

<b>Short Term Goals – Parks and Trails Master Plan</b>	
1	Destination Mountain Bike Skills Park
2	Pursue and support initiatives to implement temporary "pop-up places" including parks, plazas, markets and art displays in the urban cores of South End, Crofton, and Chemainus. Pop-up places can be sited in parking stalls, vacant public lots, streets and other unused public spaces. These temporary park spaces can provide fun, unique and appealing places for residents and visitors while building community.
3	Complete the Crofton to Maple Bay trail connection over Maple Mountain utilizing existing forest access roads to the extent possible. Suitable for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.
4	Extend the Dike trail to the BC Forest Discovery Centre.
5	Support the CVRD initiative to complete the Cowichan Valley Trail/Trans-Canada Trail.
6	Trail - notably Phillips to Sherman Rd. Ensure that an ecologically sensitive solution is implemented for the Bing's Creek crossing.
7	Establish an East - West multi-modal connection utilizing Herd Road, Stamps Road, and Bazett Road. This will necessitate a new trail connection in the existing road dedication between Stamps Rd and Bazett Rd.
8	Establish Multi-Modal connections to the Trans-Canada Trail.
9	Invest in improving the quality of parks that are below expectations; upgrade these parks to ensure they are meeting the current expectations of visitors. Emphasis should be placed on: Improving basic comfort and convenience amenities in all parks including washrooms, benches, wayfinding, signage, garbage and recycling containers and picnic areas. Improving the diversity and appearance of existing and future parks (e.g., more trees, lighting, natural areas, gathering areas, benches, water features etc.). Spaces for social and cultural gatherings (e.g., picnics and concerts) and inclusion of infrastructure to support these gatherings (e.g., power, potable water). Diversifying the recreational amenities available to respond to the community's need and desire for spontaneous recreation (e.g., exercise equipment in parks, pathways to play).
10	Undertake a neighbourhood park revitalization program to enhance the quality and appeal of neighbourhood parks. Current and anticipated local demographics should drive the redesign elements so that areas of higher population density and identified need are prioritized. Initiate new playgrounds in the underserved areas to ensure all children have walking access to 'door-step' and 'local spaces" for play. Prioritize the upper portion of The Properties development, which is not within reasonable walking distance to a playground, especially considering the steep grade on which the community is situated. The development has a significant number of children (approximately 180).
11	Develop a sustainable maintenance schedule and plan for each park to ensure adequate time for mowing, cleaning of washrooms and guidance on pruning and other plant management, as well as aeration of grass. Ensure adequate tools and equipment to meet established landscape maintenance standards.

12	Formalize a joint-use agreement with School District 79 to allow public access to school playgrounds during school hours. Collaborate with SD79 on planning and design of new playgrounds.
13	Install temporary signage on Bell McKinnon/Westholme/Chemainus Road designating the route as interim CVT/TCT on-road route connection in support of the TCT's goal to connect the TCT from coast to coast to coast by 2017. This route will be temporary only, while the CVRD establishes the "Northern Completion Initiative".
14	Install bike maintenance station facilities at key areas along the cycling routes.
15	Develop interpretive water trails and paddling experiences around Quamichan and Somenos Lakes including enhanced public access and amenities to support access (e.g., docks).
16	Expand the supply of dog off-leash parks in the Southern areas of the municipality. Designate new dog off-leash areas where dog ownership is moderate to high and current walking access to off-leash parks is limited. Enhance the quality and appeal of off-leash parks for both dogs and dog owners. Include the following amenities at dog off-leash parks: Ensure dog bag dispensers and waste disposal bins are available at all sites, and collect waste regularly. Ensure full perimeter fencing is in place. Minimum required fence height is 1.5m (5'). Provide drinking water for dogs. Utilize double-gated entries for user safety, and multiple entry points where feasible. Clearly post off-leash area rules in a least one location at each site to ensure that they are visible by all park users. Install site furnishings including seating, shelter, and lighting where feasible. Incorporate appealing walking trails where feasible. Implement a maintenance plan for each site. Encourage "self-policing" and have a designated method (e.g., smartphone app) to report violations. Adopt and post a "Code of Conduct" at each site.
17	In response to conflicts between recreational user groups in the MFR, foster communication between user groups, educate users, and install signage that clarifies regulations and promotes respect for other recreational users. Site specific trail design and management options will be evaluated, implemented and monitored. Alternative forms of recreation to mountain biking will be promoted and enhanced on Mount Richards, Mount Sicker, and Stoney Hill.
18	Work with conservation partners, including the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society, Cowichan Land Trust, Quamichan Stewards, and Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, to assess ecologically sensitive areas and ensure that trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities in areas of high conservation importance avoids, or mitigates, impacts to ecological values.
19	Actively manage recreational use within parks and Municipal Forest Reserve to avoid or mitigate visitor impacts on ecological values.
20	Educate parks maintenance staff about the ecological values in parks and appropriate management practices to sustain those values.
21	As necessary, the Municipality will apply the full range of direct and indirect visitor management strategies to proactively avoid and/or manage environmental and social impacts in parks, trails and in the Municipal Forest Reserve.

22	Design and implement a visitor monitoring/counting program for parks, trails and the Municipal Forest Reserve using TrafX or other similar visitor counter tools. The purpose of the program is to identify trends in use, collect comparative data over the long-term, support and direct compliance efforts and to assist in measuring the success of future capital projects as they are implemented.
23	Recognizing limited resourcing, partner with bylaw enforcement, RCMP, recreational organizations and others to augment the resources available to implement targeted visitor education campaigns promoting responsible, safe and lawful use of parks, trails and the MFR. Focus on recurring compliance problems such as illegal dumping, vandalism, off-leash use and failure to clean up after pets. The start of the summer and long-weekends are priority periods for these efforts.
24	Adopt the Leave No Trace program and integrate the program's educational materials into all visitor information, signage and other communication tactics.
25	Adopt or develop a Trail Etiquette program to clearly educate trail users about respectful use of trails and the yield hierarchy for multi-use trails and other trail use best practices.
26	Review the financial procedures and coding processes related to tracking parks and trails maintenance expenditures and revenue generation. Ensure expenditures and revenues are accurately tracked and can be easily analyzed by parks and trail facility.
27	Consider the implementation of a regular visitor survey to maintain an understanding of residents' and visitors' changing demands for and satisfaction with parks and trails services.
28	Undertake the development of a signage manual to identify a compelling brand for the Municipality's parks and trails and to ensure the consistent application of signage within the system.
29	Enhance wayfinding signage within and between parks and trails to make using our system as easy as possible.
30	Install Trailhead kiosk signage with maps at parking and staging areas.
31	Educate recreational users about invasive species, their spread and active management practices at park sites and online.
32	Develop a long-term funding strategy to control invasive species in parks and trails.
33	Minimize soil disturbance in all construction and maintenance activities.
34	Treat new infestations quickly - work with local invasive plant groups to deal with new infestations.
35	Contain neighbouring infestations and restrict movement of invasive plants from adjacent lands.
36	Monitor corridors like roadways, railroads and waterways for invasive plant establishment.
37	Use native plant materials for restoration efforts in natural areas. In urban park settings, use native trees and shrubs in plantings.
38	Ensure authorized vehicles are clean of invasive plants and seed.
39	Work with partners such as Tourism Vancouver Island, Destination BC, the tourism industry and others to develop a unique brand for our parks and trails, and to promote visitor experience itineraries based on the parks and trails.

40	Work with partners to develop an interactive web or App based visitor experience planning tool that allows residents and visitors to identify parks and trails opportunities based on preferred activities, difficulty levels, distance and other criteria via their smart phones. This online tool should serve as a single source of information about visitor experiences, facilities, amenities, events and programs in our parks. The tool should also provide visitors with real time interpretation and story-telling as well as location services to help them navigate our parks and trails.
41	Organize and deliver regular Park and Trail stewardship meetings that bring together all parks and trails stewardship groups in the community.
42	As necessary, utilize Public Volunteer Park and Trail Events to bring together resources (i.e. staff/contractor expertise, equipment, large group of volunteers, etc.) over a short period of time (i.e. half a day, a weekend) in order to complete a more complicated project such as a trail build.
43	Develop and promote a centralized web page/calendar where individuals and organizations can learn about and sign up for volunteer opportunities.
44	Consider hiring a minimum of one additional parks and trails planner FTE to support advancement of this plan and increased focus on development and management of outdoor recreational use and stewardship partnership in the MFR
45	The Municipality will create a policy for mobile food and beverage vending in appropriate parks. The policy will incorporate the BC Guidelines for Healthy Food and Beverage Sales.