

# Cowichan Valley Regional District Regional Parks & Trails System

Presentation to:

Parks Service Review Committee  
Alberni – Clayoquot Regional District  
November 4, 2015



# Regional Parks Programs within BC

- Not all Regional Districts fund regional parks programs
- Regional Parks programs vary District by District
  - Fund acquisition and operation of larger park areas
  - Fund development & operation outdoor sports facilities
  - Fund sub-regionally select parks (E.A. and/or Muni based)
  - Fund regional trail networks
- *No two Regional Parks programs are exactly the same in BC as each is tailored to local RD taxpayer interests and values.*



# What are Regional Parks in the CVRD?

## 1975 CVRD Regional Park Planning Report

### Introduction

Added to the (an increasing) population are the compounded problems of increased leisure time, increased car ownership, increased disposable income, and increased travel which means more people, with more time, in more cars are spending more money in search of more recreational opportunities.



# What are Regional Parks in the CVRD?

## 1985 Cowichan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Acquire, develop and maintain eight regional parks across the CVRD.
- *(primarily area specific, not site specific, i.e. one on Cowichan Lake, one on Shawnigan Lake, etc.)*





# What are Regional Parks in the CVRD?

## 1992 CVRD Regional Parks Vision Statement

- To provide a balanced system of regional parks that provides a diversity of natural and recreational open space environments for the enjoyment and appreciation of the regional population.
- *(not site specific on where regional parks should be)*



# What are Regional Parks in the CVRD?

## 2007 Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan

- Provide Recreational Opportunities
- Protect Natural Areas
  - Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas
  - Biogeoclimatic Zones
- Include Representative Landscapes
  - Types – (mountain, ocean, lake, forest, stream)
  - Location – (represent all parts of the region)
- Regionally Significant
- Regional Liveability



# Regional Parks in the CVRD

In straightforward terms, CVRD's Regional Parks Program is defined as:

- created for the benefit of the entire Cowichan region.
- managed and funded through the taxes of all nine electoral areas and four municipalities.



# CVRD Regional Parks & Trails – Vision Statement (2007)

The people of the Cowichan Region value and wish to secure in perpetuity a network of regional parks and trails to provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, protect natural ecosystems, feature representative landscapes, link our communities and enhance livability within the region.



# Gauging Demand for Regional Parks

## Public Consultations

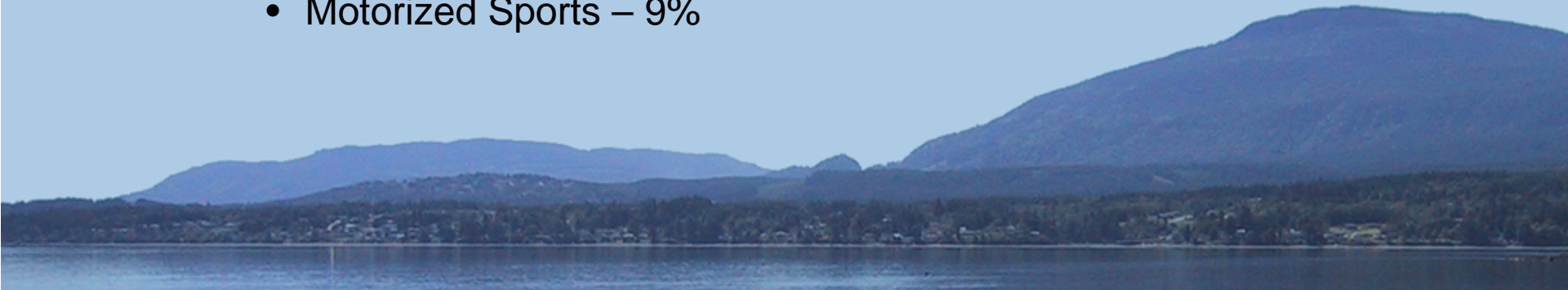
- Advisory Committee
- Public Meetings
- Mail-out Questionnaire
- Stakeholder Consultations
- Public Meetings
- Website information



# Region Wide Mail-out Survey

## Use of Parks

- Trails (walking/running) – 92%
- Picnicking – 36%
- Nature/bird watching – 27%
- Others
  - Cycling, horseback riding – 25%
  - Camping – 22%
  - Organized Sports – 14%
  - Motorized Sports – 9%





# Region Wide Mail-out Survey

## Important Roles for Regional Parks & Trails

<b>Role</b>	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat or More Important</b>	<b>Important or Very Important</b>
Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation	1%	9%	90%
Protect environmentally sensitive areas	1%	11%	88%
Protect important/unique geographic features	2%	10%	88%
Protect significant sites in the Cowichan Region	2%	12%	86%
Provide trail links between parks and communities	2%	28%	71%
Attract tourists	6%	33%	61%

# Region Wide Mail-out Survey

## What should be added?

<b>Types of Additions Most Important</b>	<b>Proportion Supporting</b>
Waterfront/beach parks (ocean)	57%
Waterfront/beach parks (lake)	47%
River corridor parks	41%
Regional trail connections	33%
Nature preserves	28%
Mountain/alpine parks	25%
Historical sites	25%
Multi-field sports complex	19%
Motorized recreational parks	14%



# Region Wide Mail-out Survey

## Highest Priorities for Increased Public Investment?

Type of Investment	Proportion Support
Acquisition of land for new parks	54%
Improve the trail system	41%
Increase maintenance of existing parks	40%
Install amenities to existing parks	40%



# Region Wide Mail-out Survey

## Support for Tax Increases

<b>Degree of Tax Increase</b>	<b>Proportion Supporting</b>
None – no increase	24%
\$10-\$20 per year	37%
\$21-\$30 per year	17%
\$31-\$40 per year	6%
\$41-\$50 per year	9%
More than \$50 per year	7%

# 104 Candidate Sites

Is the site regionally significant?

Does the site have constraints to accessibility?

Is the site similar to another candidate site?

Is the site already protected in some other way?

More information is needed?









# 12 Candidate Park Sites

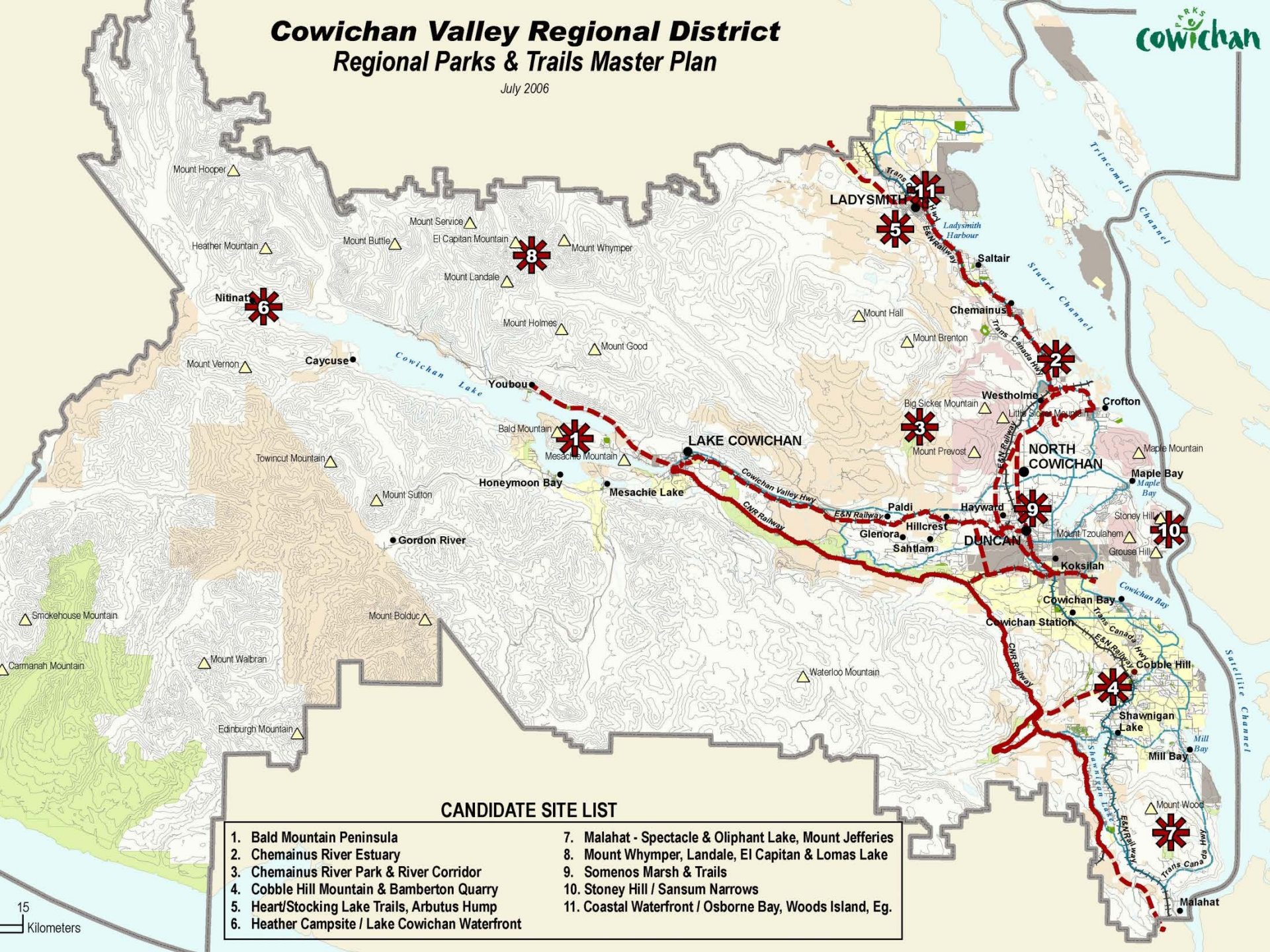
1. Bald Mountain Peninsula
2. Chemainus River Estuary
3. Chemainus River Park & River Corridor
4. Cobble Hill Mountain & Bamberton Quarry
5. Heart/Stocking Lake Trails, Arbutus Hump
6. Cowichan Lake Waterfront
7. Malahat -- Spectacle & Oliphant Lake, Mt. Jeffery
8. Mount Whymper, Landalt, El Capitan & Lomas Lake
9. Somenos Marsh and Trails
10. Stoney Hill / Sansum Narrows
11. Ladysmith Harbour Island(s)
12. Osborne Bay Park Ocean Waterfront  
Cowichan Valley Trail & Extensions





# Cowichan Valley Regional District Regional Parks & Trails Master Plan

July 2006



## CANDIDATE SITE LIST

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Bald Mountain Peninsula                     | 7. Malahat - Spectacle & Oliphant Lake, Mount Jefferies |
| 2. Chemainus River Estuary                     | 8. Mount Whymp, Landale, El Capitan & Lomas Lake        |
| 3. Chemainus River Park & River Corridor       | 9. Somenos Marsh & Trails                               |
| 4. Cobble Hill Mountain & Bamberton Quarry     | 10. Stoney Hill / Sansum Narrows                        |
| 5. Heart/Stocking Lake Trails, Arbutus Hump    | 11. Coastal Waterfront / Osborne Bay, Woods Island, Eg. |
| 6. Heather Campsite / Lake Cowichan Waterfront |   |









































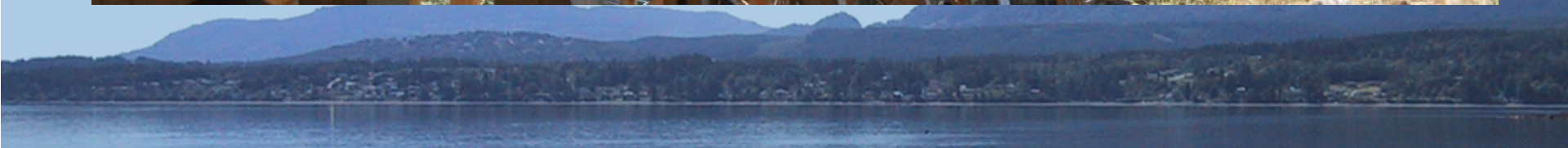














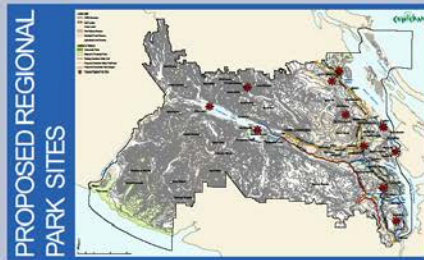
# Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund

## Referendum: Make Your Vote Count!

On November 15, 2008 taxpayers will be asked to decide if they support creation of a special fund so that unique landscapes across the Cowichan Valley Regional District can be secured in perpetuity as regional parks.

These valued sites would be held in the public trust to:

- Build a network of accessible regional parks.
- Enhance our quality of life and environmental stewardship.
- Preserve a diverse range of our region's landscapes.
- Protect natural areas for our wildlife.
- Create a lasting legacy of special outdoor spaces.



### Costs & Revenues

- Taxation amount will be \$5.00 per \$100,000 assessed residential property value
- Will raise about \$715,000 per year for the purchase of regional park lands



### Referendum Question:

“Are you in favour of the Board of the Cowichan Valley Regional District adopting CVRD Bylaw No. 3163 – Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund Service Establishment Bylaw, 2008 to establish an acquisition fund to provide for expenditures in respect to acquiring regional parkland within the Cowichan Valley Regional District?”

Funds raised through this taxation can be used ONLY for the acquisition of regional park sites, not for any other purposes.

**YES** or **NO**

**Referendum Date: November 15, 2008**

(With Municipal and School District Elections)



### Open House Details

- **Island Savings Centre** (Cowichan Community Centre)  
Thurs. October 16th, 7-9 pm  
Main Lobby
- **Ladysmith Secondary School**  
Tue. October 21st, 7-9 pm  
Multi-purpose Room
- **Kerry Park Rec Centre**  
Mon. October 20th, 7-9 pm  
Mill Bay
- **Lake Cowichan Rec Centre**  
Thurs. October 23rd, 7-9 pm  
Curling Lounge

Come out and Learn More!

### More Information

250-746-2620  
www.cvrdb.ca



**Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund**  
*A Lasting Legacy...*



# Regional Park Acquisition Fund

## Pay-As-You-Go:

- acquire parkland with funds without debt financing
  
- Advantages:
  - Avoids long term interest payments
  
- Disadvantages:
  - Potential land purchase limited to funds at hand
  - Extended period of time to build up funding reserves
  - Fund limit could result in missed parkland acquisition opportunities



# Regional Park Acquisition Fund

## Debt Financing:

### ■ Advantages:

- Can borrow to achieve short-term parkland acquisition as opportunities arise
- Both current residents and newcomers to region contribute over time

### ■ Disadvantages:

- Long term borrowing costs may be significant
- Commits funds to current priorities which could otherwise be directed to future regional park projects





# Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund

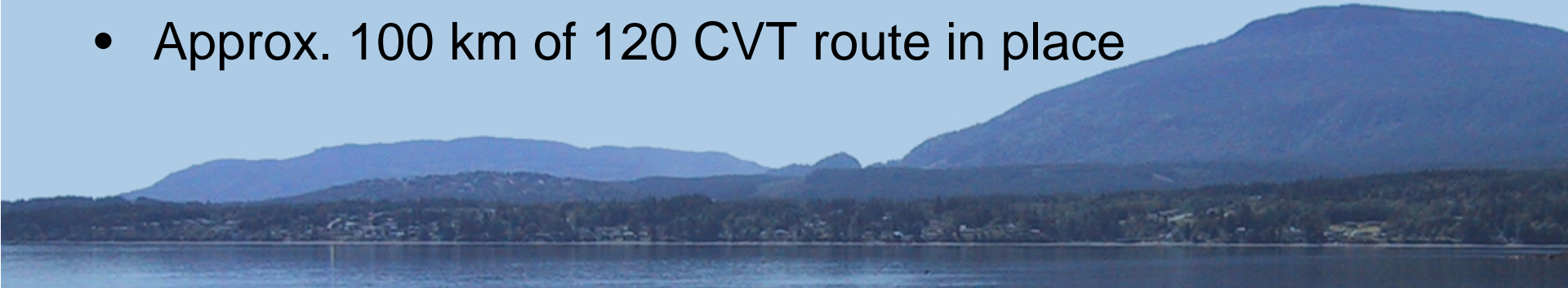
- Establishment Funding Bylaw
- Bylaw set at approx. \$5.00 per \$100,000 HHV
- 2008 - \$500,000
- 2009 - \$300,000
- 2010 - \$500,000
- 2011 - \$767,000
- 2012 - \$782,206
- 2013 - \$769,589
- 2014 - \$853,115
- 2015 - \$853,115

Total Funds to date: \$5,325,025



# Regional Parks and Trails Status

- Purchased five properties to date totaling over 430 acres
- Two properties included partnerships/donations to reduce purchase costs.
- Two regional park sites and one regional recreation area on crown lands under long term agreements.
- Rezoning amenity contributions have provided 875 acres of lands for park.
- Assembly of lands initiated for 7 of 11 regional park sites.
- Approx. 100 km of 120 CVT route in place



# Summary

## CVRD Regional Parks & Trails Plan

- 12 regional site sites
- Cowichan Valley Regional Trail
- long term plan to completed

## Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund

- Annual funding for parkland acquisition
- Guided by Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan
- Willing Seller/Willing Buyer approach



Questions?

