

## **RDN to Develop New Parks and Trails Strategic Plan**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) currently manages over 200 community parks, 12 regional parks and more than 85 kms of trails, which are important and cherished assets for our residents. On May 28, 2019 the RDN Board approved a Terms of Reference for developing a new Parks and Trails Strategic Plan (PTSP). Once developed, the PTSP will guide the planning and development of the RDN's parks and trail system for the next ten years. To assist with undertaking the Plan, a Parks and Trails Plan Advisory Sub-Committee has been appointed by the Regional Board.

Since 2005, the RDN Parks system has experienced significant growth in the number and size of parks, and improved amenities have been created to support increased demand for outdoor recreation. Currently, services are spread between Electoral Area Community Parks and Regional Parks. Going forward, the PTSP will consider regional and community parks and trails as one system, and will seek to maintain connectivity between parkland and recreational amenities.

“The social well-being of our residents is a priority for our current Board of Directors, and this plan will help us evaluate the way ahead for parks and trails in the Region,” said Chair Ian Thorpe. “Prioritizing sustainable practices for the management, acquisition, and servicing of our parks and trails will help to enact the RDN's goal of making the region a safe and vibrant place for all.”

The plan development process will include a review of current services in order to inform the future role of RDN Parks Services, and it will involve consultation and engagement with the public, stakeholders, partners and other government agencies. The resulting comprehensive plan will provide the framework for a program that can be followed confidently year after year, be forward thinking and reflect the values of the community.

The Regional District of Nanaimo anticipates a 12–14 month process to finalize the PTSP. For more information on the current Parks and Trails system and services please visit:

[rdn.bc.ca/parks-services](http://rdn.bc.ca/parks-services).

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