

Medium Term Goals – Parks and Trails Master Plan

1	Community Park in Alderlea Commons. In alignment with the University Village Local Area Plan, this proposed linear open space will be multi-purposed to provide both active and passive recreation opportunities. It will also have a storm water management component.
2	Adventure playground at Mount Tzouhalem. Planning and design should follow the mountain bike skills park design guidelines from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).
3	Officially permit recreational use of a portion of the Crofton Lake watershed area. As this lake is the backup water source for Crofton, detailed planning and stakeholder consultation will be required to determine appropriate use types and zones. Priorities include improved trail accessibility and wayfinding.
4	Develop a detailed site plan for the parcel adjacent to the Maple Bay Fire Hall, which will balance the interests of hikers and mountain bikers.
5	Through collaborative partnerships, identify and pursue opportunities to establish community gardens/food forest in each Growth Centre within the Municipality, following a similar model as the Kinsmen Park Urban Youth Farm.
6	Undertake the preparation of collaboratively-developed plans to provide design, development and specific management direction for all new parks.
7	Work collaboratively with the Cowichan Valley Regional District to develop an outdoor recreation park for motor sports.
8	Work with private landowners to discuss a potential access strategy to connect Eves Provincial Park with Crofton Lake.
9	Establish a new Nature trail at Bing's Creek near Falaise Rd – a possible candidate for "Pathways for Play" to infuse play and learning value into pathways.
10	Continue to support the CVRD's initiative to create a permanent staging area on Genoa Bay Road to provide trail access, via the MFR, to Stoney Hill Regional Park.
11	Establish a trail connection from Mum's Park south to Calais Road.
12	Explore the feasibility of acquiring and developing the historic Lenora railway line from Eves Provincial Park to Crofton, as identified in the 2001 Trail Network and Cycling Plan.
13	Connect Maple Bay to Mount Tzouhalem via Nevilane Drive.
14	Connect Fuller Lake Park to the Cowichan Valley Trail via Cottonwood Rd and Crozier Rd.
15	Establish a multi-modal corridor on Tzouhalem Rd.
16	Connect to Chemainus Lake Park via a multi –modal corridor from Henry Rd.
17	Consider connecting the gap in York Road across Somenos Creek subject to further public engagement, including with First Nations.
18	Undertake a playground revitalization program to enhance the appeal, play value and quality of playgrounds. In general, play equipment in parks is ageing and some playgrounds appear to be near the end of their life cycle. Continue to conduct condition assessments of existing play structures and prioritize their replacement based on assessed condition and neighbourhood demographics. Play structures or surfaces where safety has been compromised should be prioritized. Refer to the CSA Standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment (Z614-14).
19	As new playgrounds are planned and existing playgrounds are redeveloped, gradually shift the design guidelines to focus on the provision of natural playgrounds and incorporate natural play space design best practices. Pursue the development of a natural playground pilot project at Fuller Lake Destination Park.

20	<p>Work with Cowichan Tribes, Halalt and Penelakut First Nations, historical societies, conservation organizations and other partners to develop and deliver a visitor experience programming strategy for the Municipality's major parks and trails. Content could focus on educating visitors about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Douglas Fir, aquatic and marine habitats and species at risk • Ecosystem processes • Ecological restoration initiatives • First Nations history, cultural practices and stories • Archaeological sites • History of North Cowichan
21	<p>Work with partners to make visitor programming available through new and evolving technologies such as smart phones and web or App based programs and virtual reality.</p>
22	<p>In alignment with the trail classification, continue to design, develop and manage trails to provide universal access to the extent practicable, so that trails may be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Implement barrier-free design standards for: Trail access grades, Edge protection for safety, and Tactile strips and guides.</p>
23	<p>Development/improvement of major trailheads with improved comfort amenities for visitors: Washrooms, Site furnishings including benches and picnic tables, Potable water, Garbage and recycling containers and Doggy bag dispensers</p>
24	<p>Upgrade the multi-modal corridors along Lakes Rd, Herd Rd, Osborne Bay Rd, and Bell McKinnon Rd to at least the Class 3 standard described in Trail Classification & Difficulty.</p>
25	<p>Improve the Tzouhalem Rd to Cowichan Bay connection to at least the Class 3 standard described in Trail Classification & Difficulty.</p>
26	<p>Whitewater rafting and kayaking opportunities exist at Copper Canyon and other areas of the Chemainus River. The Municipality will work with the Halalt First Nation, Cowichan Valley Regional District and the paddling community to create a seamless paddling experience on the Chemainus River that respects the cultural and ecological values on the river. Working with these partners, the Municipality will provide managed access and egress opportunities off of Grace Road and at the Chemainus River Park which will be promoted as the terminus of the paddling route. Basic improvements, which may include washrooms, change rooms, signage, and day use amenities, will be provided at the access and egress points.</p>
27	<p>Develop and install branded signage and recognizable gateway features identifying public water access points, as well as signage on the local roads identifying the water access.</p>
28	<p>Develop the necessary supporting visitor infrastructure and amenities at key staging areas in each MFR such as: Branded gateways/entrances, Sufficient parking, Washrooms, Bike Wash Stations, Bike Parking, Picnic Tables, Day Use Shelters, Signage, Water access and paddling support amenities.</p>
29	<p>In partnership with the Cowichan Valley Trail Stewardship Society, First Nations, Tourism Vancouver Island and other partners, prepare detailed trail development plans within each Municipal Forest Reserve. The purpose of the plans are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage First Nations prior to detailed trail network planning in order to avoid large tracts of traditional use and culturally-sensitive areas • Identify the desired future trail network. Unauthorized trail construction is prohibited. • Identify authorized parking and staging areas. • Plan approved connections from Municipal lands to adjacent lands (e.g., Nature Conservancy of Canada and British Columbia Provincial Parks). Pursue cooperative agreements where trail connections and visitor experiences cross boundaries. • Identify the location, style and design of technical trail features. • Identify the location of bridges, river crossings and other necessary trail infrastructure necessary to avoid/ mitigate ecological and cultural impacts. • Identify current trails to be decommissioned and restored to avoid ecological impacts as well as conflicts and trespass onto adjacent lands including unauthorized trespass onto First Nation reserve lands. • Develop a communications plan prior to trail network planning. • Determine the location of wayfinding and signage including installation of signs to advise users of boundaries with local First Nation Reserve and to

	communicate to the public that traditional First Nations uses are taking place.
30	Develop new visitor trip planning tools including maps, websites, and downloadable track logs.
31	Examine the appropriateness and feasibility of private and public sector investment in the MFR such as: Developing visitor accommodations such as camping and Temporary concessions to service visitors such as rentals, repairs, food and refreshments.
32	Continue to conduct ecological assessments of all parks that contain lands of conservation importance. Develop policies and plans for the management and monitoring of ecological values in these parks.
33	Work with conservation partners to identify and prioritize areas for restoration within existing and future natural area and other parks. Develop, and as feasible, implement restoration plans.
34	Enhance opportunities for visitors to learn about our biodiversity, ecosystem and ecosystem services through visitor education programs (e.g., interpretive signage, interpretive programming, online information etc.).
35	Maintain an up to date spatial inventory of parks and trails assets. Consider the acquisition or development and deployment of a GIS based mobile asset management program that is capable of tracking the supply of assets and servicing at each asset and its condition, characteristics, maintenance backlogs and maintenance reports.
36	The Municipality will work to mitigate and minimize risk through the following practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify trails users - especially the potential for unaccompanied children and special needs individuals; • Identify user requirements, including suitable trail surfaces, appropriate gradients for trails, potential conflicts between user groups and methods of mitigating this conflict; • Identify and mitigate hazardous conditions; • Provide adequate signage and way-finding; and • Regular inspections of park and trail facilities and documentation of results. • Assess the forest wildfire hazard in high use areas
37	Work with the tourism industry to ensure that tourists who rent bicycles or are encouraged to experience trails and parks are provided with visitor friendly way-finding help such as maps, apps or GPS.
38	Develop a park and trails interpretation strategy to identify the strategic locations for interpretive signage and messaging in the Municipality's parks and trails. Interpretive signage should be installed throughout the park and trail system to interpret the region's rich First Nations history, unique ecosystems and biodiversity, and local history.
39	Work with partners such as the school district, local health authorities, and other Cowichan Valley local government parks and recreation departments to develop and implement a community based social marketing strategy to encourage residents to increase their physical activity and connection with nature by visiting parks and trails more often.
40	Work with partners to develop and implement a leisure education program that aims to get marginalized populations more active more often in the Municipality's parks and trails program. The program should work to address known conditions that are creating barriers to participation for these populations.
41	Create and implement an interdepartmental "parks and trails leadership committee" of senior staff to discuss and resolve major issues.
42	Encourage the development of "Friends Of" groups who can become active stewards of community and neighbourhood parks and trails.
43	Explore partnership opportunities with local businesses, the tourism industry and other organizations to become active stewards of our parks and trails through an Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Trail program.

44	Establish more revenue generating projects within Destination and Community Parks that can help support the operational costs of those parks and others within the network.
45	Where appropriate, explore co-locating third party vendor operations within parks where these operations will return a reasonable percentage of revenues generated.
46	As our parks and trails are a public benefit, the Municipality will work to formalize leases, including the collection of fair lease fees, with any groups or private enterprises that use parks and trails for profit (e.g., private enterprise fitness classes that charge participants and occur in a park).
47	Explore and pursue alternative funding sources such as developer community amenity contributions, senior governments and not-for-profit organizations to support future outdoor recreation amenity development, upgrades and maintenance.
48	Undertake initiatives to educate residents, users and organizations about the operational and capital costs for maintaining the outdoor sports facility supply.