

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN REPORT

A news publication by Valhalla Trails Ltd.

Winter 2013



Regional Parks and Trail Plan, a first for the ACRD

The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is undergoing its first Regional Parks and Trail planning process. Mid 2013, the regional district issued a request for proposals and Valhalla Trails Ltd. was selected to lead the project in partnership with ACRD staff and sub consulting firm Landworks LLC.

The idea for the project was initially crafted in the *2008 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Report*. This important document sets the foundation for the new plan and has helped to determine some of the key goals which include:

- an overall vision and plan for regional parks and trails within the ACRD
- a plan that meets the unique needs of the entire ACRD and its varying communities
- to provide recommendations for policies for management and to develop existing and future regional parks
- to develop alternatives for managing recreation resources in partnership with land owners, outdoors groups and First Nations.

- to ensure that the regional parks service benefits all residents of the ACRD
- to ensure local community and government involvement and leadership
- to provide an implementation strategy to support and enhance a competitive, sustainable (economically, environmentally and socially) regional parks service

VTL's Planning Director, Danica Rice plans to involve the community as much as they are willing to create a solid vision for the future of regional parks and trails within the expansive ACRD. The regional district includes 30,664 (2006 census) residents and covers 6,596.58 km² (2,546.95 sq mi).

The aim will be to define a vision that reflects the broad interests of the entire community and to determine appropriate and realistic courses of action for future regional parks, protected areas and trails.



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Volunteer Committee Members

To ensure transparency and a democratic approach for the project, the ACRD has established a volunteer Parks and Trail Plan Committee. This valuable group represents a wide spectrum of interests, with members representing all reaches of the district. To date, the committee has been instrumental in steering the process and in helping to spread the word for gaining public support and key ideas. Over the next few months, members will play an important role ensuring that the interests of the public are addressed in the plan. The committee members include:

1. Anne Stewart, Bamfield
2. Barb Baker, Alberni Valley
3. Brian Callender, Alberni Valley
4. Carlos Mack, Toquaht
5. Charlie Clappis, Huu-ay-aht
6. Charlie Cootes, Uchucklesaht
7. Emma Neill, Tofino
8. Harold Carlsson, Alberni Valley
9. Jackie Chambers, Alberni Valley
10. Jeff Cook, Huu-ay-aht
11. Jack Thompson, Dididaht
12. John Jack, Huu-ay-aht
13. Jolleen Dick, Hupacasath
14. Judy Carlsson, Alberni Valley
15. Karla Robison, Ucluelet
16. Larry Baird, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ
17. Libby Avis, Alberni Valley
18. Monty Horton, Uchucklesaht
19. Richard Kudra, Alberni Valley
20. Sarah Robinson, Toquaht
21. Sandy McRuer, Alberni Valley
22. Tara Atleo, Wild Pacific Trail
23. Tyson Atleo, Ahousaht



Community Engagement

To date, five community engagement events have been held across the region. In the fall of 2013, a Forestry Day event was held in Port Alberni, followed by four open houses in each of the main population centers of the regional district. These included Bamfield, Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet. All of the open houses were advertised in local newspapers and on the ACRD website. Where possible, social media was used to inform residents about the project and to encourage them to come and provide their input.

More than 117 people participated in the open houses. Participants were asked to provide their ideas on a number of top-

ics related to parks and trails. Three main exercises were offered. These included a large scale map to help illustrate the scale of the district and to help people to identify places that might be protected or designated as significant to future regional parks or trails.

Secondly, participants were asked to write on large scale posters to comment on a range of topics related to the project. These included the following thought provoking phrases:

- Places that I would like to see protected as regional park include:
- A good regional trail connection would be:
- My favourite outdoor activity is:
- A good regional tourism experience would be:
- Concerns I have about regional parks and trails include:
- I would support an X amount (\$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00) increase in taxation to protect and acquire parkland and to improve the ACRD park system
- General ideas and open comments

Lastly, participants were asked to “wish upon a leaf” in order to provide their most important ideas to the project.

Open House Results

The results of the engagement process are provided in this section. Please note that minimal editing has taken place in order to preserve the tone and content provided by the public.

PLACES TO PROTECT AS A REGIONAL PARK

Bamfield

- Sarita river and lake
- no logging or hydro dams
- freshwater recreation i.e Sarita and Pachena lake
- Deer group islands: Edward, King Fleming, etc.
- places that would also work as regional parks with Huuayaht First Nation (such as Ross islets for paddling)

Port Alberni

- Meconella Bluff
- ex-Boy Scout access trail
- Mclaughland watershed VIP (yes!)
- Cold creek trails and falls
- trails to Arrowsmith, Cokely (Gully etc)
- Nahmint/ 5040 / Jack's Peak/ Mt. Ad-der / Klitsa
- Inlet (CNPR) Trail, PA to Headquarters
- Inlet Trail continue to Bamfield

Tofino

- Cougar Annie's garden (+6)
- wild fish routes- habitat, salmon, stone fish, black cod, ling etc.
- Tofino Mudflats (+5)
- last stand of old growth (+3)
- animal migration routes (+2)
- intact ancient forests (+2)
- Virgin Falls
- Mount Pogo
- shore bird areas where feed and float
- Lone Cone trail and lookout
- more marine protected areas and fish sanctuaries
- buy Cannery Bay
- Pretty Girl-intact wilderness gem
- Satchey Creek river corridors and connections to the ocean
- connect the parks with wildlife and ecosystem corridors (Sydney PP must include lower river valley)

Ucluelet

- Sarita Falls
- Pachena Lake

REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Bamfield

- Bamfield/Anacla parks to road to port Alberni (x 5 checks) also on old Telegraph trail but connect with above far end or clear out at Pachena end
- Pachena-Keeha-Bamfield
- Grappler too Binnad trail (not clear)
- Safety: John mass donation
- Huuayaht projects list
- Old life saving/ lighthouse trails with cooperation of Parks Canada and Huuayaht First Nation

Port Alberni

- Inlet trail to Cowichan trail system
- Horne Lake access
- Cameron Lake railway, Parksville to Port Alberni
- Log Train, Anglers Trail, Greenmax
- Traditional First Nations trails Horne Lake linking to coasts
- community forest to Taylor Arm fire trail and Doran Lake

Tofino

- Tofino to Ukee (+2)
- Bedwell sound to Della Falls (with access to bedwell trail from inlet)
- Tofino to Ucluelet via PRNP (+ 4)
- West coast trail- telegraph trail (Bamfield to Ucluelet)- Wild Pacific trail- Tofino
- Clayoquot Witness trail to Alberni Valley (+2)
- Pioneer Walk (Ucluelet to Tofino via Florencia and Long beaches)
- hiking trail with campsites around Meares island
- Bedwell to Strathcona Lodge, maybe connect to Della Falls
- Mt Adder and Sutton Pass need to be kept open in the winter months for skiers

Ucluelet

- D.O.V Trails (Wild Pacific trail connect to National Park)
- seniors boardwalk trail connecting new seniors housing
- old wagon trails could be horse trails connecting Cowichan to Port Alberni and the coast
- A trail along the whole coast, Port Alberni to Tofino (parts of it exist now)

REGIONAL TOURISM EXPERIENCES

Bamfield

- hiking/boat tours with info about local ecosystems / animals / history
- rock climbing crags
- salmon snorkeling at Sarita and Nitnat
- surf tours by boat
- stand up paddle (marine and local lakes)
- sustainable, enjoyable
- more signed trail head loops
- seeing a multi use trail joining Anacla and Bamfield

Port Alberni

- hiking and scenic views
- consistently managed and promoted
- Stukes canyon to Rogers Creek
- promote Log Train trail for tourists (big race) (yes)
- waterfront hotel and boardwalk
- more council attention focused on outdoor recreation tourism promotion

Tofino

- multi-day kayaking with campsites (similar to Broken Islands) (+6)
- Better access for bird viewing (i.e Tofino mudflats) (+3)
- River trip on Lower Kennedy River(+3)
- Swimming in Upper Kennedy River
- Activities for tourists and get away places for locals
- Less development- more resources for education...for everything (+1)
- a kayaking, marine trail with designated improved campsites (+3)
- Sydney Valley sleep over
- good views of our own beautiful water, beach, mountain, forest, etc.
- guided adventures to tell history and info on areas
- ungulate studies and west coast wilderness education center

Ucluelet

- naturally protected areas (habitat for wildlife) being disrupted
- garbage from human activity (what you pack in, pack out, take only pictures, leave only footprints)
- protection of watersheds
- trees- build
- build the trail without cutting down any
- home to many species
- boardwalks, protect the forest floor