

**AGENDA**  
**Natural Areas, Parks, and Trails Advisory Committee**

To be held in Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams,  
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue,  
**Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.**

---

*The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.*

*We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.*

---

**1. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- McMinn/Fowler Park – motion
- ~~30% by 2030 report~~

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- January 11, 2024

**3. PARK EVENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND FILM PROGRAMS**

- Sarah Faria, Community Programmer 2, Community Services Division

**4. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT – UPDATE**

- Rick Hatch, Supervisor, Natural Areas

**5. 30% BY 2030**

- Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks
- Report attached for information

**6. RESILIENT SAANICH PROGRAM**

- Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

\* Adjournment \*

Next meeting: March 14, 2024

To ensure quorum, please contact Angela Hawkshaw at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or [angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca](mailto:angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL AREAS, PARKS, AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

via MS Teams

January 11, 2024, at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Julian Anderson (4:29 p.m.), Jane Cameron, Catherine du Bois, David Little, Evan Papps, Wendy Trotter, Darrell Wick and Kathleen Woodruff

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager, Community Development/Business Systems; Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Planning and Development; Alix Link, Manager, Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship; Donovan Coates, Park Use Coordinator (4:10 p.m.); and Angela Hawkshaw; Committee Clerk

Guests: Danielle Wilhelm, Strawberry Vale and Fastball Association

---

**MINUTES**

**MOVED by C. du Bois and Seconded by D. Little: "That the Minutes of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held November 9, 2023, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIRS REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed the committee, and the following was noted:

- The new Regional Parks and Trails Residential Survey results will be available soon.
- Island Health will be providing a report on water safety, specifically concerning Thetis, Elk and Beaver Lake. There are no lifeguards in the Capitol Regional District (CRD). The goal is to implement safety protocols."

**FIELD RENAMING REQUEST AT ROSEDALE PARK**

The Park Use Coordinator introduced the guest speaker, and the following was noted (letters of support and dedication submission request on file):

- The dedication to the Strawberry Vale Fastball Association from Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon is recognized by those who have worked with them the past 26 years.
- This proposal is being made with the support of the current executive and home user group.
- In honour of the efforts that Wes and Pam have made to the association a proposal has been given to rename Softball Diamond 2: "Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field".
- If the request is supported, a plaque will be placed.

**MOVED by C. du Bois and Seconded by D. Little: “That the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the request from Strawberry Vale Minor Softball Association to rename Softball Diamond #2 at Rosedale Park the “Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field” in honour of community volunteers Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon.”**

The following was noted during committee discussion:

- Putting forward one name for a renaming does not encourage diversity. Naming requests in the future could include several options.
- An award or bursary given by associations to honour individuals could be an option.
- Minority groups that use public spaces could be included in the proposed renaming.
- The Park Naming Policy could be examined.

**The Motion was then PUT and CARRIED**

## **OVERVIEW OF NATURAL AREAS, PARKS AND TRAILS**

The Senior Manager of Parks gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- This presentation is to give an overview of what the Parks Division is responsible for and to encourage a discussion about future topics within this committee.
- The main mission statement is “Everyone belongs here”.
- The Parks Department defines itself in the centre of the department mission outcomes: Healthy Nature, Healthy People and Healthy Community. Within these outcomes a focus on advocacy, physical, mental and emotional health and connections within the community exists.
- Natural Intelligence underpins how Parks approaches its work. It is more than working with the community to make positive and meaningful change against the climate crisis, it is multi-dimensional work.
- Parks’ work is environmental stewardship. This is integrated into all the Division’s work, including outdoor sports facilities using best-of-class environmental practices, and providing trail or nature restoration opportunities.
- Some of the strategies and actions that are currently underway are the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy and the Panama Flats Concept Plan Check-in.
- The four desired outcomes within the municipality are, a healthy ecosystem, advanced reconciliations, effective stewardship and resilient communities and economies.

The following was noted during committee discussion:

- Having a deliberate intentional focus on how ecosystem restoration connects with Indigenous reconciliation could be a future topic.
- Walking trails that exist in the community, not just in the parks, could be promoted. Connectors could be explored and added to the Active Transportation Plan. A feedback mechanism for reporting overgrown bushes could be explored.
- Accessible education for planting trees and protecting wildlife could be offered to government workers and residents.
- Park and residential space are not balanced. Funding for staff resources from the Province and Council is needed to protect the natural areas.
- Balance is needed within the Provincial mandate for more housing to protect the urban forest and natural areas.
- Incentives for planting trees and protecting nature within new public and private developments are needed.

- Public trails could replace areas where trees are removed to encourage outdoor living.
- An assessment and overview of the state of the environment could be useful to the committee.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is large and extra time for the committee to review and consider would be appreciated.

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

The Senior Manager of Parks provided an overview, and the following was noted:

- The Committee Recognition Event in October 2023 was well attended.
- The event requires a lot of resources and work from staff.
- It is suggested that the event take place every 2 years. Individual committees hosting small events could be discussed.

The committee members made the following comments:

- An end-of-life recognition could be an idea.
- Limiting the number of awards could allow for more meaningful nominations.
- Recognition given to donations of land, contributing to and educating the community on various topics, long service and a focus on youth, could be considered.
- Staff and resident achievements could be combined for simplicity. This could help with cost and staff resources.
- An award for the 3 sections of the committee's name, Natural Areas, Parks and Trails, is a suggestion.
- It was noted that the nomination process was difficult and an easier avenue for the public could be explored.

## **BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH FRAMEWORK**

The Senior Manager of Parks gave the following presentation (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- The recommendations from the project are broad.
- The desired outcomes for implementing the framework include healthy ecosystems, advance reconciliation, effective stewardship, and resilient communities and economies.
- The vision is that healthy and biodiverse ecosystems will be thriving, productive and resilient – and sustain community, social, economic, and environmental well-being in all ways for generations to come.
- Chief Ecologist is a new position being considered by the province.
- At the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP15) Canada signed an agreement to protect 30% of its natural areas by 2030. An update about Saanich's ecosystems could be considered for a future presentation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is on February 7, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

3400-20

Rosedale Park

**FIELD #2 NAMING REQUEST FOR ROSEDALE PARK**

Report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated January 11, 2024 to approve the request to name Softball Diamond #2 at Rosedale Park “Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field” to honour community volunteers.

Memo of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee dated January 11, 2024 to recommend that Council approve the request to name Diamond #2 at Rosedale Park “Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field”.

**“That Council approve the request to name Softball Diamond #2 at Rosedale Park “Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field” to honour community volunteers.”**

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**



PARKS, RECREATION  
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

**REPORT TO:** Natural Areas, Parks & Trails Advisory Committee

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

**FROM:** Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner + Designer

**SUBJECT:** 30% by 2030

---

### **Background:**

In September 2020, the federal government set the goal of conserving 30 percent of Canada's land and water by 2030. Science shows that nature needs our help to reverse the decline in biodiversity, better fight climate change, and mitigate impacts of pollution, and that conserving land, Canada will be in a better position to maintain a strong, sustainable economy and human health.

The 30 per cent by 2030 target originated from the High Ambition Coalition for People and Nature, a United Nations initiative aimed at action to address the global climate crisis. The targets are non-binding, with hopes of spurring new conservation actions around the world.

In 2022, at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada Agency, announced the federal government is leading by example by recognizing several federally managed properties for their contribution to the federal government's conservation goals.

### **Discussion:**

UBC researchers report that Canada has an extensive system of protected areas that, when added together, would cover an area slightly larger than Ontario. By comparison this is larger than France and Spain combined, and more than three times the size of Germany.

Meeting the 30 per cent by 2030 goal would mean roughly doubling Canada's protected area. Doing this right means that new protected areas must conserve biodiversity and safeguard areas that store carbon, provide freshwater or are key areas for nature-based recreation. According to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Road Map to 2030 June 2022 report, Canada currently has 13.5% of its land protected but if all the prospective sites are approved and designated by 2030, this could increase to 29.3%.

The UBC study found that about two-thirds of the key areas that provide freshwater and recreational opportunities to Canadians overlap with agriculture and resource tenures (oil and gas, minerals and timber). This highlights the need for innovative conservation approaches, especially those that focus on working landscapes. While natural areas are often prioritized for conservation, farms, forests, and rangelands will also be key to achieving the 30 per cent by 2030 target.

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – British Columbia Chapter (CPAWS) reports that BC has partnered with Indigenous Nations and local communities to work towards protecting 30% of lands by 2030.

The CPAWS report (un-dated) indicated that 15.6% of the province’s land base is protected by robust designations like provincial parks and conservancies. An additional 4.1% known as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OCEMs) of land that could be included remain vulnerable to activities that directly harm biodiversity. They suggest that rigorous standards be applied to all protected areas.

CPAWS goes on to list several important landscapes to consider to better safeguard biodiversity in BC. These include:

- Ashnola smelqmix Protected Area
- Gwininitxw Indigenous Protected Area
- Dene K’éh Kusān, “Always Will Be There”
- Salmon Parks
- Skagit Donut Hole
- South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Reserve

According to a CRD News release, in May of 2022, CRD Parks officially designated all 33 Regional Parks as part of the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database. This added over 13,000 hectares to Canada’s national conservation network. By comparison the District of Saanich covers 10,380 hectares. While the total CRD Parks land area is insignificant nationally, it does contain sensitive ecosystems. Regional and local contributions to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database will be invaluable in this respect.

The Capital Regional District is a trailblazer for reporting their locally protected and conserved areas directly in the national database. They are a prime example of how local governments can make meaningful contributions to national and international conservation targets. The future depends on all levels of government working together.

**Parkland in Saanich:**

The District of Saanich has 870Ha of parkland under its management purview. This total amounts to 8.38% of Saanich controlled parkland that is protected. There are also 905 Ha of parkland managed by the CRD in Saanich. Adding in the regional parks, this number increases to 17.1% of Saanich dedicated as parkland. This total is not exclusively natural areas but includes sports fields, recreation centres, a municipal golf course and other recreational facilities.

Here are how a few other municipalities compare to Saanich:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Municipal Parkland (Ha)</b>	<b>Percentage Parkland</b>	<b>Population (2021)</b>
Saanich	10,380	870	8.4	117,735
Nanaimo	9,130	1100*	12.1	99,863
Coquitlam	15,250	934*	6.1	148,625
Kamloops	29,925	1400*	4.7	97,902
Kelowna	21,185	816*	3.9	144,576
Delta	36,400	434*	1.2	108,455

\*2010 data that may include other jurisdictions parkland (eg. Regional Parks, Provincial Parks or other protected public parks)

Saanich could follow the lead of CRD Parks, and offer some of our larger parks, conservation areas to the national database. A considerable amount of parkland in Saanich is zoned Natural



Park Zone (P-4N) and Conservation Zone (P5) and together represent 582Ha or 5.61% of Saanich.

### **Conclusion:**

The 30 per cent by 2030 target is an ambitious, yet crucial goal set by the federal government based on a UN initiative to revive global biodiversity conservation work. The extensive system of protected areas in Canada, as highlighted by UBC researchers, forms a solid foundation. However, there is a strong need for innovative conservation approaches, especially in working landscapes that overlap with agriculture, resource tenures and other uses.

The Capital Regional District's proactive approach, serves as a beacon for local governments, showcasing how meaningful contributions can be made to national and international conservation goals.

Parks staff will investigate the specifics of following the CRD's lead on dedicating land to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database over the coming months. This will shed light on potential implications to Saanich with respect to administrative commitments and costs. The findings will be reported back to the NAPT committee. In the interim, it is important to note that Saanich's parks will maintain their current protected status.

### **References:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-recognizing-federal-land-and-water-to-contribute-to-30-by-30-nature-conservation-goals.html>

<https://beyond.ubc.ca/30-by-30-conservation/>

<https://cpawsbc.org/protecting-30-by-2030/#:~:text=In%20partnership%20with%20Indigenous%20Nations,to%20meeting%20these%20important%20targets.>

<https://cpaws.org/our-work/roadmapto2030/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/05/capital-regional-district-in-british-columbia-contributes-to-canadas-national-conservation-network-supporting-nature-and-combating-climate-change.html>



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Report

**To:** Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Committee  
**From:** Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks  
**Date:** February 1, 2024  
**Subject:** Resilient Saanich Status Update – Milestone 3

---

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That NAPT Committee receive this status report on the Resilient Saanich program - Milestone 3 for information.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the NAPT Committee on the status of the Resilient Saanich program, its various components and remaining timeline.

### BACKGROUND

The Resilient Saanich Program includes the delivery of an Environmental Policy Framework, the Climate Plan (2020), a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and an enhanced stewardship program.

In August 2022, staff provided Council with a Milestone 2 report outlining the work carried out and provided a revised work plan which was developed with the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC). The main update in the workplan was revised timelines. The workplan was then added to the Terms of Reference for the project and is available on the Saanich website. The Milestone 3 workplan is also attached to this report as appendix A.

In January 2023, staff brought forward a report for information to Council providing history and status of the project for the benefit of a new Council. At that meeting, Council clarified that they appreciated the work carried out to date and expected that the RSTC complete their work by the end of 2023.

### DISCUSSION

There have been good inputs from the RSTC into the Resilient Saanich program. The Committee has had a high level of engagement and spent many hours leading the creation of

the draft Environmental Policy Framework and reviewing and providing valuable inputs to the consultant for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

The following items correspond to the Milestone 3 Workplan items.

21. Hire consultant to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. Diamond Head Consulting is developing the Strategy which is anticipated to be ready for public engagement in March/April.

22. Continue the environmental policy analysis. The RSTC has developed an approach to carrying out a gap analysis of environmental policies and has carried out an initial gap analysis. This will be made available on the Saanich website.

23. Review and evaluate the Urban Forest Strategy. As a result of a pause in the development of the Urban Forest Strategy due to the recent release of the provincial Housing legislation and policies, the RSTC was not able to provide specific comments on the draft Urban Forest Strategy prior to its release. Former committee members will be able to engage along with public at public engagement slated for March/April.

24. Review and evaluate the Ecosystem Section of the Climate Plan. The RSTC reviewed the Climate Plan and used the Plan to test the principles and process suggested for the Environmental Policy Framework.

25. Identify and analyse appropriate tools for conservation including enhanced stewardship. The RSTC developed briefing materials related to community stewardship and provided them to Diamond Head Consulting. The brief will be made available on the Saanich website.

26. Complete the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and identify enhancements for stewardship. Diamond Head is developing the Strategy. Stewardship is being rolled in as a goal in the document. RSTC provided input throughout development. Final draft is expected to be shared for public engagement in March/April.

27. Complete draft Environmental Policy Framework. The RSTC has led the development of the draft Environmental Policy Framework which they provided to staff as advice. Staff are finalizing the document based on a final review by the RSTC in December. The final draft will be presented to Council along with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

28. Submit Milestone 3 progress report to Advisory Committee and Council. This report is the Milestone 3 Progress Report.

29. Present complete Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework, State of Biodiversity, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (incorporating enhanced stewardship) to Council. While the State of Biodiversity Report was presented to Council in March 2023, the remaining two items will be presented after public engagement in April.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications at this time.

## CONCLUSION

The RSTC, staff and consultant have worked diligently on the actions as outlined in the Milestone 3 workplan. A significant body of work will be presented to Council after public engagement in April 2024.

Prepared by:



---

Eva Riccius  
Senior Manager of Parks

Attachments: Appendix A: Milestone 3 Workplan

## Appendix A: RSTC Milestone 3 Workplan

Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
<p>21. Hire consultant team to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply future climate change, demographic and development predictions</li> <li>• Apply outcomes of additional studies that may have occurred</li> </ul>		\$\$\$\$\$	Advise team	Hire consulting team and oversee contract	
22. Continue the environmental policy gap analysis			Form a working group to decide how detailed this analysis should be. Use secretariat to help complete.	Initial gap analysis completed by staff and included in the RSTC binder	
23. Review and evaluate Saanich's Urban Forest Strategy			Provide input at draft document. Test the utility of the proposed EPF program plan outline and evaluation tool.	Apply RSTC EFP Principles and Goals	Council will consider the entire UFS as part of a separate process.
24. Review and evaluate the Ecosystem Section of the Climate and recommend improvements if necessary			Work with the Sustainability Section to understand goals and RSTC role. Draft SMART objectives.	Sustainability Section to engage with RSTC	

Action	Level of Public Participation	Relative Expense	RSTC Role	Staff Role	Council Role
25. Identify and analyze appropriate tools for conservation, including an enhanced Stewardship Program.	Consult and Collaborate		Work with the BCS consulting team and staff to identify and incorporate appropriate tools into the strategy	Work with RSTC and BCS consulting team to identify and incorporate appropriate tools into the strategy.	
26. Complete the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and identify enhancements for the stewardship program with recommendations for implementation including indicators and monitoring.	Consult		Work with staff to advise the consulting team. Review draft strategy.	Work with RSTC to advise the consulting team. Review draft strategy.	Council will consider the entire BCS in a separate process.
27. Complete the draft Environmental Policy Framework document.			Complete draft report of advice to staff.	Use RSTC advice to write final EPF.	
28. Submit a progress report on Milestone 3 to Advisory Committees (Environment and Natural Areas, and Parks, Trails and Recreation) and Council.			RSTC is dissolved.	Staff to prepare report.	
29. Present a complete Resilient Saanich Environmental Policy Framework including a State of Biodiversity Report, a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (incorporating the Enhanced Stewardship Program) to Council.				Staff to prepare package for Council.	Council to consider for approval.