



Section 6: Parks, Trails and Recreation

The varied natural environment of Electoral Area 'F' offers tremendous scenic, habitat and recreation resources. The Area contains several significant parks, such as Little Qualicum Falls and Englishman River Falls, as well as approximately 15 smaller community parks. Formal and informal trails (used for hiking, horseback riding and cycling) located along gazetted or dedicated rights-of-way and through park corridors are also found in the Plan Area. In addition, there are unofficial trails over private FLR lands. Lands designated as Park Lands are illustrated on Map No. 4.

Objectives

1. Preserve existing green space and parks to benefit local residents, tourism and wildlife.
2. Ensure that park-related policies and implementation measures include consultation with the Advisory Planning Commission and the residents, landowners and stakeholders of Area 'F'.
3. Encourage the preservation and construction of multi use trails to connect parks and green spaces.
4. Encourage public/private partnerships or private interests to provide recreation services.
5. Encourage School District No. 69 to consult with the community on the use of current and future school facilities in the Plan Area for public and recreational use.
6. Recognize that natural resource development must be considered in the designation of future parks.

General Policies

1. Develop a Master Parks Plan for Electoral Area 'F' to identify the types of park land desired by residents, identify significant sites for proposed parks, trails and recreation areas and to promote the integration of a parks and trail system into other recreational opportunities in the RDN.
2. Encourage the community to consult with land owners on community access to private forested lands.
3. Preserve Arrowsmith Trail (old CPR Trail) near Cameron Lake.
4. Support the retention of Crown land parcels for recreation and environmental protection.
5. Encourage a trail network connecting the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District and the RDN.
6. Ensure consultation takes place with affected landowners in the development of trails and open spaces and consider appropriate buffering to prevent negative impacts on adjoining lands.

Future Impact Policies

1. At the time of subdivision or development of land, the Regional District shall, in accordance with the policies of this Plan and at the direction of the Electoral Area 'F' Parks Master Plan, determine whether the applicant of the land being developed shall:
 - a) Provide, without compensation, park land equivalent to 5% and school land equivalent to 5%; OR
 - b) Pay to the RDN cash in lieu of park land dedication and cash in-lieu-of school land dedication in an amount equal to the market value of the land to be determined pursuant to RDN policy; OR
 - c) Provide a combination of land and cash in-lieu-of to the satisfaction of the Regional Board.
2. Where a site is determined by the Regional District to be acceptable for park purposes and the land has been determined not to be suitable for school site purpose, the Regional District may require a maximum of 10% of the land area of the property being subdivided for community park purposes

pursuant to the **Municipal Act** and the School Sites Acquisition Agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo and School District No. 69.

3. Where cash in-lieu-of park land is received as a result of development in the Plan Area, this cash shall be reserved for future park land acquisition in suitable locations in the Plan Area.
4. Parks and trails resulting from future subdivision, acquisition or donation shall be permitted in any land use designation or zone.
5. The future donation of private lands (full or partial title), and/or the protection of lands through restrictive covenants are encouraged.