

## 12.0 Parks, Trails and Recreation

### 12.1 CONTEXT

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Parks, trails, and recreation spaces offer opportunities for play, exploration, exercise, and connection. For View Royal community members, access to green space and recreation opportunities is an essential part of daily life. View Royal's many parks, green spaces, and trails contribute to the community's appeal. These amenities comprise a substantial portion of the Town, encouraging active lifestyles, supporting local ecosystems, and providing recreational options that benefit both locals and visitors.

The community boasts a wide range of amenities, including regional parks such as Thetis Lake and Mill Hill, neighbourhood parks like View Royal Park and Portage Park, shoreline access points, and the Galloping Goose and E&N regional trails. Through regional partnerships, community members also enjoy recreational services and programming provided at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre located in Colwood and the Pearkes Recreation Centre located in Saanich. View Royal's public schools also function as community programming spaces. These amenities are shown on Map 15.

The Town's Parks Master Plan outlines the vision and specific actions for parks and green spaces in View Royal. The objectives and policies outlined in this section aim to further implement the vision established in the master plan, as well as provide guidance for new priorities relating to parkland acquisition and improvements, trails, and recreation that have emerged since its completion with a forward-looking lens as the community grows over the lifespan of this OCP.

*The following OCP Goals may be achieved through the policy direction provided in this section:*

- Mobility & Connectivity
- Natural Amenities
- Community Well-Being
- Regional Partnerships
- Sustainable Service Delivery and Asset Management

# THETIS LAKE NORTH

DISTRICT OF  
HIGHLANDS

DISTRICT OF  
SAANICH

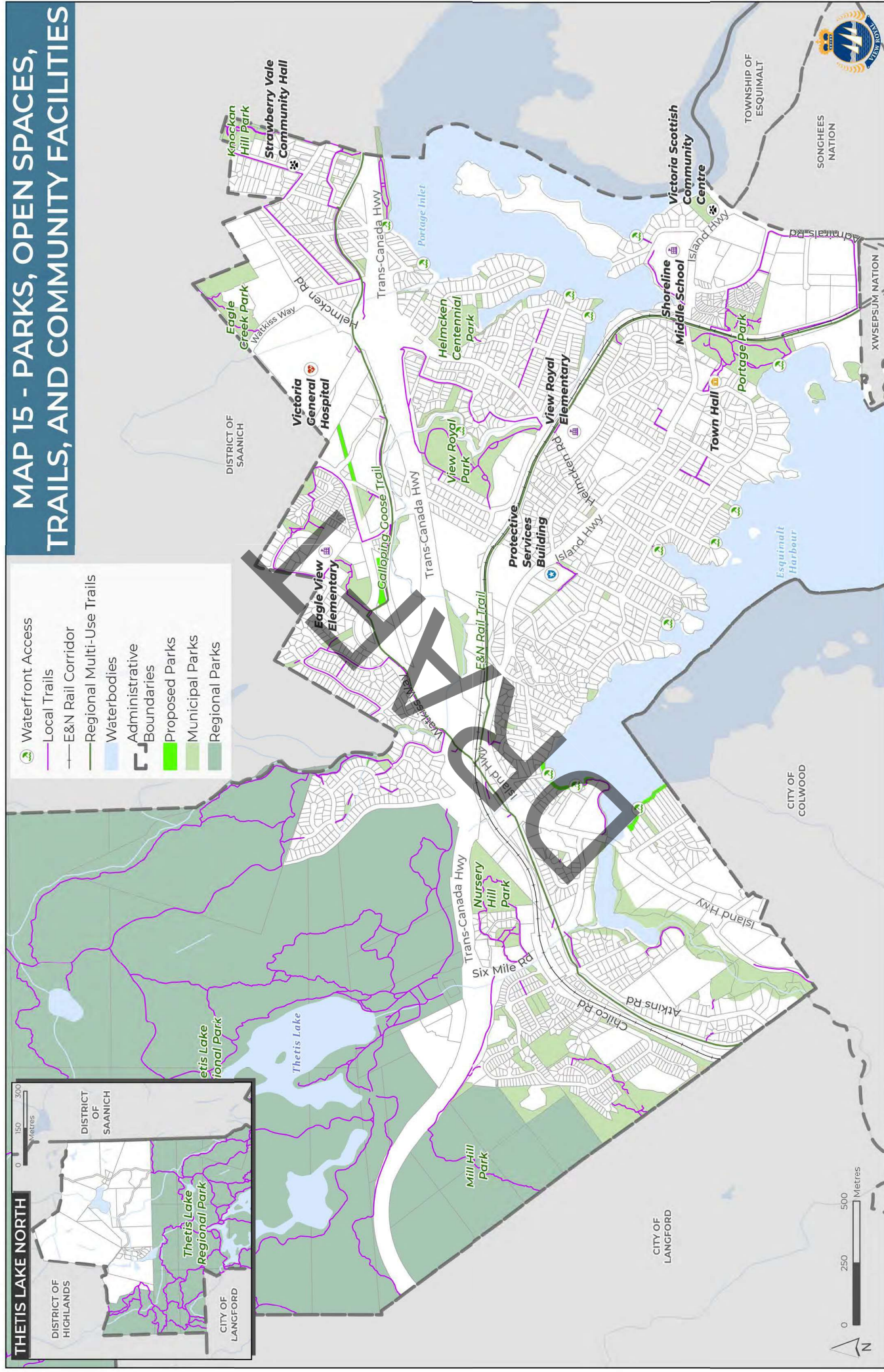
Thetis Lake  
Regional Park

CITY OF  
LANGFORD

0 150 300  
Metres

- Waterfront Access
- Local Trails
- E&N Rail Corridor
- Regional Multi-Use Trails
- Waterbodies
- Administrative Boundaries
- Proposed Parks
- Municipal Parks
- Regional Parks

## MAP 15 - PARKS, OPEN SPACES, TRAILS, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES



SONGHEES  
NATION

XWSEDSUN NATION

0 250 500  
Metres



## 12.2 OBJECTIVES

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### 12.2.1 HEALTHY, EQUITABLE, AND SAFE PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Continue to promote parks, trails, and recreation facilities as contributors to the overall health and well-being of residents and visitors, and explore opportunities to expand, design, and maintain these amenities for all ages and abilities to support a healthy and active lifestyle.

### 12.2.2 ACCESSIBLE PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Continue to explore opportunities to provide parks, trails, and recreation amenities that meet the diverse social, recreational, and wellness needs of current and future residents. Consideration of the type and location of these amenities should be considered at a community-wide and neighbourhood level, and within the Town's financial and service capacity.

### 12.2.3 PROTECT ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FUNCTIONS

Continue to recognize and protect the role parks play in maintaining the ecological integrity of our environment and contributing to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

### 12.2.4 PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Continue to strengthen existing partnerships and consider opportunities for new partnerships with local and regional governments and non-profit organizations to expand local and regional recreational opportunities.

### 12.2.5 LEVEL OF SERVICE

Achieve a sustainable level of service delivery for parks, trails, and recreation services that reasonably addresses community demand for access to public spaces and is within the Town's financial and resource capacity levels.



## 12.3 POLICIES

### 12.3.1 GENERAL

- A. Consider the evolving needs of residents for parks, trails, and recreation services and identify priorities and actions accordingly.
- B. Apply an equitable, diverse, and inclusive approach to the delivery of parks, trails, and recreation services in View Royal through the consideration of resident ages and abilities in the identification of priorities and the design of such spaces and infrastructure.
- C. Ensure parks, trails, and recreation planning are integrated with broader community planning efforts in the Town, including land use and transportation decisions, and public realm design.
- D. Continue to identify and understand gaps in the Town's parks, trails, and recreation offerings, and opportunities to enhance these amenities so that they are more adequate, usable, and accessible for all residents.
- E. Aim to achieve a minimum of 5.0 hectares (10 acres) of parkland per 1,000 people, or residents living within a 400 m radius or 5-minute walk of usable park space excluding regional parks and schools, while considering other significant factors affecting acquisition and access to parkland, such as transportation corridors and the Trans-Canada Highway.
- F. Continue to explore opportunities to remove barriers and improve access for people of all ability levels to parks, recreational facilities, public waterfront areas, viewpoints, and greenways while remaining sensitive to the preservation of natural habitat areas.
- G. Incorporate universal access design principles into parkland and trail design wherever possible.
- H. Support the safety and comfort of parks and recreation facility users by applying design principles and practices that address crime prevention in public spaces.

**Universal access design (UAD)** ensures that the built environment is designed in a manner that is accessible to most people, regardless of their ability to move around within a space.

### 12.3.2 PARKLAND ACQUISITION

- A. Prioritize parkland acquisition in neighbourhoods where supply is deficient. Special attention should be given to areas with high concentrations of underserved demographic groups, children and teenagers, and other groups with unique recreation and access needs.

- B. Pursue the acquisition of parkland through dedication at the time of rezoning or subdivision. Considerations should include parkland size, location, access, topography, presence of any hazardous conditions, treed areas, native ecosystem integrity, and maintenance requirements to determine if the proposed parkland is appropriate for public use.
- C. Explore how to integrate urban park types into the existing parks system to enhance streetscapes, such as pocket parks, road ends, and plazas, particularly in or near areas of high pedestrian activity. In reviewing development proposals for waterfront sites, encourage new public water and shoreline accesses, parks, and boat launches depending on current Flood Hazard Land Management Guidelines to consider a 2.0 global sea level rise (approximately 200 years) relative to the year 2000 sea level.
- D. Explore opportunities to provide weather-protection infrastructure in public parks and gathering spaces, including shade and rain coverage features. Explore the feasibility of providing public washrooms in Town parks.
- E. Prioritize parkland improvements in areas of the community with high concentrations of underserved demographic groups, children and teenagers, and other groups with unique recreation and access needs.
- F. Emphasize aspects of historical and cultural significance in View Royal parks through collaboration with the Songhees and Xwsepsem Nations.

#### 12.3.4 RECREATION

#### 12.3.3 PARK IMPROVEMENTS

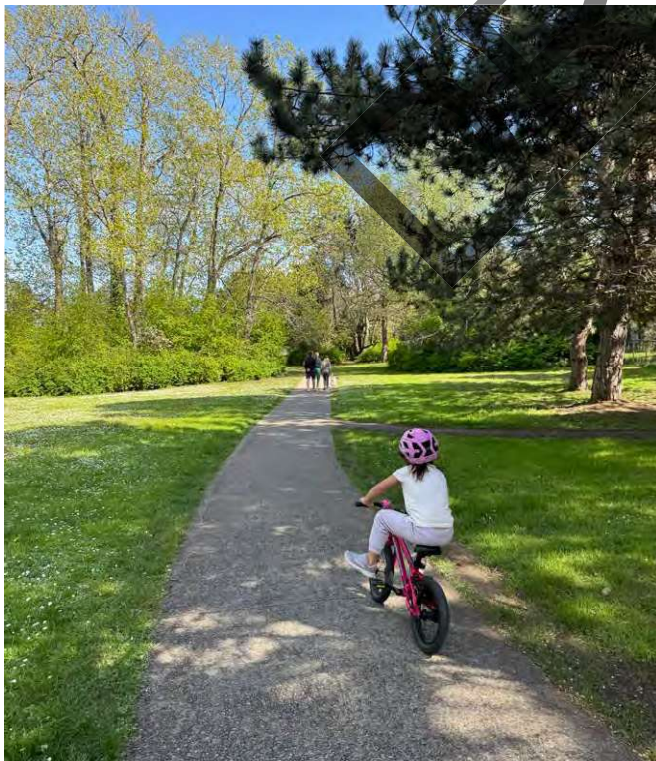
- A. Partner with community organizations, West Shore Parks and Recreation, and the Capital Regional District where possible to acquire, improve, and manage parkland amenities.
- B. Continue to maintain and enhance existing parks and consider the development of new facilities as needed.
- C. Support investment in View Royal Park as the Town's primary park to enhance access to recreation activities that attract a broad range of users.
- A. Continue to support the Town's inter-municipal facility sharing agreement for the West Shore Recreation Centre. Explore options for increasing local benefits from this partnership.
- B. Explore opportunities for partnerships with the Capital Regional District, School District 61, West Shore Parks and Recreation, and community organizations to deliver additional recreational opportunities for View Royal residents.
- C. Support non-motorized water recreation in View Royal and continue to explore opportunities to improve access to the water for *non-motorized vessels* in Esquimalt Harbour and Portage Inlet at key waterfront locations.

***Non-motorized vessels*** are human-propelled watercraft such as kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and canoes, amongst others.

- D. Enhance recreational amenities within the parks without compromising critical habitat or sensitive species.

### 12.3.5 IMPROVING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- A. Improve connections between parks, greenspaces, recreation facilities, schools and residential areas by enhancing linear parks, public trails, active transportation corridors, transit, and sidewalk connections.
- B. Explore options for improving access to parks via all modes of transportation.
- C. Explore opportunities to increase accessibility to recreation facilities and infrastructure by transit to ensure all ages and abilities have equitable access to these services and amenities.



### 12.3.6 PARKS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- A. Preserve and restore Environmentally Sensitive Areas within parks wherever possible.
- B. Acknowledge the role that trees play in providing ecosystem services, stormwater management, temperature regulation, and climate resilience in View Royal Parks by maintaining and enhancing the tree canopy in these spaces.
- C. Explore opportunities to educate the community on the natural systems within parks through interpretive signage and information boards.
- D. Protect ecosystems in natural parks through sensitive management and minimal construction, ensuring that any works shall be carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner with proper consultation with a qualified environmental professional.
- E. Rehabilitate areas affected by invasive plants and species to restore climate adaptive native vegetation and trees in View Royal parks. Where feasible, implement preventative measures to protect native habitats.
- F. Consider the criteria required to develop construction standards for trails that aim to avoid and mitigate harmful impacts on the natural environment.