



May 20, 2010

Regional Parks Plan Ready for Public Review

Last fall, the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George launched a review of its Regional Parks Plan – the 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 current plan was developed in 1986.

“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 Petra Wildauer, General Manager of Environmental Services with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

That feedback has been compiled into a draft report and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is turning to the public once more. “We want to be sure that we have captured the feedback and that the plan is a true reflection of what residents in the region want to see from their regional parks,” says Wildauer.

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.

Priority areas for existing parks for the next ten years include road signs and facility improvements at all sites, restore steep bank at Cedarside Park, complete renovations at Koeneman Park, develop the north portion of McMillan Creek and mitigate lakeshore erosion at Ness Lake Park. 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 \$1.33 million over 10 years, not including staff time.

“Now that the Board has received the draft plan, the next step is taking it back out to the public to get their feedback,” says Wildauer. An online survey will be posted on the Regional District website at www.rdffg.bc.ca. Hard copies of the survey will be available at municipal offices and libraries in Prince George, Valemount and McBride. Open houses are planned for Prince George on May 31, McBride June 1 and Valemount June 2.

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