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## REGIONAL DISTRICT PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN

### PUBLIC INPUT

A workshop was held on Lasqueti Island in March 2010 to gain input from community members on parks and greenspaces. Participants were asked to offer their thoughts on the opportunities and challenges that the plan should address. This document is a transcription of the written input provided by participants in facilitated small group discussion sessions.

March 2010 public workshops details:

**Lasqueti Island**

Date: Friday, March 19, 2010

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 pm

WHAT ARE THE 3 **MOST IMPORTANT** THINGS THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE?

WATERFRONT	TRAILS	POLICY FOR CROWN LAND	ACQUISITION	CONSERVATION ECOSYSTEM	INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS	ACCESS MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfront properties near population centers for recreational use</li> <li>• Create a park with water access near False Bay</li> <li>• Acquire more seashore parkland</li> <li>• Identify and mark waterfront accesses</li> <li>• More public access to the ocean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open and improve existing public access trails and roads. Preserve when possible heritage building that may be on property</li> <li>• Walking and cycling trails between neighbourhoods all over Lasqueti</li> <li>• Human connectivity – island wide trail network</li> <li>• Establish trail system island-wide</li> <li>• Establish trail systems and trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase crown land for parks</li> <li>• Protection for Finnerty and Fagan Islands</li> <li>• Acquisition for more lands for parks and on environmental protection and conservancy. Trails plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition budget for Lasqueti</li> <li>• Public use land in or near False Bay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and protect crown land put a plan in place</li> <li>• Conserve sensitive ecosystems – old forest, riparian / wetland, rocky bluffs, woodland and enclosures from feral sheep for native wildflowers</li> <li>• Preserve crown land for old growth, habitat, passive recreation</li> <li>• Preserve natural/sensitive ecosystems (e.g. Rocky outcrops with wildflowers and wetlands)</li> <li>• Ecological connectivity – strait to channel green-blue belt</li> <li>• Preserve and protect wetlands</li> <li>• Preserve natural (native) ecosystems (crown land) and minimal impact walking trails in natural ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordinate PRRD plan with BC ITF etc</li> <li>• Walk-in campground potable water</li> <li>• Scale park sites to community scale</li> <li>• Acquire one or more big pieces of crown land for regular park(s)</li> <li>• Connect preserved areas land/sea by land acquisition, trails</li> <li>• PRRD parks plan opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs for what is here for public use</li> <li>• Open existing public access</li> <li>• Sale public access</li> <li>• Secure public park space in False Bay area</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 **BIGGEST CHALLENGES** THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?

<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>	<u>COMMUNITY INTERACTION</u>	<u>PROTECTION FOR NATURAL AREAS</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need an outreach program for neighbours of proposed parks or trails</li> <li>• Lower the “fear” factor about trails on private lands</li> <li>• Education regarding appropriate use of public land</li> <li>• Clarity in the community where current (and proposed) waterfront access exists – signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage sheep in sensitive areas</li> <li>• Feral sheep damage natural ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower local residents to design and manage local parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update a community vision</li> <li>• Ongoing threats to develop crown land</li> <li>• Ban export of timber crown land</li> <li>• Ban slash burning tires and cadmium residue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property taxation assists land owners NAPTEP Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (Is. Trust)</li> <li>• Partner with conservation NGOs (e.g. The land conservancy Habitat Acquisition Trust) for acquisition as well as covenants</li> <li>• Cash for acquisition, hold a referendum in next election on a protected area acquisition fund (e.g. CRD has had one for a decade)</li> <li>• Small tax for parks on development, profits from property sales, etc</li> <li>• Liqueur tax money → liqueur parks acquisition and management</li> </ul>