

What's Your Vision?

Mount Benson Regional Park

Conservation?
Views?
Aesthetics?
Stewardship?
Resource?
Exercise?
Interpretation?
Nature?
History?
Recreation?
Tourism?

HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd. was selected in January 2009 to assist the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) with the preparation of the first management plan for the park.

This management plan will identify a long-term vision for the park and develop policies and short-term actions

for 2010-2020 which will help guide park development. The management plan will be developed in three phases:

1. Conduct background review and seek public input.
2. Prepare draft plan and public review.
3. Finalize plan.

Share your ideas!

- » Fill out a user survey. You can pick-up a copy from any RDN or NALT office or else you can find it on-line at www.mountbensonpark.ca.
- » Join us at our first public session scheduled from 4-8PM on April 16th, 2009 at the Beban Park Lounge. There will be a short presentation at 5 & 7 PM.
- » Stay tuned! A second public session will be held in September 2009 to present a Draft Management Plan for your review and comment.

About the Park

Mount Benson Regional Park lies just west of the City of Nanaimo and includes the lands leading up to the summit of Mt. Benson and the top-most part of the north and east slopes, facing Nanaimo and Lantzville, providing a natural backdrop to the City.

The 212 hectare (523 acre) park is made up of rough mountainous lands that extend between 457 m (1,500 foot) and 1,006 m (3,300 feet) elevation.

Stunning views from the peak and higher elevation viewpoints overlook Nanaimo, the Strait of Georgia and Mainland on the north and east, with a mountain panorama into the central Vancouver

Island highland mountains to the south and west.

The park property adjoins private forestry lands on the south, west and east slopes and Provincial Crown land leased to Vancouver Island University under a woodlot license on the north slope.

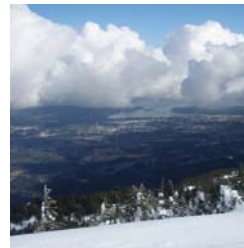
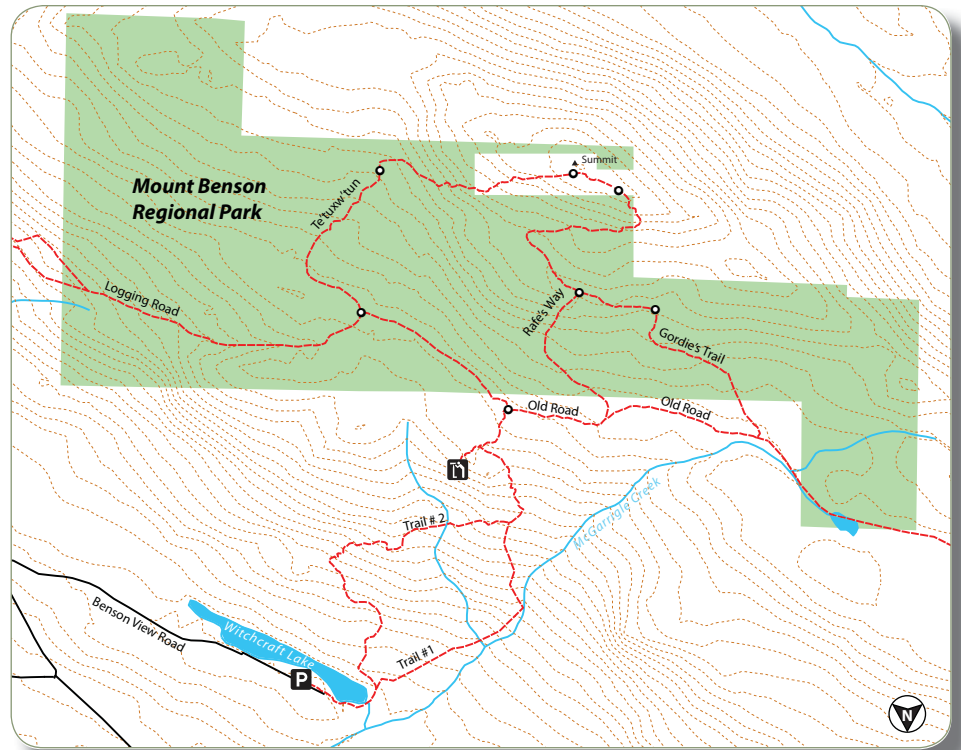
The park is primarily terrestrial herbaceous habitat (fir forests with mossy outcrops), with small patches of older growth forest. Historically, the property was used primarily as private managed forest.

The summit of Mt. Benson is the highest point of the Millstone River watershed

and is the source of McGarrigle Creek, which flows down to Witchcraft Lake.

The property is an important part of the network of wildlife corridors that link the central Vancouver Island mountain range system.

NALT initiated the drive to protect Mount Benson in 2003. Forming a partnership with other concerned organizations in the community, NALT and the Mount Benson Legacy Group negotiated with the owners to purchase the property. By late 2005, when purchase started to look like a reality, NALT approached the RDN to take the lead role in negotiations. In March 2006, the RDN purchased the property with NALT agreeing to contribute 50% of the purchase costs. NALT succeeded in raising its portion by Fall 2008.



For more information, please visit www.mountbensonpark.ca

Need more space for comments on your user survey? Please feel free to write your thoughts here.