

Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Park

Management Plan

Parks and Recreation Department
Parks Division | September 2015





Motion: **MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: “That it be recommended that Council endorse the Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Park Management Plan.”**

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Management Plan is the result of a series of public participation events, a professional environmental review, and a Saanich Departmental and Policy review. It was led and developed by Parks staff in consultation with local community representatives and stakeholders. These representatives and stakeholders have jointly advocated for a comprehensive plan for several years. The plan is necessary to address issues in four categories: natural areas management; trails; recreation; and safety and security. This includes assessing existing infrastructure and identifying the need for improvements, identifying and accommodating compatible recreational activity, and resolving way-finding issues.

The area commonly referred to as Cuthbert Holmes Park (CHP) is a combination of CHP and Tillicum Park totalling 25.6 ha (63.5 acres) and zoned P4-N. Two lots within the park are zoned A-1, and the portion of Tillicum Park that contains the Saanich Centennial Library and G. R. Pearkes Recreation Centre is zoned P-4HR.

The park is best known for its natural features including Douglas fir and mixed forests, the Colquitz River, and wildlife. It is well used by neighbours and a wide range of visitors for a variety of activities. Visitor volume will likely increase with future population growth in the area. Effective visitor and environmental management will be increasingly important for the park's long-term sustainability.

Public consultation indicates that protecting the natural environment and accommodating compatible low-impact recreation are high priorities. Safety is also deemed important. A number of interrelated actions are necessary to achieve this: control of invasive plant species; prevention of harmful off-trail and recreational activity; and improving infrastructure including trails, educational signs and way-finding signs.

Priorities

The park is best known for its forest, the Colquitz River, wildlife, and trails. It is well used by neighbours and others for a variety of activities.

The public is most concerned with **protecting the environment** and **accommodating low-impact recreation**.



The park's draft vision is *"Cuthbert Holmes Park is a popular natural area that promotes and demonstrates respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature-based recreational opportunities"*

Themes and supporting goals are:

- Natural Areas Management: Protect and restore natural areas.
- Trails: Refine the trail system to support the park's recreational and environmental goals.
- Recreational Opportunities: Provide the opportunity for recreation that complements the park's natural environment.
- Safety and Security: Improve the sense of safety and security for park visitors without compromising the natural character of the park.

These goals are supported by Saanich policy. These themes have been the framework for public participation events and are the framework for the implementation section of this plan. Council, community, volunteer and staff support - along with consistent funding over the next several years - will be necessary to implement key initiatives and to maintain effective long-term management of the park.



Snow on the Colquitz River



2. INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

Introduction

Cuthbert Holmes Park is bounded by the Trans-Canada Highway to the north, Tillicum Centre to the east, Admirals Road to the west, and the Colquitz River and residential development to the south. It contains important neighbourhood and community trail connections, a section of the Colquitz River, and a variety of ecosystems and wildlife. It is heavily impacted by invasive plants. The park is used primarily for passive recreation, mostly walking and dog-walking, and has formal and informal groups involved in restoration efforts and wildlife interest.

Saanich Parks has a three level park classification system: neighbourhood, community and municipal. The area commonly known as Cuthbert Holmes Park is actually a combination of Cuthbert Holmes Park (a 20 ha “Municipal Park”) and Tillicum Park (a 5.6 ha “Community Park”), totalling 25.7 ha (63.5 acres). This plan covers the collective area which is referred to as Cuthbert Holmes Park (CHP) for simplicity.

Municipal Parks *“Serve the entire municipality and are typically large enough (20 – 200 ha) to have the widest range of types of park uses. People may visit these parks due to the natural features or the facilities and opportunities offered. Municipal parks draw the general public who specifically travel to spend time ‘in the park’. Park features can be natural, such as beaches or important forests. They can also be built features, such as major walkways, trail systems, and large picnic areas.”*

Community Parks *“have minimum optimal size vary from 5 – 20 ha with typical facilities that include high quality sports fields and/or ball diamonds, field-house/washroom buildings, playground(s), walkways or trails, special natural or horticultural features and parking lot(s). Community parks are a visual, physical and social focus for the community [...]”*



Cooper's hawk



A variety of legislation and ownership are involved with the park. It is located in the Tillicum Local Area and zoned P-4N “Natural Park”, with the exception of a P-4HR portion containing the recreation centre and library, and 2 lots zoned A-1. The public road rights-of-way adjacent to the Trans-Canada Highway and Admirals Road function as part of the park, as does a small parcel (.05 ha/.13 acre) owned by the BC Transit Financial Authority. Twelve ha (30 acres) of the park are owned by the provincial government (Shared Services BC) and leased to Saanich. Five hectares (12.4 acres) of this portion are in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The ALR regulates the use and development of land and may influence proposed trail work and furniture placement. (See the zoning and ownership map Appendix A.)

The park is named in honour of **Major H. Cuthbert Holmes** (1890 – 1968). Major Holmes was an advocate of public amenities and wanted to preserve greenbelts along the Colquitz River.

Ultimately the parcels currently zoned A-1 will be rezoned P-4N. Efforts to acquire the portions that are not currently owned by Saanich (including road rights-of-ways) should be made as opportunities present themselves. Land acquisitions along the Colquitz River south of the park, and between the park and Portage Inlet would add to the ecological integrity of the park. These lots are currently privately owned, the long-term intention to acquire them should be considered in any future amendments to the Park Priority Guide 2010.

The federal and provincial governments recently announced plans to construct an overpass at the intersection of the TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road. Coordination will be required to ensure that functional pedestrian and cyclist connection with the park, and storm water management, are achieved. Potentially negative physical, visual and auditory impacts during and after construction will also need to be addressed.

The District is aware of a December 2014 proposal from Saanich Neighbourhood Place to build a childcare facility behind Pearkes Recreation Centre and will continue to provide feedback to the proponent. Specifically the proposal is to locate the facility on a portion of the parking lot behind Pearkes Arena. It also calls for an outdoor play space, to be located within a portion of the treed area to the south-west of the parking lot. These are both within the P-4HR zoned portion of Tillicum Park.



The District is also aware of a proposal by RioCAN to build approximately 300 dwelling units adjacent to the north-east corner of the park. Their proposal includes improvements to the adjacent riparian area of the Colquitz. If and when it proceeds, Saanich Parks will review it for consistency with the overarching goals of this Management Plan.

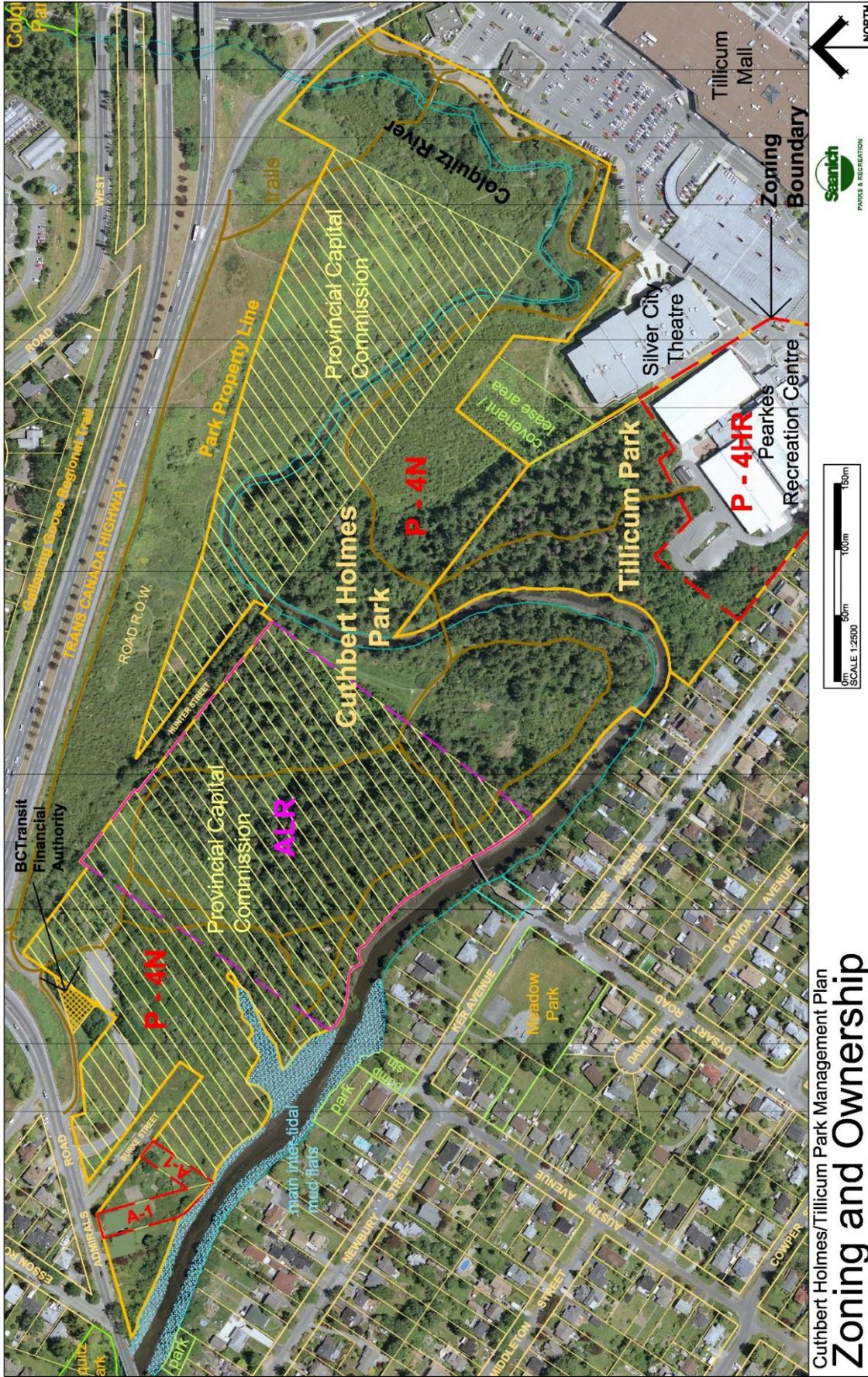
History

The park is named in honour of Major H. Cuthbert Holmes (1890 - 1968), a leading advocate of planning for future public amenities throughout the Capital Regional District. Major Holmes was especially interested in preserving greenbelt lands along the Colquitz River. Much of the park was farmed before it was developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and maintained as a natural park. Sometime between 1956 and 1964 a large amount of material was deposited in the north-east corner, likely from nearby commercial and residential developments of the time. Evidence of these events is still visible in the park today. In 1986 the park was turned over to Saanich, and in 1987 approximately 12 ha (30 acres) was granted to the Provincial Capital Commission (now Shared Services BC) and subsequently leased to Saanich for 99 years.



Photo taken in 1966. Note remnant forest, farm fields and fill in north east corner of the park. Drive-in theatre was replaced by Tillicum Mall.





Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Park Management Plan
Zoning and Ownership

Current zoning and ownership details.



PARK RESOURCES

Environment

Cuthbert Holmes Park contains the final 1.5 km of the Colquitz River, and the river’s estuary marks much of the park’s southern boundary. The Colquitz River is fed from a variety of sources including Swan Creek, Blenkinsop Creek, O’Donnel Creek, and Viaduct Creek. It is also fed by Elk, Beaver, and Blenkinsop Lakes. The Colquitz ultimately flows into Portage Inlet - part of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary is protected under the Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. It runs along the island’s southern tip from Macaulay Point Park in Esquimalt to Ten Mile Point in Cadboro Bay. The sanctuary contains a number of regionally important wintering grounds. Portage Inlet has significant wildlife values including extensive eelgrass beds. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are established for the protection and conservation of migratory birds, and activities that could harm migratory birds, their nests or eggs are prohibited.

The park contains semi-mature, mature and old Douglas fir and mixed forest, and a stand of trembling aspen in the north-west corner. Sensitive ecosystems including riparian areas, wetlands, and older forest are also found in the park. Mud flats on the shores of the estuary are especially important and sensitive foraging grounds for a variety of wildlife. The north-east corner of the park was used for fill in the late fifties and early sixties and now is vegetated almost exclusively by invasive plants.

The park accommodates a wide variety of wildlife despite being impacted by invasive plants in many areas. There are over 120 bird species in the park including owls, hawks and the Great Blue Heron. A number of fish species inhabit the river including coho and chum salmon, cutthroat trout and herring. A fish fence operated by the Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society is located on the extreme east edge of the park. These volunteers have done much to bring awareness to the unusually robust urban runs of Coho salmon and sea-

The Great Blue Heron is among the park’s most prestigious inhabitants.



run cutthroat trout that pass through the park (largely without hatchery enhancement).

Of the many bird species found in the park, the Great Blue Heron is among the most spectacular. Herons have been nesting in the park sporadically since at least 1989, when provincial records were first kept. The herons left the park in 1994 and returned in 2007. By 2010, they had created the largest breeding colony on Vancouver Island. The Province has listed this bird as “at risk” or “blue-listed”. The federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has listed the Great Blue Heron as “special concern”.

BC’s Ministry of Environment, BC Wildlife Act, and Canada’s Migratory Birds Convention Act outline a number of regulations and recommendations regarding the Great Blue Heron. Buffer zones of 60m are recommended to minimize colony disturbance in urban settings. These increase by an additional 200m during active nesting season (January 15 to September 15). However some colonies become accustomed to people, such as in Beacon Hill Park and Vancouver’s Stanley Park where buffers are much smaller. Herons are particularly sensitive from March to late June when eggs and young are in the nest and disturbance can cause them to be abandoned. Heron nests and associated trees are protected year-round whether nests are active or not. Though the park has had no active nests in recent years, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations’ Species at



Morning mist on the Colquitz

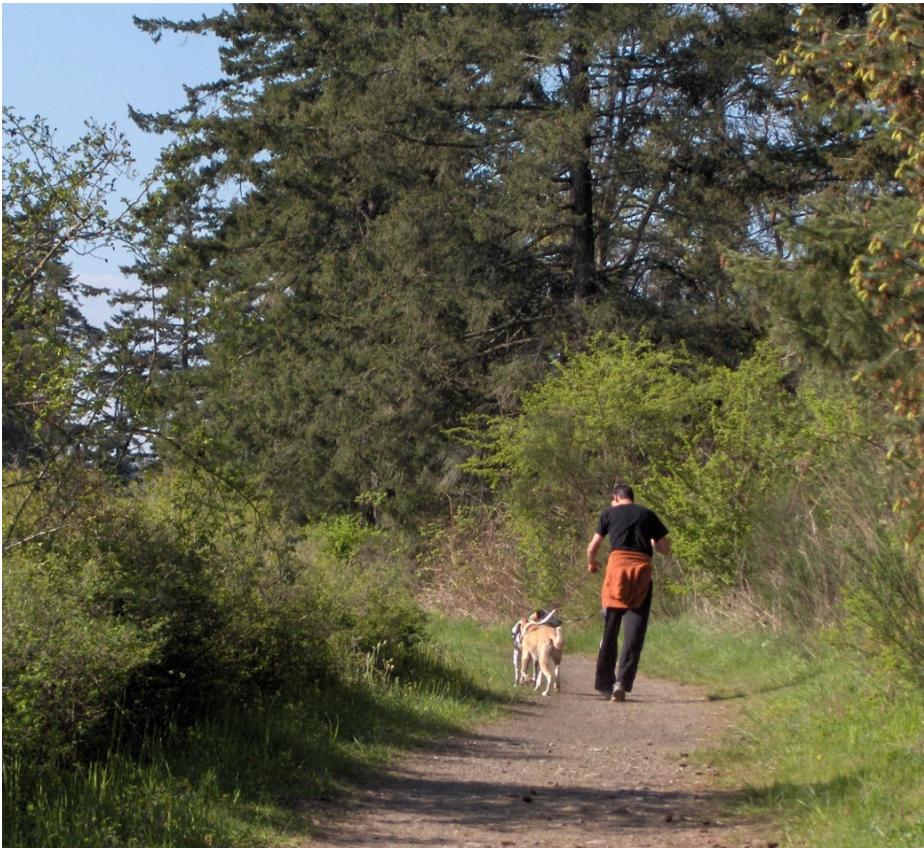
A wide variety of animals make their home in the park despite invasive plants. There are over 120 bird species including owls, hawks and water birds. Coho and chum salmon, cutthroat trout and herring inhabit the river.



Risk biologist advises that it is likely the herons will return - the park provides good habitat, is adjacent to good marine and estuarine-type feeding sites and is traditional nesting territory. Herons continue to actively forage in the Colquitz River even in the absence of active nests.

Recreation

A 2012 survey indicated that most park users are neighbours living within a fifteen minute walk of the park. Other users include students from nearby schools and visitors to the adjacent Pearkes Recreation Centre, Saanich Centennial Library, SilverCity movie theatre, and Tillicum Centre. Trails are the park's main amenity and these connect to both the larger Saanich Centennial Trail and Galloping Goose Regional Trail systems. The park is heavily used by the dog-walking community, and for walking, jogging, nature appreciation (including the fish counting fence and bird watching), cycling, boating, and other activities.



Cuthbert Holmes Park is very popular for dog-walking, walking, and nature appreciation.



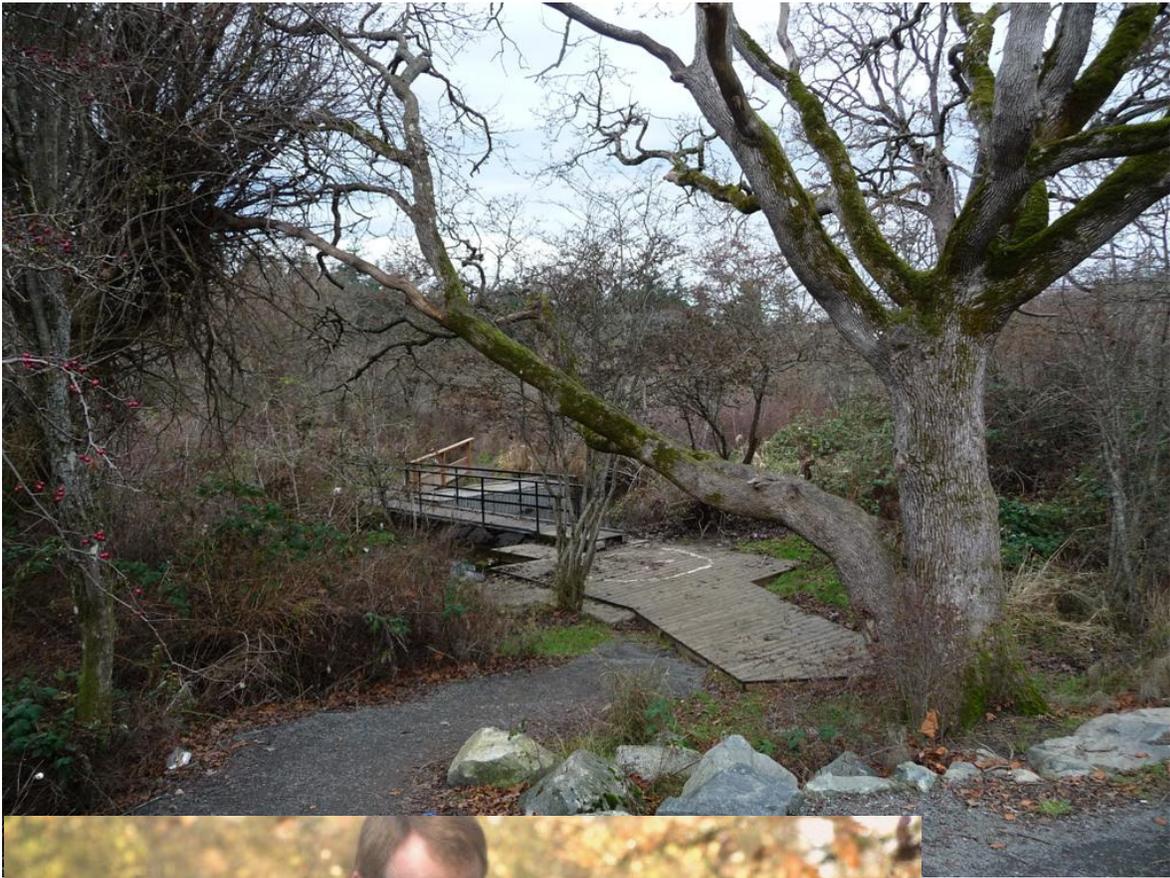
4. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The following policies, plans and background reports create the framework for this plan. The goals and action items in the following sections fall within this framework. See Appendix B for a brief overview of these documents.

Relevant Policies and Plans:

- Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2008, No. 8940
- 2014-2018 Strategic Plan
- Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan 2013
- Zoning Bylaw 2003
- The Tillicum Local Area Plan
- Parks Management and Control Bylaw, 1997, No. 7753
- The Animals Bylaw, 2004, No. 8556
- Saanich Park Property Inventory
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines
- Park Natural Areas Action Plan 2012-2017
- Invasive Species Management Strategy
- Saanich Parks and Recreation Trail Guidelines 2007
- Trail Closure and Restoration Best Practices (Draft)
- Saanich Parks Best Management Practices (BMPs)





Volunteer with Coho salmon at the fish fence.



Environmental Review:

An environmental review of the park was conducted by Westland Resource Group in late 2010 to provide detailed ecological information. The report analysed a wide range of information to determine the park's environmental value and its sensitivity to human disturbance. A sensitivity rating of high, medium, low or very low was given to all areas to indicate the degree of potential negative impact that human activity could have on that area's environment. The resulting "Cuthbert Holmes Park Environmental Review Final Report" has been a key reference document in the development of this Management Plan and has influenced locations of proposed facilities and development in the park. See Appendix C for the report's executive summary and final map, "Sensitivity to Human Disturbance."

Key findings include:

- The park has significant ecological importance and value.
- It is heavily impacted by invasive plant species.
- Ecological areas vary in their ability to accommodate human activity and this should be taken into account during park planning.
- Some impacts can be reduced by following Best Management Practices (BMPs) and these should be followed during construction and maintenance activities.
- Some impacts can be reduced by controlling the movement of people, bikes and dogs.

Sensitive Areas

Cuthbert Holmes Park has a variety of ecosystems and plant communities, some of which are sensitive. Off-trail travel by people, pets and bikes is harmful to these areas.



Pileated woodpecker

River otter

Barred owl





Participants at Public Workshop



5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The first step toward creating this plan was taken in 2010 when the Gorge Tillicum Community Association (GTCA) requested that Saanich Parks participate in a “Community Mapping” exercise. Its purpose was to begin to address the park’s perceived neglect, under-use, and visitor safety issues. The event was organized around the main topics of interest: natural areas management; trails; recreational opportunities; safety and security; and community gardens. The event confirmed that these categories did represent the topics of interest, and they remained the framework for all future public participation. Note that the proposal for community gardens was withdrawn in 2011, and this topic was excluded from subsequent events.

Following the event it became apparent that a management plan was warranted, and a robust public participation process was undertaken. A variety of public participation tools were used throughout this process. Stakeholders that were invited to participate include:

Stakeholders

- The public
- First Nations
- Gorge Tillicum Community Association
- Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park
- Portage Inlet Sanctuary Colquitz Estuary Society (P.I.S.C.E.S.)
- Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers
- Colquitz Middle School and Spectrum High School
- District of Saanich Police and Fire
- District of Saanich Environmental Services Division
- Provincial Capital Commission (now Shared Services BC)
- RioCan and SilverCity Theatre
- Pearkes Recreation Centre
- Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association (now Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society)
- Citizen Canine
- Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club
- Gorge Waterway Initiative
- Saanich Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee (PTR)
- Saanich Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee (ENA)

Themes

A range of interconnected issues effect the park. They can be grouped into **four general themes**:

- Natural Areas Management
- Trails
- Recreational Opportunities
- Safety and Security

Some issues fall into two or more themes, and appear more than once.



Public Participation

In 2013 Saanich adopted the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) standard of public participation. The IAP2 model has five possible public participation levels, each accommodating a different degree of impact on the decision to be made. These levels, from the least to the greatest extent of involvement are: Inform; Consult; Involve; Collaborate; and Empower.

In terms of this standard the overall participation level for the development of the plan was Involve. Specific engagement techniques were used at various levels of participation as shown below.

Inform	Displays at public events, printed information, Saanich website
Consult	Visits to schools, open house, surveys, presentations to key groups and committees
Involve	Community mapping exercise, workshop

Unsolicited input from many individuals was also received throughout the process. Summaries of these events are included in Appendix D. Summaries, details and feedback can be found in the Public Participation document.

Common Values

Many people participated in participation events, and a wide range of ideas and opinions were heard. With shared understanding common values emerged:

- Protect Nature
- Accommodate People
- Make it Safe



6. KEY PARK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Key Issues

The development of this Management Plan was initially prompted by community concerns regarding the park's perceived neglect, under-use and safety issues. This perception was created by factors that have been at work for several years, and are inter-related and effect each other.

See the Concept Plan in Appendix F for related works.

For example, unrestrained off-trail travel by people, bikes and pets, and the proliferation of undesignated trails have resulted in loss of plant understory, soil loss and compaction. This contributes to the spread of invasive plant species which can form dense thickets and conceal camping and other undesirable activities. These activities, together with a lack of orientation and way-finding signs, deters some people from using the park. Further, some bird and fish species are affected by unrestricted boating during sensitive times in their lifecycles.

Much of the off-trail travel has been due to unrestrained recreational activity in the past. Three particular user groups have come to use the park is this way. BMX bikers, dog owners and boaters are key user groups that have been consulted during the development of this plan. More detail regarding dogs is given in the following Trails section, and more detail regarding BMX bikes and boats is given under Recreational Opportunities.

The inter-related factors fall into four general categories: **Natural Areas Management; Trails; Recreational Activities;** and **Safety and Security.** These categories established the framework for public consultation events and are also the framework for the action items in this management plan. They are discussed further below.



A recent development is the announcement that the federal and provincial governments will fund the construction of an overpass at the intersection of the TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road in the near future. Plans are not available at the time of writing, but aspects of the project will need to be coordinated with park infrastructure, including safe pedestrian and cyclist access to and from the intersection, and storm water management. Potentially negative impacts to natural areas, vegetation, and trails will require mitigation and restoration. The overpass' visual and auditory impact on the park will also need to be clearly understood and mitigated.

Minimizing area lost to the project, minimizing impact during construction, creating a suitable buffer if necessary, restoring impacted natural areas, and maintaining a functional trail system will be key concerns. Saanich will work to ensure that these concerns are adequately addressed as detailed project plans are developed and reviewed.

Natural Areas Management

Invasive plant species and understory trampling are threats to the park's natural areas. Invasive plants now dominate large areas, such as the English hawthorn thicket north-west of Silver City Theatre. Though they can provide shelter and food for some species, the hawthorn offer a limited variety of habitats and foods compared to the native plants they displace. Ultimately invasive plants reduce biodiversity and harm ecosystems. Trampling caused by people and dogs attempting to access the river is especially damaging to sensitive riparian areas, and a maze of undesignated trails fragments habitat.

Some in-stream and riparian restoration work was completed in conjunction with the Admirals Road Bridge Replacement Project in 2010. A good deal of invasive plant removal has been completed by the Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program, and the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park, both currently active in the park. Despite these efforts significant preservation and restoration projects are still necessary to fully address these issues. The long-term success of this work will depend on public support and the continued efforts of volunteer groups. Ongoing education and outreach to teach visitors about the



park's natural features, and why measures are necessary to protect them, are needed to ensure that the public supports these efforts.

Trails

Trails need to accommodate walkers, dog-walkers, bike-riders and others. Some people feel intimidated by loose dogs, and others feel bicycles travelling too fast are a hazard. A good trail system must help to minimize conflict, reduce the negative impact from off-trail travel, and contribute to visitors' safety.

Of the many people who use CHP, dog-walkers are probably the most numerous. Dog walkers have come to regard CHP as an 'off-leash' park, and are generally opposed to leash/travel restrictions on their pets. Most are reasonable but unaware of their dogs' impact on natural areas, wildlife and other park users, especially when allowed to roam freely off-trail. On the other hand, some visitors are reluctant to use the park because of loose dogs that are not under control, and dog waste left on the ground.

During consultation a 'voluntary compliance' strategy, reinforced with an educational component was proposed. This strategy encourages dog-walkers to keep pets on trails in highly sensitive areas, and use good 'share the trail' etiquette with all visitors. This approach was supported by stakeholders and the public, and is reflected in this plan.

Off-trail travel is a key threat to the park because it causes physical damage to the understory and soil, and contributes to the spread of invasive plants. Many trails pass through sensitive areas, and those that are not clearly visible or defined can mislead people into leaving the trail. Deliberate off-trail travel by people, bikes and dogs is especially harmful in riparian areas and the Colquitz River itself.



And finally, some areas isolated by a lack of good trail access can harbour undesirable activities such as camping. The presence of such activities can have a negative impact on visitors' experience in the park.

While it is generally understood that the existing trails are fairly well used by park visitors primarily for passive exercise or dog walking, there is currently no data to indicate actual levels of trail use. Trail counters could help to better understand and manage user volumes and behaviour as improvements are implemented.

Recreational Opportunities

Stakeholders support recreational activities that do not negatively impact the park's environment. These activities have not been clearly defined or managed, and some - such as off-trail biking and jump building - can impact natural areas, create visitor conflict, and deter some potential visitors from using the park. Though the park is not suitable for active recreation, many compatible activities exist and need to be identified, accommodated and managed to enhance the park's recreational potential.

BMX bikers and boaters have a long history in the park. There is a legitimate need for a BMX biking facility within Saanich, and advocates feel that one could be accommodated within a low sensitivity area in the park. There was some support for this, but also strong opposition from those who believe it is incompatible and that negative impact is inevitable. Further, the park is zoned P-4N which does not permit active recreation, and access and supporting infrastructure would be difficult and/or expensive.

Public participation events explained the physical and environmental vulnerability of the park and its wildlife. With this understanding the strong majority support only passive recreation, which excludes BMX biking. Educational and interpretive material located at key locations in



the park will explain natural features and wildlife, and the impacts of off-trail travel to sustain this support.

A variety of small craft including canoes, kayaks, and outriggers travel through and beyond the Colquitz River estuary. The estuary is an important bird feeding and resting area, within the federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary. This activity disturbs birds and fish at critical times in their life cycles, and when the water is very shallow.

The municipality does not have the authority to limit boating on the Colquitz River. However it can include information about the sanctuary, and explain how and when wildlife and fish are impacted by boating. Small educational signs can be installed at key locations which are visible from the river.

Active recreation typically has significant site impact and infrastructure, and can involve intensive management and maintenance. Such activities are incompatible and are not supported in the park. Examples are: organized sports, BMX biking, disk golf, and use of motorized vehicles.

Low impact activities that require a minimum of facilities or development, and have minimal environmental impact are compatible. In highly sensitive areas trail-based examples are nature observation, birding, walking, dog-walking (dogs under control), jogging and biking.

There is an opportunity for off-trail low impact recreation in the area north-west of SilverCity Theatre. This idea was introduced in the 2012 Open House, where participants were asked their opinion. Currently this area is overtaken by dense thickets of invasive English hawthorn. Details about how this area can be improved from an environmental and recreation perspective is further described in section 7.3.



Safety and Security

Dense invasive plants can conceal undesirable activities including camping, and isolated areas such as those behind SilverCity Theatre and Pearkes Recreation Centre also tend to be problematic. Vandalism and graffiti create an impression of lack of care and attention, and the absence of orientation and way-finding signs can make it difficult to understand the park and trail layout. In combination these factors make formal and informal surveillance difficult, and can compromise visitors' sense of security.

Reducing dense invasive plant cover, improving trail connections to previously isolated areas, and providing way-finding and contact information can help to remedy the situation.



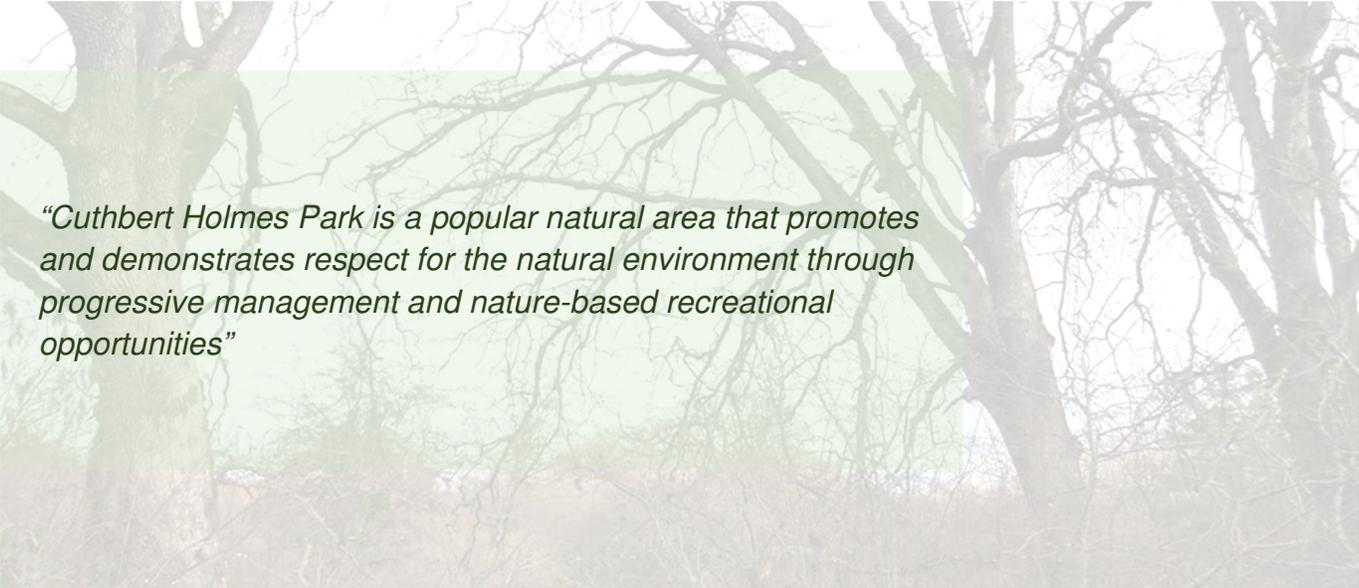
Shallow waters in the river estuary



7. PARK VISION, GOALS, AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

Vision Statement

A vision statement describes what the desired end result would be like. The vision for the park which emerged from the public consultation process reads:



“Cuthbert Holmes Park is a popular natural area that promotes and demonstrates respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature-based recreational opportunities”

The following goals and action items strive to realize this vision. A Concept Plan was developed to reflect specific proposed action items, see Appendix F.



7.1 Natural Areas Management

Goal: Protect and restore natural areas.

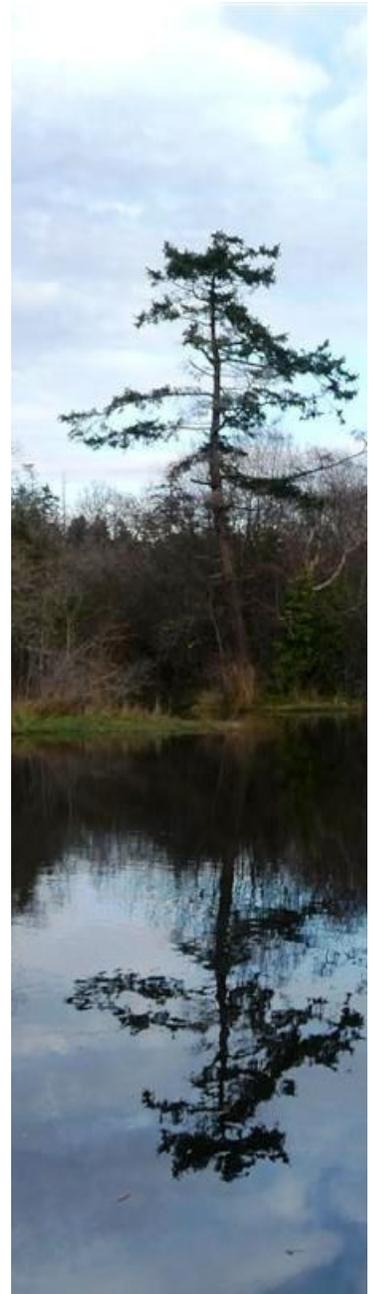
Invasive plants, off-trail travel and the proliferation of small undesignated trails threaten the park's natural areas. Inadequate management of storm water that enters the river in some locations can negatively impact riparian areas. Preservation and restoration projects are an important part of the solution to these problems. The long term success of these efforts depends on on-going public education and continued support from volunteers, park visitors and the community.

- Preservation is defined as “to keep safe from harm or loss; to keep in its original state or in good condition” - these directions will attempt to protect areas from harm.
- Restoration is defined as “a return of something to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition” - these directions will attempt to reverse harm already done.

Future efforts will focus on controlling invasive plants and off-trail travel, restoring impacted areas, and preserving those areas with little or no disturbance. Run-off from the mall and parking lot should be treated before entering the Colquitz River. At a minimum, banks should be protected from scouring. Vegetated buffers for high sensitivity areas are important, and will also be preserved and restored as necessary. One of the areas most heavily impacted by invasive plants is to the north-west of SilverCity Theatre, where approximately 1.2 ha (3 acres) is vegetated almost exclusively by English hawthorn and other invasive plants.

The preservation and restoration action items which follow are guided by these key documents (see Appendix B for an overview of each):

- Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines
- Park Natural Areas Action Plan 2012 – 2017
- Invasive Species Management Strategy
- Restoration Plan Guide



River reflections



The Invasive Species Management Strategy (ISMS) is a key document for dealing with invasive plants. It determines management strategies based on the invasive plant species present. Currently CHP falls under the “contain and control” strategy which strives to contain invasive plants’ spread and prevent new populations from establishing. The ISMS provides criteria for prioritizing restoration areas including the presence of Species at Risk, the presence of sensitive ecosystems, and the presence of active volunteer groups.

Preservation and restoration actions are also guided by the Preservation and Restoration Priority Areas map which was created using ISMS criteria and sensitive ecosystems identified in the Environmental Review (see Appendix E). This map will be used to determine preservation and restoration project areas - highest priority areas are those with the most overlapping layers, lowest priority areas have the least.

Action Items:

7.1a Confirm Project Areas

- Visit areas identified on the Preservation and Restoration Priority Areas map to assess specific conditions and determine if action is needed. Areas affected by the TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road overpass should be assessed as a high priority.
 - Preservation: where evidence of negative impact, or imminent threat of negative impact is confirmed, a preservation plan will be created to address the threat (as per 7.1b). Measures may also be employed to protect existing ecologically intact areas.
 - Restoration: where the relative density and health of native and invasive plant species indicates that the area requires restoration, a detailed plan will be created (as per 7.1c). This includes recently acquired properties and unused roads (Burke Street, Hunter Road).



7.1b Preservation

- Develop a preservation plan for confirmed project areas:
 - Identify issues to be addressed and methods for resolution. Resolution may include signs and/or physical barriers as necessary.
- Continually monitor for new invasive plant outbreaks.
- Implement measures to improve Great Blue Herons' nesting potential:
 - Convert a portion of the field adjacent to the traditional heron nesting site to native trees and shrubs to increase buffer.
 - Identify a buffer for active nesting areas, and provide information to the public and municipal staff about how to minimize disruption during critical nesting periods.

See the Concept Plan in Appendix F for Natural Areas Management related initiatives.

7.1c Restoration

- Develop detailed restoration plans for confirmed project areas as outlined in the Restoration Plan Guide.
- Inspect locations where storm water enters the Colquitz and treat and/or armour as required.
- Decommission undesignated trails as necessary.
- Identify and protect restored areas with signs and/or physical barriers as necessary.
- Develop a plan to reforest the north-east area of the park.
- Move the main asphalt trail and increase the planted riparian area adjacent to the Colquitz River (behind SilverCity Theatre).



Soil compaction and loss of understory

Invasive English ivy



7.1d Education and Outreach

This plan uses three types of signs for visitor education and outreach. (See Appendix G for examples of signs currently used in Saanich Parks):

Interpretive – Typically provide historical, natural or other interesting information about a topic or location. They are meant to add to the enjoyment of the reader and enhance the enjoyment of visiting the park.

Educational – Includes regulatory and contact information signs. They are meant to allow visitors to understand what is requested of them and why, and to empower them to report concerns.

Directional – Includes orientation signs and way-finding marker posts. They are intended to help the visitor easily negotiate the park and know their location relative to the overall trail system, entrances and exits.

- Develop site-appropriate signs for key locations to:
 - Explain the consequences of off-trail travel in sensitive areas and request that visitors stay on trails.
 - Provide information about how to avoid disturbing vulnerable wildlife including herons during critical periods.
 - Identify and promote preservation and restoration activities.
- Install interpretive signs at suitable locations. Subjects may include: park history, general park ecology and invasive plants, river and riparian ecology (including salmon), and wildlife (herons, owls, hawks etc.).
- Provide contact information for reporting inappropriate activities and environmental emergencies such as oil spills.
- Continue to encourage and enable volunteers using Saanich resources and staff support.



School kids and adults enjoy watching volunteers count spawning salmon at the fish fence.



7.2 Trails

Goal: Refine the trail system to support the park’s recreational and environmental goals.

The park currently has designated paved and unpaved trails, and an extensive network of small undesignated trails. The trail system must accommodate a variety of recreational activities, allow a sense of exploration while minimizing off-trail impacts to sensitive areas, allow visitors to easily negotiate the park, and minimize conflict between people, pets and bikes. Changes to the trail system, trail identification, and visitor compliance with trail use etiquette are needed to achieve this.

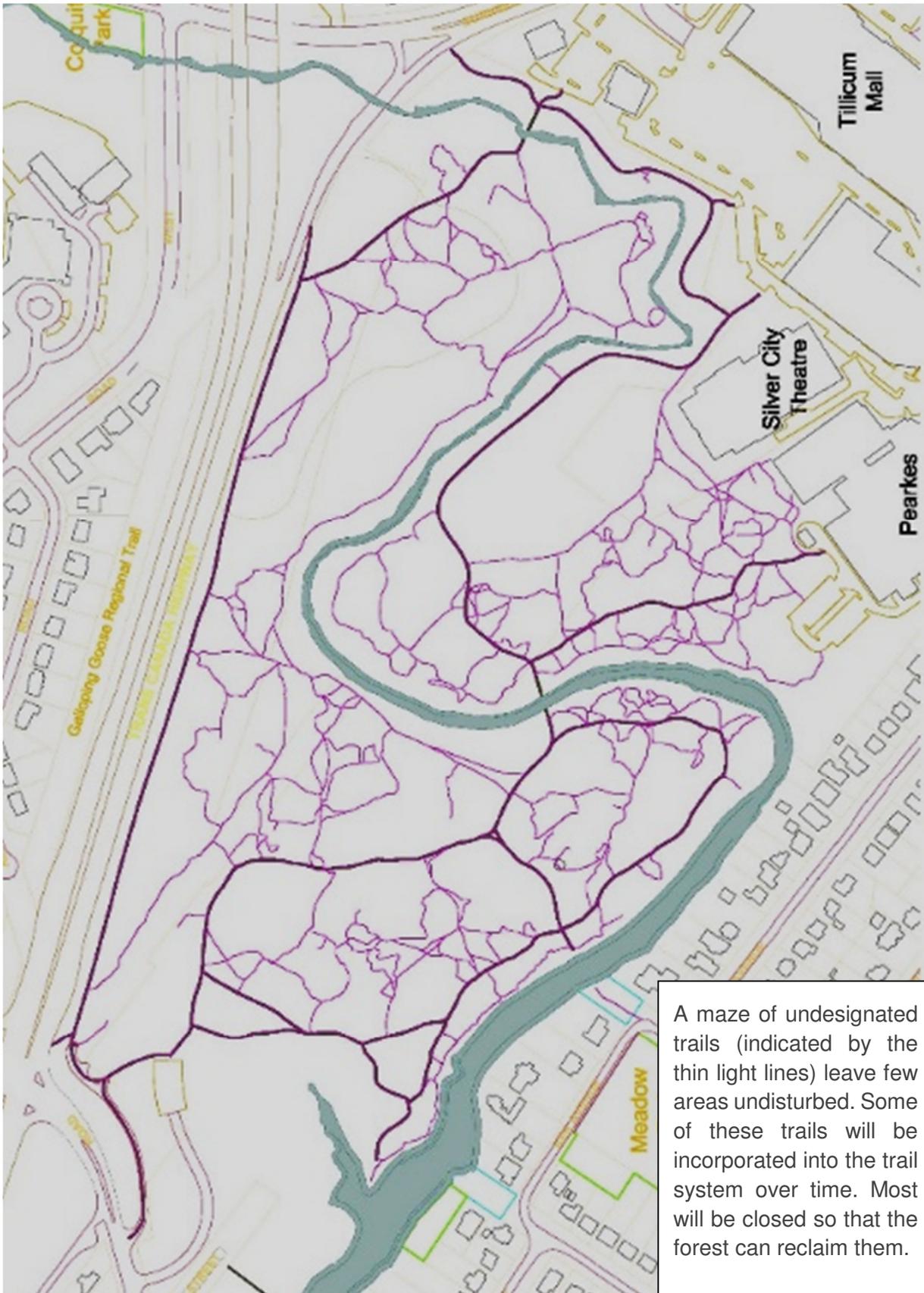
See the Concept Plan in Appendix F for trails-related initiatives.

Trail system initiatives include:

- Clear hierarchy of hard-surface and organic trails (as per Saanich Parks and Recreation Trails Guidelines 2007).
- Strategic trail building and decommissioning to minimize impacts to sensitive areas (as per Trail Closure and Restoration Best Practices).
- Better connections to isolated pockets by formalizing select undesignated trails.
- Improved pedestrian and cyclist access to the TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road intersection, and adjacent to Admirals bridge.
- A trail identification program including:
 - orientation signs at entrances and key point(s)
 - way-finding markers within the park
 - communication of key messages including trail etiquette
- Voluntary Compliance – Good Trail Etiquette initiatives.
- Trail counters at key locations to gather data to better understand trail usage.

The trail system in the Concept Plan (Appendix F) is a combination of Community, Neighbourhood, Rustic and Specialty trails as per the Saanich Parks and Recreation Trails Guidelines (in this case Specialty trails will be made from select undesignated trails). The existing trail system will continue to be multi-use. New trails will not be paved. Their locations, and priorities for construction and decommissioning will be based on more detailed planning to determine environmental impact, estimated level of use, important linkages, and the opportunity to create trail loops.





A maze of undesignated trails (indicated by the thin light lines) leave few areas undisturbed. Some of these trails will be incorporated into the trail system over time. Most will be closed so that the forest can reclaim them.

Undesignated trails in 2008



Action Items:

7.2a Trail Plan

- Undertake development of detailed trail plan that includes trail classifications and intended uses as laid out in the Parks and Recreation Trail Guidelines 2007. The concept plan (Appendix F) outlines a high level trail framework as an initial starting point.

7.2b Improvement, Construction and/or Relocation

- Relocate a section of the asphalt trail adjacent to SilverCity Theatre to avoid seasonal flooding.
- Construct functional access to the TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road intersection from the north-west corner of the park.
- Construct new trail from Admirals bridge for connection into the park.
- Designate specific existing undesignated trails.
- Clearly delineate designated trails using trail surfacing and physical barriers (low split-rail fencing, logs, root masses, etc.) as necessary.
- Address localized drainage problems as necessary.

7.2c Decommissioning

- Decommission select undesignated trails using a combination of physical barriers, educational signage, mulching, and planting with native plants.
- Leave some small undesignated trails as-is for sense of adventure and exploring.
- Decommission trails as part of restoration projects where practical.



7.2d Identification

- Name trails and install orientation signs at main entrances and key point(s).
- Install way-finding markers at key trail junctions.

7.2e Maintenance/Monitor

- Maintain trails as necessary to ensure safety and functionality.
- Install trail counters at strategic locations to monitor trail use.



Example of a way-finding marker in another park.

Baxter Park

A Community Partnership Project with Trees for Tomorrow

In March 2009, in cooperation with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and BC150 Grove, Saanich Parks began the "Trees for Tomorrow" planting Project. Over \$30,000 was received to design and plant demonstration gardens with native trees and shrubs.

Baxter Park was selected because it offered the best opportunity for community involvement and site enhancement. The project also became an outdoor classroom, as two of the surrounding schools took a keen interest in creating and participating with the four demonstration gardens.

Why Native Plants?

Easy to Maintain: Native plants have been here for thousands of years. They are adapted to our climate and resistant to the native insects and diseases that feed on them.

4 Riparian Areas (Wet Site)

Riparian plant species are as dynamic as the site conditions they occupy, which may be affected by natural disturbances such as wind storms, floods and even fires. Varying in size, conditions and natural disturbances, riparian areas are those that are adjacent to watercourses such as rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Planted in this bed are examples of common riparian shrubs that are suited to moist soil conditions. They provide valuable erosion control, soil enrichment, wildlife habitat, and can be used for naturalizing urban gardens.

Once established, the Black Hawthorn grows quickly to the size of a small tree. Its bushy form and dense, thick leaves produce a stunning golden-yellow fall display. With shiny dark berries and large, sharp thorns, the Hawthorn provides food and protection for birds and other small wildlife.



Red Alder is a fast-growing but short-lived tree that establishes easily in very poor soils. Alder is common through lower elevation forests and wetlands, and often the first to grow in disturbed areas. Acting as a pioneer species, alder fixes soil nitrogen, thereby improving conditions for the next plants that arrive.

The Red-osier Dogwood produces attractive clusters of white flowers followed by white berries that provide a striking contrast against its dense bright, red stems.

Prized for its strong wood, Pacific Ninebark is distinguished by its shredding bark and arching branches. Ball-shaped clusters of white flowers are followed by reddish clusters of seed cases.

Growing in dense clumps, Hardhack is easily identifiable in summer by its profusion of bright pink spikes of flowers. These form attractive brown fruit follicles in the fall that provide food for birds.












With special thanks to Gianford Middle School and Pacific Christian School

Interpretive signs enhance visitors' experience and increase awareness and support for the park's natural features.



7.2f Voluntary Compliance – Good Trail Etiquette

This plan needs to address the impacts caused to sensitive areas by the off-trail activity of people, pets and cyclists, and minimize user conflict. Saanich Parks and Animal Control staff have received a significant number of reports of conflict between cyclists, pedestrians, and dogs. Some visitors report that the presence of dogs that are not under control of their walkers, and the presence of dog feces, particularly on trails, discourages them from using the park. Others have stated that fast moving bikes on trails with limited vision are hazardous.

A combination of a “voluntary compliance” management strategy including education is the first step to addressing these issues. Currently the park has no regulations to keep people, bikes or dogs on trails, nor are dogs required to be on a leash (the Animals Bylaw, 2004, No. 8556 requires that dogs be “accompanied by and under the effective control of a competent person or is confined by a leash or chain”). Information explaining the need to keep to trails in sensitive areas will be installed in key areas, e.g. the highly sensitive riparian area along the Colquitz River. Under “voluntary compliance”, all visitors, including pets, will be asked to stay on trails in these areas.

Educational signs will remind visitors that everyone should follow good “share the trail” etiquette. They will remind cyclists to travel at safe speeds, and remind dog owners that they must keep pets close at hand, under control, and dispose of dog feces so that everyone can enjoy the park regardless of their age or interest. See 7.1d Education and Outreach for more details.

In sensitive areas especially, all visitors and their four-legged friends are asked to stay on the trails – the creatures who make their homes in the park thank you.



7.2g Beyond Voluntary Compliance:

Every effort will be made to resolve trail-user conflict and reduce off-trail impacts to natural areas through the voluntary compliance strategy. If this approach proves ineffective an increasing scale of enforcement may be introduced over time. Some other possible techniques include:

- Development of pilot projects that would see some use-restrictions tested.
- Pilot restrictions permanently adopted through bylaw revisions (Parks Management and Control Bylaw 1997 No.7753 and Animals Bylaw 2004, No.8556).
- By-law enforcement.

Triggers that indicate the need for additional enforcement could include:

- Public complaints received by municipal staff including Bylaw Enforcement, Saanich Police and Animal Control officers.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, and the park-user community.
- Repetitive damage to natural areas.



Fawn lilies

7.3 Recreational Opportunities

Goal: Provide the opportunity for recreation that complements the park's natural environment.

Stakeholders support recreational activities that do not negatively impact the park's environment. Some examples are nature appreciation, bird watching, walking, jogging, dog-walking, and cycling. Such activities need to be accommodated and managed to promote the park's recreational benefits.

People support activities that do not negatively impact the park's natural environment.

Much of this recreation must be trail-oriented to protect highly sensitive natural areas as mentioned on page 21. An opportunity for informal off-trail recreation exists in the area north-west of SilverCity Theatre. This approximately 1.3 ha (3.2 ac) area is not highly sensitive, and is largely occupied by English hawthorn and other invasive plants. The invasive plants in this area will be greatly reduced or removed, and replaced with a generous native plant buffer for the adjacent forest, riparian plantings (the trail will be moved further from the river), and an informal open space (approximately .4 ha (1 ac)) for everyone's use. A detailed plan for this area will be developed in the future.

Benefits of this open space include:

- Natural areas - Improved diversity of native nesting and food sources for birds, and lowered invasive plant spread in and out of the park by the reduction of seed-source
- Recreation - Opportunity for dog-walkers and other visitors to enjoy low impact off-trail activity
- Safety - A destination to attract more park visitors and increase informal surveillance, and decrease camping and other undesirable activities by removing cover



Action Items:

7.3a Accommodate

- Improve the trail system as per section 7.2.
- Provide access to desired areas (e.g. the river) in controlled, low-impact ways using paths and/or boardwalks.
- Create a new multi-use area north-west of SilverCity Theatre.
- Identify locations for additional furniture e.g. park benches, “take a bag – leave a bag” doggie bag dispenser, garbage can.

7.3b Promote

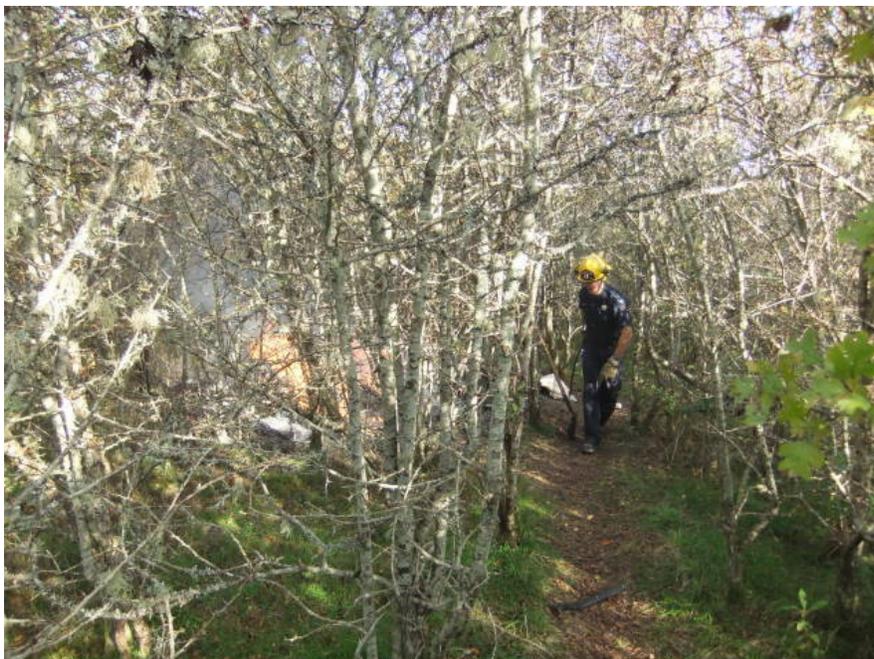
- Develop and implement a public education program to encourage responsible recreational use of the park (see Section 8 “Partnerships, Public Education, and Outreach”).
- Provide educational information to boaters to minimize unintended harmful impacts to wildlife.

7.3c Manage

- Monitor park use via Parks’ staff and the park-user community to assess recreational success and address user conflict as per Section 7.2f.
- Use the existing park permit system to disallow incompatible activities.

A treed buffer, riparian plantings, and a modest informal open space will replace much of the invasive plant thicket north-west of SilverCity Theatre.

See the Concept Plan in Appendix F for other Recreation related initiatives.



The dense invasive hawthorn thickets offer few recreational opportunities.



7.4 Safety and Security

Goal: Improve the sense of safety and security for park visitors without compromising the natural character of the park.

Visitors' sense of security can be improved by reducing the cover provided by dense invasive plants, and connecting the isolated areas where undesirable activities tend to occur with the designated trail system. Directional signage and contact information will let visitors know where they are in relation to trails, entrances and exits, and enable them to report concerns quickly and accurately.

See the Concept Plan in Appendix F for safety and security – related works.

These measures will allow Saanich Police to better monitor these areas and respond to concerns in a timely manner. Consistent timely response tends to reduce undesirable activities and with time they can disappear altogether. Undesirable activities will also be discouraged by the informal surveillance that comes with more visitors on the trails.

Action Items:

7.4a Reduce Cover

- Prune or remove all or part of the dense invasive plant thickets in problematic areas to better expose them to surveillance. (Reducing vision-blocking vegetation is in keeping with “crime prevention through environmental design” (CPTED) principles, which have been applied as much as practical in a natural park.)
- Remove the English hawthorn thickets behind SilverCity Theatre. Create a destination area to keep people in the park longer to increase surveillance and legitimate park use (as described in 7.3 Recreational Opportunities).

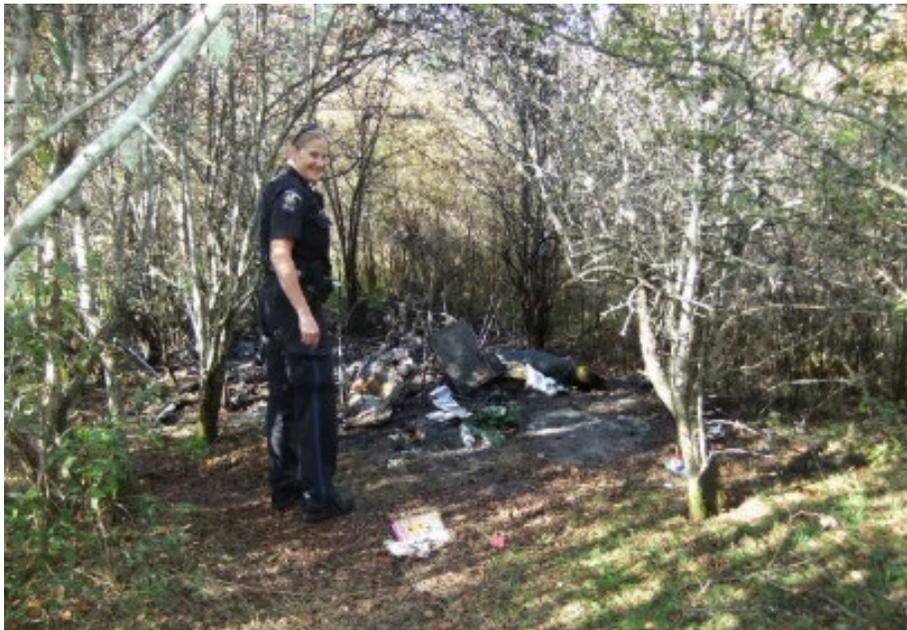


7.4b Connection

- Incorporate existing key undesignated trail(s) into the designated trail system to increase access to select isolated areas (as per 7.2 Trails section).

7.4c Way Finding / Inform

- Name trails.
- Install orientation signs and way-finding markers at key locations.
- Provide contact information for Saanich Parks so that visitors can easily report concerns.



Dense stands of invasive plants can conceal undesirable activities.



7.4d Surveillance

- Improve Saanich Police’s ability to conduct surveillance and respond to concerns as described above.
- Increased visitor volume due to improved trail access and recreational opportunities will increase informal surveillance (more eyes and ears in the park).

7.4e Vandalism and Graffiti

- Increase the possibility of “timely response” by enhancing surveillance and providing the contact information park visitors need to report incidents or concerns.



8. PARTNERSHIPS, PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In addition to municipal resources, this Management Plan needs on-going support from the community, volunteers, and park visitors to succeed. This support can be built indirectly through partnerships and community stakeholders and directly through education and outreach in the park itself.

Cuthbert Holmes Park is an important community asset and the community shares responsibility for it.

A good partnership with adjacent property owner RioCan can address mutual concerns including mall and theatre-generated garbage, inappropriate park use, control of invasive plant species, and habitat protection and enhancement. Much of the area west of SilverCity Theatre is under a lease agreement with Saanich for public park purposes and the conservation of natural features. This agreement allows for park-related amenities such as trails, signs, and benches.

The District can help to promote responsible park use through its website, information pamphlets, recreation programs at the adjacent Pearkes Recreation Centre, and communication with key stakeholders. In turn, stakeholders, community organizations, and interested individuals can help to foster support by distributing information and promoting supportive attitudes within their memberships and the wider community. They include: RioCan; the Gorge Tillicum Community Association; The Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park; the Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society (the fish fence operators); Portage Inlet Sanctuary Colquitz Estuary Society (PISCES); Citizen Canine; The Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI); the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC); Saanich Centennial Library; and Colquitz Middle and Spectrum High Schools. Further, the Parks Division would welcome proposals from individual(s) from one or more of these groups to create a Park Steward program.



Within the park, educational signs about natural features, their value and sensitivity, and the measures necessary to protect them will enhance understanding of protective measures and increase compliance. On-site information about the Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program will increase awareness and support. Park visitors will have contact information to empower them to report concerns, including environmental emergencies such as oil spills. Further, educated and interested park visitors may become informal park stewards, helping to educate other visitors and promote responsible park use.

Together these measures will help to develop and promote the attitude that Cuthbert Holmes Park is an important community asset and that the community shares responsibility for it. This attitude leads to responsible park use, an increase in volunteer participation, and self-policing to establish a standard of responsible use for all visitors.



9. IMPLEMENTATION AND BUDGET

Operational Considerations:

Cuthbert Holmes is a large park with tremendous potential. The commitment of resources over a number of years to address the park's challenges is needed to realize this potential. Considerations are given below.

- Maintenance – all park furniture and infrastructure requires regular maintenance, including picnic tables, benches, signs, bridges, trails and parking lots. In-ground garbage cans are sometimes used for domestic garbage and must be serviced by large vehicles that cannot use some trails.
- Vandalism and graffiti – significant municipal resources are spent repairing damage and removing graffiti. The value of introducing new furniture has to be weighed against the cost of long-term maintenance.
- Urban forest/dangerous tree management – trees near trails must be made safe to ensure they do not present a hazard to visitors.
- Volunteer recruitment – consistent volunteer participation is essential for the timely implementation of this plan. On-going education, outreach, and support for volunteer efforts is needed to maintain the effectiveness of these partners. This continues to grow in importance as a means to accomplish certain objectives, especially in natural areas.

Budget:

Operational and capital estimates are provided and will be considered as part of the annual budget process:



Natural Areas Management

Short Term (1 – 3 years)	1. Complete ground-truthing to confirm preservation and restoration project areas.	\$5,000 (<i>Operating</i>)
	2. Initiate preservation and restoration project(s) beginning with high priority areas including storm water management. Anticipate review of environmental assessment (by others) resulting from TCH and McKenzie/Admirals Road overpass project.	<i>Approx. cost \$3,000 / year = \$9,000 (Capital)</i>
	3. Monitor the park for signs of negative impact from off-trail travel, invasive plant outbreaks, unauthorized trail development, and the need for additional preservation/restoration work or enforcement measures. Performed by Saanich Parks' staff as part of regular ongoing duties and activities, volunteers, and as responses to "calls for service" from park visitors.	<i>No additional cost</i>
	4. Design and install interpretive signs (4) and educational signs regarding natural areas and wildlife sensitivity.	<i>Approx. cost \$25,000 (Capital)</i>
Mid Term (4 – 6 years)	1. Continue to complete high priority restoration and preservation projects and begin medium priority projects.	<i>\$3,000 / yr. = \$9,000 (Capital)</i>
	2. Continue to monitor the park for signs of negative impact from off-trail travel, invasive plant outbreaks, unauthorized trail development, and the need for additional preservation/restoration work or enforcement measures. Performed by Saanich Parks' staff as part of regular ongoing duties and activities, volunteers, and as responses to "calls for service" from park visitors.	<i>No additional cost</i>
Long Term (7 – 10 years)	1. Review progress of preservation and restoration projects. Mid-term evaluation of plan recommendations and strategy, and adjust plan as necessary. Performed by Saanich Parks' staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>



	<p>2. Continue to complete medium and low priority preservation and restoration projects.</p>	<p><i>Approx. cost \$3,000 / yr. = \$12,000 (Capital)</i></p>
	<p>3. Continue to monitor the park for signs of negative impact from off-trail travel, invasive plant outbreaks, unauthorized trail development, and the need for additional preservation/restoration work or enforcement measures. Performed by Parks staff as part of regular ongoing duties and activities, volunteers, and as responses to “calls for service” from park visitors.</p>	<p><i>No additional cost</i></p>

Total Cost = \$60,000 / Average Annual Cost = \$6,000



Trails

Short Term (1 – 3 years)	1. Finalize new trail locations (based on detailed site survey). To be performed by Saanich Parks' staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
	2. Complete priority trail construction.	<i>Approx. cost \$50,000 (Capital)</i>
	3. Complete priority trail decommissioning.	<i>Approx. cost \$20,000 (Capital)</i>
	4. Design and install educational/regulatory signs.	<i>Approx. cost \$10,000 (Capital)</i>
	5. Monitor and determine need for pilot program(s) to regulate activities where voluntary compliance has not been effective. Review calls for service data. To be performed by Saanich Parks' staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
Mid Term (4 – 6 years)	1. Continue trail decommissioning in order of priority.	<i>Approx. cost \$5,000 / yr. = \$15,000 (Capital)</i>
	2. Continue to monitor and determine need for pilot program(s) to regulate certain activities. To be performed by Saanich Parks' staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
Long Term (7 – 10 years)	3. Complete trail decommissioning.	<i>Approx. cost \$5,000 / yr. = \$20,000 (Capital)</i>



	4. Continue to monitor and determine need for pilot program(s) to regulate certain activities. To be performed by Saanich Parks' staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
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Total Cost = \$115,000 / Average Annual Cost = \$11,500



Recreational Opportunities

Short Term (1 – 3 years)	1. Provide additional furniture as indicated (3 benches, 1 garbage can, and 2 “leave a bag-take a bag” dispensers). 2. Create multi-use open space behind SilverCity Theatre (see also Safety and Security).	<i>Approx. cost: \$10,000 (Capital)</i>
Mid Term (4 – 6 years)	None	
Long Term (7 – 10 years)	None	

Total Cost = \$10,000 / Average Annual Cost = \$1,000



Safety and Security		
Short Term (1 – 3 years)	1. Design & install orientation signs and way-finding markers.	<i>Approx. cost: \$15,000 (Capital)</i>
	2. Remove dense invasive plant cover from problematic areas, including the English hawthorn thickets behind SilverCity Theatre.	<i>Approx. cost: \$60,000 (Capital)</i>
	3. Continue to provide “timely response” to vandalism and graffiti-related calls for service. To be performed by Saanich Parks’ staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
Mid Term (4 – 6 years)	1. Continue to remove dense invasive plant cover from problematic areas.	<i>Approx. cost \$5,000 / yr. = \$15,000 (Capital)</i>
	2. Continue to provide “timely response” to vandalism and graffiti-related calls for service. To be performed by Saanich Parks’ staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>
Long Term (7 – 10 years)	Continue to provide “timely response” to vandalism and graffiti-related calls for service. To be performed by Saanich Parks’ staff.	<i>No additional cost</i>

Total Cost = \$90,000 / Average Annual Cost = \$9,000



General		
Short Term (1 – 3 years)	Perform regular maintenance of new park infrastructure such as trail re-surfacing, bench refurbishing, and graffiti removal.	<i>Approx. cost \$5,000 / yr. = \$15,000 (Operating)</i>
Mid Term (4 – 6 years)	Continue to perform regular maintenance of new park infrastructure.	<i>Approx. cost \$5,500 / yr. = \$16,500 (Operating)</i>
Long Term (7 – 10 years)	Continue to perform regular maintenance of new park infrastructure.	<i>Approx. cost \$6,050 / yr. = \$24,200 (Operating)</i>

Total Cost = \$55,700 / Average Annual Cost = \$5,570



Summary

Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Short-term Costs = \$219,000 = \$73,000 annually • Total Mid-term Costs = \$55,500 = \$18,500 annually • Total Long-term Costs = \$56,200 = \$14,050 annually
Funding	<p>Saanich Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget - Include estimated project costs in the annual capital budget process. • Operations Budget – submit resource requests for increased maintenance and volunteer support. • Community Initiative Grants
	<p>Environmental Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) • Evergreen
	<p>Senior Government Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunities may arise from senior levels of government. These are unpredictable and eligibility criteria varies. E.g. Fisheries and Oceans – Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program.
	<p>Other Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers • “Friends of” groups • Community events (e.g. Tree Appreciation Day, Pulling Together) • Park amenity contributions via nearby development



10. CONCLUSION

This Management Plan makes many recommendations to solve the variety of issues that currently confront the park. The Plan's vision statement recognizes the importance of accommodating complementary recreational activities, and protecting and enhancing the park's natural areas. This vision informs how natural areas, trails, recreational activities, and safety issues are addressed through goals and supporting action items. Many of the action items are indicated on the concept plan in Appendix F. Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum comprise one of the largest and most complex park areas in the Saanich parks system and it will take many years to fully implement this plan.

While much of the information needed to implement this plan exists, further ground-truthing is required to develop detailed site specific approaches for restoration and preservation projects. Trails, recreation, and safety-related directions should proceed in a balanced and phased manner.

The Parks Division would like to thank the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park and the Pulling Together volunteers for their dedication to the park. Thanks also to the many private citizens and stakeholder groups who participated in public participation events, and contributed to the development of this plan. And finally, thanks to Angela Wyatt and Dorothy Chambers for many of the photos in this document.





Garry oaks near the river's edge