



PARKS & TRAILS **MASTER PLAN**

District of Central Saanich
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

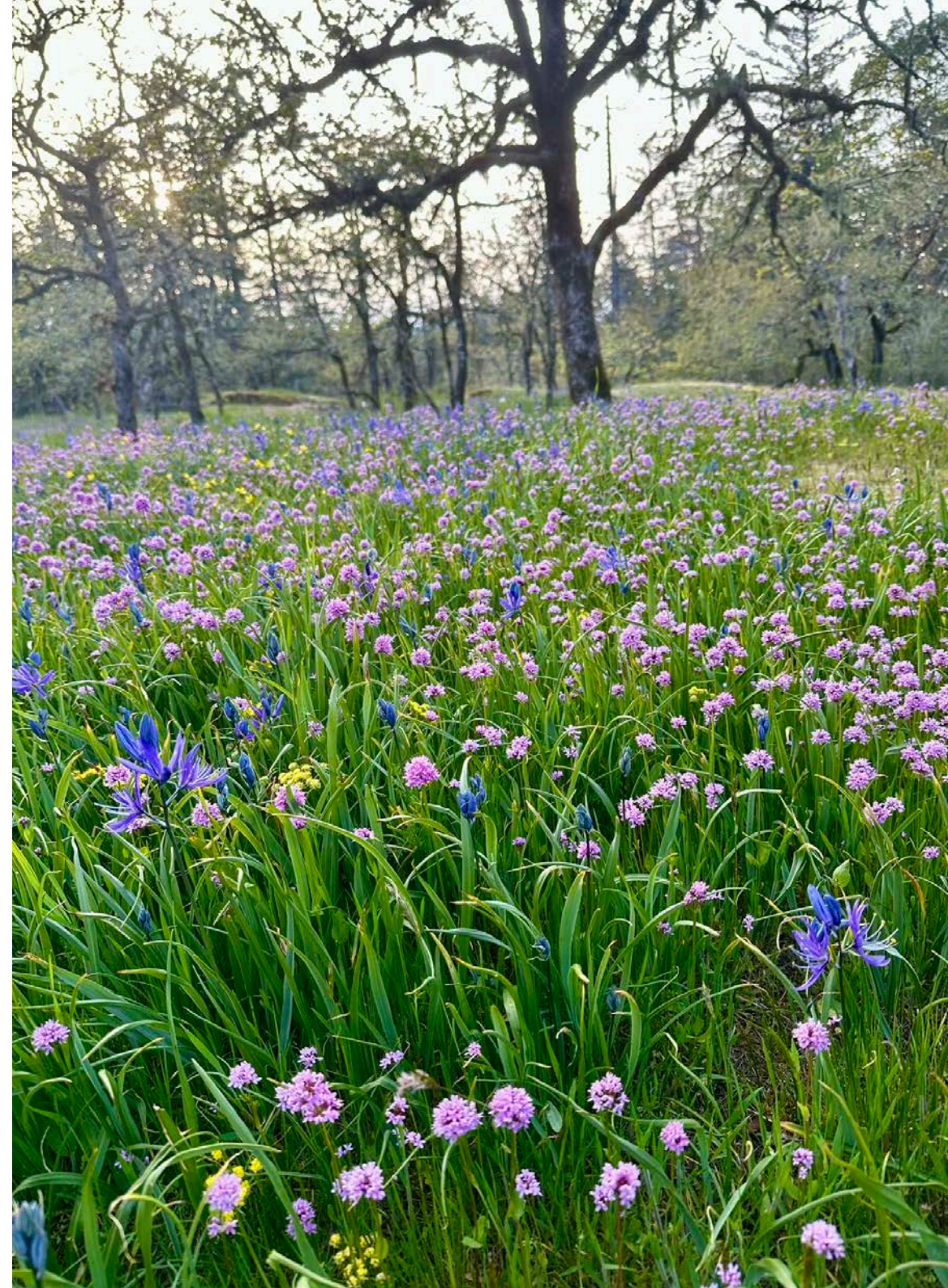
Central Saanich and its parks, trails and shoreline accesses are located on the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ people, represented today by W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), STÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) First Nations. The W̱SÁNEĆ People have been here since time immemorial, and this is their home.

The District of Central Saanich is committed to celebrating and respecting the knowledge and practices of the W̱JOŁEŁP and STÁUTW̱ First Nations and working with the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples to protect our environment and ensure their perspectives, wisdom and wishes are reflected in the District's management of local parks, trails and shoreline accesses.

1.0

INTRODUCTION

The District of Central Saanich has a spectacular variety of parks, trails and shoreline accesses that provide residents and visitors places to walk/hike, play, gather and/or enjoy the natural beauty and agricultural vistas. While the District has a diverse range of parks, trails and open spaces, many are currently underdeveloped or underutilized. With a growing population, a new Parks and Trails Master Plan will help guide staff and Council in making well-informed, efficient and cost-effective decisions for parks, trails and shoreline accesses over a 10-to-20-year period to ensure that the system continues to meet the needs of the community.



1.2

PLAN PROCESS

The Parks and Trails Master Plan was developed over five phases. The planning process was collaborative with First Nations, interest holders, the public, District staff and Council with multiple rounds of engagement throughout the project.

- Phase 1: Pre-planning work, background reviews, mapping and site reviews, and needs assessment.
- Phase 2: Engagement with First Nations, interest holders, and the public to identify opportunities, issues, proposed vision and goals.
- Phase 3: Draft Master Plan #1; community engagement on Draft #1.
- Phase 4: Draft Master Plan #2 and Draft Implementation Plan; community engagement; Final Master Plan.
- Phase 5: Draft Implementation Plan and integration into 5-year Capital Plan, Asset Management Plan, Development Cost Charges and Amenity Cost Charges.

While important to the overall fabric of open spaces, trails and shoreline accesses within the District of Central Saanich, regional and provincial parks and other properties not owned by the District are not specifically addressed in this plan but will be referenced in relation to the services they provide. Considerations around improved access and/or future partnerships to address desired improvements are included in this plan.

Public Engagement

Public engagement was a critical component of the development of the Parks and Trails Master Plan to capture and reflect on how residents and visitors use parks, trails and shoreline accesses in the District and their suggestions and priorities for the future.

The What We Heard Report is provided an appendix to the plan.



2.0

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.0

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1

COMMUNITY PROFILE (HISTORY)

Central Saanich is a welcoming, active community on the Saanich Peninsula, known for its stunning natural landscapes of farmland, forests, ocean, and mountain views. It is located within the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, represented today by WJOLÉLP (Tsartlip), SXÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), and MÁLEXEL (Malahat) First Nations.

WSÁNEĆ oral history tells of a great flood that occurred about 10,000 years ago. XÁLS, the Creator, warned the people of the impending flood, and they prepared by gathering supplies and taking to their canoes. As water levels rose, they anchored to arbutus trees on a mountain that was eventually submerged. When the waters receded, Mount Newton reemerged, providing refuge. Those who survived called themselves the WSÁNEĆ, meaning “the emerging people,” in recognition of their survival and new beginning.

European settlers began arriving around 1855, establishing farms and infrastructure, such as the Prairie Inn and Victoria and Sidney Railway. Central Saanich became an independent district in 1950 and has since focused on preserving agricultural lands through the Agricultural Land Reserve and maintaining a balance between rural character and sustainable, pedestrian-friendly development. The district’s Official Community Plan (OCP) has consistently emphasized protecting natural resources, shorelines, and habitats.

2.2

DEMOGRAPHICS & LAND USE PATTERN

Central Saanich has a population of 17,385 (2021 Census) and has historically grown at a rate of about 1% per year. The population includes increasing numbers of young children (ages 0-9), adults aged 30-39, and seniors aged 60-79. In 2024, the Provincial Government set a housing target of 588 new units to be built by 2028. Additionally, projections estimate that 1,117 units will be needed over the next 20 years to meet housing demand. Sixty percent of Central Saanich's population is under 49 years old. Compared to the Capital Regional District (CRD), Central Saanich has a higher proportion of both young children and older adults, with an average household size of 2.4 persons, slightly larger than the CRD average.

Central Saanich's land use is heavily shaped by its agricultural roots, with 61% of its land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and only 18% within the Urban Containment Boundary. Growth is expected through infill and densification, especially in the village centers of Saanichton and Brentwood Bay, and the Keating Business District.

The 2021 Census data shows that most homes in Central Saanich are single-family residences (53.8%), followed by duplexes and townhomes (34.2%), and multi-family apartments (11.1%). New provincial legislation, introduced in 2023, aims to increase housing supply by allowing more units per lot within the Urban Containment Boundary, moving away from traditional single-family zoning.

2.3

EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS

The Official Community Plan (OCP) represents the long-term vision for the community, setting out objectives and policies that guide decisions on planning, land use, and the provision of municipal services. The current OCP was approved in April 2023 following three years of plan preparation including considerable community input. Guidance for the Parks and Trails Master Plan can be found throughout the OCP. Other plans that relate to and support this plan include:

- Zoning Bylaw #2180
- Climate Leadership Plan (2021)
- Central Saanich Accessibility Plan (2023)
- Active Transportation Plan (2021)
- Age-Friendly Community Plan (2023)



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) COMMUNITY VISION

Central Saanich is a community where residents value our great natural beauty and rolling rural landscapes, with active agriculture existing in harmony with vibrant, compact villages. Located within a growing metropolitan region, Central Saanich has maintained its rural and small-town character with a strong sense of community pride and neighbourly residents that welcome diversity.

The District is a leader in climate action and peninsula-wide collaboration with WSÁNEĆ Nations, other municipalities, businesses and community organizations to minimize negative impacts on the environment, our waterways, and marine shorelines.

The built environment supports a healthy community that is active, vibrant, and inclusive, with a road, trail and open space network that is safe and prioritizes active transportation. A diverse housing stock located within walking distance to services and public transit supports residents of a range of ages, incomes, and abilities to age-in-place and thrive within the community.

3.0

MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK

3.0 MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK

3.1 PLAN PURPOSE

The Parks and Trails Master Plan provides a roadmap that ensures our system of parks, trails, shoreline access and other public open spaces protect our environment and provide high-quality, inclusive places for people to exercise, play, socialize and explore.

PLAN PRINCIPLES

The following plan values are the core considerations behind the goals and actions of the Master Plan and support the objectives of the District's Official Community Plan (provided in bullets on the next page).

PRINCIPLE #1

Ensure the parks and trails system is welcoming, inclusive, diverse and equitably distributed.

- Provide a variety of parks and trails that are safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.
- Continue to expand and develop the parks and trails system to serve the existing and future needs of the community in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Improve the quality and quantity of public shoreline access and support non-motorized recreational opportunities in key waterfront locations.

PRINCIPLE #2

Foster connectivity for people, places and nature.

- Work with adjacent jurisdictions, the CRD and BC Parks to create linkages between parks and open spaces that connect to regional amenities and form corridors for multi-modal active transportation.
- Work with WSÁNEĆ Nations to identify, protect and restore ecologically and culturally sensitive areas and to celebrate art, stories and culture.

PRINCIPLE #3

Celebrate, protect and enhance our natural character and environment.

- Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitat and environmentally sensitive areas within the Parks and Trails system, particularly related to the Coastal Douglas-fir and Garry Oak ecosystems.
- Develop the parks and trails system in an environmentally sensitive manner that protects a diversity of species and ecosystems.

PRINCIPLE #4

Manage and operate the parks and trails system in a way that is collaborative, climate adaptive, future-forward and cost-efficient.

- Recognize the role of natural areas in climate resiliency and consider climate action in all park planning, design and operations by applying landscape strategies that decrease water use, enhance habitat and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- When designing or improving parks, continue to apply the Canadian Landscape Standard (CLS), Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) playground standards.

3.2

KEY TRENDS IN PARKS & TRAIL MANAGEMENT

The following is a summary of some of the general trends affecting management and operations of parks, trails and open spaces.

Truth and Reconciliation: Parks offer opportunities to integrate Indigenous knowledge, values, and culture while supporting reconciliation through connection to the land.

Active Transportation and Connectivity: Growing demand for walking, cycling, and recreational use of trails necessitates community connections and infrastructure like bike racks and charging stations to support both commuters and recreational users.

Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusion: The Accessible BC Act requires public spaces to be free from barriers, ensuring parks are inclusive for people of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Increasing Land Values and Competition: Rising land costs and housing legislation make it harder for local governments to acquire parkland, even as population growth increases demand for recreational spaces and environmental protection.

Competing Demands: Increased park visitation post-pandemic and demands for diverse amenities (e.g., bike parks, sports courts) require multi-functional park designs but may lead to user conflicts.

Infrastructure and Resourcing: Aging infrastructure, growing use, and limited budgets mean parks must be seen as essential services. Partnerships with schools, community groups, and volunteers are critical for sustainable service delivery.

Climate Change: Parks mitigate climate impacts through green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. However, changing weather patterns increase maintenance needs and affect species selection for plantings.



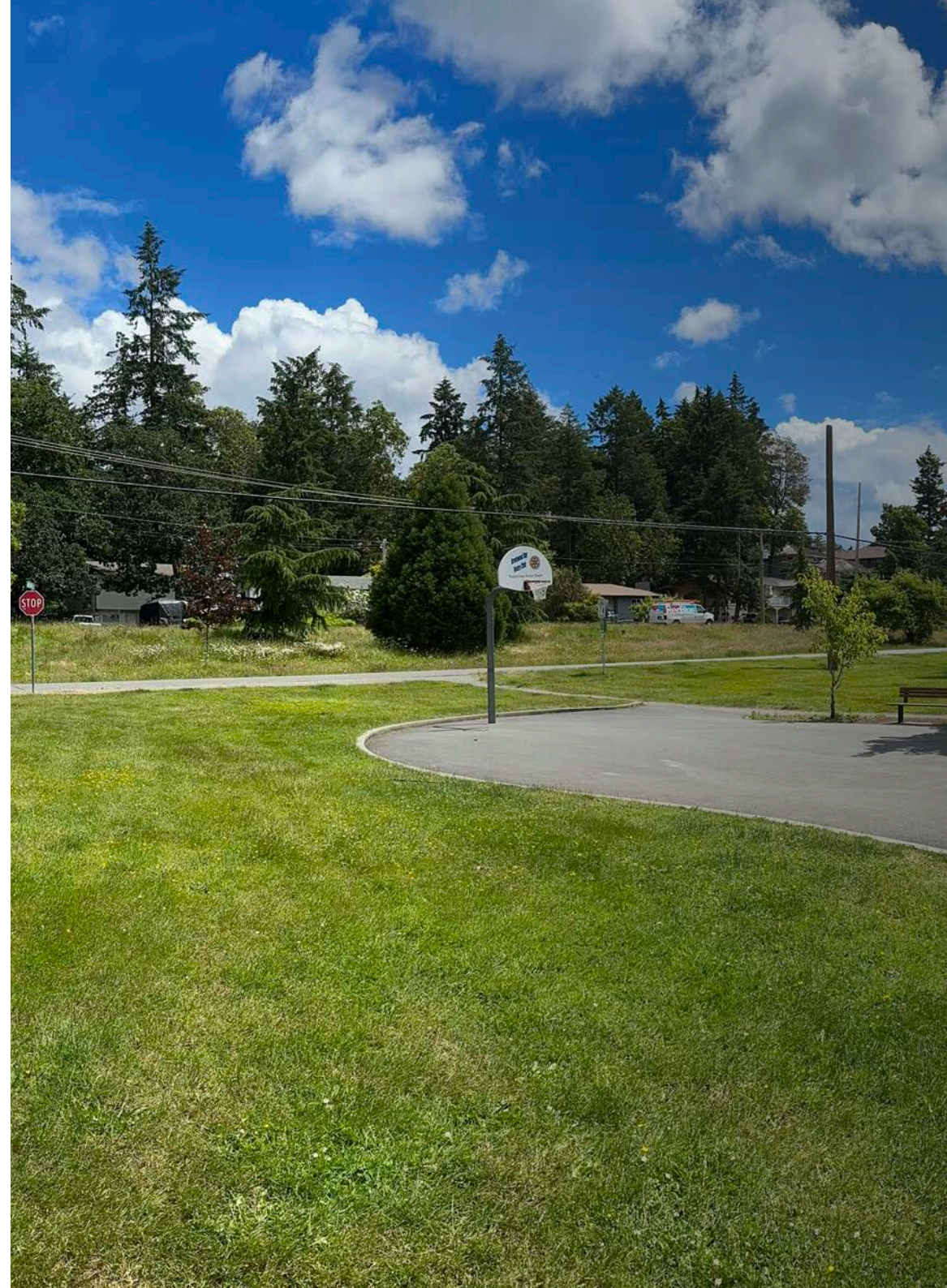
4.0 **ANALYSIS**

4.1 PARKLAND

4.1.1 INTRODUCTION

Parks, trails and shorelines are essential to the well-being of Central Saanich, offering residents and visitors a place to connect with nature, engage in recreational activities, and enjoy the community's natural beauty. The District's diverse parks network, from neighborhood playgrounds to expansive natural areas, plays a key role in promoting environmental stewardship, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing quality of life.

The Parks and Trails Master Plan aims to guide the future development, management, and conservation of these valuable green spaces, ensuring they remain vibrant, accessible, and resilient in the face of growth and climate change. Through thoughtful planning, the District is committed to creating a sustainable parks system that supports both active recreation and ecological preservation, enriching the lives of current and future generations.



4.1.2 **PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Engaging with the public to guide the development of parks with the highest needs and potential (Centennial, Adam Kerr, Saanichton Bay, etc.).
- Building multi-park management strategies that align with ecological goals and community recreation needs.
- Creating trail systems that connect parks, schools, and other key destinations.
- Expanding the District's Signage and Wayfinding Program to improve park navigation and integrate cultural heritage into signage.
- Prioritizing accessible trails and ensuring shoreline and forest experiences are inclusive for all users.
- Setting ambitious goals for park access within walking distance of all residences, leveraging natural areas to enhance recreational benefits.
- Collaborating with local conservation groups and First Nations to protect culturally significant areas and enhance park stewardship.
- Developing partnerships with community organizations to increase public involvement and secure resources for park development.
- Establishing new policies for festivals, commercial activities, and public art to enhance the user experience without compromising park integrity.

4.1.3 PARKS CLASSIFICATION

Classifying parks by use, community needs and/or suitable uses, among other factors can assist in the management of park land including future land acquisition needs and operational/capital improvement needs. They can also be used to help the public identify at a high level the features that they can expect to find in any park.

Given the multiple roles that many of the parks and open spaces play, the District would like the classifications to be useful for both operational management as well as for public use. The classification system within this plan uses a primary classification with a secondary classification where warranted.

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
Community Park	<p>Large destination spaces that benefit the broader community. Centrally located. They appeal to the broad community as well as to visitors and include a diverse collection of features and facilities.</p> <p>Park Standards and Amenities: Mowed grass area, trails, playground with fencing along roads, benches or picnic table, waste facility, dog bag dispenser, bike racks, shade trees, and signage and wayfinding.</p>
Neighbourhood Park	<p>Respond to localized outdoor recreation needs of community residents within close walking distance to their homes. They provide a visual, physical and social focus for a neighbourhood area. Especially important in neighbourhoods where private open space is limited (e.g. dense development, multi-family areas).</p> <p>Park Standards and Amenities: Mowed grass area, trails, playground with fencing along roads, benches or picnic table, waste facility, dog bag dispenser, bike racks, shade trees, and signage and wayfinding.</p>

4.1.3 PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
Nature Park	Dedicated for community access to nature and can provide ecological conservation, wildlife habitat protection, watercourse protection. Recreational use in nature parks is typically limited to passive enjoyment and pedestrian trails. Park Standards and Amenities: Trails, fencing in environmentally sensitive areas, benches at rest/viewpoints, bike racks, and signage and wayfinding.
Undeveloped / Inaccessible Park	Areas dedicated as park land but that have not been developed to provide identification, maintenance, access or amenities; or are inaccessible. Most often not known or used by the community as public park space.
Culture & Heritage Park	This classification applies to the portion of Newman Farm to the west of Central Saanich Rd that consists of heritage buildings and active farmland.
Pathway / Trail Linkage	Paths and trails that have been developed for pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian travel. Area on either side of pathway may serve ancillary recreational purposes.
Shoreline Access	To allow public access to the District's foreshore with the purpose of maximizing the recreational potential of the shoreline. May provide physical or visual access.
Habitat/ Conservation	A secondary classification for Nature Parks that provide outstanding habitat or ecosystem value such as Garry oak habitat and/or creek and riparian habitats.

Table 1. Park Classifications

4.1.4 PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships play a critical role in the parks and open space system within the District. Key partners for the District include the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations and WSÁNEĆ School Board, other levels of government including provincial and regional park providers, Peninsula Recreation Commission, Saanich School District, conservation organizations; sports and recreation organizations; other non-profit organizations; and private landowners. There are a variety of other parks and open spaces within the District that have significant ecological values that are owned and maintained by others.



4.1.4 PARTNERSHIPS

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SITES
Provincial and Regional Parks	Parks owned and operated by other jurisdictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park • ŁÁU,WELNEW/John Dean Provincial Park • Island View Regional Park
School Grounds	The green space portion of public-school sites (Saanich School District #63) excluding buildings and parking lots. These lands typically offer some park values, particularly outside of school hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayside Middle School • Brentwood Elementary School • Individual Learning Centre • Keating Elementary School • Stelly’s Secondary School
Other Open Space	Other lands owned and maintained by others that provide protection of natural habitats or provide other open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ŪIKEL (Maber Flats) • St. Stephens Anglican Church • Shady Creek United Church

Table 2. Other Parks and Open Spaces



4.1.5 EXISTING INVENTORY

There are over 205 hectares of parks and open spaces within the District. Over half of this (119.43 ha) is provincial and regional parks (Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park, ŁÁU,WELŃEW/ John Dean Provincial Park and Island View Beach Regional Park) that add important natural areas protection and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The District of Central Saanich manages approximate 103 hectares of public parks and open spaces that include both lands dedicated as parkland as well as lands within undeveloped road rights-of-way that serve as parkland, pathways and trail linkages, or shoreline access points. A summary table is below. For a full list of parks and their classification, see Appendices.

4.1.5 EXISTING INVENTORY

PRIMARY PARK CLASSIFICATION	COUNT	AREA (ha)
Community Park	2	19.89
Neighbourhood Park	21	11.28
Nature Park	16	47.63
Culture and Heritage Park	1	1.81
Shoreline Access (Developed)	11	1.14
Pathways and Trail Linkages	9	4.90
Undeveloped	5	14.80
Shoreline Access (Undeveloped)	11	2.32
<i>SUBTOTAL – DCS LANDS</i>	76	103.77
Nature Park – Other (Developed)	3	119.43
Nature Park – Other (Undeveloped)	1	18.49
School Grounds	5	8.48
Other Open Space	2	2.25
TOTAL	87	252.42

Table 3. Classification Analysis

4.1.6 PARKLAND SUPPLY ANALYSIS

Parkland supply analysis evaluates the current availability, distribution, and adequacy of parkland within the community. This ensures that the park system continues to support a growing population, contributes to ecological sustainability, and enhances the overall quality of life for the community.

Parkland supply is analyzed using three different methods. Many municipalities use population-based standards to calculate and plan their supply of parkland. Additional analyses of area-based supply and spatial distribution can increase the understanding of parkland supply and needs for future parks.

Table 4 provides supply analysis of parks and open spaces within Central Saanich by park classification.



4.1.6 PARKLAND SUPPLY ANALYSIS

PRIMARY PARK CLASSIFICATION	AREA (ha)	2021 Ha/1000 residents (pop. 17,385)*	2041 Ha/1000 residents (pop. 24,000)	% of Total Land Area
Community Park	19.89	1.14	0.80	0.48%
Neighbourhood Park	11.28	0.65	0.45	0.27%
Nature Park	47.63	2.74	1.91	1.16%
Culture and Heritage Park	1.81	0.10	0.07	0.04%
Shoreline Access (Developed)	1.14	0.07	0.05	0.03%
Pathways and Trail Linkages	4.90	0.28	0.20	0.12%
SUBTOTAL	86.65	4.98	3.47	2.10%
Undeveloped Parks	14.80	0.85	0.59	0.36%
Undeveloped Shoreline Access	2.32	0.13	0.09	0.06%
CUMULATIVE SUBTOTAL	103.77	5.97	4.15	2.52%
Nature Park – Other (Developed)	119.43	6.87	4.78	2.90%
Nature Park – Other (Undeveloped)	18.49	1.06	0.74	0.45%
School Grounds	8.48	0.49	0.34	0.21%
Other Open Space	2.25	0.13	0.09	0.05%
TOTAL	252.42	14.52	10.10	6.13%

Table 4. Population and Area-based Parkland Supply Analysis

* Statistics Canada 2021 Census.

4.1.7

POPULATION-BASED ANALYSIS

For many years the Canadian standard for supply of active parkland (programmed parks that provide public amenities) was 4 ha/1,000 population. However, supply standards have been decreasing in part due to increasing densities. In 2005, the BC Parks and Recreation Association (BCRPA) conducted a review of all municipalities in BC and found the average was 2.51 ha/1,000 population. These supply analyses are highly variable, and it is difficult to make comparisons since the size, context, and quality of parkland differs greatly among communities. Studies have shown active parkland supply figures in BC ranging from 0.6 to 6 ha/1,000 population.

Currently, the District has 4.98 ha of developed parkland per 1000 residents. With an anticipated population in 2041 of approximately 24,000 people, that amount decreases to 3.61 ha/1,000 population. To maintain the current per-capita municipal parkland provision, the District would need to acquire and/or develop approximately 32 hectares (or 80 acres) of parkland.

When including other parkland and open spaces, including parks managed by the CRD, province or others, the ratio is 14.52 ha/1000 residents (2021 Census) and 10.52 ha/1,000 pop with a future population of 24,000 in 2041. This is due to the large regional and provincial parks within the District.

4.1.8

AREA-BASED ANALYSIS

Another way of measuring parkland supply is in relation to land area. Some municipalities aim to have around 12% of their land designated as protected areas, aligning with provincial standards. This measure typically includes open space, natural areas, and parks managed by all jurisdictions.

As shown in Table 5, Central Saanich’s parkland supply is 6.02% of the total land area, which is below the average amount of parkland, even when considering all parks and open spaces. However, due to the significant portion of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), this analysis is more meaningful when focused on parkland within or directly adjacent to the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB).

When factoring in parkland within or adjacent to the UCB, the parkland supply meets the provincial target of 12% (Table 5). This is largely due to large parks near the UCB, such as Centennial Park, Gore Park, Oak Haven Park, and Gowland-Tod Provincial Park.

DESCRIPTION	AREA (ha)	% OF TOTAL AREA (4,103 ha)	% OF UCB (741 ha)
Municipal parkland within UCB	51.68	1.25%	6.97%
Undeveloped parkland within UCB	3.76	0.09%	0.51%
Other parks & open spaces within UCB	35.83	0.87%	4.84%
SUB-TOTAL	91.27	2.21%	12.32%
Other municipal parkland outside UCB	23.95	0.58%	
Other parks & open spaces outside UCB	133.20	3.23%	
TOTAL	252.42	6.13%	

Table 5. Area-Based Analysis

4.1.9

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

The third way to analyze parkland supply is by spatial distribution, or the distance residents must walk to access a park. Typical walking distance targets is five to ten minutes (approximately 400 to 800 metres). The District's Climate Leadership Plan outlines a goal of increasing the number of homes within 400 metres of parks.

Isochrone studies were conducted using 5- and 10-minute walking times. For large parks, multiple isochrones were created at different entrances and combined into one polygon for each park. For smaller parks, a single point was used. Darker colors represent areas covered by isochrones from multiple parks.

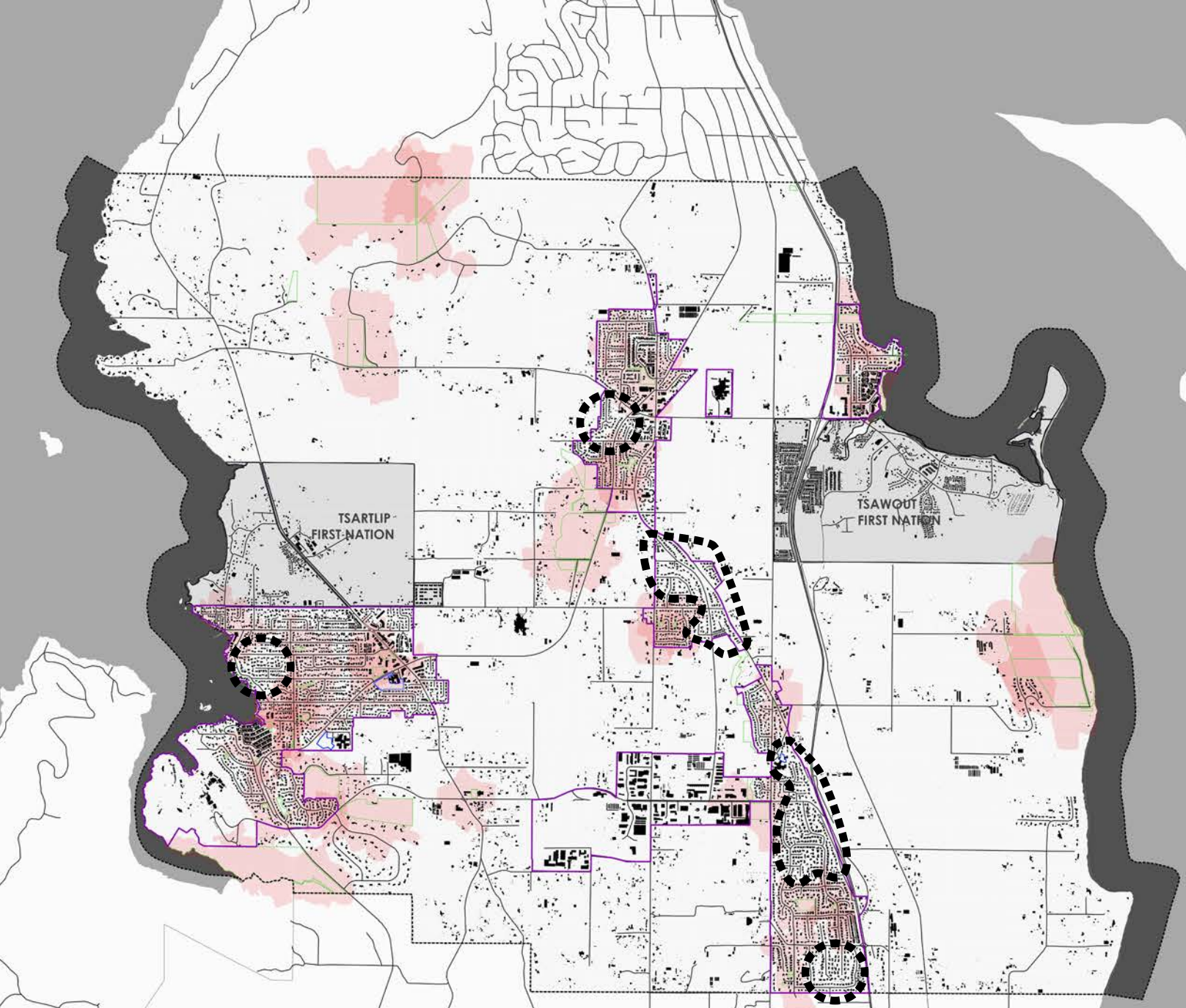
Findings

For this type of analysis, it is most important to look at areas within the Urban Containment Boundary. Figure 3 shows five-minute walk isochrones.

- **Brentwood Bay:** There are scattered areas within Brentwood Bay that do not have access to parkland within a five-minute walk. Most of the parks in this area are small with limited amenities (trails, benches, etc.). HEL, HILEZ and Rom Knott Park provide most of the park amenities for the area including play facilities, community stage, softball diamond and open green space.
- **Keating Business District:** Adam Kerr is currently the only park serving the Keating Business District. Additional parks, trails or open spaces would add vibrancy for area workers, providing social gathering spaces for use by workers during their workday, for instance during lunch breaks.
- **Saanichton:** The addition of the future public open space, outlined in the Saanich Village Design Guideline and/or including a public social gathering space at the municipal hall site would help address the gaps in the area just south of the village centre.
- **Tanner Ridge:** There are several areas within Tanner Ridge that lack access to parkland within a five-minute walk. While most parks in the area offer playground amenities, there is potential to add more youth-focused amenities to better serve the community.
- **Turgoose:** Most areas of this area is within a five-minute walk of a park.

As shown in Figure 4, most areas within the Urban Containment Boundary have access to parkland within a ten-minute walk. The exception is Keating Business District.





LEGEND

These isochrone maps indicate regions where people have access to a public park with programming and amenities within a 5 minute walk. Gaps have been identified with a dashed circle.



Priority area
gap in park proximity



Park within a 5 min walk
Darker pink indicates access to multiple parks within 5 min walk

FIVE MINUTE WALK ISOCHRONES ACTIVE PARKLAND

Figure 3

LEGEND

These isochrone maps indicate regions where people have access to a public park with programming and amenities within a 10 minute walk. Gaps are less prominent than in the 5 minute isochrone maps.

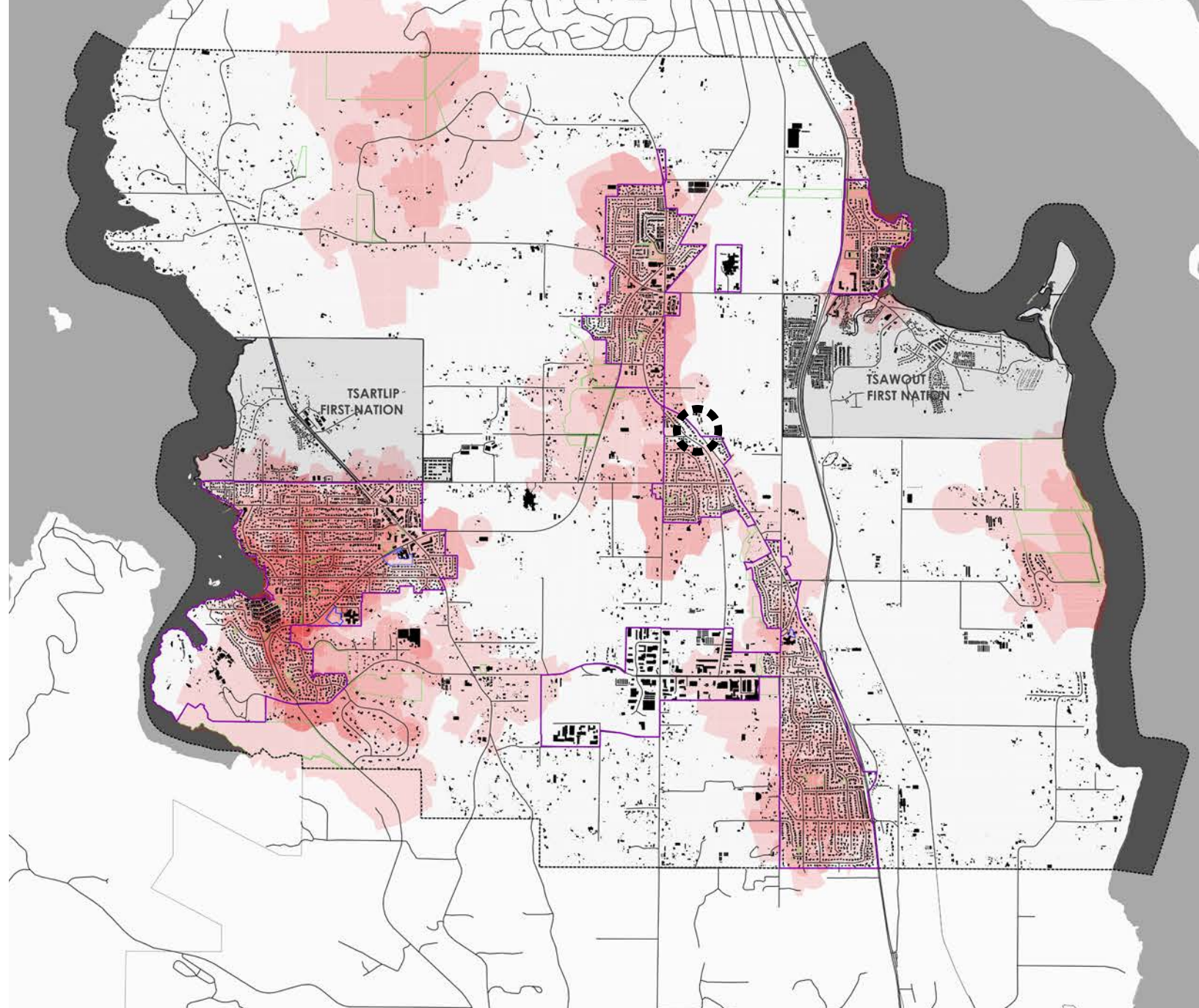
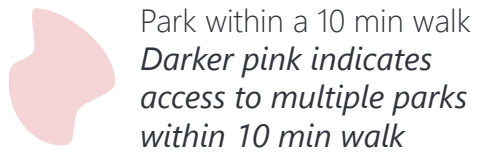
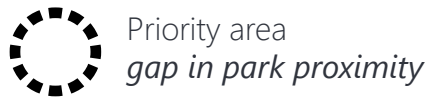


Figure 4

TEN MINUTE WALK ISOCHRONES ACTIVE PARKLAND

4.1.10

AQUISITION & NAMING

New parks and trails in Central Saanich are primarily acquired through the required 5% parkland dedication for subdivisions, negotiations with developers, Community Amenity Contributions, or taking advantage of opportunities as they arise. Community and neighborhood parks are particularly important in residential areas with parkland deficits and in new residential developments. To ensure recreation value and cost-effective maintenance, parks must be large enough to serve the community. In smaller subdivisions cash in lieu of parkland may be preferred, especially where neighborhood plans are absent.

There is an outdated policy for naming parks in Central Saanich, leading to some parks either lacking names or having multiple names for the same or adjoining parcels. A consistent naming policy could increase public awareness and align with other District naming conventions, such as street names. Potential inspirations for park names include

Indigenous place names, local natural or cultural history, physical features, park characteristics, neighborhoods, or nearby streets. There is current council direction to work on SENĆOŦEN place naming on places of cultural significance, including parks.



4.1.11

PARK AMENITIES

Park amenities in Central Saanich play a vital role in enhancing the recreational experience for residents and visitors alike. From playgrounds and sports fields to picnic areas, washrooms, and seating, these features make parks more accessible, enjoyable, and inclusive. Thoughtful integration of amenities ensures that parks meet the diverse needs of the community, offering spaces for relaxation, social interaction, active play, and connection to nature.

As part of the Parks and Trails Master Plan, Central Saanich is committed to continuously improving and expanding park amenities to support a healthy, active, and connected community.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Introduce lighting on key off-road multi-use trails and parks used in the dark, prioritizing connections to essential destinations.
- Conduct accessibility audits and continue improving parks with inclusive amenities like benches, washrooms, and play equipment.
- Ensure playgrounds are within a 10-minute walk of all residences in the Urban Containment Boundary, with a focus on inclusive, nature-based play elements.
- Upgrade sport fields and ball diamonds to extend their use and improve accessibility.
- Focus on adding multi-court facilities that serve a variety of user groups.
- Explore funding opportunities to help develop multi-use facilities for emerging sports like disc golf and pickleball.
- Develop fenced off-leash areas in parks and educate the public on dog etiquette.

4.1.12

EXISTING AMENITIES

The following table provides a comparable community comparison of some of the major park amenities. Information from other municipalities was collected through interviews, municipal websites and policy documents, and were not verified in the field or through aerial photo analysis.

* Sports fields owned and operated by other agencies

** Coming 2025 to Centennial Park

Playgrounds	11	Artificial turf fields (municipal)	0
Water/spray parks	1**	Baseball / softball diamonds (municipal)	7
Bike/Skate Parks	0	Baseball / softball diamonds (other)*	2
Grass soccer / football fields (municipal)	2	Basketball / sport courts (municipal)	2
Grass soccer / football fields (other)*	4	Basketball / sport courts (other)*	3
Tennis courts	3	Pickleball courts	TBD**
Lacrosse box	1	Combined pickleball / tennis courts	3
Volleyball	0		

Table 6. Park Amenities

4.1.13

AMENITIES FOR YOUTH


For younger children, there are eleven municipal playgrounds throughout the District with a variety of play elements. Replacement needs vary depending on the location. There are also school playgrounds that are used during non-school hours that can help supplement the District supply. Elementary school students are keen for amenities for bike riding, more opportunities to explore nature, outdoor pools and water activities, and places to play sports. A new splash pad is currently being developed at Centennial Park. Figure 5 shows the distribution of play areas along with Isochrone mapping of a 10-minute walk, including school playgrounds.

Older youth are seeking more beach and water access including sand volleyball courts, as well as more food service, washrooms, shelters and water fountains at areas they can hang out. There was also interested expressed in ziplines and “WildPlay” features.

LEGEND

These isochrone maps indicate regions where people have access to a playground located in a public park or school within a 10 minute walk, shown in pink. The dashed lines indicate areas where there is a gap.

 Priority area
gap in playground proximity

 Playgrounds within a 10 min walk
Darker pink indicates access to multiple playgrounds within 10 min walk

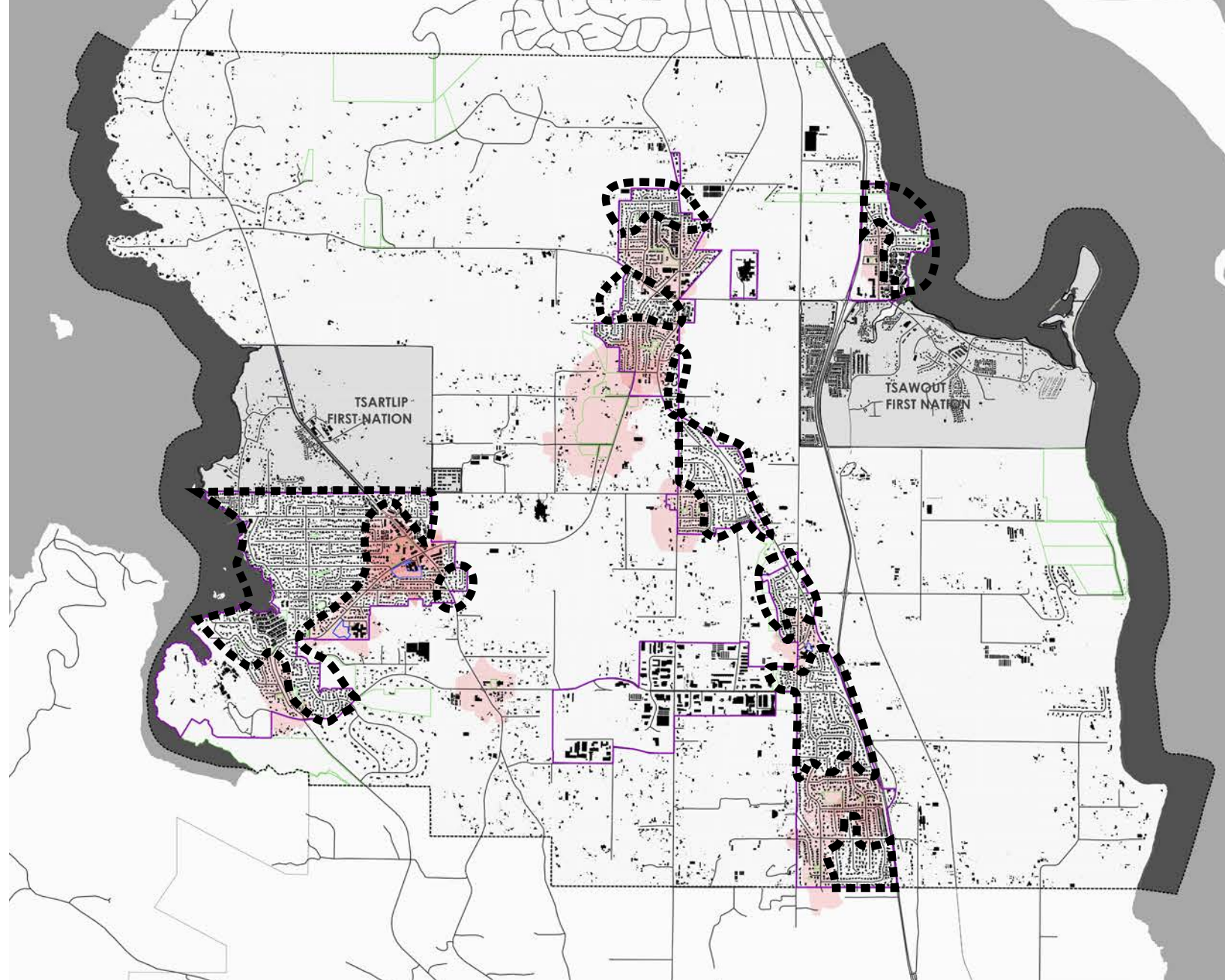


Figure 5

TEN MINUTE WALK ISOCHROME PLAYGROUNDS AT PARKS & SCHOOLS

4.1.14

SPORTS FIELDS & COURTS

The District of Central Saanich has six ball diamonds and two soccer fields at Centennial Park and one ball diamond at Rom Knott Park. There are four tennis courts (Centennial Park, Saanichton Green) and one multi-sport court which is also lined for pickleball at Centennial Park. There are no artificial turf playing fields in the District. Associated amenities include clubhouses, concessions, utility/storage buildings, bleachers/seating and scoreboards.

Central Saanich is a member of the Peninsula Recreation Commission (Panorama Recreation) along with Sidney and North Saanich. The Commission is composed of elected and appointed representatives from the three municipalities with the objective of providing recreation and leisure activities and facilities. Panorama Recreation operates two facilities (Panorama Recreation Centre and Greenglade Community Centre, both outside of Central Saanich) and offers programming within the District at Central Saanich Cultural Centre.

Peninsula Recreation Commission is undertaking a multi-phased recreational needs assessment study. The scope of work for the study will include a comprehensive analysis of public and private recreation facilities and service levels on the peninsula, the identification of current or anticipated gaps in public recreation service levels and a recommended course of action to address gaps, improve service levels and increase the efficiency of public recreation service levels on the peninsula. The Commission is also working on a new covered multi-sport facility at Centennial Park that will replace the existing lacrosse box. This facility is designed for a variety of sports and recreational programs and will increase access to year-round all weather outdoor activities.

4.1.15

DOGS IN PARKS

There are no designated ‘Dog Parks’ in the District of Central Saanich. All dogs must be kept under control in accordance with the Animal Control and Parks Bylaws. Dogs are not permitted on playing fields, playgrounds or park shelters. Owners are required to pick up after their dogs.

4.1.16

WASHROOMS & PARK FACILITIES

Washrooms facilities are available in Centennial Park, Marigold Park, Rom Knott Park and Verdier Park. In addition, there are washrooms at other District facilities including the municipal hall and the Central Saanich Cultural Centre which are available during business hours. There are also park washrooms at Island View Beach Regional Park and at ŁÁU,WELNEW/John Dean Provincial Park.

Other buildings within the District’s parks include the fieldhouse, ball diamond buildings, caretaker residence (daycare), garage and storage building at Centennial Park. There are also three covered picnic shelters at Centennial Park and the Brentwood Performance Stage at HEL,HILEŁ (formerly Pioneer Park).

4.1.17

COMMUNITY GARDENS

There is currently one community garden located on District owned lands near HEL,HILEŁ / Rom Knott Park. The garden was officially opened in June 2022 and consists of approximately 16 raised beds, three accessible beds, a double-sized community bed and a storage shed. The garden is managed by Central Saanich Community Gardens Society and currently has a wait list. With increasing densities anticipated with the Urban Containment Boundary, establishing locations for additional community gardens is needed.

LEGEND

PARK CATEGORY

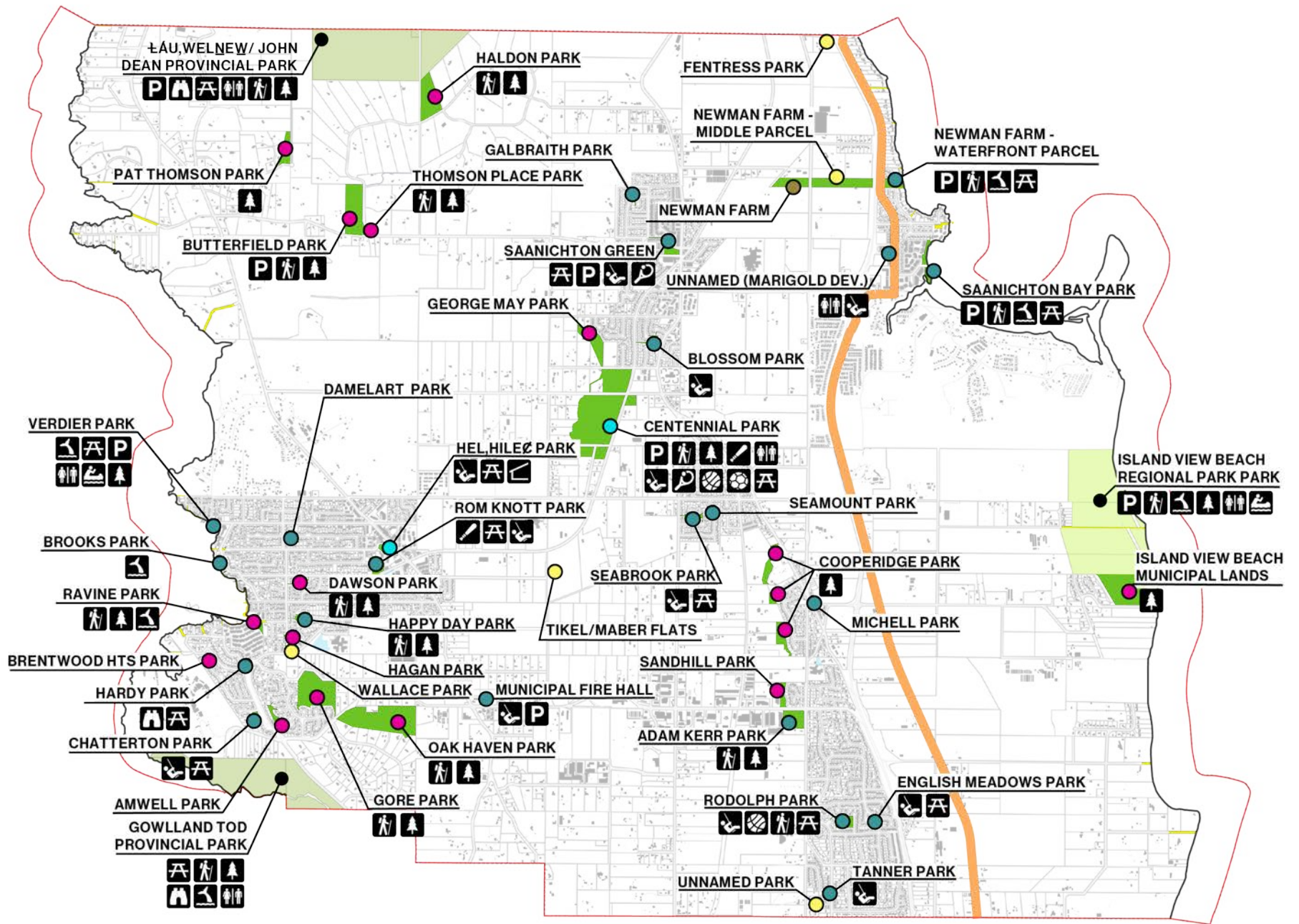
- District Park
- Shoreline Access
- Provincial Park
- Regional Park

PARK TYPE

- Community Park
- Nature Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Undeveloped Park
- Culture and Heritage Park
- Provincial Park

AMENITIES / FEATURES

- Natural Area
- Hiking / Trails
- Parking
- Washroom
- Playground
- Picnic Tables
- Viewpoint
- Sports Field
- Sport Court
- Baseball Diamond
- Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- Shoreline Access
- Non-Motorized Boat Launch
- Stage



EXISTING PARKS AND AMENITIES

4.1.18

WHAT WE HEARD

The community shared options for adding amenities for different age groups and interests including natural parks and play areas that foster outdoor adventures and creativity. Other popular suggestions included zip lines and ninja courses, outdoor pools and spray parks, giant slides, pump tracks/bike parks, covered spaces, accessible playgrounds and benches.



4.2 TRAILS

4.2.1 INTRODUCTION

The trails in Central Saanich offer a diverse range of experiences, connecting both local and regional points of interest. Popular district-managed trails, such as those in Centennial Park, Butterfield Park, Gore Park, Oak Haven Park, the Brentwood Waterfront Walkway, and Saanichton Bay Park, provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, regional and provincial trails like ŁÁU,WELNEW/John Dean Provincial Park, Island View Beach Regional Park, and Gowland Tod Provincial Park are key destinations within or adjacent to the district. Ensuring adequate access, thoughtful planning, and necessary amenities is essential to fostering a successful and well-connected trail network that supports recreation, mobility, and nature appreciation.



4.2.2 TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- Widen popular trails to accommodate diverse users, including large groups, equestrians, and dog walkers, with designated passing zones.
- Conduct accessibility assessments, focusing on creating inclusive trails.
- Develop online maps and brochures for trails, offering both guided and self-guided routes connecting local businesses and points of interest.
- Establish an interconnected trail network to close existing gaps and prioritize connections to key destinations, including parks, village cores, schools, and shorelines.
- Collaborate with regional partners to enhance active transportation, recreation, and tourism through integrated trail planning.
- Install amenities at trailheads such as bike racks (e-bike-friendly), benches, washrooms, waste bins, and parking.
- Improve wayfinding and prioritize signage projects.

4.2.3

PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION – PLANNING TOGETHER

The pedestrian, cyclist, and equestrian experiences in Central Saanich are planned through two main documents: the Active Transportation (AT) Plan and the Parks and Trails Master Plan (PTMP). The AT Plan focuses on district-wide transportation routes, while the PTMP emphasizes recreational routes within parks and local roadways, and connectivity to the AT network. Together, these plans ensure that park trails and transportation routes overlap and complement each other, creating a unified system that enhances connectivity between communities, parks, shorelines, and commercial areas. This section of the PTMP deals with the broader trail network, while trails within parks are addressed in park sections.

4.2.4

TRAIL USERS

The trails in Central Saanich serve a wide range of users, including walkers, hikers, bikers, light electric vehicles (LEVs), and equestrians of all ages. This diversity can sometimes lead to conflicts, especially between horses, off-leash dogs,

and bikes/LEVs, or between faster users and larger or slower groups. To address these issues, a three-pronged approach is needed: thoughtful trail planning and user allowances, proper trail design to accommodate different users, and clear signage for user education and trail etiquette.

4.2.5

TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

Trails in the District of Central Saanich have traditionally been classified by surface type. Figure 5 outlines the different trail types. To ensure consistent standards across the district, a new trail classification system has been developed to align with those of neighboring municipalities while addressing the specific needs of Central Saanich. The District aims to provide amenities at trailheads including bike racks (e-bike/Light Electric Vehicle Friendly), benches, washroom facilities, waste bins, and parking where feasible. Additional design parameters can be found in the Recommendations section and **Appendix**.

4.2.5 TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

TRAIL TYPE	SURFACE TYPE	TREAD WIDTH	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
Community Path	Asphalt	3-5m	Separated, paved pathway. Accessible design in all areas possible. Where not possible, highlight sections on maps
Neighbourhood Trail	10mm minus crushed gravel	2-3m	Separated gravel trail. Accessible design in all areas possible. Where not possible, highlight sections on maps
Roadside Trail	10mm minus crushed gravel	2m	Gravel shoulder on road. Road speed limit of 30km/h, roadside trail signage for safety and wayfinding
Rural Road Route	Same as road	N/A	Shared road. Speed limit of 30km/h, shared road signage for safety and wayfinding
Park Access Path	Asphalt or concrete	1.5-2m	Sidewalk access into parks from communities. Accessible design in all areas possible. Where not possible, highlight sections on maps
Nature Trail	Natural Surface	0.75-1.5m	Trail through natural area with no added surfacing. Trails to be classified as easy/moderate/difficult

Table 7. Trail Classifications

LEGEND

- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
 - Bike Lane
 - Sidewalk
- PARK NETWORK
 - Regional Trail
 - Multi-Use Path (asphalt)
 - Neighbourhood Trail (NBH) (gravel)
 - Nature Trail (natural surface)

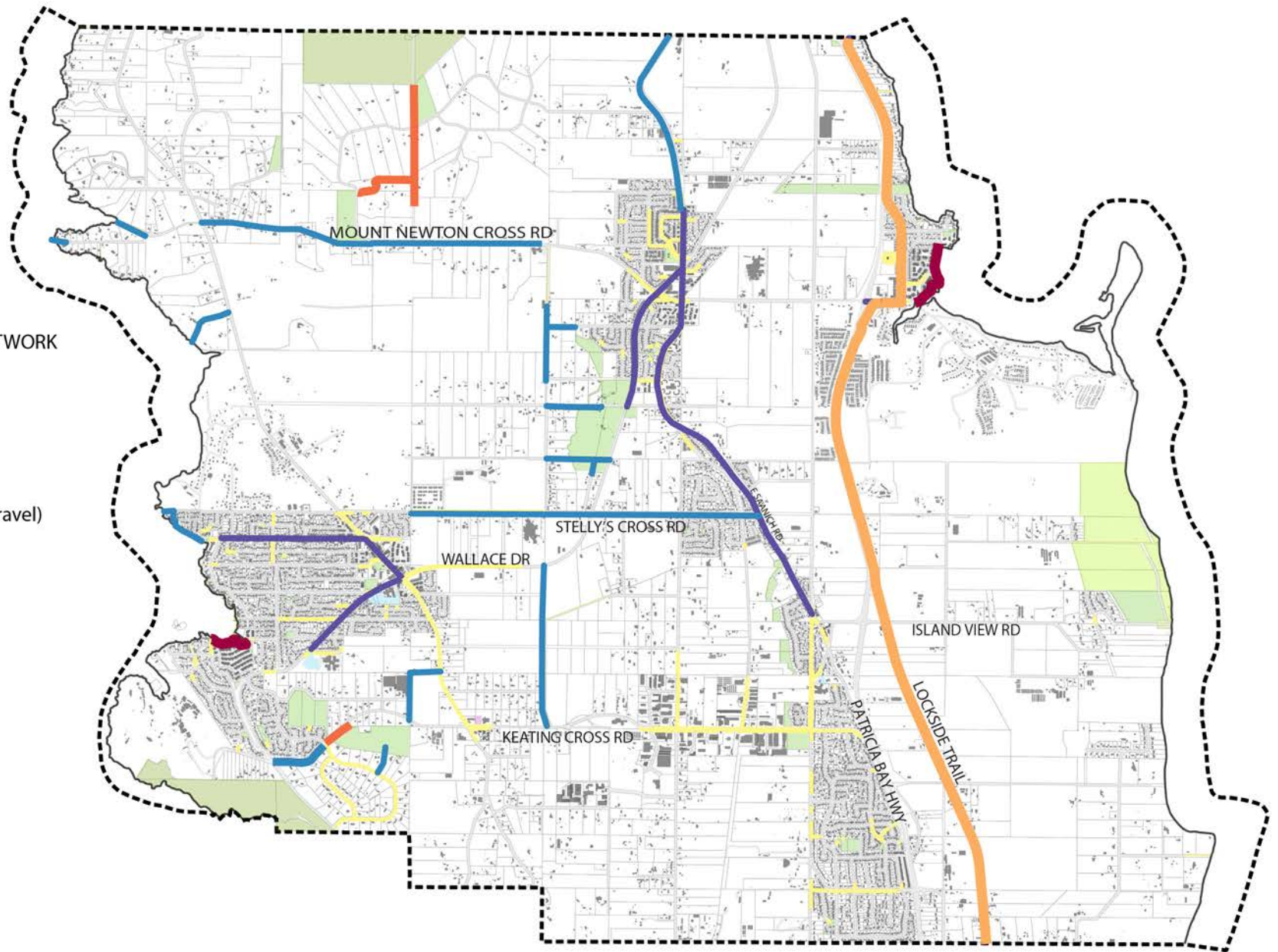
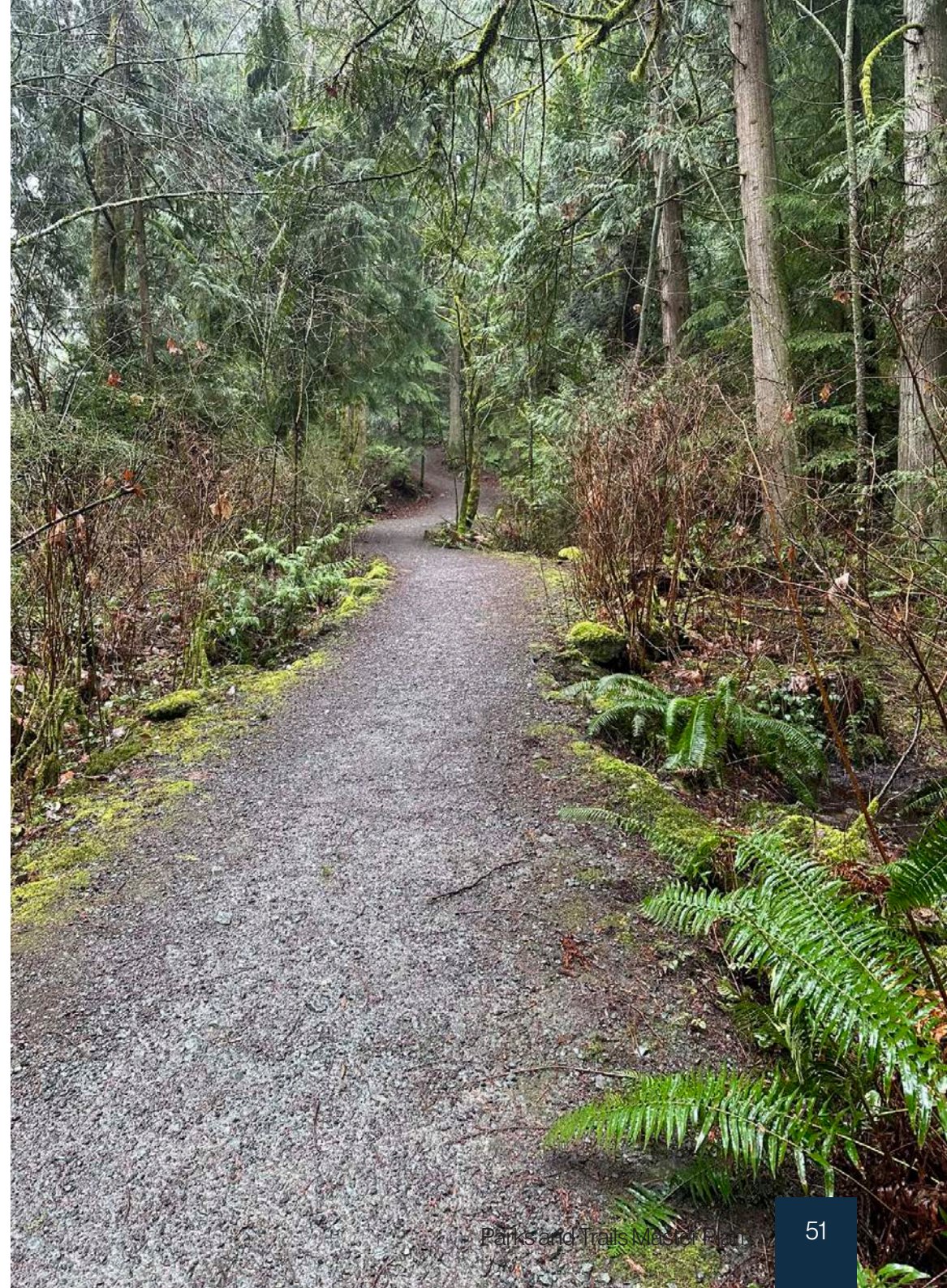


Figure 5

4.2.6

WHAT WE HEARD

Connectivity of trails within the community was one of the key themes heard through the first phase of engagement. This included between parks and neighbourhoods as well as urban and rural areas. Improvement of multi-use paths and the creation of new trails, such as loop trails and maintaining and connecting to active transportation networks was noted. There were concerns for safety including user conflicts with requests for better signage and lighting on trails. There was a desire for additional amenities such as bike racks, benches, rest areas, dog waste disposal and equestrian mounting blocks and hitching posts.



4.3

SHORELINE ACCESS

4.3.1 INTRODUCTION

Central Saanich has over 20 kilometres of shoreline with Saanich Inlet to the west and Haro Strait to the east. The shoreline has high ecological values but is also highly desirable for their recreational values. Popular activities include fishing, swimming, scuba diving, beach exploration, picnicking, birdwatching, nature appreciation, paddleboarding, canoeing, kayaking and boating. Maintenance and enhancing existing accesses and/or the creation of new access points to the shoreline needs to be done in a manner that does not put sensitive shoreline ecosystems at risk.

The District aims to include amenities at shoreline access points to enhance user experience including, benches or seating areas, bike racks, signage to minimize conflicts with adjacent landowners. More information on some of the opportunities and constraints for shorelines, including topography and existing environmental processes, is included in Section 4.5 – Environment.

A 2001 Beach Access Report provided recommendations to further improve public access to the foreshore within the District either with direct access to the foreshore or as a viewpoint. At the time of preparation, five sites were considered complete and twenty were considered feasible for future development and the remaining five were considered not viable. Recommendations in the report were used to construct additional access trails and/or staircases.

4.3.1 SHORELINE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve and manage water access points to maximize public use, removing private encumbrances where needed.
- Install and maintain clear signage at water access points, including markers/buoys for water users.
- Identify and acquire key waterfront properties to enhance public access.
- Work towards creating a continuous waterfront walkway in Brentwood Bay.
- Partner with Sidney, North Saanich, and Tsartlip First Nations to support motorized boat launch facilities on the peninsula.
- Collaborate with non-profits and indigenous communities on shoreline clean-up events and environmental stewardship.

4.3.2 SHORELINE ACCESS POINTS

There are 18 existing developed shoreline accesses within the District falling within three broad types:

- A. Park spaces along the water
- B. Access trails within dedicated road allowances to the waterfront with stairs or non-accessible ramps to foreshore
- C. Access trails within dedicated road allowances to a viewpoint (no access to foreshore)

Due to the natural topography of the District, there are limited locations where accessible connections to the shoreline are possible. These include Island View Beach and Saanichton Bay Park on the east shoreline and areas in Brentwood Bay on the west shoreline (Delamere Road - Ravine Park walkway).

There are 11 undeveloped shoreline accesses within dedicated road rights of way. Potential development of any of these is contingent on topography / constructability and locational need (for instance – in areas where a developed access is nearby).

4.3.3 BOAT LAUNCHES

There are no motorized boat launches within the District of Central Saanich, but there is a kayak, canoe, and paddle board launch at Verdier Park. Motorized boat launches can be found nearby at Tsartlip First Nation and Tulista Park in Sidney.

As part of the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan, the CRD commissioned a Boat Ramp Restoration Assessment by Golder Associates. The study reviewed coastal processes, the condition and use of the existing boat ramp, and assessed restoration potential. It found the current ramp is highly exposed to wave activity, erosion, and debris accumulation, especially during winter. The report recommended against building a new ramp at this location, as it would likely disrupt the natural movement of sand, causing negative ecological impacts to the area north of the site. However, the potential for a seasonal small non-motorized craft launch may be feasible.



LEGEND

- District Park
- Shoreline Access
- Provincial Park
- Regional Park

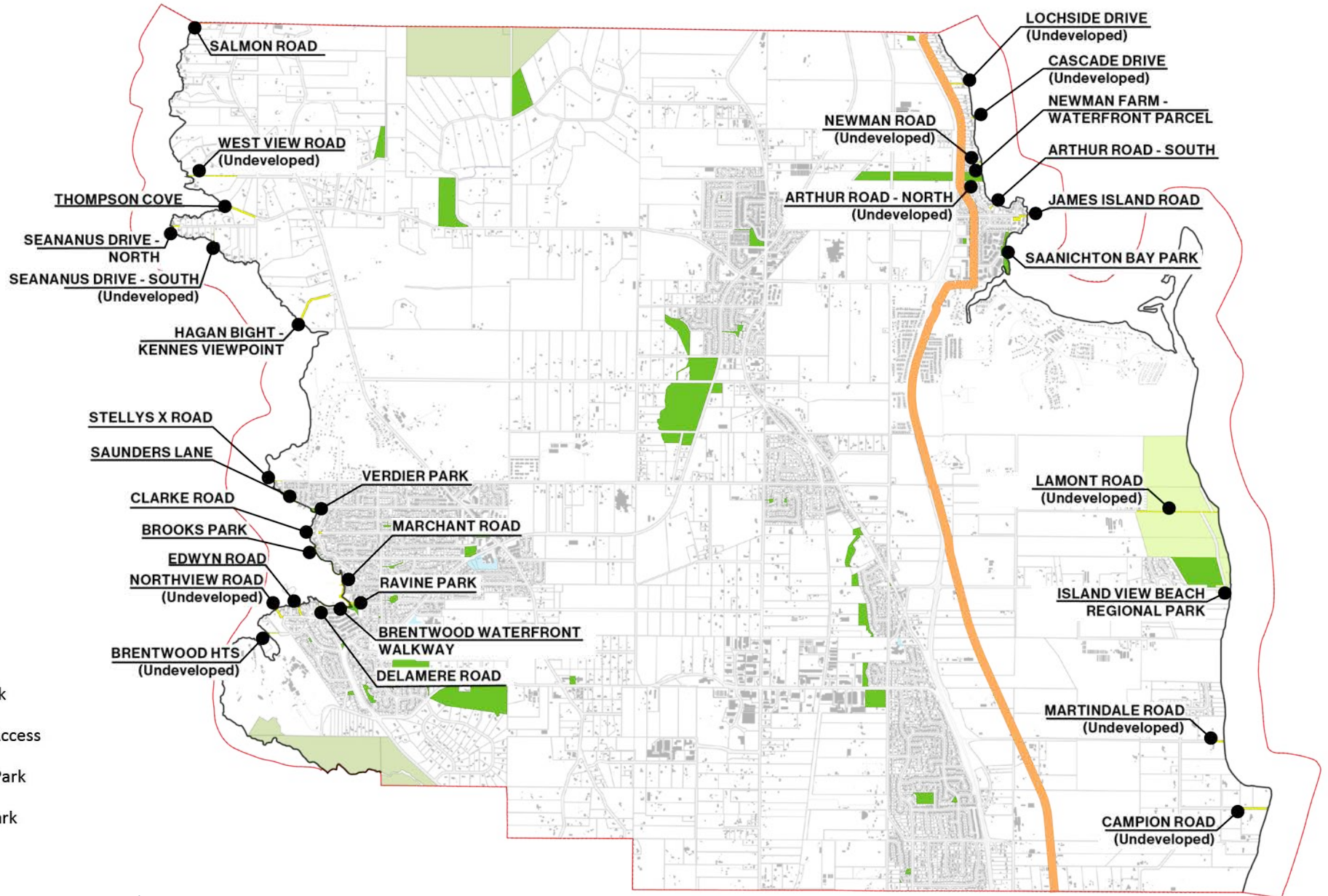


Figure 5

EXISTING SHORELINE ACCESS POINTS

4.3.4 WHAT WE HEARD

Better accessibility through repairing ramps, improving stairs and adding accessibility mats. Easier access for paddleboards, kayaks and other small non-motorized craft. More boat launches on both sides of the District and concerns about existing ones. More amenities, such as outdoor showers, picnic tables, benches, washrooms. More parking and/or improved parking areas are needed. Protecting sensitive ecosystems and zoning to protect intertidal space.

Close to 60% of survey respondents highlighted ease of access to beaches and accessible trails as most important for shoreline access.



4.4

ENVIRONMENT

4.4.1 INTRODUCTION

Central Saanich is part of the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, characterized by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The region's forests are primarily second-growth and dominated by Coastal Douglas-fir, with species like western redcedar, Grand fir, arbutus, and red alder in certain areas. Central Saanich also contains significant Garry Oak meadows and rocky outcrop ecosystems, which are highly biodiverse but endangered due to habitat loss, fragmentation, fire suppression, and invasive species. These ecosystems are among the most threatened in Canada.



4.4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Encourage comprehensive mapping of environmental resources, especially in development areas.
- Develop a plan to assess the economic and ecological value of the District's natural assets, supporting green infrastructure investments.
- Enhance natural buffers against sea level rise and promote Green Shores solutions to limit shoreline hardening.
- Expand the tree canopy ensuring shade for playgrounds and park amenities.
- Consider land acquisitions that address gaps in wildlife connectivity, especially around Tetayut Creek and Cooperidge Park.
- Expand riparian areas (e.g., George May Park, Centennial Park) to improve water quality and habitat.
- Establish a District-wide reporting system for invasive species, develop park-specific management plans, and educate the public on invasive species control.
- Integrate FireSmart principles and continue following guidelines from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to manage wildfire risk in parks and shoreline areas.
- Partner with Indigenous peoples in stewardship efforts through a process that fully respects and champions local rights and is open to traditional knowledge and connections.

4.4.3 VEGETATION & WILDLIFE

The Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory (SEI) for East Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, initiated in 1993, identified rare and fragile ecosystems to support informed land-use planning. By 2002, over 8,800 hectares (11%) of these ecosystems had been disturbed. In Central Saanich, several sensitive ecosystems are present, including Garry oak woodlands, coastal bluffs, riparian areas, and wetlands. Important habitats like older forests, woodlands, and seasonally flooded agricultural fields are also part of the district's ecosystem.

The Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects endangered species and their habitats. Mapping tools have identified critical habitats in Central Saanich for species at risk, including sharp-tailed snakes and nesting areas for bald eagles, ospreys, and Great Blue Herons. Details on species and ecosystems with conservation status are provided in the Appendices. Central Saanich's Tree Management Bylaw regulates tree cutting, removal, and damage, with requirements for tree replacement. However, within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the regulations of the Agricultural Land Commission take precedence and

municipal bylaws protecting ecological resources, such as the tree canopy, may not apply. With 61% of the District within the ALR, protecting these environmental resources within protected parkland is a priority.

4.4.4 INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species management is crucial for protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. Invasive species often outcompete native species, causing harm to ecosystems and economic sectors like agriculture and forestry. Controlling them helps maintain ecosystem balance and public health by reducing exposure to invasives that can be toxic to humans (e.g., Poison Hemlock) or pets. Managing invasive species, particularly within the District's nature parks, is an ongoing challenge. Though staff work on invasive species control, large park areas exceed current staffing capacity. A covenant with Habitat Acquisition Trust for Oak Haven Park has led to annual invasives management in that park for many years now. Drive and interest from community members to increase stewardship activity in Oak Haven Park has led to the more recent formation of a "Friends of Oak Haven Park" volunteer group, which regularly undertakes restoration efforts.



4.4.5 AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Central Saanich has three major watersheds: Hagan-KEENES (formerly Hagan-Graham), Tetayut (formerly Sandhill), and McHugh-Noble, which cover approximately 3,900 hectares and include 32 km of creeks. Fish presence in these watersheds is limited with a land locked population of trout in the Hagan-KEENES watershed, but seasonal flooding in low-lying farming areas like Maber Flats and Martindale Valley helps buffer downstream riparian zones during larger storms and provides important habitat for migratory birds.

Stormwater management plays a critical role in maintaining the quality of freshwater and marine environments. Central Saanich was the first municipality on Vancouver Island to develop an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan, underscoring the District's commitment to managing water runoff effectively.

The shorelines and marine foreshore in Central Saanich are rich in biodiversity and provide essential habitats for fish, birds, and other organisms. These natural buffers protect

against storm surges and rising sea levels, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change. As sea levels rise, shoreline protection becomes increasingly important to prevent erosion, flooding, and habitat loss. While hard engineering solutions like seawalls offer strong barriers, they can disrupt natural shoreline processes and lead to further erosion. Soft engineering approaches, such as the Green Shores initiative, focus on using natural and nature-based solutions, like adding sand and planting vegetation, to enhance shoreline resilience and allow for natural adaptation over time.

4.4.6

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Parks play a vital role in community health and well-being, and climate change can impact their usability and safety. Mitigation and adaptation strategies help ensure parks remain resilient to climate-related challenges like extreme weather, rising temperatures, and flooding. Climate change can threaten native ecosystems and wildlife so incorporating mitigation measures helps protect and preserve biodiversity, ensuring these ecosystems continue to thrive. Incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into a parks master plan ensures that parks remain functional, safe, and enjoyable for future generations while supporting broader environmental and community goals.


The District's Climate Leadership Plan and the Official Community Plan outline key objectives and actions related to transportation, buildings, solid waste and municipal operations such as utilizing native and climate adaptive plants to support local biodiversity and minimize irrigation needs; incorporating areas for heat relief such as shaded areas and water features; and identifying areas for intensive tree planting.

LEGEND



Sensitive Ecosystems

-  Coastal Bluffs
-  Woodland
-  Terrestrial Herbaceous
-  Older Forest
-  Riparian
-  Sparsely Vegetated
-  Wetland
-  Seasonally Flooded Agricultural
-  Older Second Growth
-  Garry Oak 1997

Land Cover (2020)

-  Temperate Needleleaf
-  Mixed Forest
-  Temperate Shrubland
-  Temperate Grassland
-  Wetland
-  Crop Land
-  Water



Other

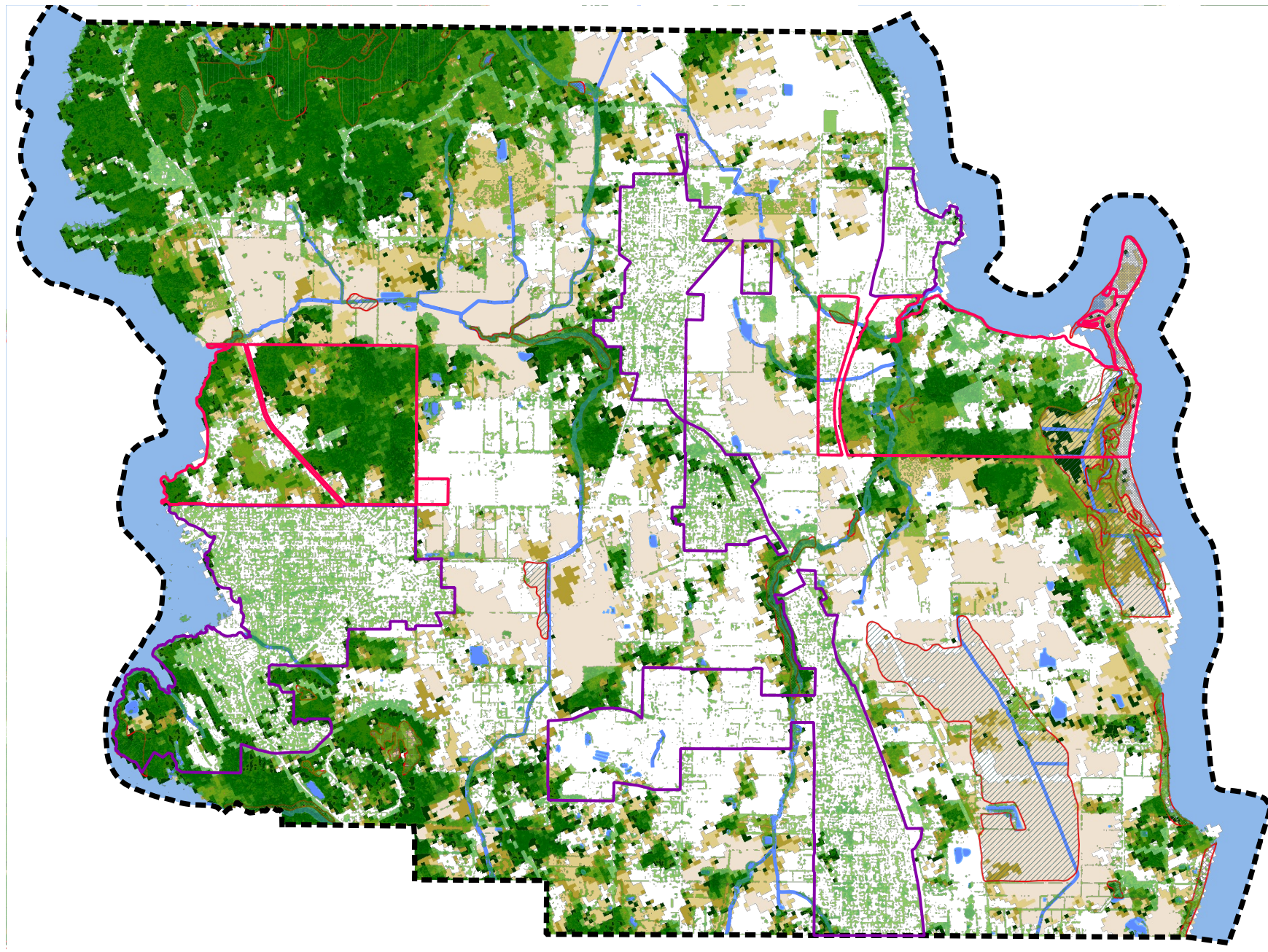
-  Rivers & Creeks
-  Ponds

Other

-  First Nations Land
-  Urban Containment Boundary

Tree Height Above Ground

-  50m
-  0m



EXISTING ECOLOGICAL VALUES

4.4.7 WHAT WE HEARD

Protection of the environment was one of the top five answers from survey respondents when asked about the most valued aspects of Central Saanich’s parks, trails and shoreline accesses. The community wants to preserve green spaces and address invasive species. Suggestions included supporting volunteer participation and education, reserving conservation zones, conserving and enhancing the tree canopy, protecting natural wetlands and wildlife habitats, completing FireSmart assessments, and planning for climate resilience.



5.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.0

RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section outlines strategic actions designed to enhance and expand the District's parks and trails network. These recommendations are grounded in community feedback, current trends, and best practices in park management and planning and design. They aim to improve access, connectivity, and inclusivity, while addressing the needs of various user groups and the growing demand for recreational and active transportation infrastructure. The recommendations emphasize sustainability and resilience in natural areas by incorporating Indigenous practices and knowledge, promoting environmental stewardship, and supporting the District's broader goals for conservation, climate adaptation, and community well-being. By implementing these strategies, the District will continue to offer high-quality parks and trails that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike, while preserving Central Saanich's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Implementing these recommendations will require an adaptive approach that considers available budgets (both capital and operating), granting opportunities and/or changes that may arise.



5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.1 PLANNING & DESIGN

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5.1.1.1 | Ensure all parkland not currently zoned P-2 (Parks and Open Space) is rezoned to identify its actual land use. |
| 5.1.1.2 | When updating the Zoning Bylaw, consider implementing a new zone for habitat/conservation focused parks. |
| 5.1.1.3 | Include areas of historical or heritage significance in park designs. |
| 5.1.1.4 | Update Bylaw No. 804 (Parks Management and Use Bylaw) to include regulations for commercial use in public spaces and develop an associated policy that stipulates the types of commercial uses allowed, conditions and requirements for operating agreements. |
| 5.1.1.5 | Update Bylaw No. 804 (Parks Management and Use Bylaw) to prohibit camping and sheltering in nature parks. |
| 5.1.1.6 | Develop a policy for festivals and non-sporting events in park spaces that specifies locations, types of allowable activities, event size and booking terms, process for intake and review and any facility requirements such as power and/or water services. |
| 5.1.1.7 | Update the park naming policy to establish clear criteria and guidelines for naming or renaming parks, taking into consideration local history, Indigenous place names, environmental features, and community contributions. |
| 5.1.1.8 | Collaborate closely with WJOLELP and STÁUTW Nations in the naming of parks and trails. This engagement should prioritize the inclusion of Indigenous languages, cultural significance, and historical connections to the land. |

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.2 ACCESSIBILITY

5.1.2.1 Update and provide public information and resources about accessibility in the District’s parks, trails and shoreline accesses.

5.1.2.2 Conduct accessibility assessments for larger, frequently used Community and Neighbourhood Parks consider the following:

- Access to public transit
 - Accessible washrooms
 - Accessible parking
 - Accessible picnic areas & seating
 - Clear and unobstructed access from parking/bus stop to park
 - Lighting
-

5.1.2.3 Prioritize assessing and creating accessible trails to different types of experiences throughout the District. (See Section 7.0 for additional details).

- Viewpoints – Hagan Bight KENNES Viewpoint, Newman Farm - Waterfront Parcel
- Shoreline – Saanichton Bay Park, island View Beach
- Forest – Centennial Park
- Farm – Newman Farm, Newman Farm – Middle Parcel
- Urban – Brentwood Waterfront Walkway
- Playgrounds – all locations, whenever possible

*The following three documents should be referenced to define the assessment parameters: Accessibility Standards Canada Section CAN-ASC-2.1 Outdoor Spaces , Parks Canada Design Guidelines for Accessible Outdoor Recreational Facilities, US Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines.

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.3 SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5.1.3.1 | Develop Park specific signage plans for larger parks with multiple trails including Centennial, Gore Park, Oak Haven and Butterfield Parks. |
| 5.1.3.2 | Continue to implement the District’s Signage and Wayfinding Program for all other parks. |
| 5.1.3.3 | Sign major east/west and north/south connections at intersections in parks and along active transportation routes to help park users navigate. Key intersections and meeting areas along the parks/trail network may include a kiosk with information and wayfinding signage. This is also an opportunity to include public art, seating or other amenities. |
| 5.1.3.4 | Integrate interpretive and wayfinding signage that connects visitors to both the natural environment and the cultural history of the District, educating park users about local biodiversity and ecosystems, while also incorporating the SENĆOŦEN language. |
| 5.1.3.5 | To help manage potential user conflict, include information signs for responsible park usage for matters such as dogs in parks, equestrian, bikes on trails, environmentally sensitive areas or areas of cultural significance. |
| 5.1.3.6 | Develop and improve maps, online resources, and brochures for park and trail users. |
| 5.1.3.7 | Create self-guided trail routes that connect parks/local businesses/points of interest/varying landscape types. This may include some sections on road/sidewalks/bike paths. Create resources to guide users and provide interpretive information. |

5.1 PARKLAND

5.1.4 LAND ACQUISITION & DISPOSITION

To guide the acquisition of new parkland and trails within the District, opportunities should be prioritized with the following goals in mind:

- 5.1.4.1 • Set a target of active parkland within a five-minute walk of all residences within the Urban Containment Boundary to address gaps in parkland distribution.
- Encourage the expansion of parks by prioritizing land acquisition in areas adjacent to existing parks, to enhance connectivity and overall parkland continuity.

Select sites for community and neighborhood parks that are primarily suitable for recreational use, focusing on areas that are developable, have gentle slopes, and are free from significant environmental sensitivities. Where feasible, have significant street frontage on a local or collector road on at least one side and pedestrian access from all sides.

- 5.1.4.2 • Design linear parks to create continuous connections throughout the District, linking community and neighborhood parks, trails, schools, and other key destinations. Prioritize and support active transportation by ensuring these parks are accessible for walking, cycling, and other non-motorized modes of travel.
- Protect natural areas and special features including sensitive ecosystems, archaeological sites, and heritage features.

-
- 5.1.4.3 Provide shoreline access and/or waterfront protection and preserve ocean views from elevated areas.

-
- 5.1.4.4 Provide space for needed recreational amenities (i.e. playgrounds, sport courts, off-leash areas, picnic shelters, etc.).

-
- 5.1.4.5 When acquiring parkland within or near the ALR, use subdivision best management practices for ALR related to buffers and connecting wildlife corridors.

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.4 LAND ACQUISITION & DISPOSITION *(continued)*

5.1.4.6

Ensure the District maintains a minimum parkland supply rate of 2.51 hectares per 1,000 residents. Whenever possible, strive to acquire and develop additional parks to preserve the current supply rate of 4.65 hectares per 1,000 residents, while balancing the need for park improvements and addressing community priorities.

5.1.4.7

Consider the disposition of existing undeveloped District land classified as parkland that does not have good potential as parkland and/or offers limited value for public use.

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.5

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

-
- 5.1.5.1** Conduct detailed asset inventory and condition assessments of park infrastructure as part of the Asset Management Plan in 2025/2026.
-
- 5.1.5.2** When new parks are developed, allocate funds for District maintenance and asset replacement. Consider future maintenance, labour, and administration costs.
**Maintenance costs are typically five percent of capital construction costs annually for developed parks (significantly less for nature parks)*
-
- 5.1.5.3** Implement Park and trail use counters to better understand use and to help prioritize future investments.
-
- 5.1.5.4** Evaluate the feasibility of creating a dedicated staff position, or securing a contractor or partner organization, to oversee park stewardship efforts. This role would focus on coordinating invasive species removal and remediation activities, managing volunteer efforts, and developing donations and legacy programs to support parks and park amenities.

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.6 PARTNERSHIPS

-
- 5.1.6.1** Continue to identify and foster partnerships with First Nations, Peninsula Recreation Commission, School District 63 and other organizations to acquire and/or help manage parks, open spaces and recreational amenities in the District.
-
- 5.1.6.2** Work with W̱SÁNEĆ nations to protect culturally significant areas within the District’s parks and open spaces. Consider entering into data-sharing agreements that respect [OCAP®](#) for any shared data or input.
-
- 5.1.6.3** In collaboration with W̱SÁNEĆ Nations, enable access to park land through a formal agreement for traditional harvesting and gathering of plants for food, medicinal, or cultural purposes and revitalizing Indigenous food systems, which may include temporary closures to respect culturally sensitive events.
-
- 5.1.6.4** Continue to work with and support conservation partners such as Peninsula Streams, Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Friends of Oak Haven Park among others.
-
- 5.1.6.5** Identify and pursue new partnerships with community organizations and individuals that share common goals.
-
- 5.1.6.6** Develop an updated parks and trails donation and legacy program that addresses:
- Asset donations for additional items such as picnic tables, murals, interpretive signages and larger projects such as stairs, playground upgrades, and other park amenities.
 - Legacy donations and/or project sponsorship. Develop policy for project sponsorship include methods for recognition, constraints related to project construction / bidding.
 - Public Art donations
 - Future staffing needs for coordination of program.
 - Impacts on future maintenance / operational staffing levels.
-
- 5.1.6.7** Explore the creation of a Corporate Sponsorship plan to help guide donations to parks and amenities.

5.1

PARKLAND

5.1.7 PARK USERS

-
- 5.1.7.1** Actively consider the needs and preferences of various user groups in park design.
-
- 5.1.7.2** Explore designating multi-use trails within parks where e-bikes and light electric vehicles (e-scooters, electric skateboards, etc.) are permitted and prohibiting use on pedestrian-only trails or areas with sensitive ecosystems to minimize conflicts.
-
- 5.1.7.3** Develop a Dogs in Parks program that has a primary focus on education and etiquette through signage and other programming.
-
- 5.1.7.4** Develop fenced off-leash dog areas within the District, including small dog parks near village centres.
-
- 5.1.7.5** Update the Animal Control Bylaw to allow on-leash dogs only in Nature Parks with the secondary classification of Habitat/Conservation (Oak Haven, Gore and if developed in future, Amwell and Cooperidge Parks) to help protect the sensitive ecosystems.
-
- 5.1.7.6** Ensure equestrian friendly trails connect to existing trail networks to create a more extensive and accessible riding experience and work with the equestrian community on service delivery.
-
- 5.1.7.7** Provide amenities for equestrians in key locations. Including:
- Horse-friendly parking and staging areas
 - Mounting blocks
 - Water troughs
 - Tie-up stations

5.2

PARK AMENITIES

5.2.1 PLANNING & DESIGN

- 5.2.1.1 Use sensitively designed lighting on off-road multi-use trails and/or parks with potential to be used in the dark. Prioritize routes used for safe connections to key destinations.

- 5.2.1.2 Lighting standards should consider energy requirements (i.e. solar, LED) and use pedestrian scale, dark sky compliant fixtures that minimize lighting spill-over.

- 5.2.1.3 Provide additional washrooms in high-use parks. Full-service washrooms are warranted in highest use areas. For sites with no existing water or electrical service, consider providing an alternative toilet system such as a portable toilet until servicing conditions change.

- 5.2.1.4 Work with partners to identify washrooms that could be accessible to park and trail users, and identify locations for washrooms to fill gaps, (e.g., school district, businesses.).

5.2.2 ACCESSIBILITY

- 5.2.2.1 Identify accessible amenities through signage and online resources.

5.2

PARK AMENITIES

5.2.3 PLAYGROUNDS & YOUTH AMENITIES

5.2.3.1 Establish target of a playground within a 10-minute walk of all residences within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Replace playgrounds as part of ongoing asset management. When replacing playgrounds, consider the following:

- Add natural play elements including opportunities for children to play in nature.
 - Ensure all playgrounds offer elements of inclusive and accessible play.
 - Include opportunities for preschool and school aged children in all playgrounds.
 - Consider typical replacement cycles of 10–15 years for playgrounds and 8–12 years for spray parks.
 - Encourage partnerships or sponsorship to assist in fund-raising for playground replacement.
-

5.2.3.3 Develop new amenities that encourage youth/teen activity. These could include a bike skills park and/or pump track, volleyball courts, or additional sport courts for road hockey/basketball. Youth / teen amenities should be in a location with easy access. For instance, near a middle or secondary school, on a primary transit route or in an area with a higher concentration of youth and families.

5.2

PARK AMENITIES

5.2.4 SPORTS COURTS & FIELDS

5.2.4.1 Work with Peninsula Recreation Commission on peninsula-wide recreation amenity planning and collaboration and explore space within the District for emerging or underserved sports and activities.

5.2.4.2 Continue to conduct improvements to sport fields and ball diamonds that will enhance use, extend available seasons for use, and/or provide improved accessibility from parking lots and transit stops.

5.2.4.3 In neighbourhood and community parks prioritize the creation of multi-use court facilities over single-use courts to maximize space efficiency, encourage diverse recreational opportunities, and promote inclusive park experiences for different age groups and skill levels. Integrate multi-court facilities with seating and other activities.

5.2.5 COMMUNITY GARDENS

5.2.5.1 Explore and support the establishment of additional community and allotment gardens in park spaces near multi-family dwelling residences, as well as on District or CRD land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), by collaborating with community groups and relevant stakeholders.

5.3

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

5.3.1 PLANNING & DESIGN

5.3.1.1 Upgrade existing trails to meet trail classifications.

5.3.1.2 Popular trails should be wide enough to accommodate all allowable users and large groups with passing zones or areas to pull off.

5.3.1.3 Explore opportunities to connect or reroute trail networks across different parks to create destination trails and of varying length, tread type, and difficulty level.

5.3.1.4 Install wayfinding signage and/or features to help users navigate the trail system.

5.3.2 ACCESSIBILITY

5.3.2.1 Conduct an accessibility assessment of Community Paths and Neighbourhood trails where feasible.

5.3.2.2 Provide signage ratings for accessibility.

5.3.2.3 Provide rest stops along trails and at viewpoints.

5.3

TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

5.3.3 LAND ACQUISITION

Create an interconnected, district wide trail network as outlined in the Proposed Trails map that completes gaps and improves connectivity. This includes major east/west and north/south connections and smaller ones.

- 5.3.3.1** Destinations where connectivity will be prioritized include:
- Connections to major parks & amenities
 - Connections to village centres and commercial nodes
 - Major destinations
 - Improved connections to schools
 - Improved connections to major employment centres
 - Connections to shorelines & access points
-

- 5.3.3.2** Explore opportunities to develop trail networks in neighborhoods with limited existing trails, such as the Keating Business District and Tanner Ridge.
-

- 5.3.3.3** Work with other jurisdictions in Central Saanich and the CRD on planning major trail networks to achieve regional active transportation, recreation, and tourism opportunities.

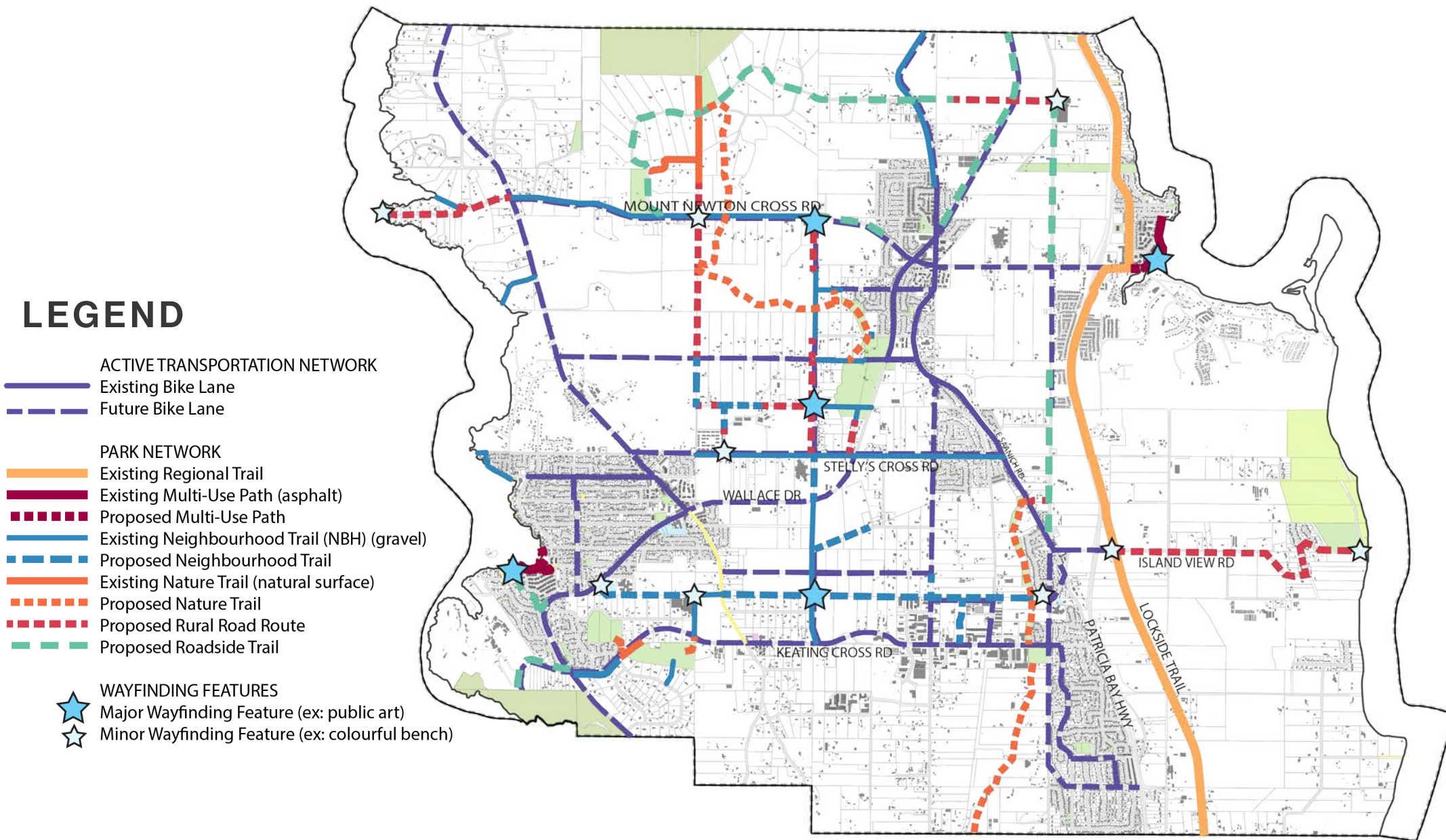


Figure 5

PROPOSED TRAILS

5.4

SHORELINE ACCESS

5.4.1 PLANNING & DESIGN

5.4.1.1 Undertake improvements to parking areas at shoreline access points where feasible.

5.4.1.2 Install portable washrooms at popular shoreline access points to accommodate visitors. Conduct consultation with neighbouring properties.

5.4.1.3 Place and retain signs at access points to the water including, evaluating the usage of markers/buoys at shoreline access points for users approaching from water.

5.4.1.4 Develop a strategy for placement of identification, regulatory, and warning signs at shoreline access points.

5.4.2 ACCESSIBILITY

5.4.2.1 Undertake strategic improvements at shoreline accesses and viewpoints to enhance functionality for all users, including those with mobility challenges.

5.4

SHORELINE ACCESS

5.4.3 LAND ACQUISITION

- 5.4.3.1 Manage and improve access points to the water to maximize public use, including removing private encumbrances on public property.
- 5.4.3.2 Long term, work towards developing a complete waterfront walkway in Brentwood and Saanichton Bay and identify properties along the waterfront that are priorities for acquisition.

5.4.4 PARTNERSHIPS

- 5.4.4.1 Continue to work with non-profit organizations on beach clean-up events.

5.4.5 BOAT LAUNCHES

- 5.4.5.1 Develop a strategy with Sidney, North Saanich, CRD, WJOLELP, and STÁUTW First Nations on motorized boat launches for the peninsula.
- 5.4.5.2 Seasonally clear logs and debris from the area at Island View Road to facilitate easy access for small, non-motorized watercraft, such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. Additionally, assess the rehabilitation of the existing concrete boat launch and implement management practices to ensure access during the summer months.

5.5

ENVIRONMENT

5.5.1 PLANNING & DESIGN

- 5.5.1.1** Incorporate smaller natural areas and/or habitat features into parks, trails and shoreline areas. This includes meadows, rain gardens, bird habitats and could include items such as bat boxes and bird nesting boxes.

- 5.5.1.2** Formalize trail networks in habitat/conservation parks to better protect sensitive ecosystems; install split rail fencing and signage to better protect the sensitive environment.

- 5.5.1.3** Continue to promote Green Shores solutions for shoreline protection (limit shoreline hardening practices such as the building of seawalls) and enhance natural buffers in areas with predicted sea level rise implications (CRD inundation mapping).

- 5.5.1.4** Use native and native-adapted plants to support local biodiversity and minimize irrigation needs.

- 5.5.1.5** Ensure new or updated park buildings meet the District’s goals within the 2020 Climate Leadership Plan by meeting high standards of energy efficiency and integrating alternative energy technologies where appropriate.

5.5

ENVIRONMENT

5.5.2 TREE CANOPY

5.5.2.1 Continue to expand the tree canopy, particularly in areas with limited canopy coverage, including Keating Business District. Ensure playgrounds and other park amenities such as picnic tables and benches have sufficient shade trees nearby. When improving streets and/or adding pedestrian infrastructure, ensure adequate space for street trees.

5.5.2.2 Develop a tree canopy plan for managing public trees that considers species migration/changes, preferred species soil volume requirements, and opportunities to enhance the District’s tree canopy.

5.5.3 LAND ACQUISITIONS

5.5.3.1 Consider future land acquisitions that help address gaps in District wide corridors for wildlife connectivity.

- Continue to acquire lands along Tetayut Creek to complete a connected Cooperidge Park.
- Areas within Riparian Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory
- Additional lands to connect and/or expand riparian connectivity of George May Park and Centennial Park.

5.5

ENVIRONMENT

5.5.4 GENERAL MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

- 5.5.4.1 Highlight the natural processes and values of rainwater management facilities in parks and look for new opportunities to integrate rainwater management in parks and trails.

- 5.5.4.2 Add shrub areas and pollinator plantings for habitat and species diversity.

- 5.5.4.3 Encourage and support more extensive mapping of environmental resources green infrastructure mapping.

- 5.5.4.4 Develop a natural asset management plan that assesses the economic significance of the District’s natural resources and the value of continuing investments in maintaining and expanding green infrastructure.

5.5

ENVIRONMENT

5.5.5 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- 5.5.5.1** Develop a District process for reporting and responding to new invasive plants and noxious weed occurrences, particularly those on the provincial Early Detection Rapid Response, CRD Priority species or BC noxious weed lists.

- 5.5.5.2** Continue to work with Capital Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Invasive Species Council of BC on regional Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) programs and public outreach.

- 5.5.5.3** Develop an invasive species management plan for key parks with substantial issues with invasive species (ex. Butterfield Park) to help prioritize activities/locations within the park.

- 5.5.5.4** Educate park users about invasive species and management activities within parks. Develop online information and/or pamphlet about invasive plants and how residents can help. (example: Metro Vancouver’s Help Stop the Spread pamphlet; Saanich’s Controlling Invasive Plants on Your Property).

- 5.5.5.5** Update the Unsightly Premises Noxious Weed Bylaw No. 1845 to add additional species of concern.

5.5

ENVIRONMENT

5.5.6

WILDFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

5.5.6.1 Consider community wildfire risk and FireSmart principles in all parks, trail and shoreline accesses.

5.5.6.2 Continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations in the District's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

