



September 16, 2010

New Regional Parks Plan Approved

There is a new strategy to guide the development and management of parks within the Regional District Fraser-Fort George. Directors with the Regional District have approved the new 10-year plan that provides a framework for the operation and management of Regional Parks, as well as guidance for development and land acquisition of future parks. The previous plan was developed in 1986.

Petra Wildauer, General Manager of Environmental Services with the Regional District says updating the plan has been in the works for a year and has involved a great deal of consultation with the public and stakeholders.

“Last fall, we invited the public and interested stakeholder groups to share their thoughts about our regional parks. We asked people to identify what they liked, what they wanted to see improved, and where they felt our priorities should be for regional parks for the next ten years,” says Wildauer.

That feedback was compiled into a draft report and then taken back out to the public for their review and comment in June.

The plan identifies two main goals - to provide residents and visitors with a range of outdoor opportunities within developed park areas that are designed primarily for day use, and which are representative of the region's natural environment, recreation and heritage resources; and to create or complete trail-based linkages among regional, provincial and municipal parks and trail systems.

Priority areas for existing parks for the next ten years include road signs and facility improvements at all sites, invasive plant removal at Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead Historic Site) and Kristian Winther; restore steep bank at Cedarside Park; and erosion mitigation at Ness Lake and McMillan Creek; . Future potential parks have been identified in Tabor Lake area, Hixon area, Horseshoe Lake near McBride and McKirdy Road near Valemount.

The cost to implement recommendations from the draft plan has been estimated at \$1.5 million over 10 years, not including staff time.

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