1	Red	Endangered (MAY 2000)	1	Texada Island, Paxton Lake
Paxton Lake Benthic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 5</i>	G1	S1	Red	Endangered (MAY 2000)	1	Texada Island, Paxton Lake
Hadley Lake Limnetic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 12</i>	GX	SX	Extinct	Extinct (MAY 2000)		Lasqueti Island, Hadley lake
Hadley Lake Benthic Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus sp. 13</i>	GX	SX	Extinct	Extinct (MAY 2000)		Lasqueti Island, Hadley lake
<b>Birds</b>							
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	G3G4	S2B,S4N	Red	Threatened (NOV 2000)	1	Nest locations scattered throughout central and northern regions of study

							area
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	G5T4	S2S3B.S 4N	Blue	Special Concern (MARCH 2008)	3	Year-round resident and confirmed breeding sites along coastal sections of Powell River and Texada Island.
<b>Reptiles</b>							
Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast Population)	<i>Chrysemys picta</i> pop.1	G5TNR	S2	Red	Endangered (APRIL 2006)	1	Known active breeding colonies on Texada Island (Case and Priest Lakes)



## 11.2. ACTION PLAN

This section provides actions to guide the implementation of the recommendations outlined in Part 2 of this Plan.

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### **Recommendation 7:           PARKLAND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

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- Undertake a detailed evaluation of each site listed as high priority for acquisition.
  - Adjust the capital planning estimate for each site, based on site research.
  - Meet with potential partners and funders for site acquisition.
  - Finalize a detailed strategy for parkland acquisition over the next 10 years.
- 

### **Recommendation 8:           LANG CREEK PARTNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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- Meet with the Powell River Salmon Society and private landowners in the Lang Creek area to discuss options for public access and environmental protection;
  - Undertake an analysis on the Lang Creek area and develop recommendations to be included in a Lang Creek/Mahood Beach Management Plan.
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### **Recommendation 9:           REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN**

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#### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

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- Develop a Regional Active Transportation Plan.
  - Link the Regional Active Transportation Plan to City of Powell River trails and bike paths.
  - Look for opportunities to secure pedestrian and cyclist trails through dedication as a road or statutory right of way agreement.
  - Address detailed trail routing and optimal trail types for a regional trail between Saltery Bay and Lund.
  - Develop a project workplan, budget, scoping document describing work to be completed and a proposed timeline.
  - Explore the availability of funding programs for active transportation.
  - Review partnerships options for trail funding and development.
- 

#### UTILITY CORRIDORS & PRIVATE LANDS

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- Map and assess utility corridor routes and opportunities for public trails throughout the region.
  - Meet with BC Hydro and private landowners to discuss potential trails and access.
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#### TRAILS DATABASE

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- Undertake a gap analysis of existing trail data and identify all sources of data available from
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community organizations, government ministries and citizens.

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- Work with partners such as BC Timber Sales, the BOMB Squad, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts, Tourism Powell River and the City of Powell River to gather and consolidate trail data and mapping.
  - Identify and accurately map all existing components of the pedestrian and cyclist network including trails, greenways, sidewalks, cycling routes, shared roadways and other connections.
  - Develop an online trail directory.
  - Update the regional recreation map.
  - Develop detailed maps showing local community trails.
- 

#### TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

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- Identify key destinations, define potential trail routes, and develop budgets and timelines for implementation.
  - Require new developments to provide neighbourhood trails as an integral part of the transportation system. Trail connections should not be considered part of the required 5% park dedication at time of subdivision.
  - Work with PRRD engineering, public works, and MoTI to require all road upgrades to consider pedestrian and cyclist linkages through trails, cycling lanes and sidewalks.
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#### TRAIL CONDUCT

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- Hold a workshop with representatives of all trail user groups to identify issues and opportunities for best practices in trail conduct.
  - Develop list of recommendations for trail users.
  - Develop trail conduct materials for public distribution. This material may incorporate corporate sponsorships to offset production and distribution costs.
  - Review multi-use trails throughout the region and if necessary, consider strategies such as recreational zoning.
- 

#### MOTORIZED TRAIL USE

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- Meet with representatives from off-road vehicle groups to discuss issues and opportunities for trail use.
  - Develop a GIS inventory and map of motorized trails which will be maintained by the Regional District.
  - Develop educational materials and signage on ORVs for users, other trail users and the public.
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### **Recommendation 10:            SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL LINEAR PARK**

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- Map and assess the current condition, ownership and management of the Sunshine Coast Trail and its buffers.
  - Meet with the Province and private forest companies to review objectives and discuss options for increasing the long-term protection of the trail.
  - Consider the acquisition of portions of the trail and/or staging areas for access to the trail.
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**Recommendation 11: WATERFRONT ACCESS**

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- Identify and map all potential waterfront access points in the region.
  - Develop a strategy to ensure that waterfront access locations are clearly conveyed to the public (e.g. signage).
  - Undertake an analysis of Road Ends to establish optimal locations for road end development.
  - Undertake topographic survey on select road ends and create development plans and budgets to implement specific projects over the lifespan of the project.
  - Undertake staged improvements to road ends identified for development.
  - Develop a frameworks and resources for an access partnership program with private landowners.
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**Recommendation 12: BOAT LAUNCH**

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- Identify, map and analyze potential boat launch sites.
  - Investigate costs to prepare a site plan for the facility, including mitigation of potential impacts.
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**Recommendation 13: BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS STRATEGY**

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- Undertake a review including a GIS inventory of backcountry roads, scope of potential maintenance liabilities and assessment of recreational use.
  - Implement protocol agreements that quantify RD roles and responsibilities.
  - Identify select backcountry roads where recreational benefits are sufficient to warrant maintenance investments by the Regional District.
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**Recommendation 14: RECREATION SITES PROTECTION & PRESERVATION**

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**RECREATIONAL AREA REVIEW**

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- Identify recreational areas and any issues related to each area.
  - Integrate data gathered on recreational sites with the trails database and make this information available to the public in a map or other format, including information on land ownership, stewardship and best practices.
  - Partner with rock climbing groups to discuss best approach to the economic growth and marketing of PRRD climbing sites.
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**CROWN LAND**

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- Incorporate a designation for recreational value within the Parks and Greenspace Plan that describes the Regional District's interest in the recreational value of adjacent Crown Lands.
  - Ensure that the Province is aware of Regional District recreational interests so that these values can be considered as part of land use decisions contemplated for crown land.
  - Meet with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and all other stakeholders to discuss strategies for improving management and protection of the Powell Forest Canoe Route.
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## RECREATION AREA TRAILHEADS

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- Review development proposals to ensure access points to adjacent recreation destinations are protected and developed as trailhead locations.
  - Develop key trailhead parks with facilities that may include:
    - o Parking
    - o Maps/Signs
    - o Code of Conduct Info
    - o Environmental Info
    - o Horse trailer parking
    - o Bike lock-ups
    - o Benches & Waste Receptacles
    - o Washrooms
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### **Recommendation 15: PROTECT THE REGION'S MOST SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS**

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- Using the existing SEI and input from the community, develop criteria to assess which sensitive ecosystem areas should be incorporated into the park and greenspace system.
  - Review sensitive ecosystem designations to identify specific opportunities for acquisition or partnerships that will provide habitat protection.
  - Investigate opportunities to support the uptake of conservation covenants by private landowners and NGOs.
  - Implement park management policies as described in other sections of this Plan to ensure the protection of ecosystem values within regional parks.
- 

## OLD GROWTH FOREST

---

- Using SEI, forest resource mapping and local knowledge, undertake a comprehensive inventory of all old growth resources in the region.
  - Consult with forest land managers to ensure that the public interest in these resources is recognized.
  - Based on the old growth stands inventory, identify specific old growth stands that may be appropriate for park acquisition.
- 

## ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLANS

---

- Undertake a review of estuaries in the region to understand the corresponding level of protection for each.
  - Develop Estuary Management Plans for those estuaries that are not adequately protected.
  - Consider partnerships with other agencies to increase the level of protection for estuaries.
- 

## HABITAT CORRIDORS

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- Undertake environmental assessments to identify upland forest wildlife corridors and provide recommendations for protection.
  - Prepare a database and map of habitat corridor locations to guide land use planning in the future.
- 

### **Recommendation 16: INVENTORY OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES**

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- Work with First Nations, the Powell River Forestry Museum, other community organizations and industrial partners to identify and protect sites of cultural significance, specifying the level of protection desired.
-

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**Recommendation 17:            PARKS & GREENSPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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- Develop Terms of Reference for a Parks and Greenspace Advisory Commission.
- 

**Recommendation 18:            REGIONAL PARKLAND ACQUISITION FUND**

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- Review of revenue generation options for Parkland Acquisition Fund.
  - Develop proposal for the Regional District Board review for the implementation of additional measures to support an acquisition fund.
- 

**Recommendation 19:            PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

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- Develop a property tax exemption bylaw for residents in the PRRD.
- 

**Recommendation 20:            DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING**

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- Create a fundraising program and sustainable endowment fund that can be used to support the community's parkland acquisition priorities.
  - Develop a commemorative giving program that identifies contributions of park amenities appropriately sized for individual donations: benches, kiosks, signage, etc.
  - Create a permanent donor recognition program including plaques, naming, etc.
- 

**Recommendation 21:            COMMUNITY AMENITY CONTRIBUTIONS**

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- Develop a Community Amenity Contribution list for the region as well as for specific neighbourhoods.
  - Negotiate with developers undergoing rezoning to provide fair and desirable amenity contributions for the community.
- 

**Recommendation 22:            SENIOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

---

- Review and evaluate grant opportunities regularly against the priorities and goals identified in this Plan.
  - Allocate staff time to identify and pursue grant funding opportunities.
  - Develop grant applications for projects that are priorities for the community. Be prepared to supplement funding through reserves if opportunities align with identified parks and recreation priorities.
- 

**Recommendation 23:            COORDINATION WITH INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**

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- Street or utility upgrades should coordinate with the recreation and parks departments to identify potential trail or parks connections.
  - New public building planning for services such as fire or police services, libraries or museums should consider park and recreation elements.
-

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**Recommendation 24:           PARK ZONING**

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- Define appropriate zones for conservation and recreation in parks.
  - Apply parks zoning in future parks planning and design.
- 

**Recommendation 25:           PROTOCOL AGREEMENTS ON TREATY SETTLEMENT LAND**

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- Share sites of community interest that are located on Treaty Settlement Lands with First Nations.
  - Explore protocol agreements for the protection or valued recreational or environmental sites located on Treaty Settlement Lands.
- 

**Recommendation 26:           GENERAL (PARTNERSHIPS)**

---

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

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- Meet with representatives from the school district and other educational institutions in the region to explore potential projects.
- 

**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

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- Develop an inventory of identified park and trail sites on crown lands.
  - Work with provincial land managers to determine the best methods for achieving tenure of specific crown lands for regional park purposes through long-term tenure, free crown grant, access agreements, acquisition through future development or purchase.
- 

**PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND**

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- Work cooperatively with forest companies to support existing trail networks on private forest lands.
  - Meet with forestry staff on a regular basis for coordination of trail routing and use.
  - Form access agreements for proposed trails and trail connections on private forest lands.
  - Where there is access for recreation on PMFL, provide information to the public to increase awareness that forestry is the primary use of the land, and that adaptations to recreational use may be necessary over time to respond to forest management objectives.
- 

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION**

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- Work with the MoT to ensure that pedestrian and cycle trail requirements are considered during sub-division.
  - Work with the MoT to plan and develop regional trails within provincial road rights-of-way.
- 

**Recommendation 27:           INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION**

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- Increase the amount of information available on parks and greenspaces, including maps, signage, ownership and stewardship.
  - Expand the parks webpage of the PRRD website to enhance information provided. Consider developing a 'clickable' parks map and database, providing regular updates and interactive postings.
-

- 
- Proactively share the Parks and Greenspace Plan and its priorities with Federal and Provincial agencies, conservation organizations, local businesses (e.g. dive shops), educational institutions and other potential partners.
- 

#### SIGNAGE STRATEGY

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- Create a signage strategy and develop a cost-effective standard design.
  - Begin signing existing parks, trails and recreation resources throughout the region – plan to sign 5 existing parks or trails per year. It is recommended that the most prominent parks receive signage first.
  - Require new development areas to supply signage for parks and trails routes.
- 

#### SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS

---

- Allocate sufficient staff time and resources to research and develop volunteer programs. Tasks that may be necessary include:
    - o Identifying volunteer opportunities;
    - o Responding to queries about volunteering;
    - o Meeting with school groups, service organizations, clubs and individuals to discuss volunteer opportunities;
    - o Training and supervising;
    - o Investing in liability insurance;
    - o Documenting the benefits of volunteer programs, reporting effectiveness and revising programs accordingly; and
    - o Developing volunteer recognition programs.
- 

### **Recommendation 28: LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

---

- Identify local sources to obtain native plants for use in park development project.
  - Incorporate native plants within park projects in order to increase biodiversity, minimize water use and reduce maintenance requirements.
- 

### **Recommendation 29: INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

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- Increase awareness in the region on the identification of invasive plants and their impacts.
  - Re-vegetate disturbed areas with native, non-invasive, non-persistent seeds or plants.
  - Design and implement an early detection and rapid response program for the removal of invasive plant species that incorporates education, detection and focused response efforts.
- 

### **Recommendation 30: WATER STEWARDSHIP**

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- Look for opportunities to seamlessly integrate rainwater and stormwater management facilities within existing and future parks.
  - Consider water resource implications when planning and developing new park projects. Seek opportunities to reduce water consumption in park facilities, notably related to irrigation. New projects should consider at minimum use of:
    - o Drought-tolerant plant species;
    - o Low-flow irrigation techniques (e.g. drip, rain sensors, off-peak watering, etc.)
-



- 
- Reduced turf areas within increased soil depth;
  - Meeting BC Landscape Standards.
- 

**Recommendation 31:            PARKS CLEAN-UP PROGRAM**

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- Identify locations for garbage receptacles in problem areas such as Duck Lake.
  - Consider partnering with a community organization to support park clean-up days on a one-time or ongoing basis.
- 

**Recommendation 32:            BARRIER-FREE ACCESS**

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- Consider barrier-free access when planning and designing parks and greenspaces.
  - Undertake discussions with partners (e.g. Model Community) on the optimal approaches to increasing barrier-free access in the PRRD.
-

## 11.3. SURVEY RESULTS

### Survey #1 (March 2010)

1. Indicate all types of recreation you have used within the past year. (check all that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
WALKING, RUNNING, CYCLING		92.5%	458
DOG WALKING		49.7%	246
DAY HIKES		71.7%	355
EXTENDED HIKES		26.3%	130
BACKCOUNTRY MOUNTAIN BIKING		17.4%	86
HORSEBACKRIDING		8.5%	42
SKIING/SNOWSHOEING		19.8%	98
MOTORIZED RECREATION ACTIVITIES		28.5%	141
PARTICIPATING IN ORGANIZED SPORTS		14.3%	71
WATER ACTIVITIES (kayaking, canoeing, sailing)		61.6%	305
PICNICING		64.0%	317
CAMPING		51.1%	253
ENJOYING NATURE/BIRD WATCHING		67.9%	336
VISITING A PROVINCIAL PARK		55.4%	274
NONE		0.2%	1
Other (please specify)		19.8%	98
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>495</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>4</b>

2. Results are not included due to the wide margin of error (44%) in the answers to this question.

3. Do any of the following limit your use of parks or greenspaces? (check any that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
LITTLE OR NOTHING		37.6%	159
TOO FAR AWAY		14.4%	61
LACK OF INFORMATION		21.7%	92
<b>LACK OF ACCESS</b>		<b>44.4%</b>	<b>188</b>
INADEQUATE FACILITIES		14.9%	63
Other (please specify)		23.9%	101
<i>answered question</i>			<b>423</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>76</b>



4. How important do you think each of the following are in a parks and greenspace system? Please rank each item on the list from least to most important.						
	Least important				Most important	Response Count
ACCESS TO THE SHORELINE	5.5% (26)	5.5% (26)	10.0% (47)	17.1% (80)	<b>61.8% (290)</b>	469
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WILDERNESS RECREATION	6.1% (28)	7.4% (34)	14.1% (65)	24.8% (114)	<b>47.6% (219)</b>	460
TRAIL LINKAGES & ACCESS	2.6% (12)	2.8% (13)	15.7% (73)	22.4% (104)	<b>56.5% (262)</b>	464
PROTECT TRADITIONALLY USED AREAS	8.3% (38)	8.7% (40)	13.3% (61)	17.9% (82)	<b>51.9% (238)</b>	459
PROTECT ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS	2.8% (13)	6.9% (32)	8.2% (38)	13.1% (61)	<b>69.0% (321)</b>	465
<i>answered question</i>						<b>473</b>
<i>skipped question</i>						<b>26</b>

**5. How satisfied are you with the availability of recreational opportunities in the Powell River Regional District? Please rank each item on the list from least to most satisfied (leave empty if you do not participate in the activity).**

	Least Satisfied				Most Satisfied	Response Count
CAMPING	3.4% (12)	9.0% (32)	<b>33.7% (120)</b>	32.0% (114)	21.9% (78)	356
WATER ACTIVITIES (e.g. kayaking, diving, etc.)	2.3% (8)	7.2% (25)	20.6% (71)	34.8% (120)	<b>35.1% (121)</b>	345
SNOWSHOEING	8.1% (14)	12.7% (22)	<b>36.4% (63)</b>	27.7% (48)	15.0% (26)	173
MOTORIZED RECREATION	3.9% (9)	11.4% (26)	<b>34.5% (79)</b>	24.0% (55)	26.2% (60)	229
PARK/WATERFRONT ACCESS	10.8% (46)	12.9% (55)	27.6% (118)	<b>29.3% (125)</b>	19.4% (83)	427
TRAILS	2.8% (12)	5.6% (24)	27.8% (118)	<b>35.8% (152)</b>	28.0% (119)	425
DAY USE PARKS	3.9% (15)	8.7% (33)	31.1% (118)	<b>36.3% (138)</b>	20.0% (76)	380
CYCLING	17.6% (49)	16.2% (45)	<b>30.6% (85)</b>	22.3% (62)	13.3% (37)	278
	<i>answered question</i>					<b>464</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>					<b>35</b>

**6. Results are not included due to the wide margin of error (41%) in the answers to this question.**

**7. Are there places in the regional district that people have traditionally used for recreation that should be preserved for public use? (IF NO, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION #9)**



	Response Percent	Response Count
YES 	84.5%	350
NO 	15.5%	64
	<i>answered question</i>	
	<b>414</b>	
	<i>skipped question</i>	
	<b>85</b>	

**8. If yes, please tell us which places:**

**TOP 20 ANSWERS**

<b>Places in the regional district that people have traditionally used for recreation that should be preserved for public use</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Eagle River	34
Stillwater Bluffs	33
Willingdon beach/trails	25
Duck Lake and trails	25
Goat Lake Main	21
Davie Bay	19
Old golf course (townsite)	13
Sunshine Coast Trail	12
Penticton St Trails	12
Van Anda Wharf	10
Eldred Valley	9
Haslam Lake	9
Mahood's Beach	8
Emma Lake	8
Dinner Rock	8
Powell Forest Canoe Route	8
Triple Peaks	7
Alfred Valley/Mt. Alfred	7
Myrtle Rocks	7
Okeover area	7

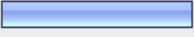



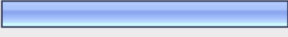



9. Are there places in the regional district that should be protected in order to protect sensitive ecosystems? (IF NO, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION #11)


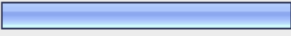
		Response Percent	Response Count
YES		79.9%	290
NO		20.1%	73
<b>answered question</b>			<b>363</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>136</b>

**10. If yes, please tell us which places:**

**TOP 16 ANSWERS**

<b>Places in the regional district that should be protected in order to protect sensitive ecosystems</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Davie Bay	22
Stillwater Bluffs	18
Eagle River	18
Myrtle Creek	13
Old growth sites	12
Savary Island ecosystems	11
Lang Creek	7
Wildwood Bluffs	6
Penticton Street Forest	6
Inland Lake	6
Haslam Lake	5
Duck Lake	5
Dinner Rock	4
Okeover	4
Granite Lake	4
Cranberry Lake	3






11. Which topics do you think are the most critical to address in the Parks and Greenspace Plan?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
CREATING MORE GENERAL USE PARKS		30.9%	144	
<b>PROTECTING SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS</b>		<b>68.5%</b>	<b>319</b>	
IMPROVING FORESHORE ACCESS		55.2%	257	
IMPROVING REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM		53.6%	250	
IMPROVING COMMUNITY TRAILS		47.0%	219	
MAINTAINING EXISTING DEVELOPED PARKS		57.3%	267	
AGREEMENTS FOR BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS		57.1%	266	
Other (please specify)		12.9%	60	
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>466</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>33</b>

12. What is your gender?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Female		52.3%	240	
Male		47.7%	219	
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>459</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>40</b>



13. Which age group are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
UNDER 18		0.6%	3
18 – 39 YEARS		15.3%	72
40 – 59 YEARS		41.9%	197
<b>60 OR OLDER</b>		<b>42.1%</b>	<b>198</b>
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>470</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>29</b>

14. How long have you lived in the Powell River Regional District?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
LESS THAN 5 YEARS		15.7%	72
5 – 15 YEARS		23.0%	106
<b>MORE THAN 15 YEARS</b>		<b>61.3%</b>	<b>282</b>
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>460</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>39</b>

15. Where do you live?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
CITY OF POWELL RIVER		53.6%	251
NORTH OF THE CITY (including Sliammon, Lund and Savary Island)		9.6%	45
SOUTH OF THE CITY (including Paradise Valley, Black Point, Lang Bay, Stillwater and Saltery Bay)		22.4%	105
TEXADA ISLAND		12.0%	56
LASQUETI ISLAND		0.0%	0
OTHER (please specify)		2.4%	11
		<i>answered question</i>	<b>468</b>
		<i>skipped question</i>	<b>31</b>

**16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the development of the Parks and Greenspace Plan?**

Thanks to the 225 respondents that took the time to provide written comments. Due to the large number of responses to question 16, they are not included here. All comments were considered in the development of the draft plan.

Survey #2 (October 2010)

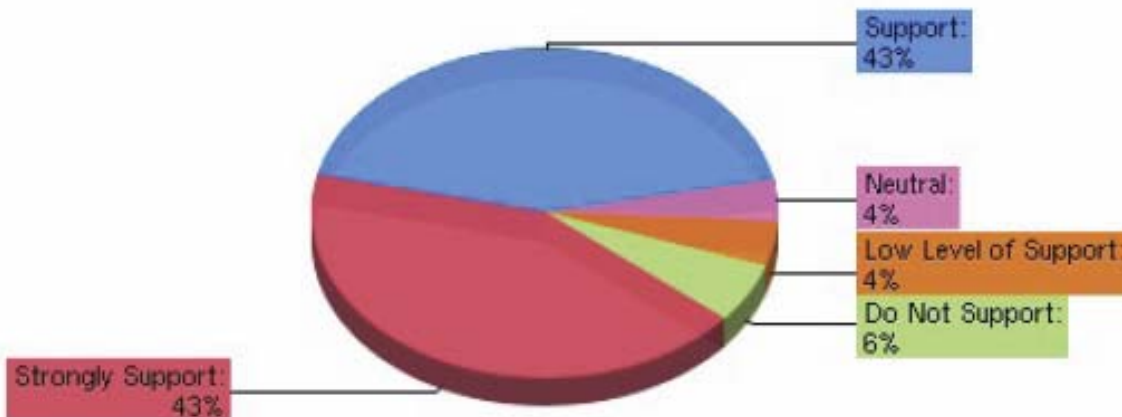
1. Where do you live:

	City of Powell River	Area A - North of the City, including Sliammon, Lund, and Savary Island	Area B - South of the City, including Paradise Valley, Myrtle Rocks area and Highway 101 to Whalen Road	Area C - Highway 101 from Whalen Road to Saltery Bay, including Black Point, Lang Bay, and Stillwater	Area D - Texada Island	Area e - Lasqueti Island	Totals
Where do you live?	119 40.9%	33 11.3%	36 12.4%	58 19.9%	45 15.5%	0 0.0%	291 100%

2. What do you think about the general direction of the proposed Plan?

Value	Count	Percent %
Strongly Support	125	42.5%
Support	127	43.2%
Neutral	12	4.1%
Low Level of Support	13	4.4%
Do Not Support	17	5.8%

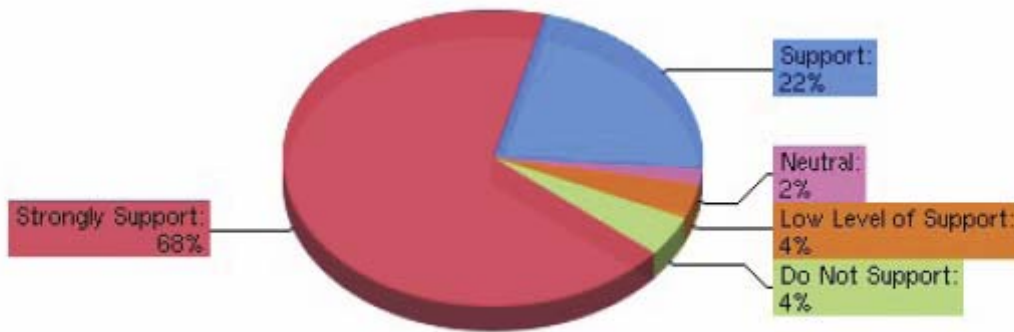
Statistics	
Total Responses	294



3. What do think, in general, about the Regional District setting aside lands for recreation and conservation purposes?

Value	Count	Percent %
Strongly Support	199	67.9%
Support	65	22.2%
Neutral	5	1.7%
Low Level of Support	11	3.8%
Do Not Support	13	4.4%

Statistics	
Total Responses	293



4. Please rank the access priorities listed below in the order that you think is most important, selecting one priority from each item on the list, 1 being most important and 5 being least important.

Item	Total Score <sup>1</sup>	Overall Rank
Waterfront Access	852	1
Recreational Trails	726	2
Cycling Trails	554	3
Backcountry Access	550	4
Alpine Access	391	5

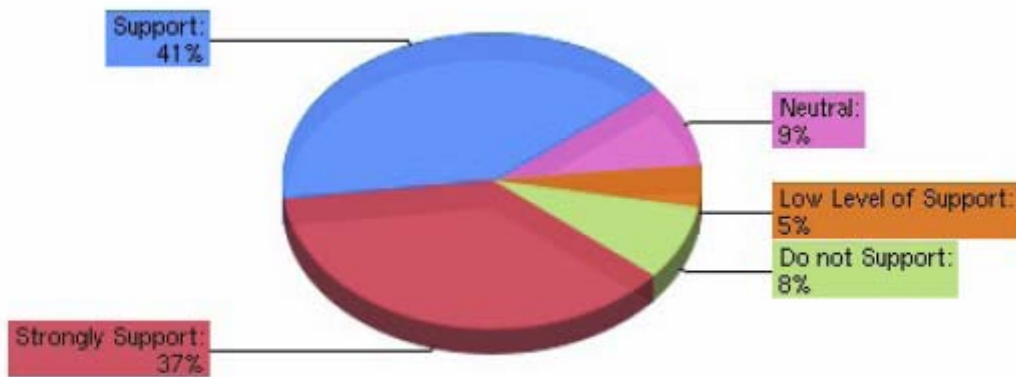
**Total Respondants: 245**

<sup>1</sup> Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.

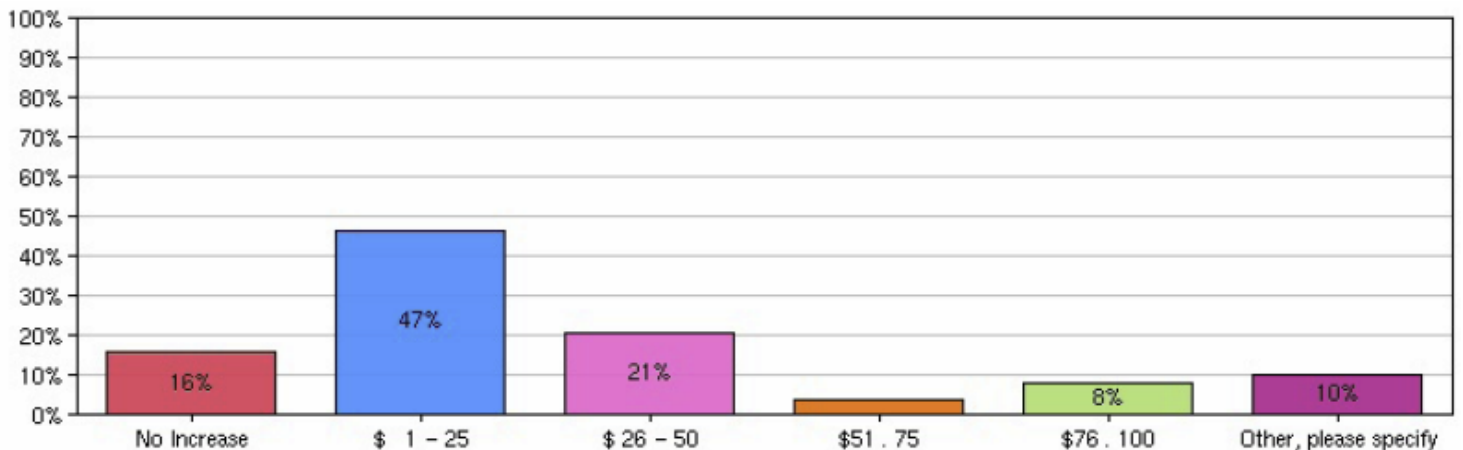
**5. What do think about the Regional District appointing a Parks & Greenspace Advisory Committee?**

Value	Count	Percent %
Strongly Support	104	36.9%
Support	116	41.1%
Neutral	26	9.2%
Low Level of Support	13	4.6%
Do not Support	23	8.2%

Statistics	
Total Responses	282



**6. Residents are presently paying about \$5.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value on land and improvements for to manage 4 parks. What level of tax increase would you be prepared to pay to implement this plan, keeping in mind that the RD will not do everything all at once?**



**7. Do you have any other comments on the proposed Parks & Greenspace Plan?**

Thanks to the 360 respondents that took the time to provide written comments. Due to the large number of responses to question 7, they are not included here. All comments were considered in the development of the plan.

## **11.4. COODE PENINSULA BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Regional District previously submitted an application for a passive wilderness area of 104 hectares on the Coode Peninsula. In 2006, the Integrated Land Management Bureau turned down the application, citing the following reasons:

- The Ministry of Forests and Range had concerns about removing the area from productive forest.
- There hadn't been adequate consultation with the appropriate agencies on the impacts of the wilderness area on natural resources.
- Sliammon First Nation submitted an application for commercial recreation activities that was seen as incompatible with the proposed passive wilderness area.
- The ILMB suggested that the PRRD and SFN work together and in consultation with the appropriate agencies to find ways to modify the proposal.

## 11.5. COMMUNITY SITES OF INTEREST

The following sites of interest for recreational and/or environmental protection were provided by community members in mapping exercises at open houses and through an online mapping tool. Each number corresponds to a location shown on the maps following this table.

	Title	Description
0	Land Water and Air	It is time to stop dithering and act on fine intentions.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	Great hiking, canoeing, climbing. Beautiful and should be protected from development. Could be used for eco-tourism. Great recreation area. Moss mountain and old arbutus trees. Habitat for birds.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	The most amazing orchid grows in Stillwater. The rattlesnake plantain . Also the rocky dry arbutus shore ecosystem in general is very unique.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	Stillwater has a healthy and aging second growth forest and some old growth trees. The second growth is natural and not planted. It is visited by black bears, deer, cougars. Pacitiz tree frogs blue heron king fishers, eagles are year round residents.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	Amazing, vast, definite access to waterfront including wheelchair accessible trail to beach. Arbutus groves, hiking trails, sea otter families, black tailed deer, squirrels, black bear, cougar, sea lion likes to watch, kayak, canoe access far launch/picnics, rock climbing, berry picking (salmon, huckle, salal, black). Eagle nests - year around. Because of the shape you get vast waterfront access and 2 bays.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	World class climbing, rare ecosystems, coastal Douglas fir/pine/moss. Wildlife habitat (forest and marine). Potential for hike-in camping, recreation/education/tourism/science/biology research for local students. Many climbing areas (for schools or tours), unique ecosystems (Northern most of dry maritime).
1	Stillwater Bluffs	Something needs to be done pretty fast. It will be shameful if this beautiful spot is lost to development.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	Hiking / Rock Climbing area. 4 main climbing areas: "The Stacks" 20+ routes ( Mostly top rope) , "Second Point" 10+ Routes (Bouldering) , "Catcheracha" 10+ routes , "Moss MTN" 30+ Routes (Roped). Extensive area for rock-climbing encompassing the entire granite steep shoreling cliffs. Moss mountain being most popular. Also popular for school groups.
1	Stillwater Bluffs	SEI area, water front bluffs and associated sensitive ecological area recently transferred from TFL to PMFL I.T. Community desires - continued access and preservation increased use sensitive. Lots of climbing, increased use. Needs conservation considerations. Work with I.T. to preserve and implement future purchase of DL 3040!
2	Lake Bluffs	"Traditional" rock climbing area, hot routes, stunning views, P.R.'s premier 'front country' climbing area.
3	Scotch Fir Point	Extensive area with plus and negative 10 locations for climbing. Lots of bouldering mainly on steep and shoreline cliffs. Also 12 plus routes on adjacent islands, very close to SFP.
4	Khartoum Bluffs	Back country rock climbing area. Main wall has 3 distinct routes, up to 10 pitches each. Wall is approximately 300M vertical "Traditional" climbing. Small climbing camp at base of wall.
5	Eldred Valley	Extensive array of granite, big walls, back country climbing area, 4 maintaining walls with established routes. Psyche Slab, Carag Dur, West Main Wall, Amon RUD4. Climbers Camp with picnic tables. Outhouse and fire pit @ M34. (Climber Parking Area)
6	Higgyland	Main 'sport' climbing area in Powell River, 40+ bolted routes, most technically difficult climbs in Powell River.
7	Penticton St forests	Chow land Heronry at the top foot of Penticton St. City owned land at the top of Penticton St, east of Ontario Street.
8		No access for small boats, canoes, kayaks, boat launch needed for small boats.



9	Powell Forest Canoe Route	Would like to see the portage trails widened to improve accessibility for persons for varied abilities (including making trail accessible for 2 wheel canoe carts) Also, straighten trail corners to accommodate larger canoes and kayaks.
11	Mount Troubridge	Mount Troubridge old growth forest Sunshine coast trail, views of hotham sound.
11	Mount Troubridge	Old growth (OGMAS) patches from sea level at Saltery Bay/Fairview Bay up the ridge to Mount Summit, mostly continuous but threatened to some logging.
12		Kokanee and trout spawning habitat and trout spawning habitat.
12		Kokanee and trout spawning habitat
12		Trout spawning habitat
13	Salmon Rivers/Eagle River/Lang Creek	Needs wildlife corridors both sides of river 100M from lake to estuary - bears, salmon, cougars.
14	Ireland and Nanter Lake	The whole stretch of river between Ireland and Nanter Lake has Kokanee spawning in October! Must be protected from logging with a wide 100 meter buffer.
18	Hurtado Bluffs to Dinner Rock Pk.	This is a beautiful coastal area with trails and diverse plant/bird area.
19	Copeland Islands	Beautiful islands north of land, across from mainland accessible to kayakers.
19	Copeland Islands	Deeded public access to the waterfront, old growth and mature second growth stands with trails and easily reached by road and good kayak launch.
19	Thulin Pass	Access to canoe/kayak area, access to Copeland Islands, marine park, maintain natural area as part of Copeland Islands pk. Limit boat size travelling through pass.
20	South Powell Divide	Keep this area open as this is our access to the sub alpine north end of alpine trail.
20	South Powell Divide	Stunning 5 (or more) day hike starting/ending at Emma Lake. Alpine area - incredible views (ocean up to Squamish). Mountain goats, wolverines, cougars, etc. Alpine old growth.
21	Cranberry Lake	And into the complete lake system: Bull frogs.
21	Cranberry Lake	100 acre jewel in the heart of the city is being choked by lack of oxygen and water lilies and build up of silt. Use to be a trout lake. Needs immediate remediation to stop a quick and certain death. Water can be diverted using the recently twinning of the Haslam Lake water pipe. Study done approx 12 year ago gave the lake approx 20 yr life span with no remediation.
22	Elephant Lake	Stop deactivating the road to Elephant Lake, trail head, this trail from Elephant Lake to Mount Troubridge.
23	Sitka Spruce Forest	Only known Sitka Spruce stand in Powell river - mature timber - accessible by road.
24	Manzanita Bluffs	Protect SCT on Manzanita Bluffs - old growth, orchids, vistas, tourism/recreation.
25	Orphan Lake & Wetlands	Adjacent to UREP at Hurtado Pt. Frogs, salamanders, beavers, swans. Browne Creek recruitment, Old growth, trails close to land.
26	Hurtade Bay and Point	Old UREP - old growth trail loop waterfront.
27	Savary Island	The residents of the district should have a place to go on Savary - public park.
28	Davie Bay	Preserve limestone caves and fragile islands and shoreline at Davie Bay. This should take precedence over quarry development.
28	Davie Bay	1. Cultural Heritage - former logging camp and later a "hippie" colony - Babies have been born there. It is dear to the hearts of many - actually even including those who want "jobs" Federal. 2. Rockfish conservation area. 3. Limestone caves alone. 4. Tourism Potential (economic)
29	DL 3873 - Off Scotch Fir Road	Identified as UREP; about 200 acres of 2nd growth, small SEI area, beautiful forest, Crown land - ideal preservation site to allow a mature habitat and experience 80 - 150 yr old forest. One of the last pieces of crown land in the area. Perhaps a transfer to PRRD/
30	Lang Creek	Remediation public access to waterfront and beach at end of Weldwood Road.
30	Lang Creek	Pull out ocean side of highway 101 bridge.

31	Eagle River	Salmon spawning - essential to BC - Environmentally and culturally and stocks are ever more important and rare. Bear feeding / wildlife corridor essential to bear health, keeps them out of neighborhoods, important to forests. Swimming, hiking values.
31	Eagle River	This place needed to be protected years ago. Now it has been severely damaged by the logging industry. It's the place that made me want to move to the area.
31	Eagle River	This is vital for salmon and birds. A wonderful biologically diverse estuary. The beach that meets the base of Eagle River is one of the few public beach areas in Powell River. Would like to see this river 100% protected, whatever is left of it (the forests around it).
31	Eagle River	Major public meetings, rallies, protests, and letters indicate this is the major #1 area for a protected area. The RD Board resists reclaiming the land as "Heavy Industrial: in their edit of the Southern
32	Mt Diadem	Lois Valley Access
34	B - Branch	Emma Lake hut, South Powell Divide regional Dist. Trail. 5 day Alpine hike or day hike from Powell River. Great access to Alpine. Amazing special place Emma Lake - Day hike, Summer / Winter access to amazing back country.
35	Goat 2	Triple peaks trail, squim trail, south Powell River access. Regional district. Beginning of 5 day south Powell divide trail, important access.
36	Hamil lake Trail	Only a 30 - 45 minute hike up after end of Daisy Road leads to bluffs overlooking Golf Louise and entire coast line.
37	Sauary DL1375 & 35 & 36	dune ecosystem in Canada. Purchase the land.
38	Savary Island Crown Perimeter	Protect crown perimeter on Savary Island.
39	Sarah Point	Beginning/end of SC trail, named by Captain George, Vancouver - his niece.
40	Rasmussen Forest	Rasmussen Forest - old growth tree groves.
41	D-Branch	Glacier trail, big trees, 5 access trails, low pass to Jarvis inlet, section 56 trails - South Powell Divide regional district trail.
42	Apelton Creek	Old growth grow Apelton Creek - preserve
43	Walt Lake Slabs	Trails motorcycle riding area
44	Townsite Old Golf Course	Need for greenspace adjacent to National historic district. Land is currently for sale.
45	Good Hope	Quad trail
46	Happy Face Trail System	This is a community well used loop trail, multi-use 2 hour hike (level) it is in the Airport Reserve land and community forest. Used by many residents from Duck lake road area to Nassichuk Road / Black Point. Bikes, horses, hikers, quads, motor bikes families. Owls (Also, Blue Heron rook behind Skeeter Jacks not in trail area). Our Willingdon Beach trail, Bev Dunn.
47	McCrae Islands	This is an incredible seal nursery. In summer all the mothers and young crowd the rocks. It is excellent kayak / canoe territory as well - protected, full of birds and seals (and sea lion rock for early summer, winter, spring and fall) great picnic spots. Good scuba diving.
47	McCrae Islands	Group of islands with park designation. Existing rock climbing on all (tidal dependant)
47	McCrae Islands / Cove	World class recreational area, amazing bouldering, climbing, kayak, canoe, hike - in, non motorized access. Sensitive area - wildlife - sea lions, seals, birds, fish. Potential for low impact camping, trails, climbing, wildlife viewing and eco-tourism. Provincial park and regional park?
47	McCrae Island	Beautiful for canoe / kayak. Sea lions nearby and seal nursery. Rock-climbing and stunning vista.
48	Seawalk	Evergreen trees - cedar and fir - need to be planted at the bottom of each street. This will provide much needed habitat for the eagles. The tree they now use for nesting and teaching their young to fly are all falling down.
49	Penticton/Manson Area Trails	Well used walking, hiking and jogging trails need to be protected for future generations. Fungi and flora are abundant.
50	Sunshine Coast Trail - Rainy Day	20 to 30 Meter butt end on each side of sunshine coast trail and write document negotiated by the Lumber Companies and Powell River parks and Wilderness. Describe how cut blocks

	Lake	should be made.
51	Upper Freda Creek	Class 4 white water, kayak run and put in.
52	Upper Freda Creek	White water kayak run, take out
53	Lower Freda Creek Take Out	White water kayak run, take out
54	Look out to South Powell Divide	Broad view over Powell Lake to South Powell Divide. Great panorama, good snow shoeing on top of bunsters
55	Confederation Lake Cabin	Sleeps 4 on Sunshine Coast Trail.
56	Bunster Plateau	With yellow cedar old growth and hundreds of ferns
56	Old growth yellow cedar in Bunster Hills	Only low growth yellow cedar on Sunshine Coast. One trail and great snowshoeing / cross country skiing. Please add Wednesday Lake which I couldn't find on the map.
57	Craig Park and Stream	Very well used, well loved and well maintained park, incorporating gazebo, cook shelter, baseball field, kids play area, tennis courts, mature forest and trails along creek.
58	Lund Gazebo and Grounds	Community gazebo and greenspace currently managed by the Lund community society, but ownership remaining with Lund water board. Currently moving into Regional District control. Prioritize 3 acre green space adjacent to Lund Lake.
59	Beach Access	Access to beach example - Atrevida Road, Emma's Beach and South view Road. Identify and protect all access roads and trails to ocean.
60	Dinner Rock Park and trail system	Great campsite, great swimming, picnics, boat ramp, trail connects Brown Creek trail and Hertado Point trail.
61	Beach Water access	need to acquire access to clean (swim and dive) water near to community of Lund. Beach access with some green space, walking distance or with parking.
62	Tin Hat Mountain look out	spectacular panoramic view from former fire look out station at an accessible mountain peak, unforgettably beautiful.
63	Lewis Lake campsite	Beautiful mountain lake with road access and forestry campsite.
64	Freda Mountain	Trail 4-9 hour hike up the spectacular peak with 360 degree view of coast and interior mountains, trail well maintained by a few people
65	Lund Community Center	Old school building and grounds, soccer field, and kids gazebo and playground. 3 acre parcel including some mature forest.
66	Atrevida Loop Trail	Easily accessible trail from highway (across from Atrevida Rd.) Provides access to the Sunshine Coast Trail. (Toquenach / Plumber Creek) From the highway. Beautiful first growth fir trees, mountain bike accessible.
67	Appleton Creek	Sunshine coast trail with beautiful waterfalls. This empties Sliammon Lake which is water supply
67	Appleton Creek	Sunshine coast trail green spaces protection on each side of trail
68		Old growth grave, Protection at goat lake
69	3 small lakes and trails	Habitat - fish, birds, beaver, frogs. Tourism - Hike, swim, local recreation, cycle. Trails.
70	Heischolt Lake	Very well used amazing turquoise lake in former quarry. Called the local "swimming hole", it is probably the most popular location oin Texada. Locals are afraid the quarry might drain the lake because of liability issues. It should be protected in perpetuity - perhaps with a land covenant.
70	Heischolt Lake, Texada Island	Privately owned former quarry. Warm, turquoise water for swimming. Starly beautiful surrounding landscape. Company used to allow community use, children's swimming lessons. This was stopped due to liability concerns. No Trespassing signs are now posted - but ignored by those who cannot resist the areas appeal.
70	Heischolt Lake	Is private land, it is posted, maybe used again for mining, mineral claims involved. Has been private land for over 100 years.
70	Heischolt Lake	Quarry on Texada for swimming, Karst topography, summer recreation, and alligator lizard
71	Desolation Sound	Incredible marine park with camp sites accessible to small boats and kayaks.

	Marine Park	
72	Gibson Beach	Good swimming beach and access to beach walks
73	Mt. Alfred Glacier	Our closest glacier 2 trails up to it from D branch Can do in 1 long day but for snow bunnies and lovers of the alpine
74	Thulin Pass Buffs	Bird flyway (migrations) and sensitive bluff ecology and view points to Copeland islands marine park. And First Nations pictograph
75	Cabin Cove and Uplands	Crown land district lot 403 adjoins nature covenanted private land to NW and unsurveyed crown to SE. Wild basalt cliff, beach and sea cave at Cabin Cove. Original forest except for a tiny bit of selective logging on an old road which has now been developed as a inland return loop to complement the spectacular coastal trail. Costal Douglas fir zone with maple, lots of arbutus and juniper, and fine old grand-daddy 300 year old fir trees growing on the mossy ledges. Rough skinned newts, deer, ospreys, eagle nests. The islands in front of Maple Bay adjacent to DL 403 should also be protected. Right now there are 150 California & Stellar Sea Lions congregated there entertaining all who come to see them with a fine chorus. The Texada trekkers hiking group adores this area. Parsley ferns and rare ninebark at one cliff location. Lots of incredibly beautiful arbutus trees performing their slow improv dances in the wind!
76	Welcome Bay and Uplands	This Crown land area lies between the nature covenanted Davis Bay property to NW and the Texada Quarrying LTD industrial operation to the SE - The "Industrial Island", and reaches up to the top of surprise MTN - 1200 ft elevation. This include the High Ledges Trail following clifftops on the flank of the MTN and the Lower Ledges Trail closer to the shoreline. The beach at Welcome Bay, and one other unnamed beach, 2 small rocky islands. Upper and Lower Ledges Trails and their steep uphill connection at the SE end - all original forest. The connection at the NW end crosses an inconspicuous old road where almost no trees were cut at the NW end including the "Kirby Tree" - an old fir 8' diameter and 2 trees 200+ feet high. Also caves and a unique grove of maple trees that keep regrowing phoenix like from their root systems, sending roots through cracks in the rocks and ultimately breaking off slabs of rock, thus actively maintaining their favored cliff habitat. Also here and nearby are 24 of the 25 known Texada specimens of the California Sword Fern. Together with areas 75 and 77 plus the Nature covenanted private land where access is granted with the owner James Macks permission, this is an area roughly akin to that of the cherished East Sooke Park on the outskirts of Victoria. - 5 miles of wild coastline - over 10 miles of hiking trails. Fine views from the High Ledges Trail over the forest below the cliffs stretching to the shoreline and across to the blue snowy mountains of Vancouver Island - and the world is made anew! Eagles soaring below eye level, riding the thermals.
77	Coast and Uplands	Unsurveyed crown land adjoining DL403 Cabin Cove & Uplands to NW and nature covenanted private land (Davis Bay) to SE. The coastal trail continues through original forest to Big Beach (1/4km long gravel beach) Then traverses high upland open mossy areas to avoid rugged basalt sea cliffs. Native blue grass, view SE to Surprise MTN and the rocky promontory at NW end of Davis Bay. View NW to the 800 ft knob overloking the NW end of the wild area. A dramatic remnant of the original Texada Island, this is world class wild country - the "Industrial Island" nowhere to be seen. As with the adjacent area #75 - Cabin Cove and Uplands - The very selectively logged old logging road has been opened up into a usable return trail to complement the awe-inspiring costal trail. Junipers, prickly pear cactus, otters, seals & orcas just offshore to admire.
78	Turtle Lake old forest	Turtle Lake, a 20 minute walk from downtown Van Anda thru woods on an old road. Western painted turtles and red-listed endangered stickleback species pair. All of the remaining forested crown on the west side of the lake is in need of protection. This includes the only remnant of old growth forest left on the north west end of Texada according to the sensitive sites mapping which defines old growth as original forest on favored growing site. A new trail angles thru this forest and crosses Van Anda Creek on the remains of an old bridge, making possible a loop walk around the lake. Maples and some fine old fir and cedar adorn this route.
78	Turtle Lake old forest	Includes the lake and surrounding area of "old growth" forest.
79	Mowat Creek	Led by Rob Digger - Mount Creek Salmon enhancement project since 1997. Texada Island Forestry Reserve Ltd private property contact 486 7772.

80	Eagle Cove - Sturt Bay	All of the remaining forest on Crown land in this vicinity is in need of protection. Includes pocket beach at Eagle Cove with a small grove of rare douglas maple, limestone cliffs with juniper and arbutus. A dramatic viewpoint at the entrance to Marble Bay (Sturt Bay) Harbour where the Texada Boat Club has moorage facilities. Includes unique (on Texada) Sturt Bay Lagoon which dries at low tide, and 2 fresh water wetlands. The trail system is being redeveloped after being severed by logging a few years ago. The new access trail - already flagged - will follow the shoreline of the lagoon, hugging it tightly at the back where only a very narrow strip of forest remains. Some fine old fir and cedar trees near the outer shoreline SE of Eagle Cove. Easy access from Van Anda, 3 minutes by car to the trail head.
81	Marshall Point	Tide pools - "among the best" in Georgia Strait. Geology - limestone and dykes. Marine mammals and river otter, rare trees, wild flowers, birds - multiple species such as loons, merganser, cormorant, pigeon guillemots, gulls, bufflehead, golden eye. Coastal Douglas fir zone.
82	Cox's Lagoon	Marine mammals - Harbour Porpoise. Eelgrass, sandy beaches, sand cliffs - birds, coastal Douglas fir zone, hiking trails, picnic spot. Texada Island Forest reserve private property contact 604 486 7772
83	Mouat Rocks	Islands - birds, gull nesting, marine mammals, rare flowers, oystercatcher nesting site should be designated conservation area. Outstanding underwater flora and fauna - sea anemones.
84	Mouat Bluffs	Cactus, marine mammals, rare plants, rare trees, Maritime juniper, hiking, no forestry or mineral values, pristine coastal and coastal Douglas fir zone.
85	South Shingle Bluffs	Shingle Beach - UREP, dry bluffs, cactus, rare plants, no forestry or mining potential, marine mammals - orca, seals, harbour porpoise, sea lions. Pristine area bounded by Cook Bay private protect property to the east. Coastal Douglas fir zone.
86	Angel Lake Plateau	Extensive wetlands - lakes, rare fern allies - moonwort, adder's tongue, etc. Hiking trails, nice camping, fly fishing area or picnic.
87	Gillies Bay B.C. Creek and Trail	Salmon brood stock, Cr (Coho), hiking trails.
88	Priest Lake Watershed	Entire watershed encompassing Kirk lake, Kirk creek, Spectacle lake, Priest lake, Van Anda creek, Emily (turtle) lake and all critical wetlands and creeks. Critical habitat for stickleback species pairs, western red painted turtle, several unique aquatic plants and other vipevian dependant species. Also drinking water for Van Anda.
89	Wall Street Parcel	a 6 acre parcel land in Van Anda bounded by Wall St., Alladin Ave, Copper Queen St, and Cornell Ave. ( This last not developed). Lovely mature douglas fir / cedar forest, limestone substrate. 2 wooded trails provide an alternate pedestrian route to the industrial traffic (diesel trucks) and blind corners on Wall St. These lovely trails are used by two families with small children, as well as residents of Wall St. and vicinity. Postmaster walks to and work twice daily through this parcel. Location of Copper Queen Mine on adjacent property gives this one an added heritage value.
90	Raven Bay Creek	Possible Hatchery, Estuary Protection. Local access to beach.
91	Raven Bay Creek	Old growth along high road, protecting spawning beds.
92	North East Point	UREP, Costal Scenery, beach with creek, picnic spot. Costal Douglas-Fir Zone. Hiking
93	Central Lakes	Many hiking trails and wildlife viewing. Lakes and wetlands need special protection to conserve water resources and habitat. Drainage from the area feeds fish bearing streams. Eg. Mouat Creek (Trout and Salmon) Coastal Douglas Fir Zone.
94	Stromberg Falls	Waterfalls (highest +/- 20m , rapids and ravines will carry (equal to the highest quality known in BC) Hiking Trail. Potential for park designation. Many year-round recreational possibilities. Coastal Douglas Fir Zone. Karst Topography - underground streams , sink holes ect.
95	Partington Point	Dry bluffs, Rare plants, Pristine area bounded by Cook Bay private protected property to the west. Marine mammals. Coastal douglas fir zone. Little forestry potential. No mining potential.
96	Dome Rock	Spectacular views, rugged cliffs with hiking trails. Rare plants - pautstemon (Sp) Montane forest with mountain hemlock. High recreational value area which should have been included in the South Texada provincial park.

97	Twin Peaks	Spectacular views of the coastal mountains to the east and the mountains of Vancouver Island to the west. Hiking trails with good road access to the foot of the mountains. Remnant old growth forest.
98	Mount Grant	Spectacular scenery - hiking trails. (Main hiking trail rated 5 stars in "hiking the gulf islands" by C. Kahn) Stands of Ponderosa pine - introduced. Rare plants - fern allies.
99	Mount Davies	Spectacular scenery - hiking trails. (Main hiking trail rated 5 stars in "hiking the gulf islands" by C. Kahn) High elevation wetlands. Rare plants
100	Sandbanks	Marine mammals - Harbour Porpoise. Eelgrass, sandy beaches, sand cliffs - birds including uncommon Rough-winged swallow, Swimming
101	Blubber Bay (East)	Giant chain fern habitat - Texada (woodwardia fimbriata) very large colonies. Karst - no surface drainage. Coastal Douglas-fir Zone. Hiking Trails
102	Pocahontas Bay	protected beach, Picnic spot, bird watching - Osprey. Kayak launch / landing, Road access, hiking trails, Coastal Douglas-fir zone.
103	Shingle Beach	Forestry Campsite in VREP, Hiking Trails, Rocky Beaches, Quarry Bluffs. Coastal Douglas-fir zone.
104	Mount Pocahontas	Hiking trails with great viewpoints. Road access from High (central) Road.
105	Anderson Bay	Bay with beach access by vehicle. Hiking Trails, islands, Historic Marble Quarries, Provincial Park - should be extended along coast to the south. Small Campsite. Coastal Douglas-fir zone.
106	Sanderson Trail	Donated by Dr. Sanderson about 1930's - 30' from tide line on to land for trail in perpetuity for community use. (Not being maintained - will be lost by "erosion" - encroaching - unless protected and maintained.
107	Cathedral Lake & Mt Sheppard.	Mt. Sheppard is tallest Mtn. On Texada and Cathedral Lake is lake to west of it. - Not sure if this area or a part of it is included in Provincial Protected Area at south end of island already with Pardington Point.
108	Van Anda Regional Parks	1. Sturt Bay Reg. Park - Historic park with a few trails overlooking Sturt / Marble Bay 2. Van Anda Cove Reg. Park - Small park with connecting trails through Van Anda Village 3. Erickson Beach Reg. Park. - Small beach access park with picnic facilities near the Van Anda dock at Van Anda Bay.
109	Long Beach	Trails. Heritage Value - old air strip and wharf. Waterfront walk.
110	Limekim Historic Site	Top end of Sturt Bay (Van Anda) - site of Marble Bay lime quarry. Texada Heritage Society.
111	Texada Island Shoreline	Texada island shoreline Blubber Bay to Shingle Beach hiking trail. This would offer another economic _____ to the residents of Texada Island.
112	Kiddie / Coho Point - Texada	Trail Exists, lots of public use of trail and beaches (Glass beach). Good for tourism
113	Hamill Hill Bluffs	These are beautiful bluffs right behind Meytle Pt Golf Course. They can be accessed by old road / path network off Duck Lake Road. They are very sensitive - dry mossy bluffs - with vacredesa veins. They are being damaged by misuse of bikers chewing up ground cover, cutting branches, ect. There is also the west (Hamill) bluffs further back and access from Lake side. But the front bluffs are the best! 60 years of going there...
114	Maywood / Nassichuk Rd Trail Network	I'm a horseback rider - also hike - there's a large network of trails in this area IE Maywood Trail, Dilemma Trail, Polka-Dot Trail, Happy Fare Trail, Rene's Trail, Ben's Connector, Friday Trail, Ect. Nice Trails, good access, multi-use - connect via the poleline and the Canter trail to Duck Lake Road and Deighton Creek Trails.
115	Poleline (Hydro, Ect Row)	I'm A horseback rider - I would not want to lose access to the poleline as it is not only enjoyable to ride on, but it also connects our network of horse riding trails. In some areas, its also our "safe area" as it allows us to get off of well travelled (and sometimes dangerous) roads like Duck Lake.
116	Fairview Bay	Rocky beach accessed by SE Trail, Picnic Site / Campsite, Kayak Launch / Rest site, Bedrock , shoreline SW of Fairview Bay, Coastal Douglas-fir, (Cdf) Biogeoclimatic zone.
117	Above Chipewa Bay	Two small Steam Donkeys, Log Rails into Powell Lake from one of the Donkeys.
118	Lang Creek Kayak put in	Start of Class III white-water kayak run from Powerline road - Southside of river.

119	Leon Trail	old growth off Sarah Pt Rd. Accessible
120	Teeskwat Trail	(From the switch back to Gibsons Beach) - Includes: Fragile and Rare plant communities on wildwood bluffs. - old growth trees. - Arbutus forest. - Waterfront View
120	Teeskwat Trail	Orchids. Only stand of mature arbutus grove. Only unborn Douglas Fir old growth water front grove. Water front trail.
121	Myrtle Rocks	Marine Park Area - gets lots of use which is good for public but hard on sensitive system. Gull nesting side, eagle feeding, river otter denning, lots of shore birds, plus chocolate lilies and many plants. Needs protection. Lovely to paddle about.
122	Thunder Bay and Sallery Bay	Some of the last pristine foreshore left in the south of town area. Save if before it is gone!
123	High Falls	OGMA - huge trees 10-12 dbh also MAMU
124	Coastline / Inter Tidal Zone	Protect from development too close to waterfront access for people and wildlife along waterfront
125	Nanton Lake Slough + marsh area	Important wetland, bird nesting, habitat, wildlife habitat.
126	Daniels River	Biggest trees in PR up to 14' dbh
127	3 Center Lakes	High alpine lakes and vegetation, hiking and camping, part of North Powell divide, hiking track, ridge walk. North and South Powell Divide walk for 2 weeks to Freida Mountain.
128	Estuaries	All estuaries or rivers and streams (no matter how small) must be off-limits to industrial activity such as logging, log dumps, and sorting and booming, boat ramps and barge facilities, housing developments, commercial or institutional or industrial buildings; parking lots... basically all human "development" Even near by is a problem such as Olympic log sort and eagle river.
129	Lang Creek	Lang Creek PRSS Adult fish sorting facility spawning channel. Should make this a park and rest stop run by R. Board - Parks and increase public use picnics, table also purchase additions 500-1000 meter upstream by river 10 - 50 meter wide to put trails and access by river c/w benches for more users.
130	Sunshine Coast Trail	Continuous Visual protection for the 150 kilometer of the sunshine coast trail
131	End of Eagle River	End of Eagle River Estuary Beak habitat protection - salmon.
132	Duck Lake Area Trails	Duck Lake, lots of hiking trails in ____ need protection - Bears take salmon up the side of the banks and eat the salmon. Where the salmon come up the eagle river.
133	Base of Scout Mountain	Wonderful place to horseback ride - old logging roads - lots of old first growth stumps - quiet - usually only hikers and horseback riders - easy access - have seen lots of owls in this area.
134	Lakes Chain	All lakes and rivers part of the Lois lake / Eagle River watershed - Fir Windsor - Doll, Lewis, Inland, Horseshoe Lake, Horseshoe River connecting them. Upper (Lois) Eagle River flowing into Rhartown Lake and Lois Lake. Protection zone of 200 meter minimum along river and around from logging and development.
135	Toba Inlet	Important Grizzly Bear Habitat. Salmon habitat old growth forest and even diverse regrowth. This area diverse in ecology. Biologically a gem Eco tourism and outdoor recreation.
135	Toba Inlet	No More IPPs!!!! Protect grizzly bear habitat. Stop all old growth logging! Stop damming and diverting streams and rivers that are within (and / or ) above salmon spawning habitat. Repeal Bill 30.
136	Myrtle Creek	wild salmon habitat must protect riparian zones, build bridges for ATVs
137	Goat Island	Some neat hiking to points of interest - ie old mine trail, trails to Frogpond Lake, trail to the other lake (I cant remember the name) stunning views from the top. Challenging Hikes.
138	Milenim Park	Milenim Park tree accusation for Park
139	Old Growth Forests	less than 1% left in BC! Key habitat for Marbled Murrelets, Unknown species, plants, insects. Best carbon storage, biological reserve, natural history, tourism potential, big trees.
140		great beach
141		Old growth grove

142		Davie Bay. Scenic section of shoreline provides excellent kayaking opportunities. 66' strip of crown land and nearby UREP would combine to make a Marine Park.
143		DL 1375 & Lots 35 & 36 Best Example of a Coastal Dune Ecosystem in Canada
144		Penticton Trails
145		Beacon Point Endangered plants and plant communities
146		DL1375 & lots 35&36 Best example of a Coastal Dune Ecosystem in Canada
147		Old Growth Cedar Grove
148		Savary Island Crown Perimeter
149		Savary Island Crown Perimeter
150		Savary Island Crown Perimeter
151		Savary Island Crown Perimeter
152		Goose Pasture
153		Meadow Beach endangered plants and plant communities
154		Duck Bay endangered plants
155		Death Camas Meadow rare plants and plant communities
156		Indian Springs
157		Rare plants & plant communities Indian Point
158		Old Golf Course Site
159		Wildwood Bluffs
160		Springs on Savary Island
161		Meadows on Savary
162		Iron Mine Dive Site
163		Beta Lake Trail & E-100 road to alpine
164		Diver's Rock: This is the main
165		Rocky beach with very nice view of Thulin Passage and the Copelands, nice sunsets. Accessible by 4WD road.
169		Emma Lake - Cabin & Trails
170		Knucklehead Winter REcreation Area
171		Blue Heron Rookerie
172		eagle river greenway corridor (wildlife habitat)
173		Still Water bluffs (climbing, recreation, hiking, bird watching, wildlife habitat...)
174		Lang creek (bear habitat, salmon habitat, wildlife viewing, oldgrowth trees...)
175		McCrae Islets (sealions, seals, birds, climbing, recreation, non-motorized boating...)
176		upper Toba (grizzly bears, wildlife habitat, public access, wilderness values...)
177		eagle river
178		Stillwater Bluffs: To be preserved as parkland: rockclimbing, hiking,
179		Stillwater Bluffs (table rock shoreline): To be preserved as parkland: rockclimbing, hiking,
180		This quiet bay should be included in Stillwater Bluffs parkland: family swimming, picnic grounds use
181		Duck Bay endangered plants and archaeological sites
182		Little Sliammon Lake - local swimming and camping site
183		Three Mile Bay - local swimming and camping spot
184		Wildwood Bluffs - scenic hiking with benches
185		Driveable public access to Mahoods beach.
186		Purchase old log sort area next to salmon stream for public park.
187		Old Golf Course
188		Old Mine Road Trail
189		Slide Mountain
190		Alfred Mountain



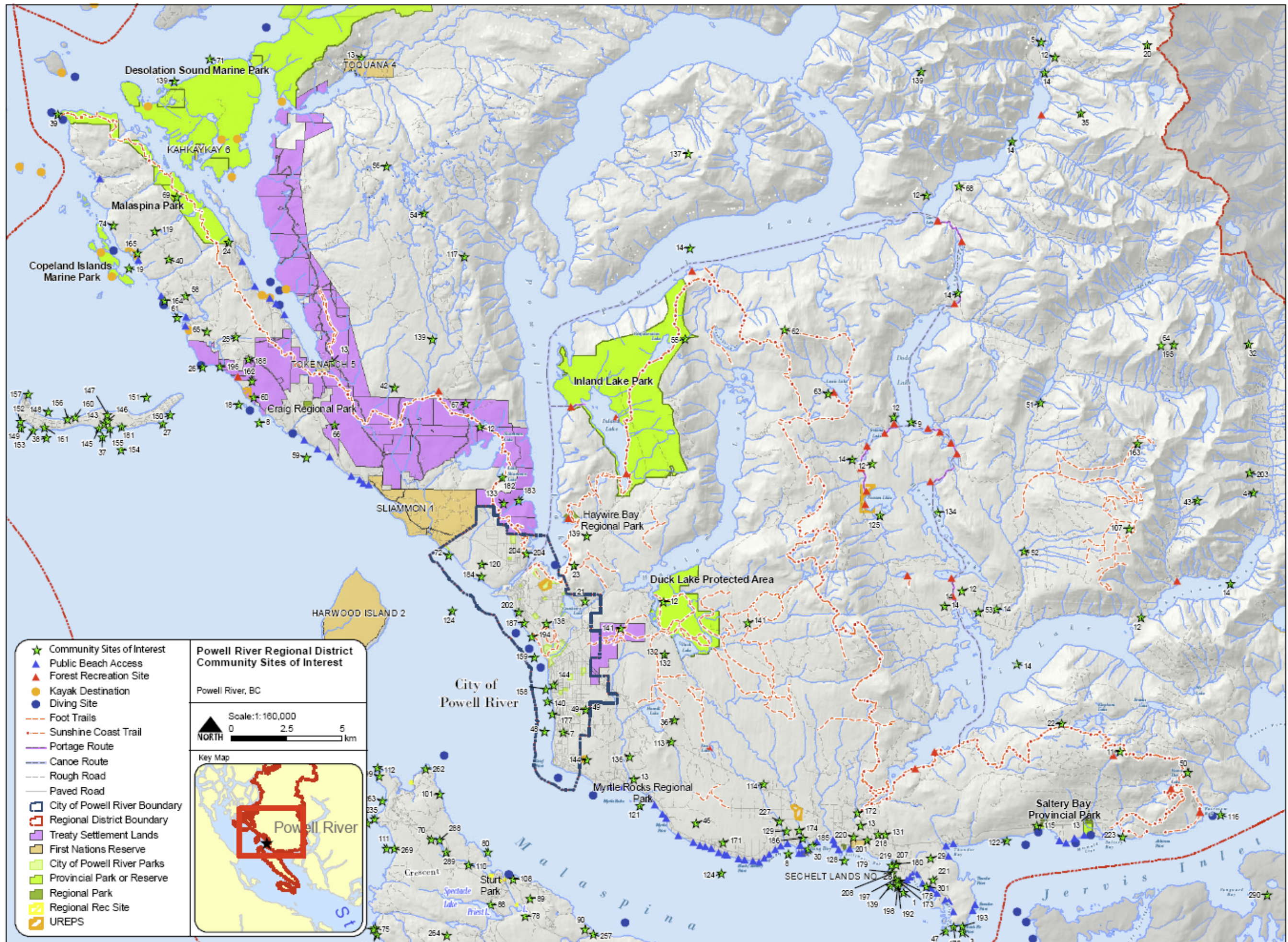
191		Diadem Mountain
192		Stillwater Bluffs - Exposed granite cliffs Arbutus + natural second growth forest.
193		Scotch Fir Point - hiking second growth forest, water front, islets, marine park, arbutus, rattle snake plantain, eagles, hiking, swimming, kayaking
194		Millenium Park
195		Freda Mountain
196		Dinner Rock Forest & Campgrounds
197		Stillwater Bluffs: rare mosses; endangered (not much left in Georgia Strait Basin) Coastal Western Hemlock Eastern very Dry Variant biogeoclimatic units
198		Stillwater Bluffs: excellent rock climbing, especially for teaching students
199		Keddy Point, North end of Texada Island: pristine, life-rich coastline; great rocks
200		Cox's Lagoon: beautiful, quiet sandy beach; great for children
201		Eagle River swimming pools: in use for generations; has included European visitors (Kathaumixw)
202		Old Golf Course
203		rock climbing, camping
204		Higgyland cliffs
205		Mount Davie; spectacular views in many directions; good flagged trail leading up to it
206		Karst Caves and Waterfall
209		feather cove, sara point
210		mt mahoney
213		Mount Mahoney
214		Beaches between first and second point. Private and enjoyed by Islander and Powell Riverites
215		Haywire Bay Campsite
216		The meadow dune and fore shore middens
217		scout mountain look out
222		seconds beach and area
224		Excellent sand beach, good diving, lingcod nesting area
225		Dodd Lake campsite
229		Second beach
230		West Lake
231		Duck Lake
232		Picnic spot , kayak launch
278		Beach Access
279		Beach Access
280		Beach Access
281		Beach Access
282		Beach Access
283		Beach Access
284		Beach Access
285		Beach Access
286		Beach Access
287		West Lake watershed
211		Indian Point Johnson trail
212		Indian Point Beach grass
226		Stillwater Bluffs
207		Stillwater Bay
208		The incredible Stillwater Bluffs (the hike could also be considered a route)

218		DL3873, Use Reserved for the Use of the Public, let this reserve mature to mixed age forest
219		Stillwater Bluffs
220		Eagle River
221		DL3873 UREP
223		Good diving and lingcod nesting area
227		Stillwater Bluffs
228		Davie Bay and Kurst Caverns
233		Stromberg Waterfalls, Texada Island. 30 metre high falls and caves in limestone. JD.
234		Cathedral Lake, Texada Island. A lake in old growth forest, South Texada Prov. Park.
235		Marshall Point, Texada Island. A limestone headland and rocky beaches with tidepools.
236		Dome Rock, Texada Island. Spectacular views S. and E. to Vancouver & the Sunshine Coast.
237		Mount Shepherd, Texada Island. Highest point in South Texada Provincial Park.
238		Dick Island, Texada Island. Small pristine forested island suitable for park expansion.
239		Black Mountain, Texada Island. Mainly forest covered, but with good views to the south.
240		Mount Manzanita, Texada Island. Viewpoint looking over Gillies Bay to the Vancouver Island mountains.
241		White Pine Rust forestry research area, Texada Island.
242		Northeast Bay UREP, Texada Island. Beach picnic spot at mouth of Russ Creek. JD.
243		Dragonfly Lake, Texada Island. JD.
244		Upper Mouat Creek, Texada Island. A deep narrow valley with small waterfalls and rapids. JD.
245		Mouat Bluffs, Texada Island. Cliffs and thinly wooded area with cactus and harbour seal haulouts
246		Prickly Pear Bluff, Texada Island. Thinly wooded hill with arbutus and wild flowers. JD.
247		Twin Peaks, Texada Island. A mountain with two peaks giving spectacular views to east and west. JD
248		Angel Lake, Texada Island. A small lake for trout fishing and picnics. JD.
249		Bobs Lake, Texada Island. Forestry campground with excellent swimming. JD.
250		Mount Grant, Texada Island.
251		Mount Davies, Texada Island.
252		Third Lake, Texada Island.
253		Mystery Lake, Texada Island. A secluded lake for swimming with a picnic spot at the north end. JD
254		Balanced Rock Lake, Texada Island. A cliff on the west side is topped with a balanced boulder. JD.
255		Fiveway Junction, Texada Island. A gasline crossing of the Anderson Bay Road, starting point of several interesting hikes. JD.
256		Gentian Lake, Texada Island. Long narrow lake with road access from Anderson Bay road. JD
257		Raven Bay, Texada Island. A short hike from the Central High Road reaches a grassy picnic spot.
258		Pocahontas Bay, Texada Island. A sheltered bay facing northeast towards the mainland.
259		Mt. Baker Viewpoint, Texada Island. High point on Hydro East road with view of the Sunshine Coast and Mt. Baker.
260		Favada Point, Texada Island. A rocky headland with views of the rugged coastline.
261		Cabin Cove, Texada Island. A tiny cove and rugged headland with hiking trail access from north and south. JD.
262		Grilse Point, Texada Island. Rocky headland with karst features and tidepools. JD.
263		Limekiln Bay, Texada Island. A broad shallow bay with rocky and sandy areas. Outstanding tidepools at south end. JD.
264		Rock of Ages, Texada Island. A massive erratic boulder with a tree growing from a vertical fracture. JD.

265		Surprise Mountain, Texada Island. A mountain with trail access from north and east. At the summit a panoramic view to the south. JD.
266		Flicker Mountain, Texada Island. A small rocky hill with steep trail up the north side. JD.
267		Taylor Bluff, Texada Island. Narrow grassy viewpoint with panoramic view of the coast mountains. JD.
268		Cox's Lagoon, Texada Island. Beach with rocks and sand, tidepools and marine mammals.
269		Crescent Bay, Texada Island. A large shallow bay with extensive area of rocks and pools at low tide. No public access. JD
270		Rocky bluffs with many karst features, limestone outcrops, limestone pavement. JD.
271		Forest with karst features - sink holes, caves and underground creeks. JD.
272		Bluffs with karst features - sink holes and springs. Fine views to west towards Vancouver Island. JD.
273		Mossy Creek, Texada Island. Narrow wooded valley with karst features. Caves, ravines, sink holes and springs. JD.
274		Upper Stromberg Creek, Texada Island. A steeply falling creek with rapids and waterfalls, sinkhole in creekbed. JD.
275		Stromberg Beach, Texada Island. Mouth of Stromberg Creek with grotto, falls, rustic bridge and picnic spot. JD.
276		Anderson Bay Provincial Park, Texada island. A small park with 100 year old quarries that produced crinoidal marble for buildings in Vancouver.
277		Point Upwood, Texada Island. A headland with a small navigation light, on a stretch of rugged coastline with tiny coves and grassy bluffs. JD.
288		Heishalt Lake North, Texada Island. Spectacular flooded limestone quarry, popular swimming hole with warm clear water. JD.
289		Heishalt Lake South, Texada Island. Spectacular flooded limestone quarry, with high cliffs and limited access, but ideal for the more experienced swimmers. JD.
290		Mount Troubridge - nice hike, good trail, great view south and west.
291		Gordie Ridout
292		Public Access
293		Mollie Millicheap Church
294		Tucker Bay Steamship
295		Community Hall
296		Lambert Lake
297		Squitty Bay Park
298		Kwel Sanctuary
299		Mt. Tremation
300		Sabine Channel Park
301		Southern OCP DL 3873
302		PARCEL C Bluff and Beach views to Hornby & Denman, Mt. Arrowsmith & Mt. Washinton, Strathcona, Islets to Nanaimo
303		Look out across Jenkins cove, Jenkins Isl down strait to Mt. Baker
304		Older forest, junipers, reindeer lichen, stunning coastal views
305		PT S <sub>1/2</sub> OF NW <sub>1/4</sub> 10
306		SW <sub>1/4</sub> SEC 10
307		NE <sub>1/4</sub> SEC 16
308		Finnerty Island
309		Fegan Island

PLACEHOLDER page – community sites of interest map (north)







PLACEHOLDER page – community sites of interest map (south)



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