

REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS & WATER ACCESS STRATEGY

FOR THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY (RDCK)

Background Research Report

AUGUST 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The RDCK Regional Parks, Trails, and Water Access Strategy (PTWAS) Background Research Report offers a comprehensive assessment of the current state of parks, trails, and water access within the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). This report underscores the critical role these assets play in supporting community well-being, environmental conservation and climate resiliency, and how important nature-based outdoor recreation is to all residents and visitors of the RDCK.

Covering an extensive network of parks, trails, and water access areas, the RDCK aims to compliment the existing parks and protected areas in the region by provide recreational opportunities, supporting conservation, and ensure equitable access for residents and visitors. The report highlights the demographic composition of RDCK, noting an aging population, varied socio-economic conditions, and increasing demand for outdoor spaces. RDCK's regional parks encompass over 648 hectares and 62 kilometers of regional trails (with an additional 27km of trails located within regional parks), serving as vital sites for conservation and recreation in a larger system that includes provincial parks, ecological reserves, and municipal green spaces.

Key insights of this report include:

- Growing Demand for Outdoor Recreation: Participation in nature-based outdoor activities across the RDCK is increasing, driven by both residents and visitors. This trend underscores the need for a diversified network of parks and trails to accommodate varied recreation preferences, including motorized and non-motorized nature-based activities.
- Demographic Influences on Recreation Needs: The aging population in RDCK presents specific recreational needs, such as accessible and low-impact outdoor options. With a high concentration of mature adults and seniors, the report suggests that future planning should account for accessible and adaptive outdoor experiences.
- Gaps in Regional Park and Trail Distribution: Given the current model of sub-regional service provision, significant gaps exist in the availability and distribution of parks and trails across RDCK. As sub-regional parks commissions govern funding and taxation, some electoral areas and municipalities having limited or no regional parkland. This highlights the need for strategic acquisition and development to create a more evenly distributed network of accessible recreation spaces.
- Limited and Unequal Water Access: Water access points are limited and not uniformly available across RDCK, restricting public use and enjoyment of regional water bodies.
- Conservation and Climate Resilience: RDCK's parks and trails play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity and providing climate adaptations. There is an opportunity to better protect sensitive ecosystems, enhance habitat connectivity, and promote sustainable management to mitigate climate impacts like wildfire and erosion.
- Outdoor Education and Stewardship Opportunities: There is a gap in RDCK-delivered outdoor education and interpretive programming in regional parks. This presents an opportunity to work with schools, community groups, Indigenous Nations, and volunteers to embed stewardship, cultural learning, and nature-based education into the parks system.
- Special Events and Tourism Potential: Many regional parks already serve as informal tourism destinations and event spaces. However, the RDCK lacks data and strategy in this area. With improved tracking, marketing, and partnerships, regional parks could better support local economies, community cohesion, and cultural celebration.
- Staffing and Funding Limitations: Insufficient staffing and funding pose challenges to the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of RDCK's parks and trails network. Funding is currently limited to sub-regional services.

- Policy Development and Planning Directions: Currently, the RDCK has some foundational policy documents that support regional planning and management of parks, trails, and water access. However, the findings of this report highlight the need for establishing a set of consistent guidelines and address current gaps in policy. These includes but is not limited to examples such as establishing park design guidelines, tree management policies, hazards and risk management, wildfire mitigation standards/strategies, park and land acquisition strategy, and more.
- Classification System for Effective Management: The report emphasizes the importance and need to form a robust classification and zoning system to guide the development, management, and use of parks and trails.
- Enhancing Collaboration with Indigenous Communities: This report recognizes that the RDCK is located on the traditional territories of multiple Indigenous nations. There are currently no official partnerships or collaborations within the regional parks and trails systems and Indigenous governments. This report provides context for the value of integrating Indigenous knowledge, values, and stewardship practices into parks and trails management, contributing to reconciliation efforts and inclusive community development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH REPORT

The RDCK Regional Parks and Trails are part of an extensive regional network of parks and natural spaces. This mosaic of parks, trails, and conservation lands protects environmentally sensitive areas and significant landscapes, conserves ecological biodiversity, and provides high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Today, the Regional Parks and Trails system includes 24 regional parks and 3 Regional Trails, covering more than 648 ha (373 ha of regional parks and an additional 274.9 ha of regional trails) and 62 km, respectively, with an additional 27km of trails located within regional parks.

Recognizing the high value placed on regional parks, trails, and water access in the region, The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is working collaboratively with residents, partners, and other governments to develop a Regional Parks, Trails, and Water Access Strategy. The strategy will set out a framework to guide future decisions regarding the classification, acquisition, development, enhancement and management of regional parks, trails, and water access for the next 10 years. Understanding the current state (strengths, gaps, and opportunities) of the Regional Parks, Trails, and Water Access system in the RDCK is a critical step in developing the overall strategy. This document contains the detailed non-engagement research and analysis. Along with the “What We Heard Report” Summary Report (found under separate cover), these two background documents provide a foundation of information that will inform the overall Parks, Trails, and Water Access Strategy priorities and recommendations.

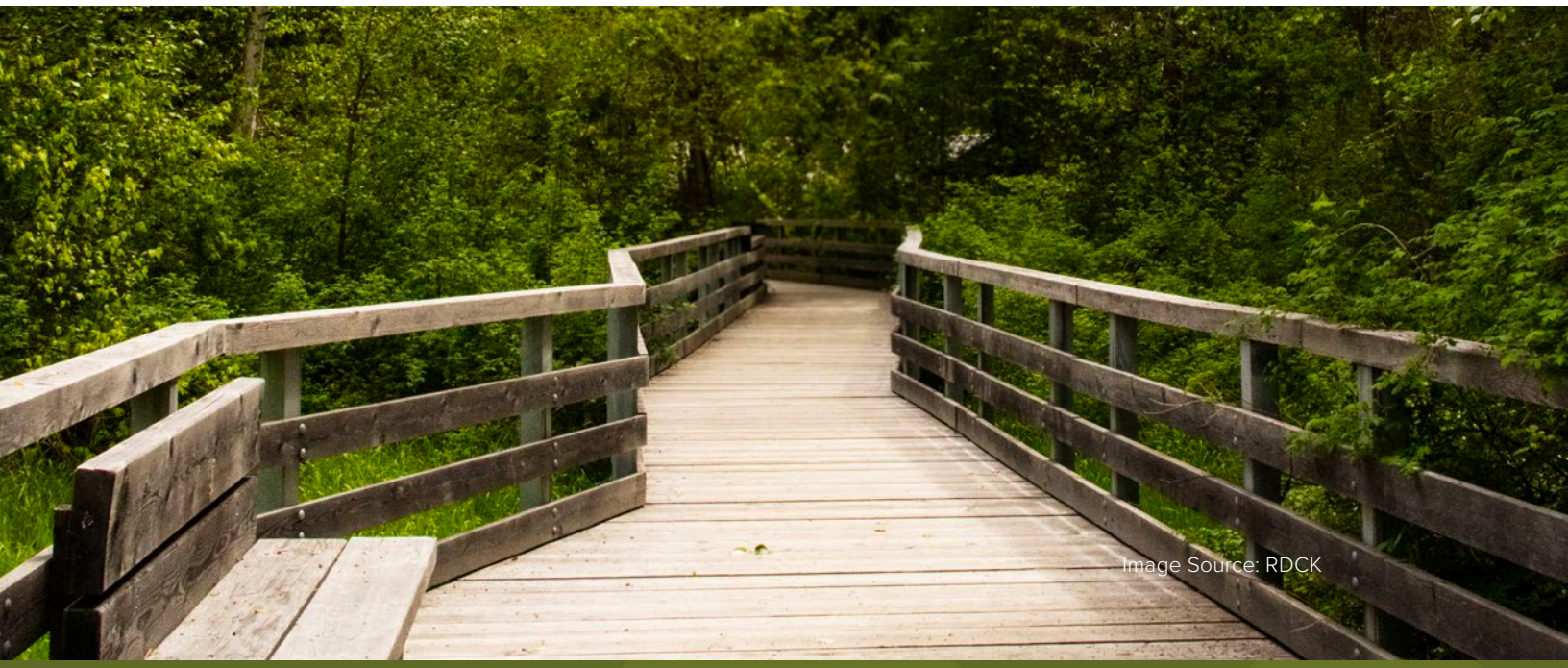


Image Source: RDCK

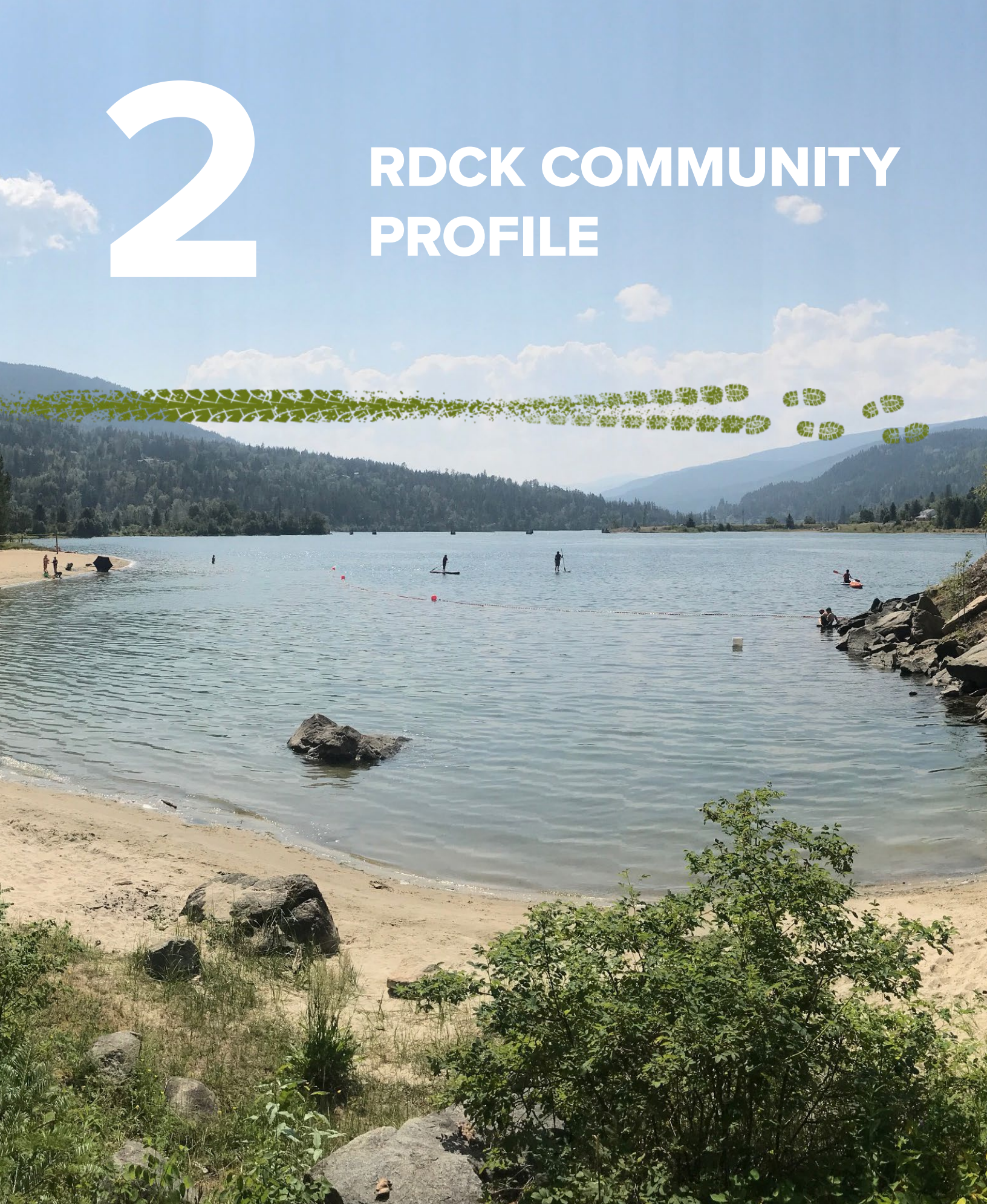
1.2 RESEARCH INPUTS OVERVIEW

When evaluating a complex parks, trails, and water access system that provides an array of benefits and experiences, fosters quality of life, and supports conversation, it is critical to ensure that analysis is comprehensive and uses multiple inputs that provide the required insights into strengths, gaps, and opportunities that the overall strategy can provide long-term direction on. The following icons summarize the research inputs used to undertake this analysis and generate the information contained in this report document.



Figure 1: Research Inputs

2 RDCK COMMUNITY PROFILE



2.1 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

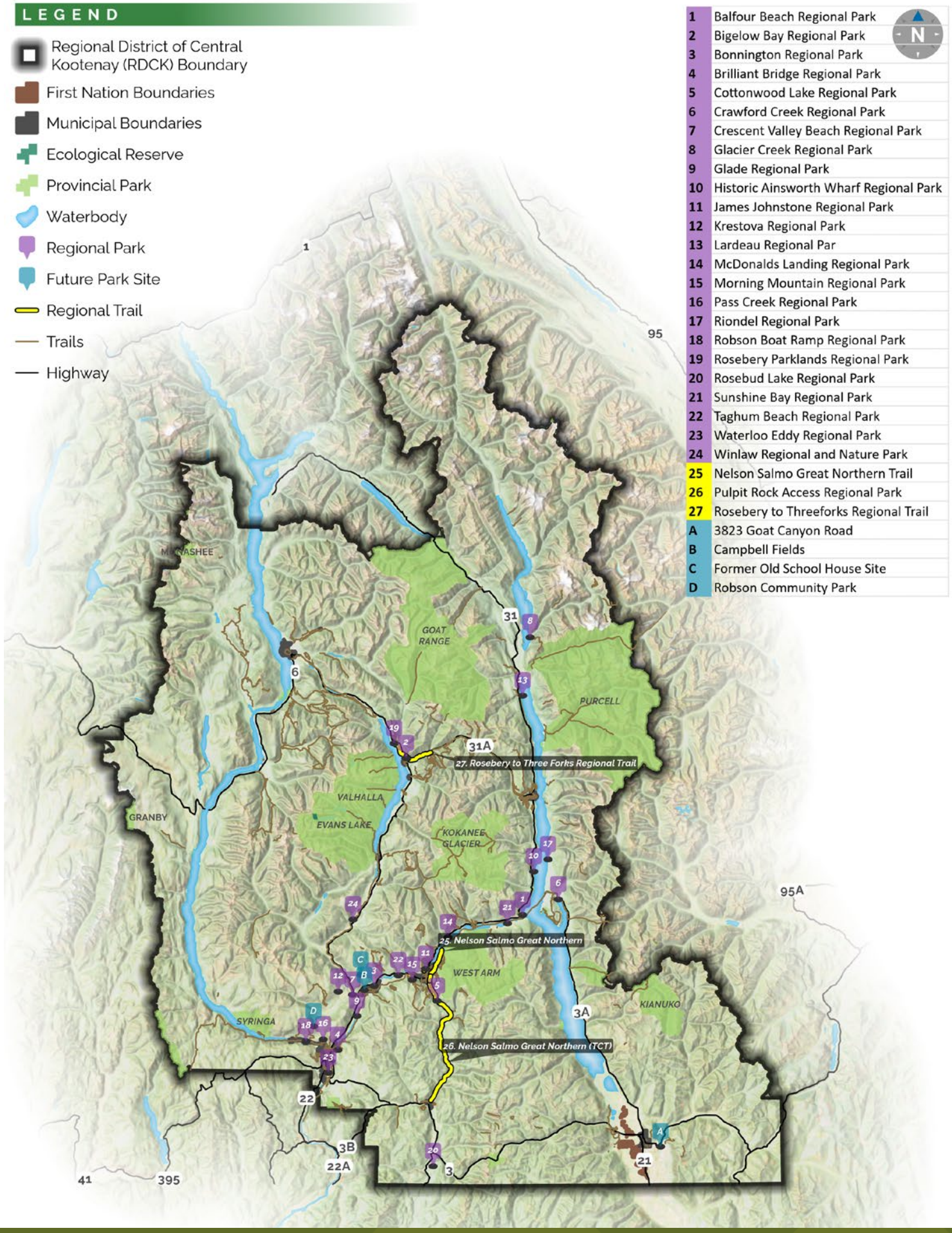
The RDCK was Incorporated in 1965 and is a local government that serves a population of 62,509 residents. The Regional District is located in the traditional and unceded territory of the Ktunaxa, Syilx/ Okanagan, Sinixt and Secwepemc people who have lived here since time immemorial. The RDCK is made up of 21 unique governance areas, including Electoral Areas, member municipalities, and Indigenous Bands. The RDCK consists of 11 electoral areas (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K) and nine (9) member municipalities, including Castlegar, Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver, Salmo, Silverton and Slocan.

The region's unique landscape of lakes, rivers, creeks, beaches, wetlands, ecosystems, forests and mountain environments are the heart of outdoor public recreation activities and help shape the quality of life and unique culture of the area. Known for the many biking and hiking trails, outstanding cross country and downhill skiing, as well as many other nature-based recreation activities, the outdoor lifestyle and culture have been part of social and community life from the early days to the present. The area is known as a diverse four-season destination with significant participation in both traditional and non-traditional park and recreation activities from both residents and visitors alike. There are many unique rural communities, large and small, each with a number of distinctive social groups and varied geographic characteristics. The result is that each municipality and electoral area may have its own set of park values and needs, which may differ from those elsewhere. Figure 2 highlights the RDCK boundaries .



Image Source: RDCK

Figure 2: RDCK Regional Park System Overview



2.2 HISTORY OF RDCK REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM

The development of regional parks and trails within the RDCK reflects more than five decades of local commitment to public access to nature, recreation, and conservation. Beginning in 1971 with the establishment of Pass Creek Regional Park, the RDCK has since expanded its network to include 24 regional parks and three regional trails encompassing over 648 hectares and more than 100 kilometres of trail. The evolution of this system was largely driven by site-specific needs, land donation opportunities, and community-led advocacy. Currently, this well-established system operates under a sub-regional model (as per Bylaw 2173). This means that seven distinct park service areas, governed by separate bylaws, fund and manage their own network of parks and trails. Each of these service areas may include one or more municipalities and electoral areas that have opted into the service. While this structure was intended to respect local autonomy and distinct geographic needs, it has resulted in an uneven distribution of park assets and services across the RDCK. Some electoral areas and municipalities have no regional parkland or trails within their boundaries, and residents in these areas may have limited access to nature-based recreation. As demand for equitable access and conservation grows, the RDCK faces important questions about the future of its funding and governance structures.



Image Source: RDCK

More than 50 years of acquiring parkland (1971-2023)

>10,000
First Nation presence in the area dates back over 10,000 years ago

1893
N&FS completed, connecting Nelson with Spokane

1966
RDCK received Supplementary Letters Patent for the regional parks function

1970s
Taghum Beach is used as a day use area by local residents.

1971
Pass Creek Regional Park acquired

1984
RDCK begins work on Regional Park Plan

1986
Official Regional Parks Plan of the RDCK is completed

1988
RDCK completes a shoreline access survey for Kootenay Lake (North Arm, South Arm, West Arm)

1991
Slocan, Silverton, New Denver and Area H Park Service established

Castlegar, Area I, Area J Park Service established

Creston, Area A, Area B, and Area C Park Service established

Nelson, Salmo, Area E, Area F, and Area G Park Service established

Nakusp and Area K Park Service established

1999
Rail ties removed and BNSF begins use a recreational trail

2001
Trans Canada Trail – Linking Communities Initiative Kootenay Loop Trail Project

Kaslo and Electoral Area D Regional Parks Service established

2007
Castlegar, Area I, Area J Recreation and Parks Service consolidated

Creston, Area B, Area C Parks Service amended (to remove Electoral Area A)

Electoral Area A Regional Parks Service established

2008
Kaslo and Area Regional Facilities, Recreation and Parks Service consolidated

Present
Continued expansion of RDCK regional parks and trails to current system

- 24 Regional Parks & 3 Regional Trails
- 648 hectares of Regional Parkland
- About 100 km of developed Regional Trails
- Located in 8 Electoral Areas and 4 Municipalities
- There are 7 Park Services guided by 9 Park Commissions
- The most recent park acquired was Krestova Regional Park in 2023.

Figure 3: System history

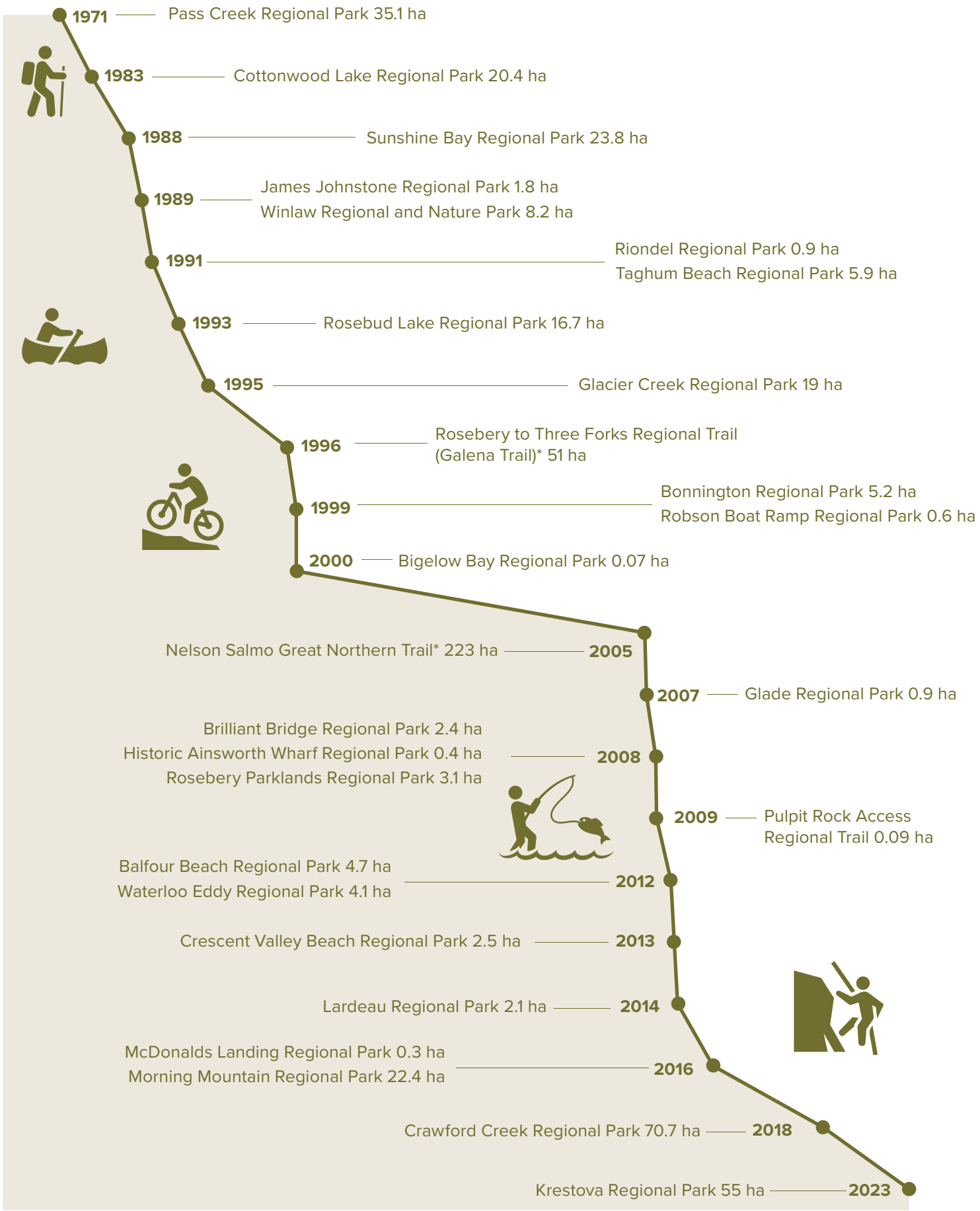


Figure 4: Timeline of parks

2.3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

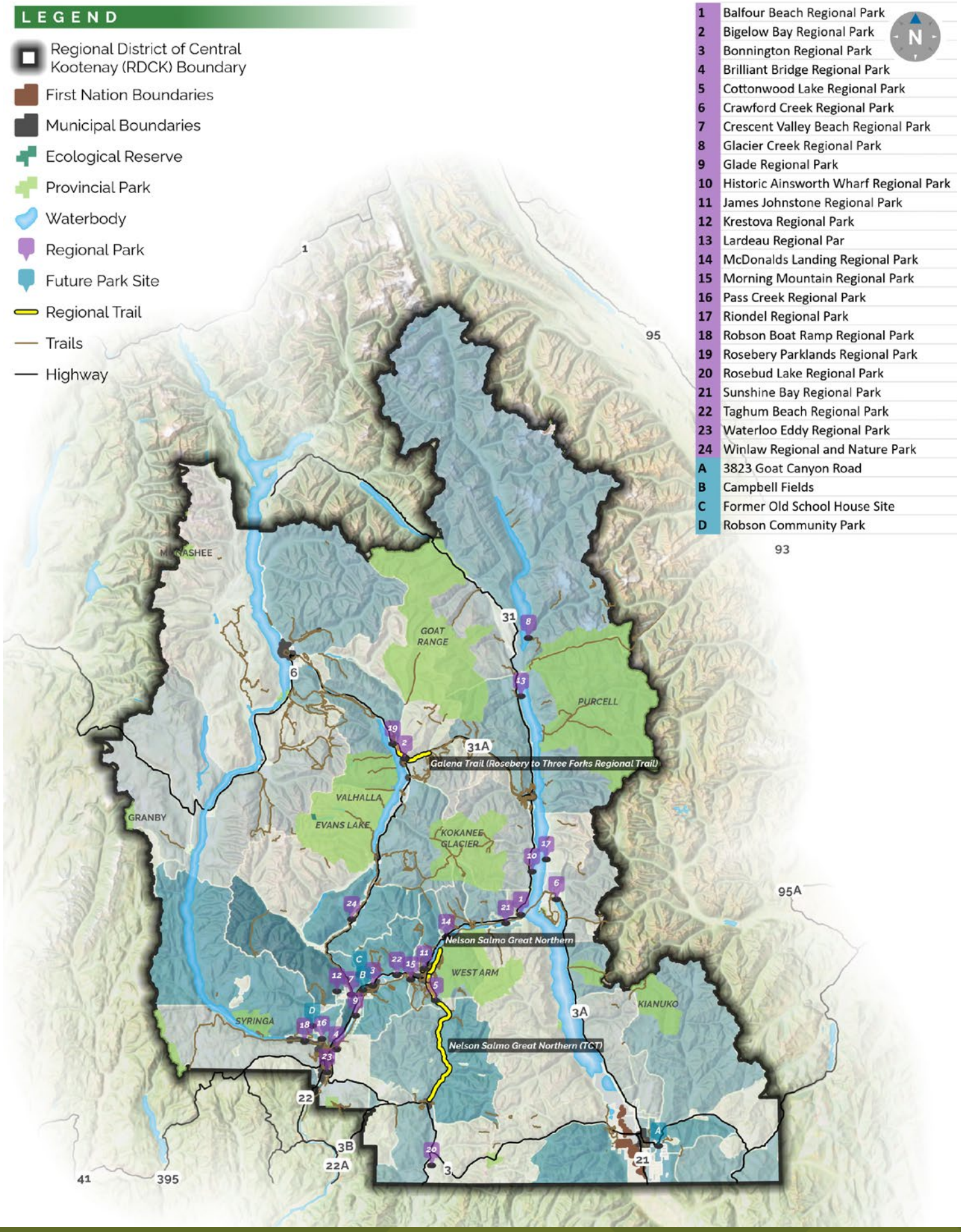
Population, population changes, and the demographic characteristics of the region's residents are important determinants of outdoor recreation demands. Future decisions regarding the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in regional parks and trails need to be informed by a deliberate understanding of the region's population characteristics and future projections.

Table 1 and Figure 5 summarize the total population and distribution of the total population across the electoral areas and member municipalities. The region is a mix of rural and urban, with the majority of residents residing in member municipalities.

Table 1:

Municipality / Electoral Area	Population (2021)	Percent of RDCK Population (2021)	Percent Population Growth/Decrease (2016 – 2021)	Population Density (people per square kilometre)
Regional District of Central Kootenay	**62,596**	**100%**	**5%**	
Electoral Area A	2,421	4%	16.1%	1.3
Electoral Area B	4,802	8%	3.1%	3
Electoral Area C	1,475	2%	0.2%	2
Electoral Area D	1,462	2%	8.9%	.3
Electoral Area E	3,897	6%	3.3%	4.8
Electoral Area F	4,116	7%	3.9%	10.2
Electoral Area G	1,650	3%	1.7%	1.1
Electoral Area H	5,045	8%	8.4%	1.5
Electoral Area I	2,607	4%	2.9%	23.8
Electoral Area J	3,517	6%	12.1%	2.1
Electoral Area K	1,784	2%	6.1%	0.4
Castlegar	8,338	14%	3.7%	420
Creston	5,583	9%	4.1%	664
Kaslo	1,049	1%	8.4%	349
Nakusp	1,589	3%	-1%	197.1
Nelson	11,106	18%	5.1%	930.6
New Denver	487	1%	3%	559.6
Salmo	1,140	1%	-0.1%	466.4
Silverton	149	1%	-23.6%	420.8
Slocan	379	.5%	31.1%	488.6

Figure 5: Density and distribution of the total population across the RDCK



The overall demographic understanding of the RDCK is presented in Table 2 and discussed in detail below.

Table 2:

Municipality / Electoral Area	Indigenous Identity (2021)	Racialized Population (2021)	Average Household Income (2021)	Average Household Size (2021)	Unemployment Rates (2021)
Regional District of Central Kootenay	**4,090**	**2,848**	**$91,291.82**	**2.2 persons per HH**	**7.4%**
Electoral Area A	167	23	$71,219.72	1.9	n/a
Electoral Area B	375	118	$79,461.92	2.5	n/a
Electoral Area C	143	24	$79,098.57	2.4	n/a
Electoral Area D	90	2	$73,330.89	1.9	n/a
Electoral Area E	283	113	$84,551.56	2.2	n/a
Electoral Area F	150	122	$104,184.02	2.4	n/a
Electoral Area G	136	34	$75,984.59	2.6	n/a
Electoral Area H	308	228	$73,829.58	2.2	n/a
Electoral Area I	128	51	$94,717.53	2.2	n/a
Electoral Area J	226	82	$109,085.81	2.4	n/a
Electoral Area K	95	42	$70,543.00	2.1	n/a
Castlegar	599	614	$96,213.19		
	2.3	n/a			
Creston	417	243	$72,003.37		
	2.0	n/a			
Kaslo	55	14	$65,560.90	1.9	n/a
Nakusp	141	18	$83,379.49	2.0	n/a
Nelson	587	1,030	$89,597.73	2.2	n/a
New Denver	41	15	$54,858.87	1.8	n/a
Salmo	68	39	$70,280.04	2.0	n/a
Silverton	12	6	$66,028.94	1.7	n/a
Slocan	2	30	$52,891.48	1.9	n/a
Lower Kootenay Band Reserve	93	n/a		Not available	n/a

The demographics of the RDCK highlight an interesting contrast between the region and the wider provincial trends. The percentage of the population that identifies as Indigenous (6.5%) is higher than provincial averages (the provincial average is 6%). However, the percentage of the population that identifies as racialized only includes 4.5% of the total population, whereas the provincial average is 34%. Additionally, the average household income across the RDCK appears to be quite high, at $91,291.82, which is slightly higher than the provincial average of $91,100 after tax. One factor impacting income statistics could be migration. According to Statistics Canada, income bracket data indicates that the number of households earning over $200,000 a year nearly doubled between the last two censuses (2016 – 2021). Some of this growth may be attributed to increased migration of higher income households to the Central Kootenays as working from home became normalized. While incomes appear to be, on average, similar to the provincial norms, the unemployment rate in the region is higher than provincial averages. The current unemployment rate in the RDCK is 7.4%; however, as of July 2024, the provincial unemployment rate is only 5.5%, suggesting there are additional factors limiting full labour market participation in the region.

More than 50% of the population over the age of 15 have post-secondary education, with the largest portion of the population (36.2%) having completed college or trade school. 20% of the population has a university degree, 27% of the population has completed high school, and 14.4% have not completed high school.



Image Source: RDCK

2.4 AGE DISTRIBUTION

The majority (29%) of the population are between the ages of 45-64 (Figure 6). However, seniors make up the nest largest segment of the population. This is in line with the provincial age distribution across British Columbia, as the largest segment of the provincial population is also 45-64. It is also interesting to note that young adults make up the second smallest segment of the population, which suggests that as young adults reach the age of maturity (18), perhaps they are leaving the region for work, education, or lifestyle preference reasons. Parks and trails can be an important factor in population retention as young people are highly committed to their recreation lifestyles. There should also be a consideration for nature-based recreation and tourism economies that may support the retention of young people moving forward.

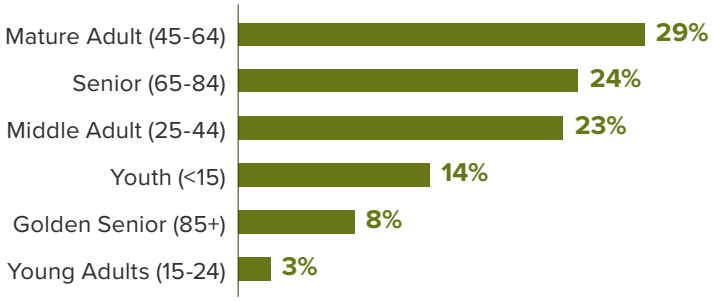


Figure 6: RDCK population by age category



Image Source: RDCK

2.4.1 Prizim Segments

Environics Analytics PRIZM is a segmentation system that classifies Canada's neighbourhoods into 67 unique lifestyle types and incorporates data from over a dozen demographic, marketing, and media sources to analyze and understand consumers, customers, and markets. These population level segmentation help answer key planning questions about communities, such as who lives in a given area, what are their recreation habits and preferences, common values, and other demographic trends such as media preferences. The top three most prevalent PRIZM segments in the RDCK relate to the age distributions of the region, and the descriptions provided below include key behavioural and values-based insights that influence their recreation needs and choices (the list below indicates some factors that may influence outdoor recreation choices).



1. Rural Outdoor Enthusiasts

These residents are primarily older adults (often 65+) who live in rural settings near small towns and regional centres, mostly in Western Canada. Many are retired or semi-retired and own their homes outright, with relatively high levels of disposable income. This enables them to actively participate in nature-based recreation, often using equipment such as boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs. They value well-maintained trails, quiet outdoor experiences, and access to natural areas for personal recreation and family enjoyment. Their deep-rooted connection to land and community makes them important voices in local recreation planning and stewardship.



2. Small-Town Nature Seekers

This group includes lower to middle-income older adults—many of whom are empty nesters or living alone—who prefer the pace and familiarity of small-town or rural village life. While incomes may be modest, there is a strong cultural attachment to the outdoors, with motorized recreation such as ATVing, snowmobiling, and boating being core leisure pursuits. They seek continued access to peaceful, uncrowded parks and trails that support their preferred lifestyle. Affordability, proximity, and year-round use are key considerations in their recreation choices, and their feedback can help shape strategies for equitable rural service delivery.



3. Active Retired Volunteers

These older adults (mostly 65+), many of whom are widowed or living on pensions and government supports, reside in or near small towns or suburban fringes. While their incomes may be fixed, they often have more free time and are highly motivated to stay active and engaged. They place strong value on accessible parks, nature trails, and community amenities that support healthy aging. Importantly, many are open to volunteering and participating in community-based environmental or recreation initiatives. Their sense of civic responsibility and openness to new ideas makes them ideal partners in park stewardship, trail monitoring, and local outreach programs.

Not surprisingly, the top three segments represent older populations (the highest population segments in the RDCK are seniors and mature adults). However, these groups have some differences, including household income, motorized recreation preferences, and overall values.

2.5 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A disability is defined by the Government of Canada as “any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.”

Data and research specific to the RDCK on the number and geographic distribution of people with disabilities, the types of disabilities, and their recreation demands and preferences are not available. However, interpretation of national and provincial research can provide valuable insights and estimates.

In 2018, 20.5% of British Columbia’s population, aged 15 – 64 years old, have one or more disabilities. Over two-thirds of persons with disabilities have at least two or more disability types. In 2021, the RDCK’s population of residents aged 15-64 was 37,450, which suggests that approximately 7,490 or more people aged 15-64 years in the RDCK may be living with one or more disabilities. 41.7% of British Columbians, 65 years and over, have one or more disabilities. In 2021, the RDCK’s population of residents aged 65 or older was 16,535, which suggests that approximately 3,307 people aged 65 or older in the RDCK may be living with one or more disabilities. While 20.5% of the population may be living with a disability now, it is important to recognize that anyone at any time could become a member of the disability community and that most people will experience a disability at some point in their life.

Disabilities relating to pain (15%), flexibility (10%), mobility (10%), and mental health (7%) were the most common disability types among Canadians aged 15 years and over, followed by seeing (5%), hearing (5%), dexterity (5%), learning (4%) and memory (4%). Older Canadians more commonly (23% to 26%) experience pain-related, flexibility or mobility disabilities when compared to youth aged 15-23 (5%).

Access to parks and outdoor recreation opportunities can have a powerful positive influence on the physical, mental, and emotional health, happiness, and quality of life of participants. However, not everyone who lives in the region has equitable or inclusive access to or the opportunity to enjoy regional parks – this is particularly true for those residents who live with a disability. People with disabilities often face barriers that prevent them from being able to enjoy regional parks like others do, and some prevent them from being able to enjoy these services entirely. Barriers to accessing these essential services further contribute to the inequities that people with disabilities face in other aspects of their lives, such as housing, health care and employment.

Disability

Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication, or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.

Barrier

Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of persons with a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or functional

2.6 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Between 2016 and 2021, the population of the RDCK increased by 5% to 62,515 residents. Projections anticipate the population will continue to grow to nearly 65,000 residents by 2031. New growth is almost entirely driven by increases in the population aged 65 and older. Between 2021 and 2026, seniors are expected to surpass mature adults as the largest age cohort in the RDCK.

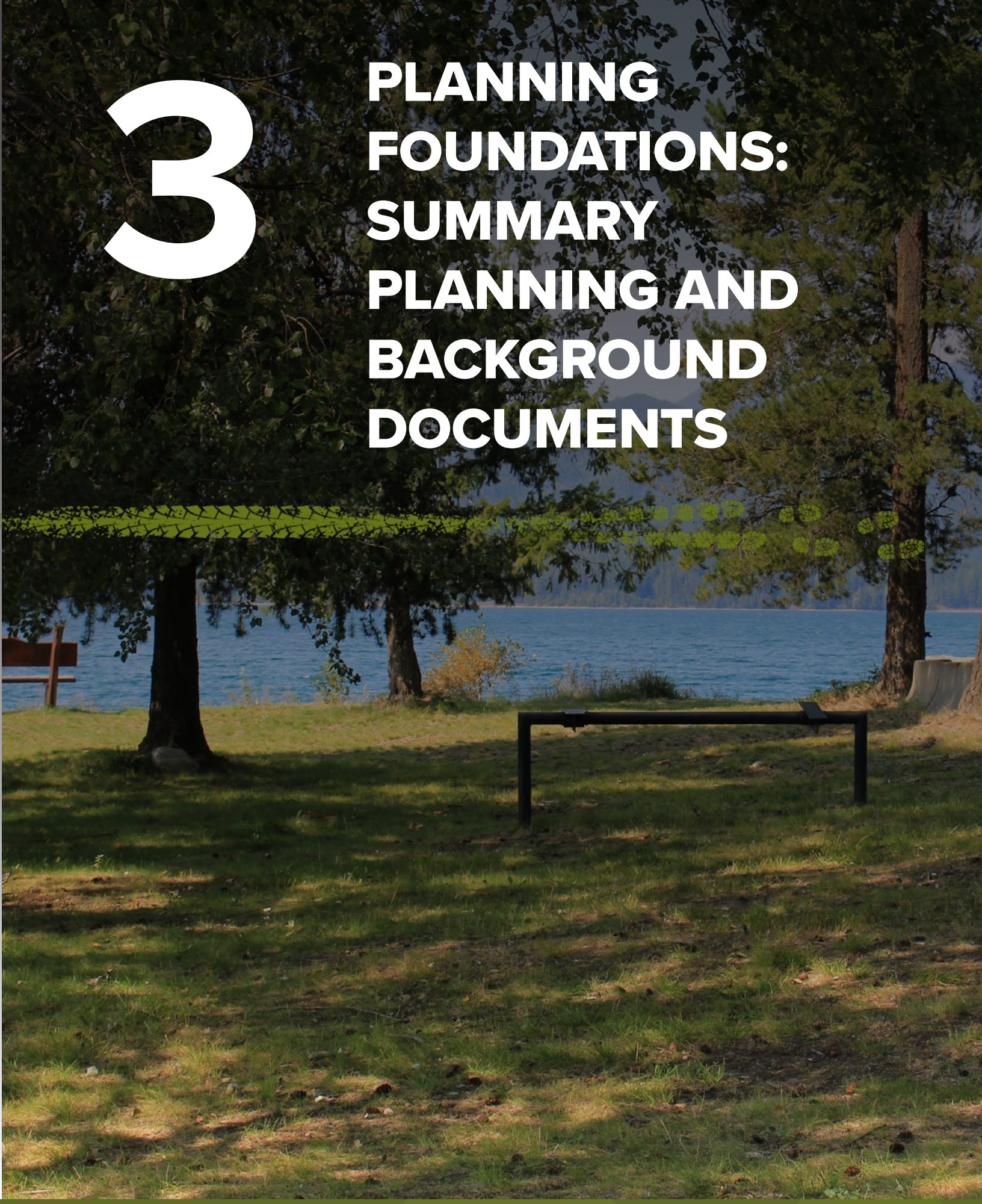


Image Source: RDCK

2.7 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- The aging population (population projections) will influence the region's recreational needs.
- The majority of the population are engaged in nature-based recreational activities.
- Population density in member municipalities influences the need for parks and trails.
- High-income brackets (disparities), and socioeconomic diversity varies across the RDCK, and therefore, so do the needs of residents and requirements of the RDCK to provide services.
- Low levels of diversity and immigration may influence trends in nature-based outdoor recreation needs.





3 PLANNING FOUNDATIONS: SUMMARY PLANNING AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Local and regional planning and policy documents are invaluable tools for fostering sustainable community development, ensuring that growth is strategic, inclusive, and resilient, and supporting a high quality of life for residents. These documents provide a framework for managing land use, infrastructure, transportation, and environmental protection, ensuring that all aspects of regional growth are coordinated. Planning and policy documents help regional government align their goals, allocate resources efficiently, and create equitable opportunities for residents.

3.1 LOCAL AND REGIONAL (SUMMARY OF THE RDCK DOCUMENTS)

Currently, the main policy that guides the provision of regional parks, trails, and water access in the RDCK is the Regional District of the Central Kootenay (RDCK) Bylaw 2044: Parks Plan. Table 3 represents a summary of park specific bylaws and policies. All of the below policies have not been formally reviewed or updated in more than five years. It is recommended that all park Bylaws and Policies be updated to support the current needs of the system and align with the future vision of the RDCK regional parks, trails, and water access strategy.

Table 3: RDCK relevant Bylaws

Document	Purpose	Relevance and significance to the PTWAS
RDCK BYLAW NO. 2044 A Bylaw to Adopt an Official Regional Parks Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay (2017)	• Provides an overall strategy for regional parks. • Overall goal of providing mostly day-use outdoor recreation opportunities at sites that receive use from residents of two or more municipalities or electoral areas across the RDCK.	• Goal of the parks system: Geographically balanced and equitable. • Recreation opportunities for residents that are not provided by other levels of government. With a focus on high-quality water-based recreation. • Four types of regional park designations are identified: multiple purpose parks, waterfront access parks, and regional trails, community parks (however there are currently no parks classified as community parks).
RDCK BYLAW NO. 2173 A bylaw of the Regional District of Central Kootenay to make rules and regulations governing the use, management, improvement, operation and control of the RDCK Parks. (2011) (BYLAW No 2564 Park Regulation Amendment, 2017)	• Provides regulations governing regional park use. • RDCK Park Regulation Matrix	• Overall guidance on regional park and trail use and management guidelines. • Detailed matrix providing overview of park use and approved activities within regional parks and trails. • Supports the purpose and goals of the system.

Document	Purpose	Relevance and significance to the PTWAS
Park Use Permit Guidelines (2019)	• Provides guidance and regulations to control and manage special uses within regional parks to minimize the impact on the natural environment, park users, park operations and facilities	• Outlines permittable park and trail use and acceptable activities • Supports public access by limiting commercial use and restricting exclusive use of any RDCK regional park and trail. • Supports community events and partnership opportunities for the RDCK to engage with community groups and non-profit societies.
Parkland Dedication Policy (2024)	• Provides guidelines for parkland dedication at the time of subdivision and land development.	• Details parkland definition based on RDCK objectives, land use plans, and relevant policies. • Provides an overview of the scope of land and cash-in-lieu payments which can support to support the acquisition of parkland in the future. These funds are held in a reserve account for the Electoral Area in which the development took place.

The table below (table 4) provides a summary overview of key planning and policy documents developed by the RDCK and key stakeholder organizations that influence (both directly and indirectly) parks and trails advocacy and management. Some planning documents are regional in scope, while others are specific to communities.

Table 4: RDCK planning documents and policies

Document	Purpose	Relevance and significance to the PTWAS
RDCK Strategic Plan 2024-2026 (2024)	• Articulate strategic choices and guidance for the RDCK. • Key values and priorities for the RDCK (organizational excellence, relationships and partnerships, reducing waste, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility, regional approach to growth, advocacy, fiscal responsibility). • Provide information on how the RDCK intends to achieve priorities.	• Key stewardship objectives and environmental responsibility support the development and management of regional parks. • Protected and well-managed watersheds. • Partnerships and innovation to support the management of parks and recreation assets.

Document	Purpose	Relevance and significance to the PTWAS
RDCK BYLAW NO. 2044 A Bylaw to Adopt an Official Regional Parks Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay (2017)	• Provides an overall strategy for regional parks. » Overall goal of providing mostly day-use outdoor recreation opportunities at sites that receive use from residents of two or more municipalities or electoral areas across the RDCK.	• Geographically balanced and equitable. • Recreation opportunities for residents that are not provided by other levels of government. With a focus on high-quality water-based recreation. • Four types of regional park designations are identified: multiple purpose parks, waterfront access parks, and regional trails, community parks (however there are currently no parks classified as community parks).
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C State of Parks and Recreation Report (2020)	• Provides an overview of the regional and community context, outlines key benefits of recreation, identifies trends in recreation, and provides a snapshot of current recreation service delivery in the sub-region	• Population growth projections. • Older adults make up the largest portion of the population. • Need to focus on active and nature-based recreation opportunities. • Increased recognition of natural environments and outdoor recreation assets such as parks and trails. • Identified a need for a regional, integrated trail network.
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2020)	• To support the provision of parks and recreation opportunities (active and creative lifestyles) for the residents of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C through the Regional District of Central Kootenay, partner organizations, and community activities.	• Focus on partnership with the RDCK is integral to building healthy and thriving communities. • Well-planned and maintained open spaces are essential for well-being and connections to nature. • Increase focus on nature-based programming. • Land acquisition for the development of park sites, including access to water (e.g. rivers and lakes). • Enhance trail network and implement a consolidated parks and trails service for Creston and Electoral Areas A,B, and C.
RDCK User Fees and Charges for Publicly Provided Parks and Recreation Services (2019)	• Establish common language, values, and purpose for recreation fees and charges. Follow the benefits-based approach where those who benefit from a good or service should pay in proportion to the benefit they receive AND that some benefits from parks and recreation accrue to the entire population even if individuals do not directly participate.	• Regional parks, trails, and water access are public goods that provide benefits to all residents of the RDCK.

Document	Purpose	Relevance and significance to the PTWAS
Regional District of Central Kootenay: Castlegar and Areas I & J Recreation & Culture Master Plan (2016)	• This plan will serve to guide decisions regarding the delivery of recreation services within Castlegar, Area I, and Area J. Vision includes fostering individual well -being, community well-being, and the wellbeing of the natural and built environments.	• Enhance park amenities and maintain access to green spaces. • Create a regional trail system and develop a regional trails master plan.
Regional District of Central Kootenay: Area H & the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver Recreation Master Plan (2016)	• This plan serves as a vision for recreation is Area H, and the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver. The vision includes fostering individual well -being, community well-being, and the wellbeing of the natural and built environments. • Three main goals: » To facilitate healthier, more resilient individuals. » To foster stronger, more connected communities. » To enhance stewardship, interpretation, and protection of natural environments.	• Provide more opportunities residents to connect with nature through interpretive programming. • Create a regional trail system and develop a regional trails plan.
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Nelson and District Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2012)	• Plan provides a vision for recreation in Nelson where all community members are healthy, active, and have a sense of community pride. Outdoor recreation is essential and the RDCK will work with partners to plan and deliver recreation.	• Update park classifications and provide clear regional services (true regional parks and regional funding sources). • Increase communication of nature-based recreation opportunities. • Develop a regional parks and regional trails master plan • Improve signage across RDCK parks and trails. • Specific park level recommendations are included. • Increase accessibility of RDCK parks and trails.

Few regional parks in the RDCK have current dedicated management plans. However, those that have management plans have been summarized in the table on the following page (Table 5). Additionally, some parks that do not have management plans, have Purpose of Operations documents that guide management, however, most of these documents are older than 10 years.

Table 5: RDCK Regional Park Management Plan Overview

PARK	MANAGEMEENT PLAN	PURPOSE & OPERATIONAL STATEMENT	FUEL MANAGEMENT PRRESCRIPTION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY/PLAN OR ASSESSMENT
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	2015		2013	2019	2018
2. Bigelow Bay Regional Park					
3. Bonnington Regional Park		2011	2011		
4. Brilliant Bridge Regional Park	2005			2015	
5. Cottonwood Lake Regional Park					
6. Crawford Creek Regional Park					2019
7. Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	2015			2018	2016
8. Glacier Creek Regional Park		2011	2018	2019	
9. Glade Regional Park					
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park					2011
11. James Johnstone Regional Park		2011	2017		
12. Krestova Regional Park					
13. Lardeau Regional Park	2020		2011		
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park		2011			
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park		2011	2011		
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail	2003		2011		2004
17. Pass Creek Regional Park	2015		2011		2005 / 2019
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail		2011	2017		
19. Riondel Regional Park					
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park					
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park					
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)		2012			
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park	2002				
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park					2011
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park		2011	2014	2006 /2007	
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park		2015		2007	
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park		2011			
SYSTEM TOTAL	**7**	**10**	**10**	**7**	**7**

3.1.1 Official Community Plans

Regional parks and trails planning in the RDCK is intrinsically connected to the district's Official Community Plans (OCPs), which serve as long-term blueprints for sustainable community growth and land use. Parks, trails, and water access play a vital role in enhancing quality of life, promoting environmental stewardship, supporting physical and mental health, and fostering a sense of community—all priorities commonly outlined in OCPs.

Integrating OCPs into regional parks and trails planning ensures that these natural spaces align with the broader objectives of growth management, accessibility, and connectivity. This connection supports diverse recreational opportunities, conserves ecologically sensitive areas, and helps mitigate land use conflicts by designating appropriate spaces for recreational activities. Within this process, parkland dedication is a key component. When new subdivision development occurs or is proposed the OCPs are used to support but require approval of acceptable land based on physical characteristics. Moreover, parks and trails planning aligned with OCPs encourages active transportation and environmental preservation, contributing to the RDCK's goals for sustainable and resilient community development. Key elements of RDCK OCPs that are relevant to regional parks, trails, and water access planning include:

- Policies for land use
  - » Parkland Dedication Policy (at the time of subdivision)
- Heritage conservation
- Transportation
- Sustainable growth
- Environmental stewardship and protection
- Economic development

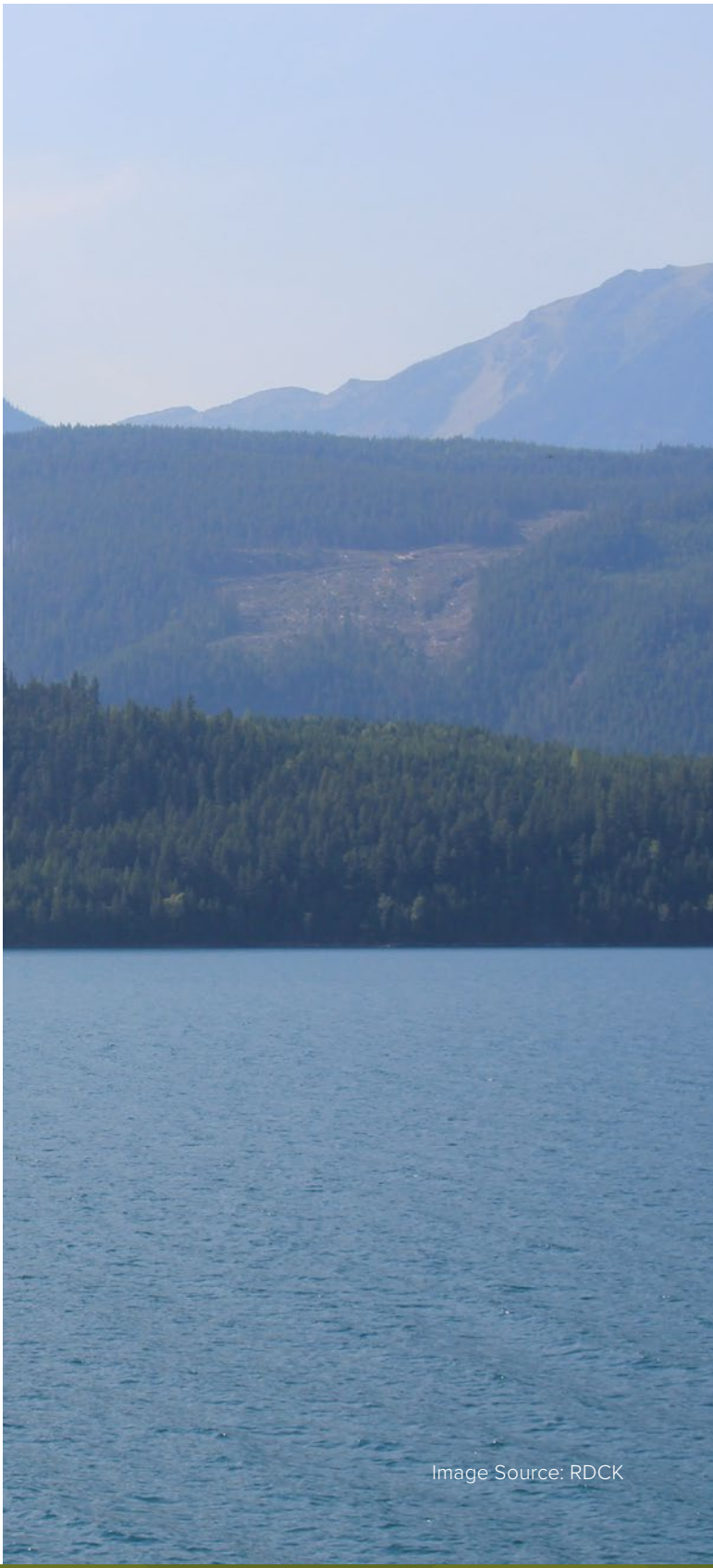


Image Source: RDCK

3.1.2 Ktunaxa Traditional Use Study

In the Fall of 2022, the RDCK worked with the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Reciprocity Research to conduct a Traditional Use Study (TUS). The report examines cultural and ecological values within five proposed regional parks near Creston, BC. Within the findings are key sites of cultural significance, ecological features, and community concerns. The report emphasizes that these lands, which include Goat River, West Creston Ferry Landing, Martell Beach, Crawford Creek, and Powerline Beach, are integral to Ktunaxa (Yaqan Nukiy, Lower Kooteny Band) heritage, housing culturally vital sites and sensitive ecosystems.

Field surveys and interviews with Yaqan Nukiy knowledge holders suggested that without proper management increased public access may strain these culturally significant areas and fragile ecosystems. Each potential park site hosts unique features, including subsistence areas, spiritual sites, and habitats for at-risk species like Kokanee salmon and Grizzly bears. Recommendations include archaeological assessments, ecological protections, and strategies for co-management to honor Ktunaxa rights and knowledge. The study advocates for balanced park development that respects traditional practices and supports cultural connections and proposes collaborative stewardship with RDCK. These actions are a first step in working towards reconciliation and fostering a more inclusive approach to park management that safeguards Yaqan Nukiy heritage and environmental health for future generations.

Key takeaways from the report include:

- Cultural protection and access for traditional practices and ceremonies
- Opportunities for enhancing public education and Indigenous cultural awareness
- Collaborative stewardship and co-management between the Yaqan Nukiy First Nation and the RDCK (establish government to government relationship)
- Conservation and habitat restoration

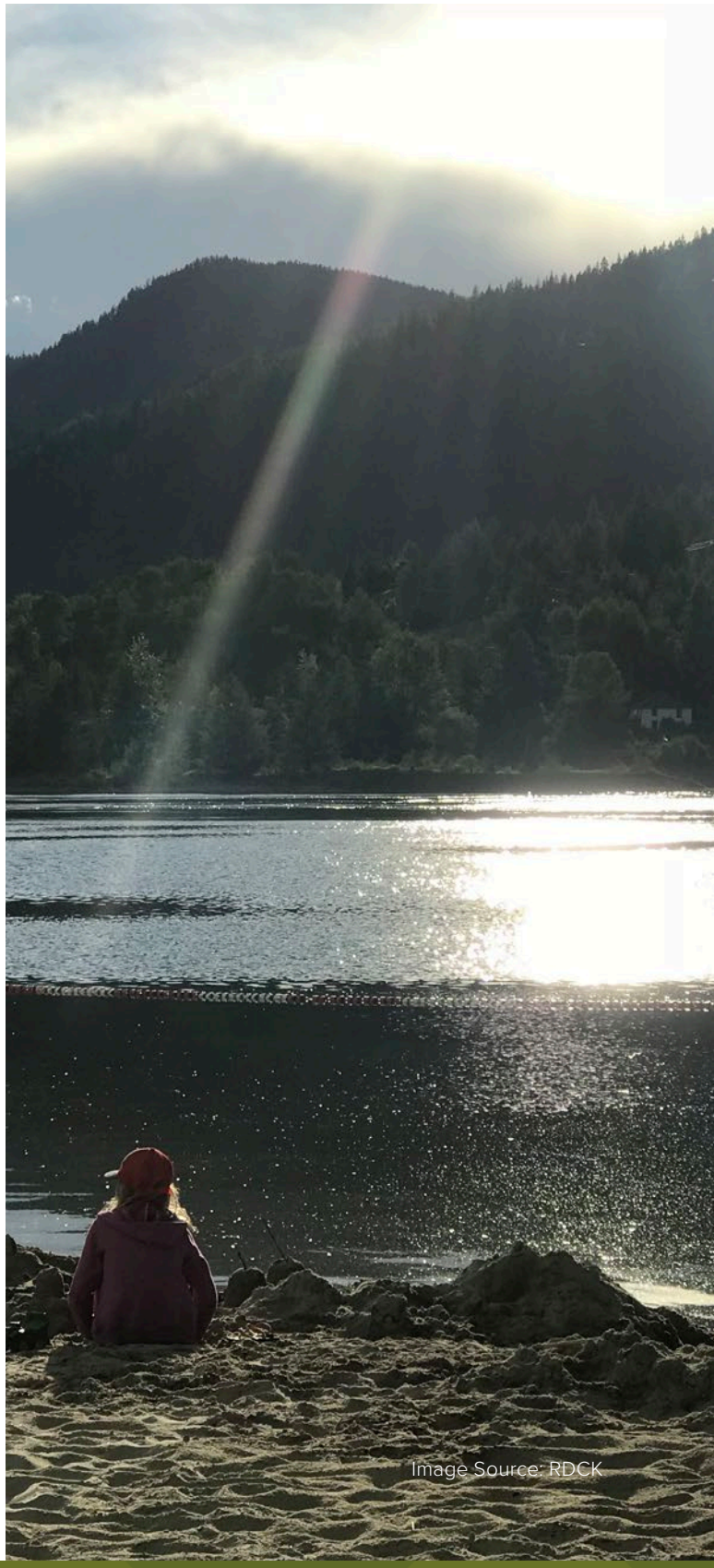


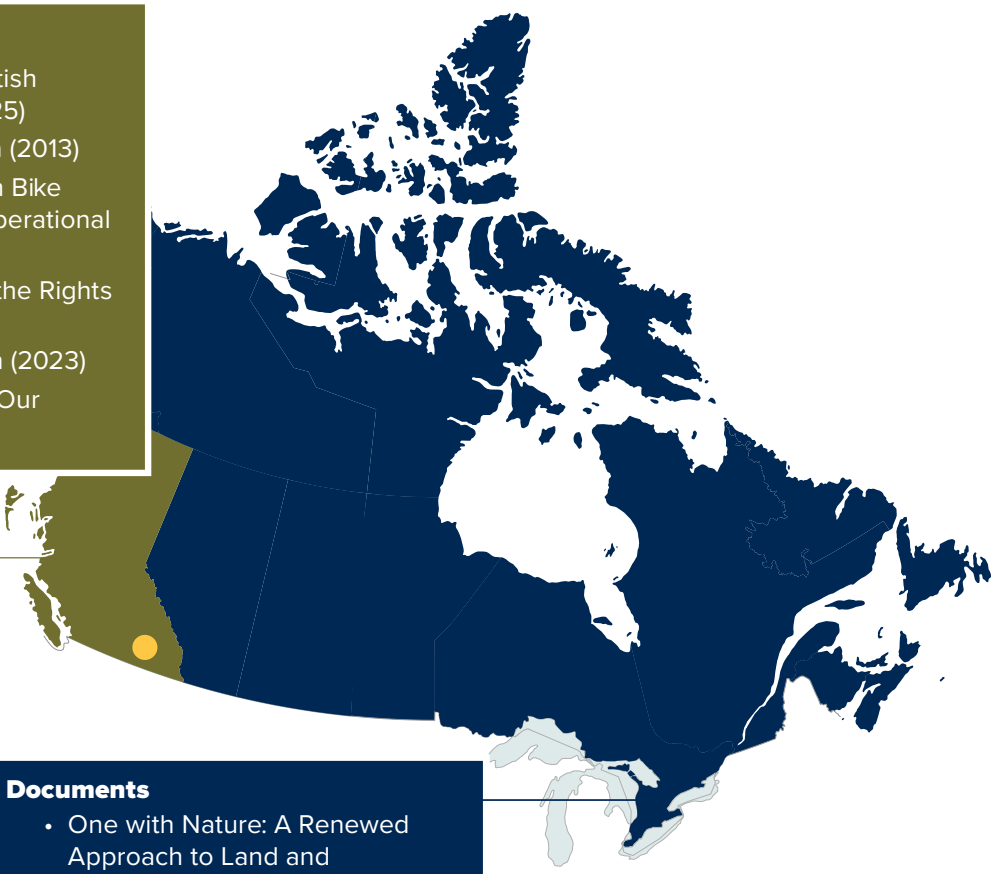
Image Source: RDCK

3.2 SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL DOCUMENTS

Aligning with broader provincial and national outdoor recreation and parks sector planning and policy reflects a local and regional alignment with leading practices and benchmarks. the following graphic reflects key planning influences that will be considered in the development of the PTWAS. A summary of the key takeaways from these policies and plans is below. It is also worth noting that there during 2023 and 2024, the provincial Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has been leading a project to develop a shared vision of outdoor recreation service delivery in the province. This shared vision will allow all communities and residents of British Columbia to better plan, develop and/or manage a diverse range of outdoor recreation opportunities, balancing public interests, conservation and stewardship

Provincial Documents

- Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia Strategic Plan (2021-2025)
- Trails Strategy for British Columbia (2013)
- Authorizing Recreational Mountain Bike Trails on Provincial Crown Land Operational Policy (2013)
- British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2019)
- BC Parks Commitment to Inclusion (2023)
- CleanBC. Our Nature. Our Power. Our Future. Roadmap to 2030 (2020)



National Documents

- Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)
  - Framework update (2024)
- Parks For All (2017)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015)
- A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy (2020)
- One with Nature: A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada (2018)
- Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada (2024)
- The Price of Inactivity: Measuring the Powerful Impact of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in Canada (2023)

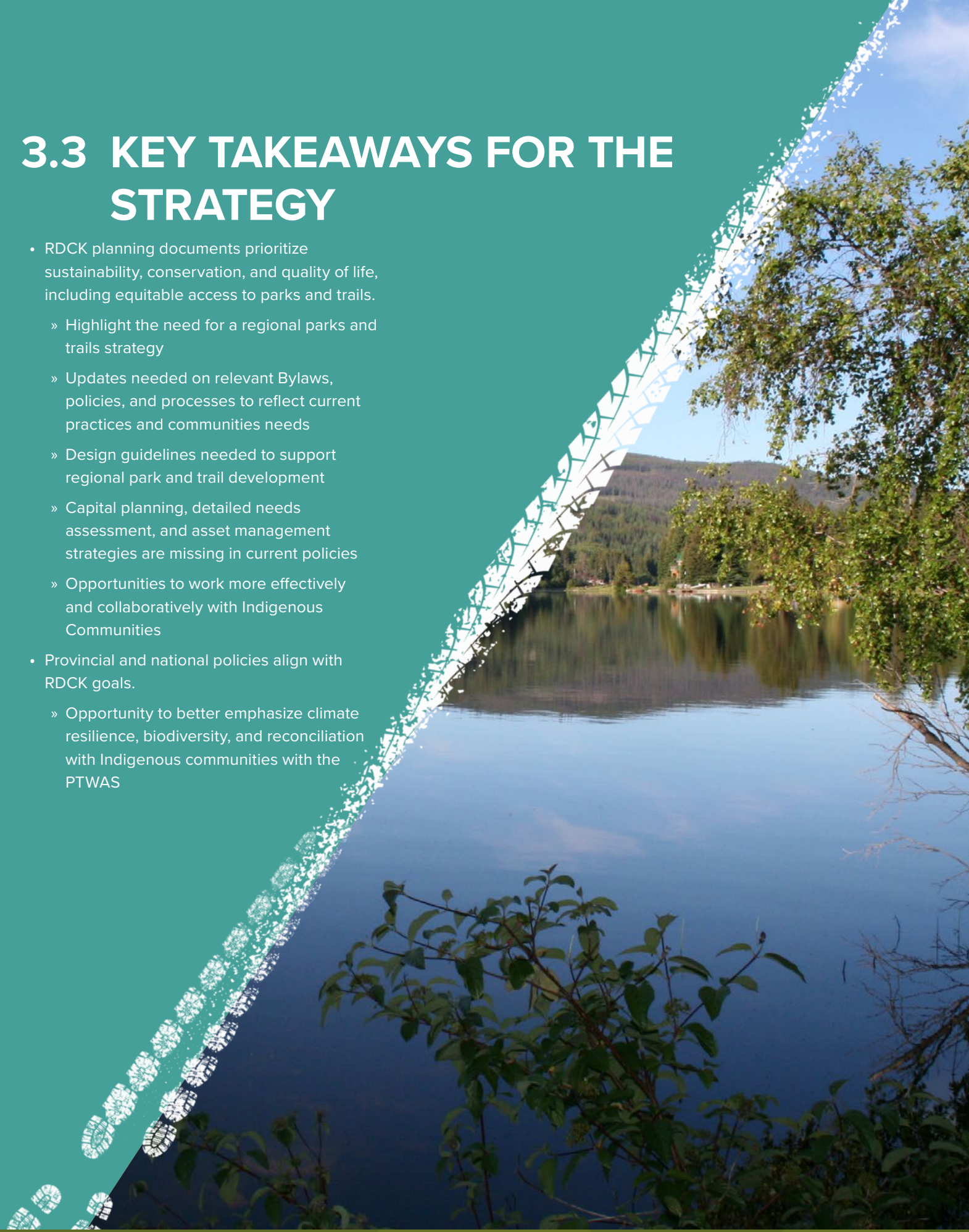
Figure 7: Relevant Planning and Policy Documents

Several key themes across the provincial and national planning strategies and policy documents include the following:

1. Sustainability and Conservation
    a. Focus on Environmental Stewardship: The provincial and national strategies emphasize the need to balance recreational use with conservation goals. This involves protecting natural habitats, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and ensuring sustainable use of outdoor spaces.
    b. Environmental Protection: A significant focus across these strategies is on conserving and restoring biodiversity. This includes protecting 30% of land and water by 2030, enhancing ecological connectivity, and safeguarding species at risk. These initiatives emphasize the need for large-scale conservation efforts that integrate local and Indigenous knowledge and practices.
    c. Climate Change Adaptation: Addressing climate-related risks, such as wildfires and erosion, is a central theme. The plans promote resilient infrastructure and adaptive management practices to safeguard recreational areas against environmental changes
2. Indigenous Reconciliation
    a. Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge: Canada as a whole (and the Province of British Columbia) is committed to integrating Indigenous perspectives into the management and planning of parks, protected areas, and outdoor recreation. This includes co-management of parks, respecting cultural values, and ensuring Indigenous communities are active partners in decision-making processes. These policies highlight a commitment to decolonizing the parks system and reconciliation.
3. Community Health and Well-being
    a. Promoting Physical and Mental Health: The provincial policies highlight the role of outdoor recreation in enhancing community health. Accessible and well-maintained parks and trails contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being, and social inclusion. This also includes addressing concerning physical inactivity levels and increasing screen time/sedentary behaviours.
4. Social Inclusion and Equity
    a. Ensuring that all residents, including equity-denied groups, have access to recreational opportunities is a key objective. This is tied to broader social goals such as equity, inclusion, belonging, decolonization and community-building
5. Sustainable Development and Climate Action
    a. There is a strong linkage between conservation efforts and climate action. Protecting natural areas is framed as a strategy for mitigating climate change, given the role of forests, wetlands, and oceans as carbon sinks. The focus is on sustainable practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote resilience to climate impacts
6. Collaboration and Integrated Management
    a. Foster partnerships with various stakeholders, including local governments, community groups, and private entities, to align the regional plan with broader provincial goals. Ensure that the planning process is participatory, with opportunities for public input.

3.3 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- RDCK planning documents prioritize sustainability, conservation, and quality of life, including equitable access to parks and trails.
  - » Highlight the need for a regional parks and trails strategy
  - » Updates needed on relevant Bylaws, policies, and processes to reflect current practices and communities needs
  - » Design guidelines needed to support regional park and trail development
  - » Capital planning, detailed needs assessment, and asset management strategies are missing in current policies
  - » Opportunities to work more effectively and collaboratively with Indigenous Communities
- Provincial and national policies align with RDCK goals.
  - » Opportunity to better emphasize climate resilience, biodiversity, and reconciliation with Indigenous communities with the PTWAS





4 TRENDS

4.1 NATIONAL TRENDS

Canada is an outdoor nation, and millions of Canadians participate in outdoor recreation every year. This participation enhances individual and community health and well-being [i]. Among other benefits, outdoor recreation aids in recovery from stress and attention fatigue, encourages physical activity, provides settings to enhance social networks, stimulates development in children, and fosters nature connectedness and a sense of place [ii].

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

From 2021 to 2023, the Canadian Parks, Protected, and Conserved Areas Leadership Collective (CPPCL) facilitated a pan-Canadian study into the state of equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization (EDID) in the parks and protected areas profession. Unfortunately, there is still a significant path forward to ensuring the management and activation of parks and outdoor recreation spaces are reflective of the diversity within the Canadian population [iii]. Significant efforts are occurring throughout Canada to ensure that parks, trails, and recreation are welcoming, accessible, equitable, and inclusive environments for all people regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, age, ability, or identity. The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Canadian Parks Council –representing all federal, provincial, and territorial park agencies – commits to seven guiding principles, including reconciliation, respect, and inclusiveness [iv]. There are multiple reports calling for more support for racialized individuals and New Canadians to be included in outdoor recreation planning, programming, and management of parks and protected areas [v]. There is an ongoing focus on improving accessibility, inclusion and equity, deliberate attention is being placed on policy that guides operations and how and where investments in parks, trails and recreation are made, where they are located and how they are designed and managed.

Parks, Trails, & Recreation Can Support Truth and Reconciliation

According to the TRC, reconciliation is defined as a process that requires “awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour” [vi]. Parks, trails, and recreation are opportunities to support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities through co-management, collaborative decision-making, valuing and supporting traditional uses and values, and more. They are also seen as an opportunity to help non-Indigenous people develop a better understanding and appreciation of the land Canadians reside on, Indigenous peoples, and their culture, and to foster new relationships. As outdoor recreation becomes an increasingly important local and national economic driver, it also provides an opportunity to renegotiate power dynamics and build a sense of belonging [vii].

Parks, trails, and recreation providers across Canada are collaborating with Indigenous communities to identify how and where to support truth and reconciliation and to collaborate on the provision and management of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

Increases in Participation

Trails are one of the number of ways Canadians connect to nature, and according to a recent study by the Trans Canada Trail, 85% of Canadians have explored trails in the past 2 years [viii]. Similarly, Canadians are passionate about parks and protected areas and Parks Canada saw an increase of more than 27% in 2021-22 (from the year before) operations and a new all-time record of camping nights was set at 516,000 overnight visits. [ix]

National participation in outdoor recreation is rising. Multiple sources report differing degrees of increase in a variety of activities, but the results are clear. More Canadians are participating in outdoor recreation than ever before. Key Reports and statistics include the recent Households and the Environment Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 2021, which found that 78% (8 in 10) Canadian households reported participating in outdoor recreation activities, specifically, these were activities that took place close to home (defined as a 10-minute journey or less). This number is up 3% nationally since 2011. Walking was the most frequently reported activity, followed by visiting a local park. Almost 30% of all Canadians reported hiking, 21% went swimming/visiting the beach, and 12% participated in a water-based boating activity such as kayaking, sailing, or canoeing [x]. It is worth noting that trail-based recreation is also more popular than ever before. As of 2023, the Trans Canada Trail research report suggests that 72% of Canadians use trails, and even those who don't use trails frequently believe they add value to the overall quality of life in their community .

Park People, a national non-profit organization that works to mobilize community park groups and park professionals, conducts an annual city park report and, over the past three years (2021, 2022, and 2023), has consistently demonstrated a rise in park visitation. More than 90% of Canadians reported that parks were vital to their overall well-being and connections to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 95% of parks across Canada reported an increase in park use/ visitation to parks . Of the many millions of visitors to parks, 93% of Canadians indicated they participated in a new activity, such as more trail usage or more picnicking with family and friends, and 44% would like to participate in more winter activities if access was increased .

Barriers to Participation

While these numbers overwhelmingly suggest and provide evidence for a sustained rise in outdoor recreation participation across the country it is worth noting that not all Canadians participate or have access to outdoor recreation in equal ways. Black people report being seen as out of place in nature, report experiences of violence, and generally feel unsafe and unwelcome in some natural areas . Indigenous Peoples in Canada and elsewhere have often had their lands expropriated and have been denied access to their traditional territories, resulting in a loss of traditional practices and culture. Parks have also been noted as sources of trauma (and healing) for Indigenous people as they were forcefully removed from traditional lands and prohibited from traditional land uses and cultural practices . People living with disabilities are also disproportionally not represented in the outdoor recreation opportunities across Canada. People with disabilities continue to face barriers that prevent them from being able to enjoy regional parks as others do, and some prevent them from being able to enjoy regional parks entirely. Limited access to parks further contributes to the inequities that people with disabilities face in other aspects of their life, such as housing, health care, and employment.

Impacts of Recreation

With a rise in outdoor recreation, it is worth noting that many parks and protected areas have also seen an increase in negative impacts on the natural environment. While these cumulative impacts do occur, there is not a well-established linear relationship between increased recreation and substantial impacts or damage to wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems . Rather, there is evidence to suggest that other characteristics, such as behaviours of recreation users, modality, location of recreation, timing, and management strategies, are more significant indicators of impacts. Evidence is overwhelming in stating that good management of outdoor recreation is essential for ensuring sustainable use.

Volunteerism

Volunteers play an important role in the development and management of recreation and parks systems across Canada and continue to be heavily relied upon to fulfill a number of roles. However, data suggests that the nature of volunteerism is shifting. There has been a decline in the proportion of Canadians who volunteer and a shift in the types of assignments volunteers are willing to take on.

In 2018, 41% of Canadians volunteered compared to 47% in 2010. Though a greater proportion of Gen Z and Millennial Canadians volunteer than Baby Boomers and Matures, the amount of time Gen Z Canadians spend volunteering is about 75% less than that of Baby Boomer Canadians. Millennials spend approximately 35% less time volunteering than Baby Boomers. These shifts will have implications for the sector's reliance on volunteerism.

Trails Tourism

Trails are highly valuable tourism products and have gained more recognition in recent years. In a 2017 study, trails were found to increase the sense of place and provide an interpretive tool that allows a multiplicity of stories to be told that encourage visitors towards a more engaged interaction with the place. Successful 'destination trails' put the visitor experience at the centre of their trail experience design by employing interpretative and transformational storytelling and work with trail towns along the route to create a connected and meaningful continuity within the 'off-trail' dining and hospitality / accommodation experience(s) provided to diverse trail users.

Leading the country on trails tourism in the Trans Canada Trail (TCT), which represents more than 28,000km of trails across Canada. Combined, the TCT connects 15,000 communities and is the longest multi-use trail in the world. The Trail consists of a variety of trail types, incl auding urban greenways, rural trails and backcountry routes, and can be used for activities such as hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Trails create safe and easy access to a community's natural assets and connect destinations throughout a region. trails also often serve to encourage excursions as well as attract visitors to spend more time in the region, which in turn leads to increased spending at nearby businesses. In fact, trails tourism is estimated to contribute $23.1 billion to the Canadian economy through the collective effect of tourism spending and job creation.

4.2 PROVINCIAL & REGIONAL TRENDS

Increases in Participation

Across British Columbia, parks and recreation areas provide thousands of kilometres of trails, opportunities to camp, water access for swimming, boating, and fishing, and countless mountain opportunities. The diverse ecosystems provide significant health, economic, social, cultural, heritage, and environmental benefits to all users (and all British Columbians) . Over the past 10 years, there have been numerous studies looking at the trends in outdoor recreation. The data suggests that British Columbians are amongst the most active outdoors compared to all Canadians, with more than 81% participating in outdoor recreation in the Households and the Environment Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 2021 . This number is higher than the total for Canadian households, and in Victoria, participation rates are even higher, with 85% of households participating in outdoor recreation activities (participation occurs within a 10-minute distance from home).

The Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia has recently begun conducting online polls (through ISPOS) measuring outdoor recreation participation and trends. Findings suggest that across the province more males participate than females and that young people between the ages of 18-34 with high annual household incomes (over $100,000) are the most common demographic participating in outdoor recreation. British Columbians are recreating outdoors because they are keen to connect with nature (50%), be physically active outdoors (49%), and relaxation (44%) .

Demographic Trends

Given the value and sustained increase in outdoor recreation participation, it is important to understand the motivations behind this increase and what other factors are influencing residents of the RDCK and British Columbians more broadly. It is important to understand demographics and how shifts in the population influence outdoor recreation participation, choices, and access.

More than 40% of the total population in the RDCK is over the age of 45 and life expectancy within the RDCK is predicted to increase over time, the life expectancy at birth as of 2019 being 84 for females and 78 for males, this is projected to increase to 86 and 70 years old respectively. Older adults (over 50) in British Columbia reported participating more in hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking outdoors in 2021 (compared to 2019). Given, that this demographic is also more likely to have more leisure time due to retirement there will likely be continued and increasing demands from older residents of the RDCK for all types of outdoor recreation activities.

Volunteerism

Volunteer BC recognizes a shift in volunteer participation across the province and suggests that declining participation (national trend) is occurring provincially as well. However, the results of this decline are related to the motivations and needs of volunteers rather than a disinterest in volunteering. Volunteers are interested in supporting organizations and initiatives they are passionate about, and outdoor recreation organizations (and nature-based organizations broadly) are widely supported by volunteers.

Additionally, local governments are increasing reliance on volunteerism, and government agencies and the Municipal Insurance Association of BC have also begun to recognize that volunteerism, such as parks and trail stewardship, can come with risk and liability exposure. Where volunteers are engaged, it is now recognized that these volunteers need to be actively trained, equipped, and managed to the same standard applied to government staff. This recognition has stimulated the need to establish formal volunteer programs and policy frameworks to manage risk and liability and to ensure appropriate staff time and funding is allocated to support the attraction and management of volunteers and the volunteer program.

Motivations and Influences on Participation

Of course, many studies cite the COVID-19 pandemic and the surrounding travel restrictions as well as limitations of indoor activities; however, outdoor recreation in the RDCK and British Columbia has been top of mind for policymakers and park managers for decades and certainly since before 2020. In 2011 the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations reported on the social and economic impacts of recreation and identified trends that continue to influence the region today . The rising costs of organized sports (and the rising cost of living) are a significant factor driving the increase in low-cost recreation such as walking, hiking, and general trail use. This influence also extends to the increasing preference for less structured, more informal, and individualized activities that can fit easily into varied schedules and changing routines. The ability to incorporate lifestyle and wellness into daily routines is becoming increasingly important, making outdoor recreation especially attractive.

Wellness is especially relevant and timely as The BC Parks Foundation supported an initiative (Parks Rx) driven by healthcare professionals to prescribe time in nature as a way to improve patients' health. This initiative, Parks Rx, has partnered with park agencies across British Columbia (and across Canada) to provide free access to park sites, programs, and nature-based recreation opportunities to facilitate more and more people spending time in nature. To date, more than 4,000 park prescriptions have been written and doctors across BC are seeing this number grow every year .

Activity Specific Trends

While the overall trends highlight the rise in outdoor recreation broadly across the region there are also specific activity trends that are relevant within the RDCK. According to Destination BC, more than 22% of residents of British Columbia participate in Mountain Biking; of those, there are more mountain bikers in the Kootenay than any other region in the province (26% of residents in the Kootenay Region). Another recent study in the Nanaimo area suggests that 57% of people increased their mountain biking participation during the COVID-19 pandemic . Mountain biking creates an opportunity to connect riders with nature, as well as, provides the excitement and challenge that the riders are seeking.

Hiking, walking, and trail running are all still consistently the top outdoor activities for residents of BC and the RDCK. However, an increase in dog ownership in the past 3 years of more than 1,000,000 Canadians has certainly transformed the frequency of and importance of trails for walking a pet(s) . Dog walking is increasingly becoming more and more popular in the RDCK, and the demand for designated off-leash and on-leash areas will continue to rise.

Climbing as a sport and outdoor recreation pursuit is also on the rise with indoor climbing numbers at an all-time high of more than 5.6 million in the United States. Sport Climbing is receiving more and more publicity through the upcoming Paris Olympics this activity is certainly a growing trend.

Additionally, Micromobility devices such as e-Scooters and e-Bikes are now readily available for sale on the private market and usership (and ownership) are rising . Further, the use of these devices largely takes place on recreation infrastructure such as trails and active transportation routes and is recognized as a growing trend in recreation.

Trails Tourism

Trails are the fundamental means to explore and enjoy the spectacular and unique experiences the RDCK offers. Across the Province, there is increasing recognition that a world-class system of trails represents opportunities for British Columbians from a tourism perspective. The 2021 BC Trails strategy identifies the goal of being not only popular regionally but also sought out by international tourists as some of the best trails in the world . This includes diverse visitor experiences in all seasons. One of the main influences on trails tourism in BC is the vast array of rail trails and other existing trails. It is estimated that the province of BC has more than 30,000km of trails (although not all are formally managed/sanctioned). This represents a massive opportunity to strengthen the trails tourism sector and the economic impact of trails.

Much of the economic impact data is localized and focused on mountain biking or nature-based recreation broadly. However, trails are included in almost all tourism and economic impact reports. Outdoor adventure tourism in BC represents more than $1.2billion in revenue and across all regions of the province, hiking was noted as the number one activity for tourists . This trend has only grown since the COVID-19 Pandemic and is expected to be a major economic driver for all regions of BC in the coming years.

Climate Change and Stewardship

Finally, with the rising awareness of climate science and broad environmental support (Globally and within Canada, British Columbia, and the RDCK), there is a growing interest in environmental interpretation and educational programming in parks, as well as an increase in the protection of natural areas.

Investing in parks and trails is now seen as a strategy to establish areas that sequester and store carbon and help reduce carbon emissions through active transportation. Parks and trails can act as green infrastructure that can help the region adapt and mitigate the risks and effects of climate change (e.g., flood mitigation and control) . At the same time, parks and trail users will experience more frequent weather interruptions, and experience extended warmer months, providing more opportunities for non-snow-based recreation .



Image Source: RDCK

4.3 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- Participation in nature-based outdoor recreation in Canada is rising, parks are increasingly seen as essential for mental health and social well-being, with participation rising across age groups, especially in trail use and nearby green spaces.
- Equity and inclusion challenges remain, with barriers to access faced by racialized groups, people with disabilities, and others.
- Volunteerism in recreation management is evolving, with a need for formal training and support programs.
- Environmental impacts, including impacts from climate change and increased visitation, highlight the need for sustainable management practices that balance accessibility with conservation.





5 RDCK REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS OVERVIEW

The following section presents the overview of the RDCK regional parks and trails system (water access area are addressed separately in section 6).

5.1 OVERVIEW OF THE RDCK REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

The Regional District of Central Kootenay's Regional parks and trails systems includes 24 regional parks and 3 regional trails covering more than 373 ha (648 ha including regional trails) and 62 km, respectively, with an additional 27km of trails located within regional parks. According to Bylaw No. 2044, the Official Regional Parks Plan, the role of the current system is, generally, to provide day-use outdoor recreation opportunities at sites that receive use from residents of two or more municipalities or electoral areas. Central to this plan is the opportunity to serve the needs of residents with a diversity of regional recreational opportunities that are not being provided by any other agency. As such, it is important to highlight that regional parks are part of a larger system of federal, provincial, municipal, and private land parks and protected areas in the region (Figure 8).

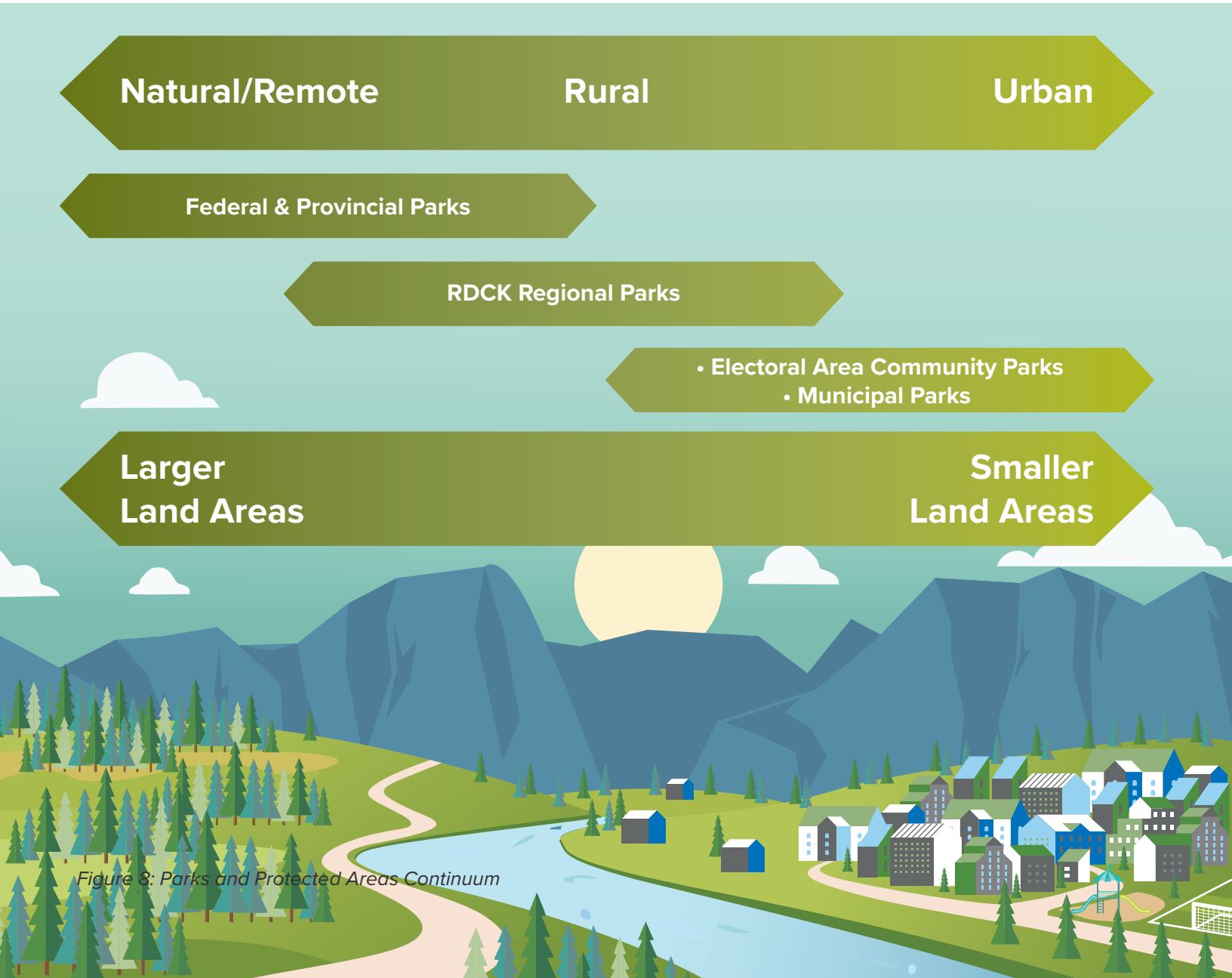


Figure 8: Parks and Protected Areas Continuum

Conservation, protection of natural and cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation opportunities are also available within the:

- 19 Provincial Parks
- 33 Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves
- 181 Provincial Recreation Sites
- 75 of Municipal Parks
- More than 25 other conservation sites
- Additional 2,678km of trails in the region (managed by other agencies and private and non-profit organizations)

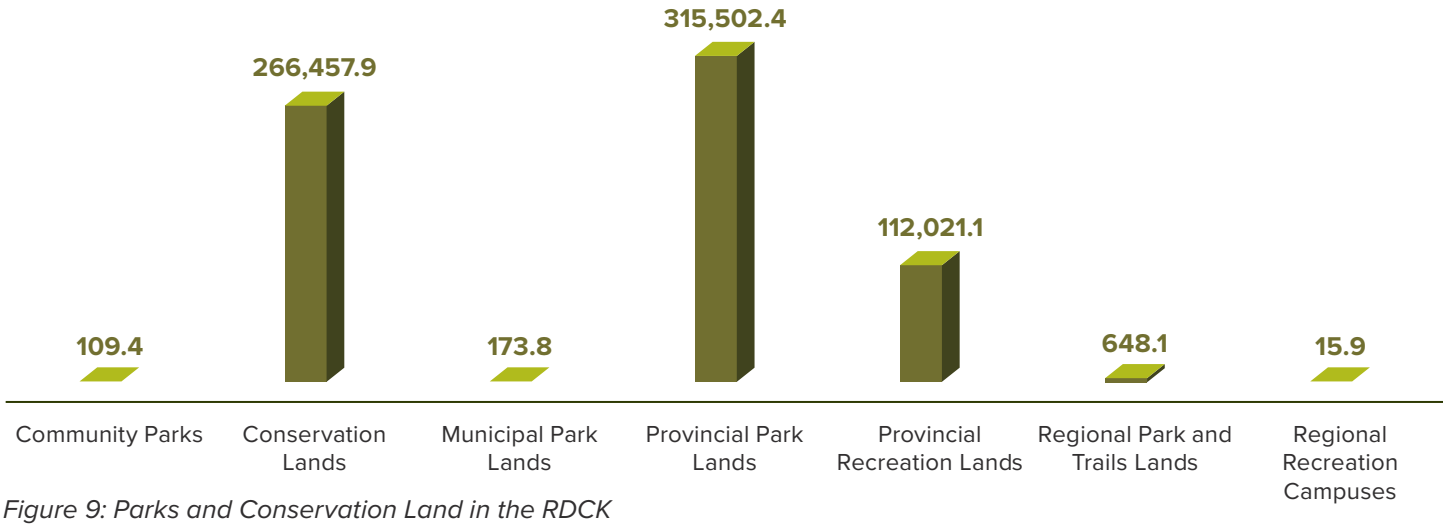
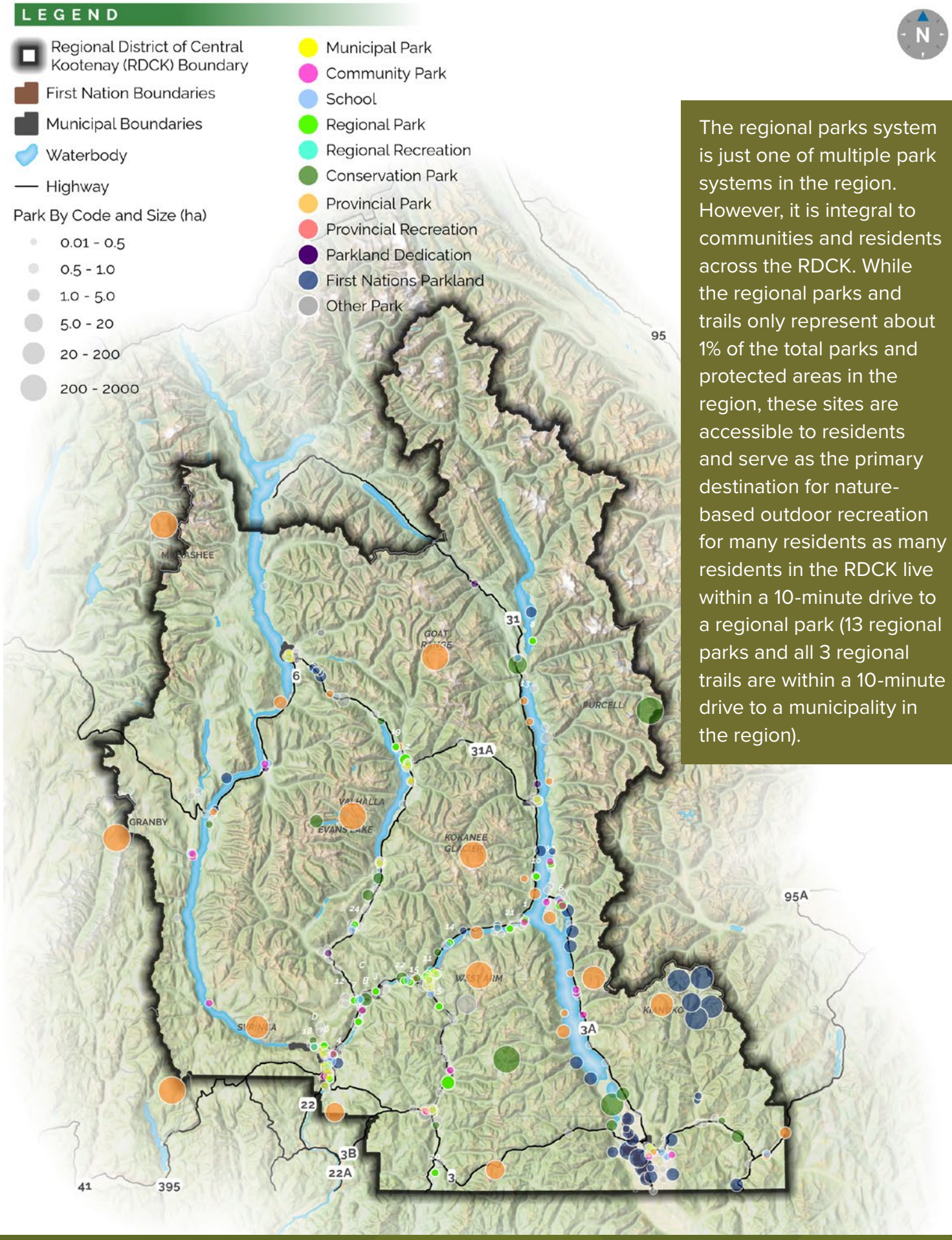


Figure 9: Parks and Conservation Land in the RDCK

Together, the system of parks and protected areas and lands is 695,218.6 hectares of land in the region (figure 8).

Lands that are management by the provincial government, such as provincial parks, recreation areas, and other important conservation lands provide protection and access to unique natural and cultural landscapes across the RDCK. These protected areas serve different mandates and have different management priorities. For example, ecological reserves have the primary purpose of ecosystem conservation and preservation of natural features, plants, and wildlife. On the other hand, provincial recreation sites provide the public with safe and high-quality recreational opportunities. In addition to publicly protected parks and conservation areas, other important natural areas in the region are protected and managed by non-governmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, and connector organizations such as the Kootenay Conservation Program. Within these other protected and conserved areas, sensitive ecosystems and at-risk species are typically the focus, and public access is often limited or restricted to specific areas to ensure biodiversity is protected.

Figure 10: System of Parks and Protected Areas in the RDCK



The regional parks system is just one of multiple park systems in the region. However, it is integral to communities and residents across the RDCK. While the regional parks and trails only represent about 1% of the total parks and protected areas in the region, these sites are accessible to residents and serve as the primary destination for nature-based outdoor recreation for many residents as many residents in the RDCK live within a 10-minute drive to a regional park (13 regional parks and all 3 regional trails are within a 10-minute drive to a municipality in the region).

5.2 ROLE OF PARKS AND TRAILS IN THE SYSTEM

Parks and trails provide a wide variety of functions across a given landscape. As stated in section 5.1 there are multiple levels of government, conservation agencies and community partners protecting and managing natural landscapes for conservation, recreation, and cultural and traditional uses and values across the RDCK. This work aligns with the key national, provincial, and local policies and strategies. Establishing a network of conservation-focused parks that protect sensitive ecosystems, provide wildlife habitat, support ecosystem process and help the region remain resilient to climate change aligns with national policies such as A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy (2020), One with Nature: A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada (2018), and Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada (2024). Additionally, this objective for the maintenance and growth of the regional parks system aligns with regional policies within the RDCK, including the RDCK Strategic Plan, which states environmental responsibility as a key priority. Conserving land (as parks) also contributes to the RDCK's goals of reducing the risk of climate change and building climate-resilient communities (as outlined in the RDCK Climate Action Strategy).

The RDCK is located on the unceded, traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, Sinixt, and Syilx Nations. These nations have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. While this report is not intended to be an inclusive overview of the values that First Nation's peoples have for the land and its wildlife, it is well known that the ecosystems within the region and the shorelines of the many lakes and rivers have been since time immemorial, critical to First Nations' health, cultural and spiritual well-being, and their traditional practices. For over 10,000 years, the lands and waters within the region have shaped First Nations' culture and practices; they are the stage for spiritual and cultural ceremonies and are a vital source of food, medicines, and supplies.

Parks and trails not only serve as important conservation areas for protecting ecosystems, but they also provide essential opportunities for humans to connect with nature and participate in physical activity, both of which have been empirically proven to increase health and wellbeing . Parks with an emphasis on outdoor recreation and providing communities access to nature is a key focus of the RDCK regional parks system. This emphasis aligns with national policies such as the Canadian Parks Council Parks for All Strategy (2017) and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's recent report, The Price of Inactivity: Measuring the Powerful Impact of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in Canada (2023). Similarly, this objective aligns with the Provincial direction of the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia Strategic Plan (2021-2025). Finally, this mandate for parks is directly in line with the four recreation master plans across the RDCK (see section 3.1). These plans all call for maintaining and increasing opportunities for residents to participate in outdoor recreation and access to nature through an integrated network of parks and trails.

Table 6 highlights the role of various parks and protected areas in the large system/continuum of parks in the RDCK.

Table 6: Characteristics of Parks and Protected Areas

Park and Protected Area Characteristics	Provincial Parks/ Ecological Reserves/ Provincial Recreation Sites	Non-Government Organization Protected Areas	Regional Parks	Community/ Municipal Parks
Uniqueness	Provincially Unique / Significant	Nationally, Provincially, or Regionally Significant	Regionally Unique / Significant	Local community needs. May be locally Unique / Significant
Conservation Function	Protects provincially important ecological, cultural, or heritage areas / features	Protects important ecological, cultural, or heritage areas / features at various scales depending on organizational mandate	Protects regionally important ecological, cultural, or heritage areas / features	May protect locally important ecological, cultural or heritage cultural features. Many have no or limited conservation role
Recreation Experience	Focused on nature-based outdoor recreation and appreciation and providing opportunity for long-term experiences (overnight, multi-night)	Limited focus on recreation. Passive nature-based recreation and nature appreciation (day-use).	Focused on nature-based outdoor recreation and appreciation. May include easily accessible & less easily accessible areas. Typical uses are spontaneous & unstructured	Focused on diverse passive & intensive recreation, sport & leisure opportunities that are easily accessed. Typical uses are both structured and unstructured
Typical Visitation and Beneficiaries	**Afar** - Local, region-wide, short-haul & long-haul domestic visitors, long-haul international visitors	Limited visitation but may include local-afar depending on the area and significance.	Region-wide visitors, often drawing visitors from beyond (short-haul & long-haul domestic)	Local area residents

Park and Protected Area Characteristics	Provincial Parks/ Ecological Reserves/ Provincial Recreation Sites	Non-Government Organization Protected Areas	Regional Parks	Community/ Municipal Parks
Typical Amenities	**Extensive** e.g. visitor centres, auto accessible campgrounds, backcountry campgrounds, parking, signage, benches, picnic shelters, picnic tables, potable water, washroom & shower facilities, powerboat launches, concessions	**Limited** e.g. few trails or human access is limited, some wayfinding and interpretive signage, limited comfort amenities such as toilets and garbage disposal, mostly natural	**Limited** e.g. natural surfaced trails (multi-use, activity optimized), trailheads, parking lots, wayfinding signage, interpretive signage, benches, pit/vault toilets, shelters	**Extensive & Diverse** e.g. playground, sport fields, sport courts, spray parks, pathways, signage, public art, full-service washrooms, covered shelters, potable water / fountains, lighting, powerboat launches, specialty assets
Typical/relative Size	Large	Large – Medium	Medium – Large	Small – Medium
Funding (best practice)	Provincial Taxation	Private funding, grants and donations, endowments	Region-wide Taxation	Local Taxation

5.2.1 Conservation Significance

The RDCK is ecologically significant due to its diverse landscapes, which encompass multiple biogeoclimatic zones, including the Interior Cedar-Hemlock, Montane Spruce, and Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zones. These zones host unique ecosystems and species adapted to the distinct environmental conditions and topography of RDCK, from valleys to alpine areas, the region supports a wide range of flora and fauna, making it a biodiversity hotspot.

The RDCK contains critical habitats for species at risk (Figure 11), such as Grizzly Bears, Western Screech-Owls, Mountain Caribou, and The American Badger. These species rely on expansive landscapes, intact forests, grasslands and open forests, which are increasingly threatened by urban development and road mortality. Additionally, The Northern Leopard Frog, once widespread across western Canada, is now restricted to a few locations, with RDCK's wetlands providing vital habitat. Wetland degradation and invasive species have contributed to its drastic decline. In addition, Whitebark Pine is a key species at risk in the RDCK. This high-elevation tree species is essential for watershed stability and provides food for wildlife, such as Clark's Nutcracker and Grizzly Bears. However, it faces threats from white pine blister rust, climate change, and habitat loss, leading to its designation as endangered under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). Conservation initiatives in the area emphasize preserving old-growth forests, riparian zones, and wetland areas like the Columbia River Wetlands, one of North America's most significant wetland ecosystems, which provides essential habitat for migratory birds and aquatic species.

Common Threats to Conservation Values

- Residential & commercial development
  - » Tree cutting
  - » Fragmentation
  - » Groundwater alteration
- Climate change
  - » Drought
  - » Wildfire
  - » Heavy rainfall events
- Invasive Species
- Species Disturbance & Mortality
- Natural System Modification

Figure 11: Critical habitats for species at risk in the RDCK

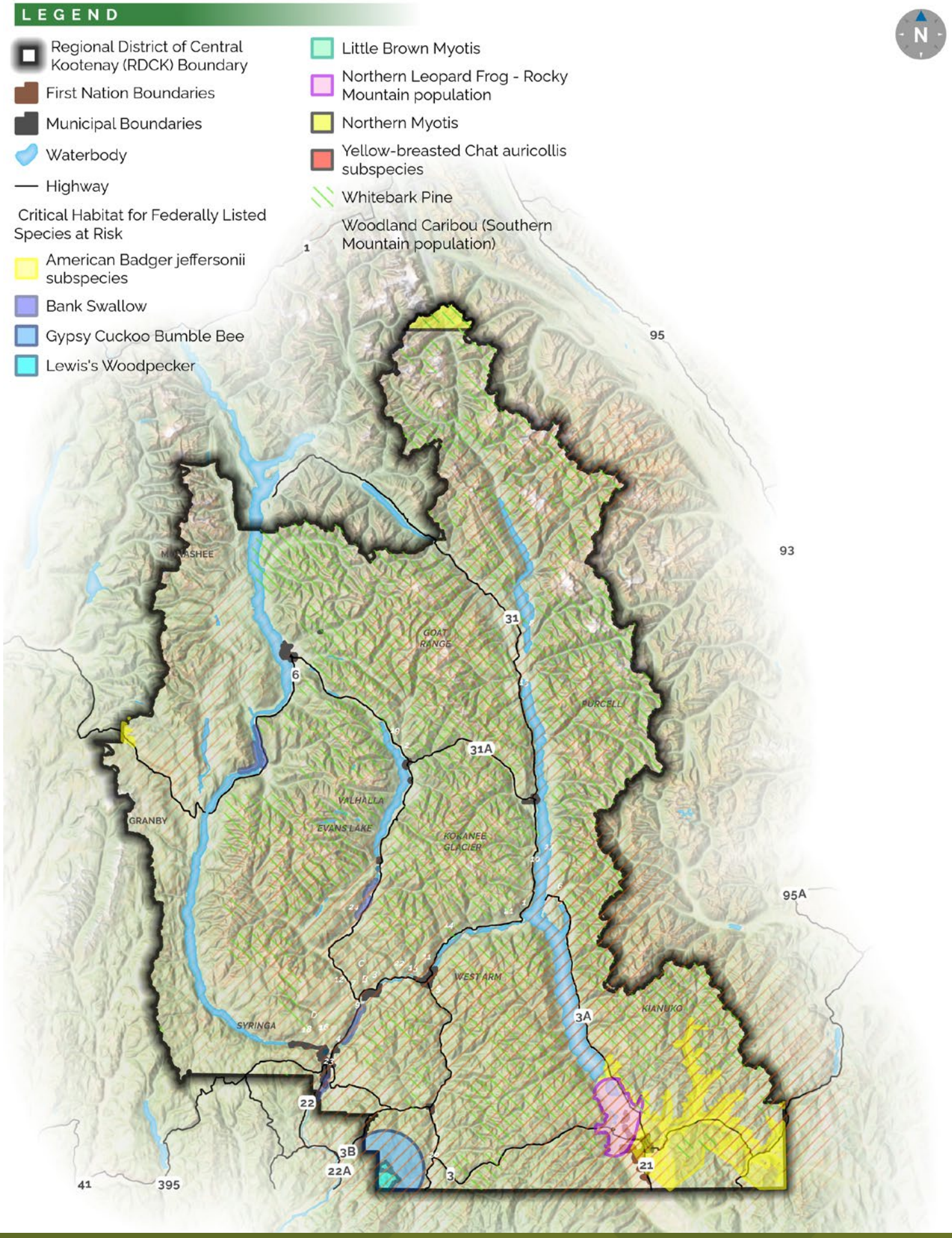


Figure 12: Conservation status and significance across the RDCK

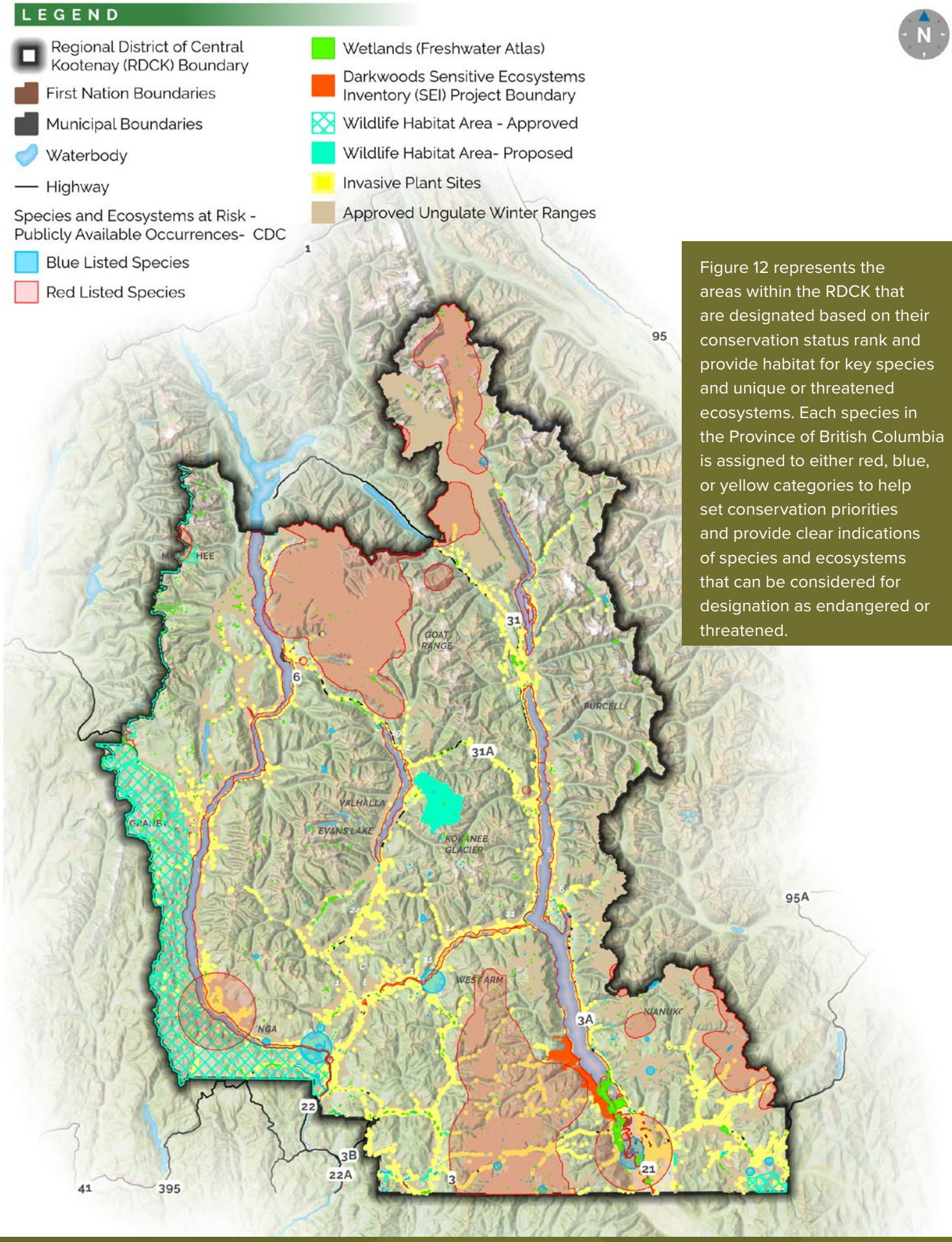


Figure 12 represents the areas within the RDCK that are designated based on their conservation status rank and provide habitat for key species and unique or threatened ecosystems. Each species in the Province of British Columbia is assigned to either red, blue, or yellow categories to help set conservation priorities and provide clear indications of species and ecosystems that can be considered for designation as endangered or threatened.

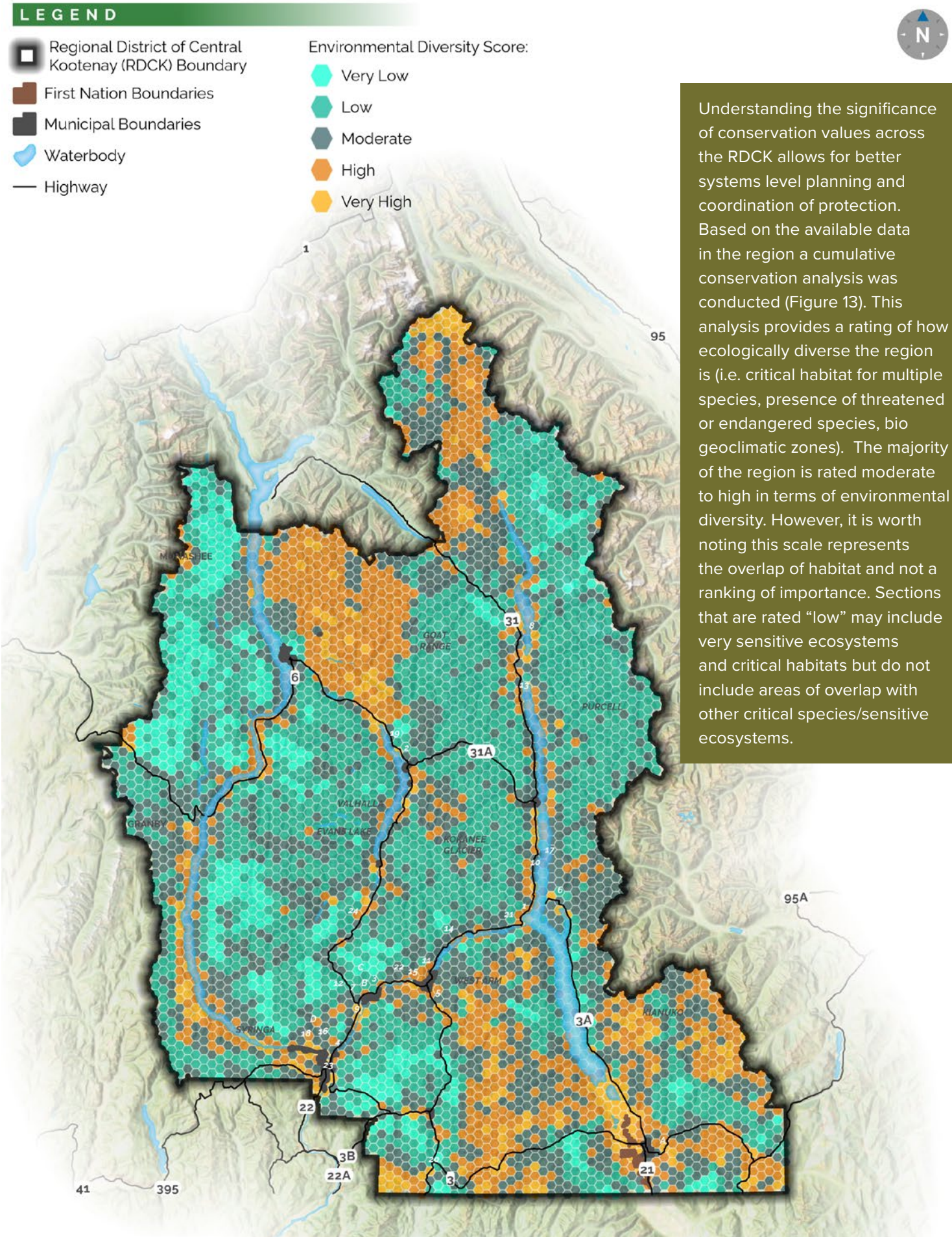
A significant portion of the region is listed as “red” (492,531 ha), suggesting that much of the land base in the RDCK is important habitat for threatened, endangered, or species at risk.

RDCK’s conservation strategies focus on habitat protection, sustainable land use, and ecosystem restoration. Collaborative efforts with Indigenous communities, environmental organizations, and local governments aim to maintain biodiversity, enhance ecological resilience, and protect the region’s natural heritage.



Image Source: RDCK

Figure 13: Environmental Density Evaluation



Understanding the significance of conservation values across the RDCK allows for better systems level planning and coordination of protection. Based on the available data in the region a cumulative conservation analysis was conducted (Figure 13). This analysis provides a rating of how ecologically diverse the region is (i.e. critical habitat for multiple species, presence of threatened or endangered species, bio geoclimatic zones). The majority of the region is rated moderate to high in terms of environmental diversity. However, it is worth noting this scale represents the overlap of habitat and not a ranking of importance. Sections that are rated “low” may include very sensitive ecosystems and critical habitats but do not include areas of overlap with other critical species/sensitive ecosystems.

5.3 SUPPLY, PROVISION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

The analysis of the RDCK regional parks and trails system was undertaken to provide insight into how well the network is meeting the needs and demands of residents across the RDCK and the priorities set forth in the policy direction



Image Source: RDCK

5.3.1 Supply and Provisioning

The current RDCK system of regional parks and trails includes 24 regional parks and 3 regional trails. Table 7 summarizes this system by land area; however, a detailed overview of each park can be found in Appendix A.

Table 7: Regional Park and Regional Trail Overview

Park and Protected Area Characteristics	YEAR ESTABLISHED	AREA (HA)
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	2012	4.7
2.Bigelow Bay Regional Park	2000	0.07
3.Bonnington Regional Park	1999	5.2
4.Brilliant Bridge Regional Park	2008	2.4
5.Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	1983	20.4
6.Crawford Creek Regional Park	2018	70.7
7.Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	2013	2.5
8.Glacier Creek Regional Park	1995	19
9.Glade Regional Park	2007	0.9
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park	2008	0.4
11. James Johnstone Regional Park	1989	1.8
12. Krestova Regional Park	2023	55.0
13. Lardeau Regional Park	2014	2.1
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park	2016	0.3
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park	2016	22.4
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail*	2005	223
17. Pass Creek Regional Park	1971	35.1
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail	2009	0.09
19. Riondel Regional Park	1991	0.9
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park	1999	0.6
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	2008	3.1
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)*	1996	51
24. Rosebud Lake Regional Park	1993	81.1
25. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	1988	23.8
26. Taghum Beach Regional Park	1991	5.9
27. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park	2012	4.1
28. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	1989	8.2
SYSTEM TOTAL		**648.1 ha**

**park expansion in 2025*

Outside of the formal regional parks system there are also other areas under RDCK regional parks management, Campell Field site and the Old School house playground and fitness centre. These sites are not currently regional parks but may become formal sites in the future or may be used for other recreation needs of the region in the future. An overview of each site is included in Appendix A.

Table 8: Km of trail within Regional Parks

Park and Protected Area Characteristics	KM of Trail (within the regional park)
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	0.9
2.Bigelow Bay Regional Park	0.0
3.Bonnington Regional Park	0.7
4.Brilliant Bridge Regional Park	0.6
5.Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	1.7
6.Crawford Creek Regional Park	4.2
7.Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	0.8
8.Glacier Creek Regional Park	1.2
9.Glade Regional Park	0.2
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park	0.2
11. James Johnstone Regional Park	0.3
12. Krestova Regional Park	0.0
13. Lardeau Regional Park	0.0
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park	0.1
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park	5.6
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail*	N/A
17. Pass Creek Regional Park	4.1
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail	N/A
19. Riondel Regional Park	0
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park	.1
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	1
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)*	N/A
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park	0
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	1.8
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park	.7
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park	1
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	1.3
SYSTEM TOTAL	**26.6km**

Additionally, as mentioned in section 5.1, there are more than 1000 km of trails across the RDCK that are not managed by the RDCK. Some of these trails are managed by partner municipalities in the region; some are within provincial sites (parks and recreation sites), and others are managed by non-profits such as Trails for Creston Valley and the Nelson Cycling Club. There are also trails located on private land such as the Whitewater Ski Resort.

Like the parks and trails system as a whole, the geographic distribution of regional parks varies significantly across the RDCK. Some electoral areas and municipalities have no regional parkland or regional trails, while others have hundreds of hectares. The following graphs summarize the regional park and regional trail provision by electoral area and municipality as well as the representation of that area per 1000 residents.

Figures 13 and 14 represent the distribution of regional parks and trail by area and per 1000 residents.

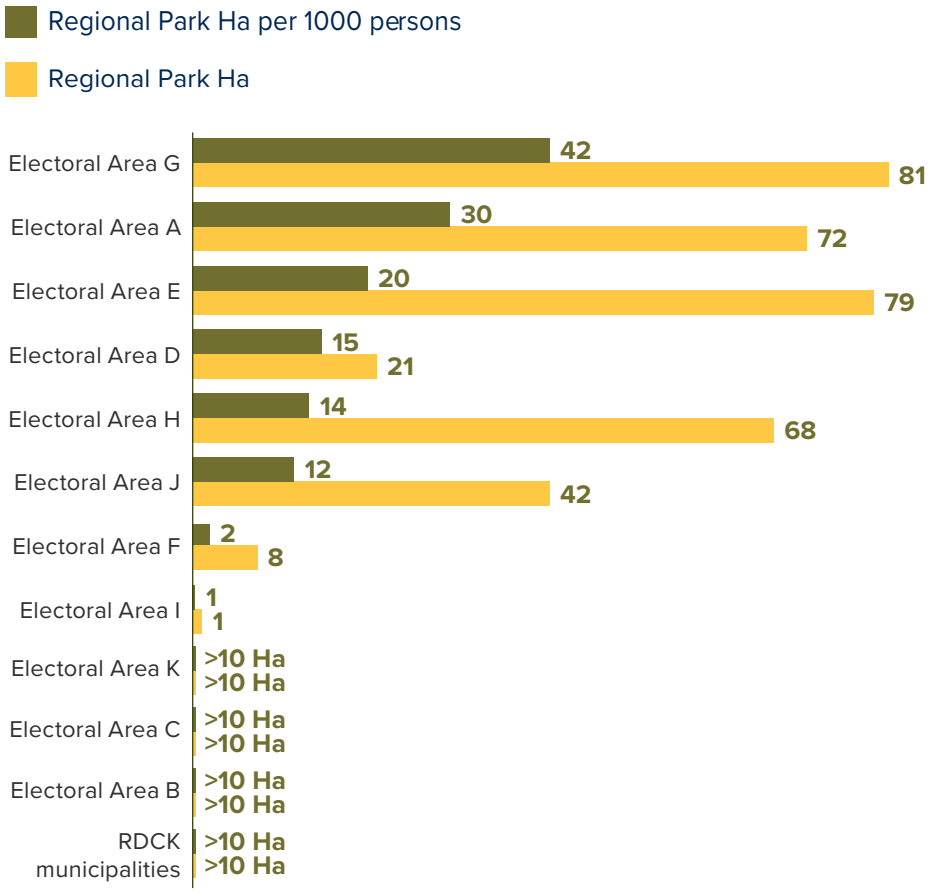


Figure 14: Regional Park Land

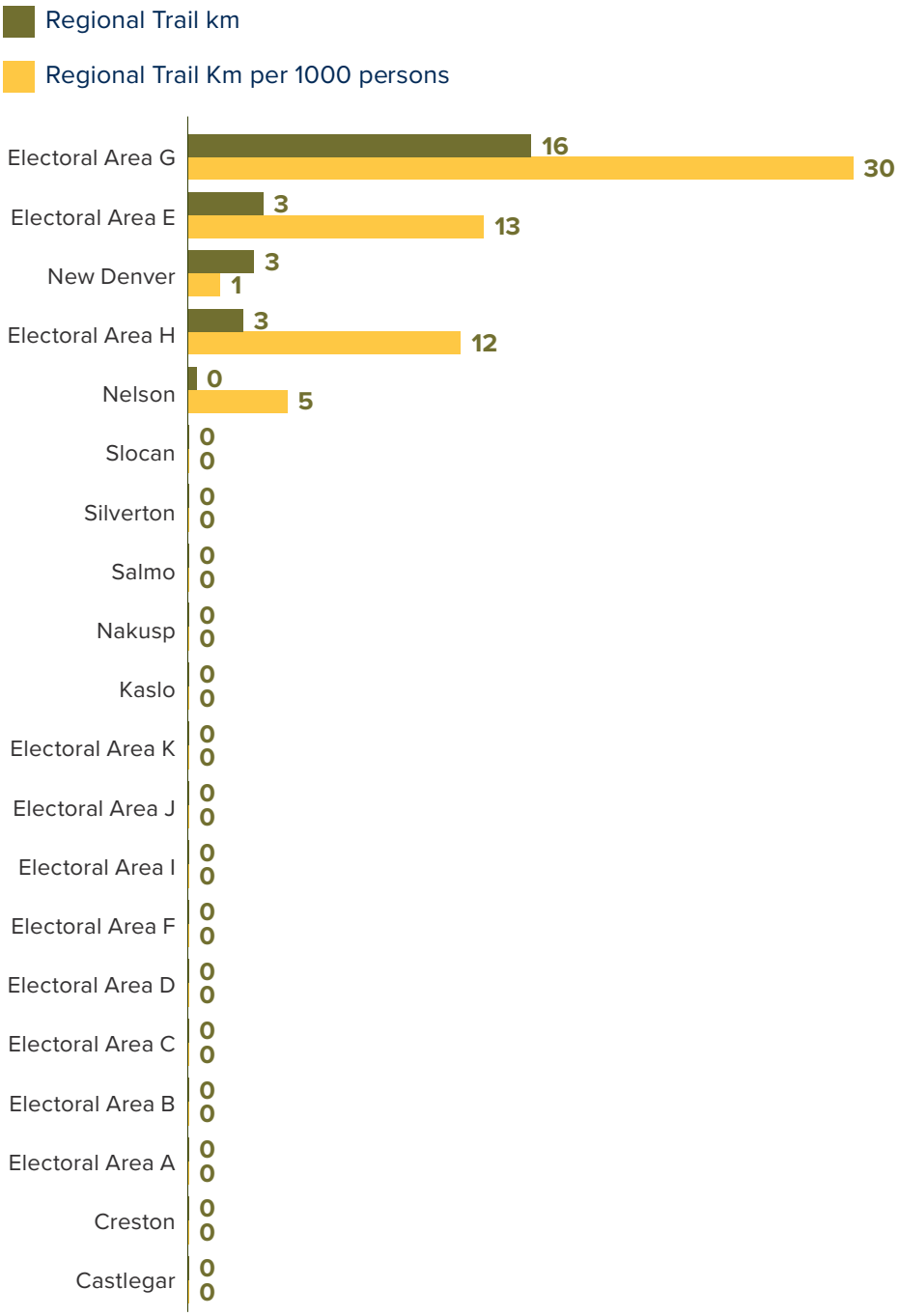


Figure 15: Regional Trail Distance

There are clearly gaps in the provision of regional parks and trails. Three electoral areas and every municipality except for one (New Denver) have no regional parks at all within their boundaries, and others have fewer than 10 hectares. Similarly, only 4 electoral areas and 2 municipalities in the RDCK have regional trails within their boundaries. However, as noted in section 5.1 the RDCK regional parks and trails are part of a much larger system of parks and protected areas that offer tremendous access to nature and outdoor recreation. Figure 16 highlights the distribution of "other" parks and protected areas throughout the RDCK (this does not include private land or municipal parks).

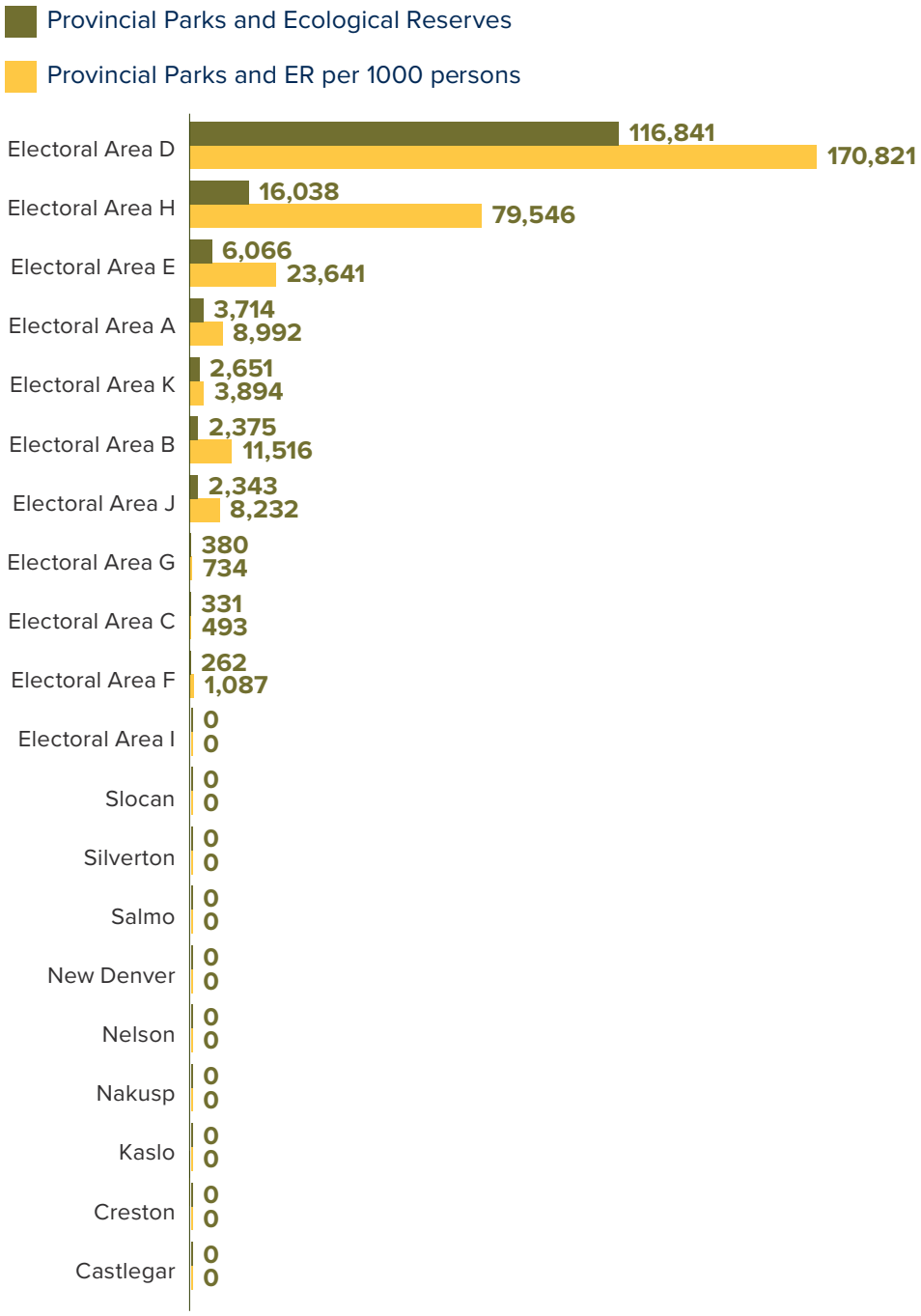


Figure 16: Land distribution of "other" parks and protected areas throughout the RDCK

Municipal and community parks also serve the residents of the RDCK and contribute to a system of connected green spaces and trails. Currently, no national guidelines exist for the amount of parkland needed per 1000 residents. However, the general guideline for park space provision is typically about 4 to 6 hectares per 1,000 residents . This can vary based on local government standards, community needs, geographic conditions, and city planning priorities. Some cities aim for higher ratios, especially if they emphasize outdoor recreation or have ample land available, while denser urban areas may have less space and aim for innovative approaches to maximize green areas.

Table 9 summarizes the municipal parkland base by the municipality. Currently the only municipality in the RDCK not meeting this threshold is Creston. It is worth noting that Creston is also without any regional parks and trails within municipal boundaries. However, the town of Creston is currently reviewing municipal parks through a town parks master plan.

Table 9: municipal parkland by municipality

MUNICIPALITY	# OF MUNICIPAL PARKS (APPROX)	MUNICIPALITY AREA IN HECTARES	PARK % OF MUNICIPAL LAND BASE	POP. 2021	TOTAL PARK POVIDED IN HECTARES	PARK PROVIDED # HA /1000 POP.)	PARK REQUIRED (4 HA /1000 POP.)*	DEFECIT (-) IN HECTARES	SURPLUS (+) IN HECTARES
Castlegar	16	1474	3.1	8,485	61.12	5.04	36.1		9.4
Creston	16	609	1.5	5,506	31.38	1.72	20.9	11.9	
Kaslo	6	301	1.6	786	4.9	0.93	3.9		1.0
Nakusp	5	120	1.4	1,904	17.1	15.13	4.5		12.6
Nelson	17	687	6.4	11,074	43.9	4.12	42.7		1.2
Salmo	5	244	6.7	768	15.93	14.28	4.6		11.7
New Denver	5	87	1.4	487	11.9	25.15	1.9		10
Silverton	8	35	11.4	391	18.72	20.51	0.8		3.2
Slocan	6	78	26.0	299	20.3	74.63	1.1		19.2
TOTAL	78	-	1.5 to 26	29700	220.35	-	116.5	SURPLUS	56.4

Finally, it is worth highlighting the extensive network of trails in the RDCK that add to the regional parks and trails system and provide residents with increased access to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities. Figure 17 highlights the distribution of all sanctioned and unsanctioned trails within the RDCK boundaries. From the figure below we can see a significant increase in access to trails across the region when all trail opportunities are included. However, it is important to note that there are significant gaps in the system and not all residents are provided with easy access to trails (as demonstrated below). The RDCK should work with their partners to ensure that the regional trail system is increased where needed. Additionally, the current system does not provide adequate cross-regional connectivity (there are few regional connections and meaningful active transportation corridors). In its current form the regional trails network is not meeting the stated objective in the current RDCK regional parks plan of minimizing travel time and costs across the region.

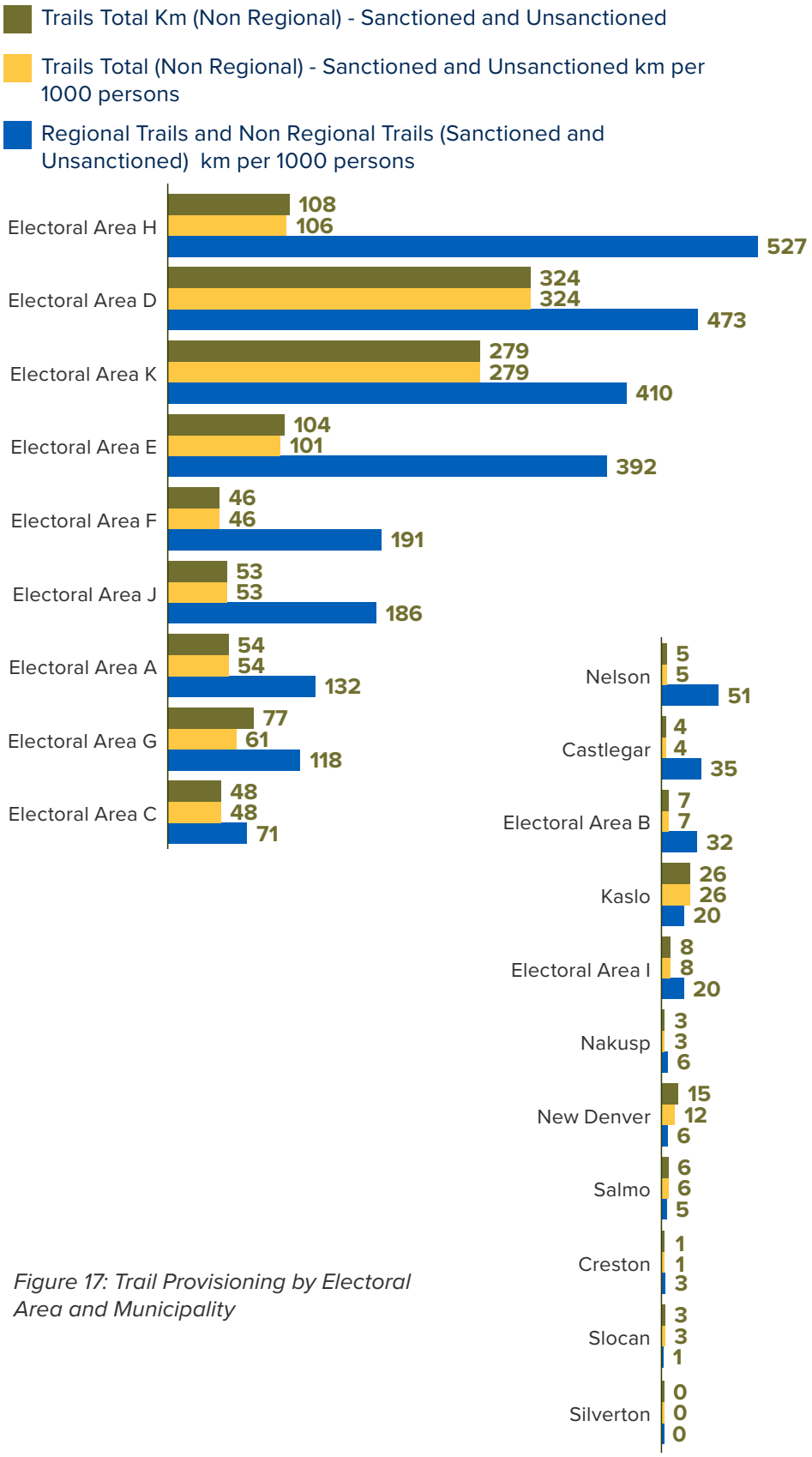


Figure 17: Trail Provisioning by Electoral Area and Municipality

5.3.2 Equity and Access

Using socio-economic data to better understand the population distribution across the entire RDCK overlayed with regional parks and trails spatial data provides an opportunity to see where there may be an inequitable distribution of parks, trails, and recreation spaces broadly. The Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD) is an area-based index developed by Statistics Canada to measure four key dimensions of deprivation at the dissemination area level: residential instability, economic dependency, situational vulnerability, and ethnocultural composition. Figure 17 outlines the dimensions and their corresponding indicators.

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION AND THEIR CORRESPONDING INDICATORS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2021

ETHNOCULTURAL COMPOSITION	SITUATIONAL VULNERABILITY	ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY	RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY
Proportion of the population self-identified as visible minority	Proportion of the population identified as indigenous	Proportion of population who are aged 65 and older	Proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings
Proportion of population that is foreign-born	Proportion of the population aged 25-64 without a high-school diploma	Proportion of population participating in the labour force (aged 15 and older) [1]	Proportion of persons living alone
Proportion of population with no knowledge of either official language (linguistic isolation)	Proportion of homes needing major repairs	Ratio of employment to population [1]	Proportion of dwellings that are owned [1]
Average number of persons per room	Proportion of single parent families	Dependency ratio (population aged 0-12 and population aged 65 and older divided by population aged 15-64)	Persons per square kilometer
Proportion of population with no religious affiliation	Median income [1]	Proportion of children younger than age 6	Proportion of movers within the past 5 years
	Median dollar value of dwelling [1]		
	Proportion of the population that is self-employed		

1. This indicator was reverse-coded, meaning it was coded opposite of the measure. For example, proportion of the population that is married or common-law becomes proportion of population that is single, divorced, separated or widowed.
Note: The dimensions are ordered such that the dimension on the left explains the highest percentage of the variance of the data and the dimension on the right explains the lowest percentage.
Source: Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation 2021, based on the 2021 Census of Population Long-Form.

Figure 18: Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD) Indicators

In order to understand the cumulative effect of the four key dimensions, a score combining the four dimensions using a natural break classification method was used to separate the data into 5 classes. This specific break class method segregates the data into natural groupings inherent in the data i.e. best groups similar values together and maximizes differences between the classes. This determines the very low, low, moderate, high and very high. Very High indicates that there is a high prevalence of deprivation, and very low indicates that there is a low prevalence of deprivation based on the indicators presented on the previous page. Based on this calculation the following scores represent the population of the RDCK.

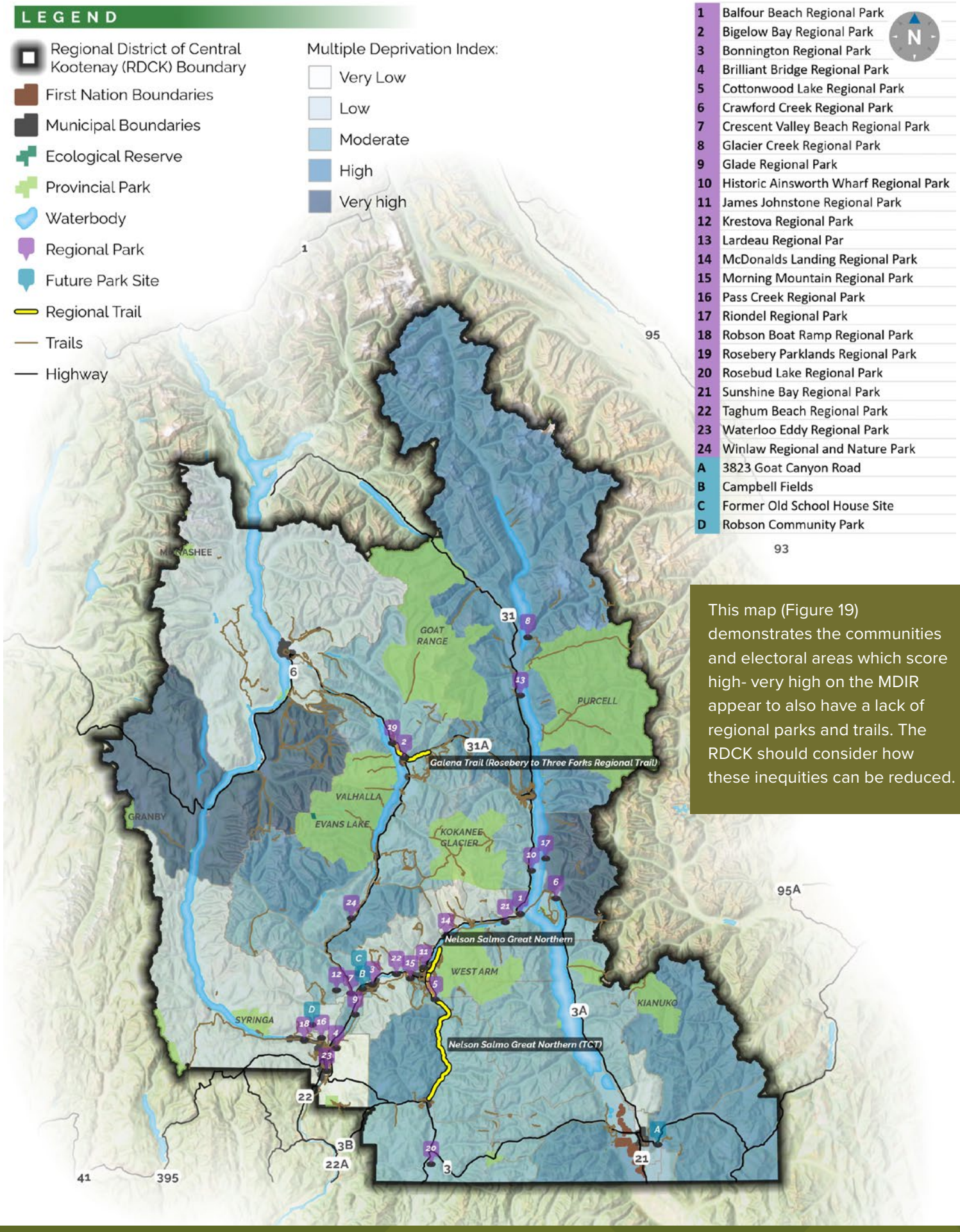
Table 10: Multiple Deprivation Index Ratings

Multiple Deprivation Index Ratings of the RDCK	
MDI Class	Percent of the RDCK Population
Very Low	12%
Low	20%
Moderate	35%
High	25%
Very High	7%



Image Source: RDCK

Figure 19: Multiple Deprivation Index Ratings



This map (Figure 19) demonstrates the communities and electoral areas which score high- very high on the MDIR appear to also have a lack of regional parks and trails. The RDCK should consider how these inequities can be reduced.

Easy access to parks is an important determinant of park visitation. While the quantity and provisioning of regional parks and trails is important, it is equally important to ensure that parks and outdoor recreation amenities are close to where residents live. The closer quality parks are to where residents live, the more likely it is that those parks will be used. Determining the proportion of residents that live within 1km (approx. 10-minute drive) of a park is a common performance metric and indicator of the accessibility and equity of the park system's distribution. The following table (Table 11) presents the number of households within a 1km, 5km, and 10km radius of each regional park and regional trail (this does not represent all households in the RDCK). Less than 10,000 households in the RDCK are within 1km of a regional park or trail (even less when calculating only a regional park). This represents only about 30% of households (according to the 2021 census data there are approximately 28,006 households with an average 2.2 people per household).

Table 11: households within a 1km, 5km, and 10km radius of Regional parks and trails

PARK	1km #Household	5km #Household	10km #Household
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	178	724	1242
2. Bigelow Bay Regional Park	322	644	816
3. Bonnington Regional Park	220	989	2720
4. Brilliant Bridge Regional Park	87	4276	6277
5. Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	3	646	5372
6. Crawford Creek Regional Park	101	543	1185
7. Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	97	1348	2731
8. Glacier Creek Regional Park	0	45	204
9. Glade Regional Park	170	789	2383
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park	66	271	1090
11. James Johnstone Regional Park	232	5259	6516
12. Krestova Regional Park	TBD		
13. Lardeau Regional Park	60	169	303
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park	332	949	2648
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park	169	3218	6476
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail	4401	7215	8224
17. Pass Creek Regional Park	611	3448	6320
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail	45	5230	6339
19. Riondel Regional Park	289	499	984
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park	441	2979	5953
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	103	226	872
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)	406	764	926
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park	4	4	112
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	365	804	1444

PARK	1km #Household	5km #Household	10km #Household
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park	208	885	6363
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park	100	1084	5530
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	167	587	857
Total			

5.4 VISITATION OVERVIEW

Visitation to RDCK Regional Parks and Trails varies across the region and has been summarized across each park and regional trail in Appendix A - Data Driven Pages.

5.5 OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND AMENITIES

Outdoor recreation is the voluntary participation in free-time activity that occurs in and about the outdoors and embraces the interaction of people with the natural environment. An outdoor recreation opportunity can be generally understood to be the ability for an individual to take part in their desired outdoor recreation activity at a desired level of difficulty, in a desired recreation setting, or in a desired landscape.

This definition makes it clear that the level of difficulty, the recreation setting, and the landscape are as foundational to an outdoor recreation opportunity as the activity itself. As an example, some residents in the region enjoy trail running on the easy to access, Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail. Others prefer to visit the Roseberry to Three Forks Regional Trail, where encounters with visitors and comfort amenities are minimal. While the activity is the same, the recreation setting and the landscape differ, creating an entirely different recreation opportunity for the visitor. While Regional Parks Staff do not currently undertake an outdoor recreation demand survey to understand resident demands for activities, settings or landscapes, this definition can be applied as a framework to examine and present the outdoor recreation opportunities available in the regional parks system today.

5.5.1 Outdoor Recreation Settings and Landscapes

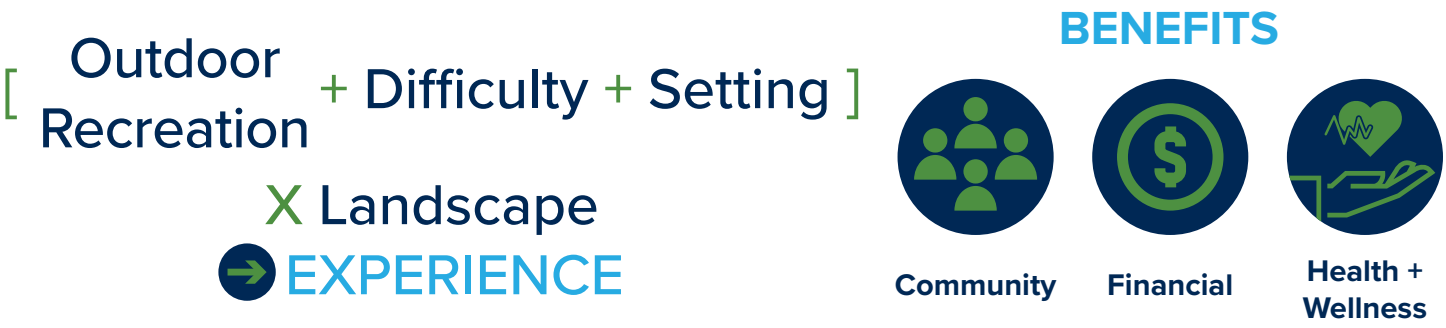


Figure 20: Components of an Outdoor Recreation Opportunity

The recreation setting and the landscape in which outdoor recreation activities take place are the foundations of an outdoor recreation opportunity. As such, it is necessary to understand the supply of recreation settings and landscapes included in the regional parks system.

Recreation Settings

A recreation setting is the combination of physical (e.g. remoteness, naturalness), social and managerial conditions that give value to a place for recreation purposes. Some visitors look to recreate in parks that provide remote backcountry areas that are natural, unmodified, challenging to access and where encounters with others, and comfort and convenience amenities are minimal or absent. On the other end of the spectrum, other visitors want to recreation in parks that are front country environments where access by vehicle or other means is easy, the presence of human development is obvious, and where encounters with other visitors are frequent and comfort amenities are provided. Other visitors seek a balance somewhere between the previous two setting. Ensuring, and actively managing for, the provision of a diversity of recreation settings increases the potential that outdoor recreation demands will be met. In general, recreation settings are typically described as one of the following :

Backcountry – Primitive

Backcountry – Semi Primitive

Mid-country

Front-country

Developed

Descriptions of each recreation setting are available in Appendix B.

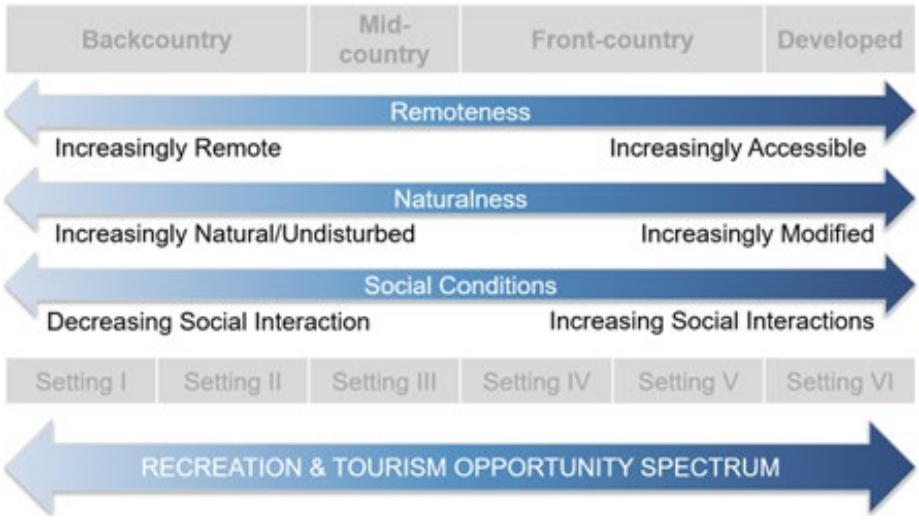
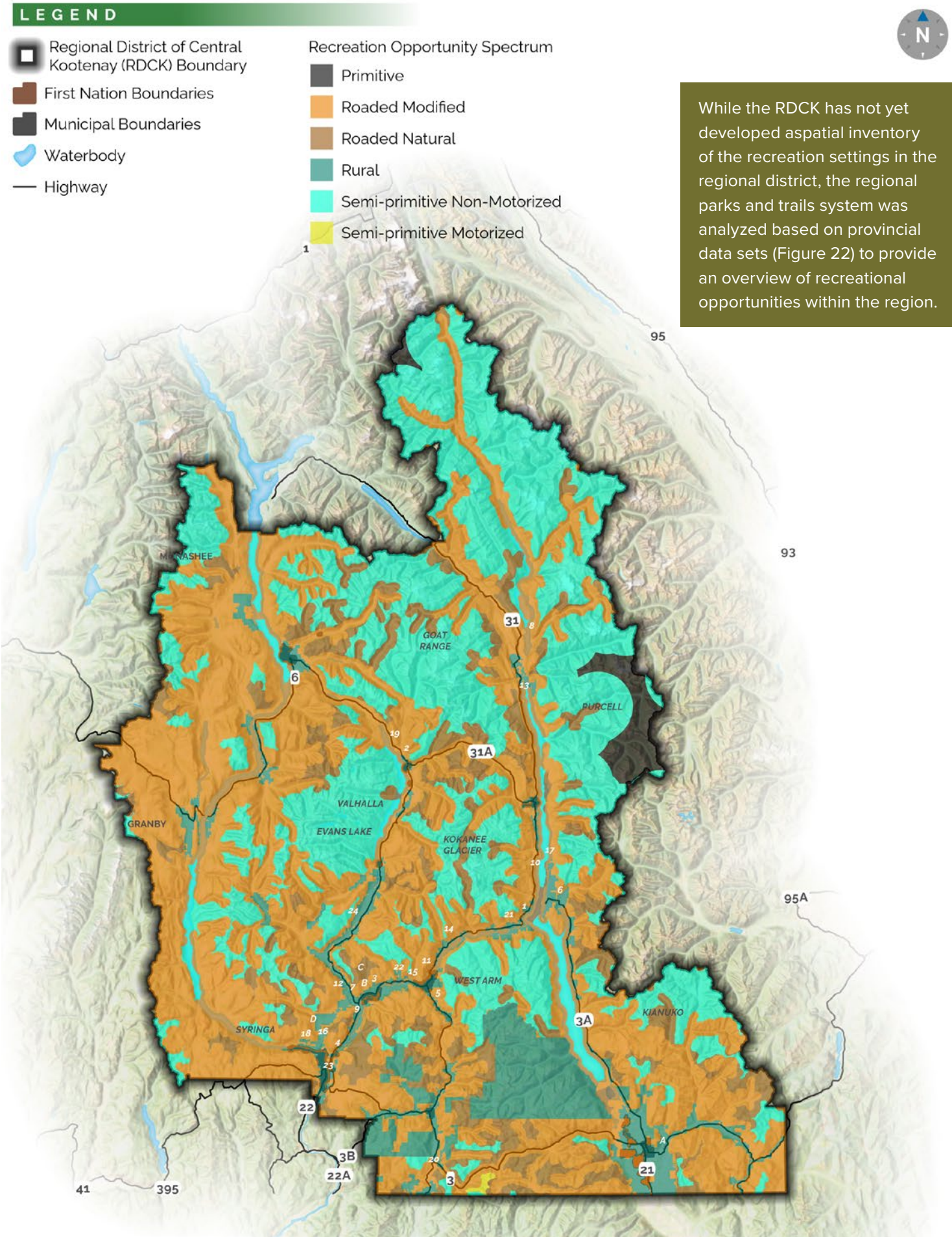


Figure 21: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Figure 22: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Distribution across the RDCK



While the RDCK has not yet developed aspatial inventory of the recreation settings in the regional district, the regional parks and trails system was analyzed based on provincial data sets (Figure 22) to provide an overview of recreational opportunities within the region.

This analysis suggests the following:

Table 12: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Distribution across the RDCK

ROS	Area Ha	% of the total RDCK land base
Primitive	32,549	1.4%
Roaded Modified	1,119,322	48.2%
Roaded Natural	226,904	9.8%
Rural	187,317	8.1%
Semi-primitive Motorized	1,593	0.1%
Semi-primitive Non-Motorized	756,027	32.5%
Grand Total	2,323,713	100.0%

5.5.2 Regional Parks and Trails Amenities

The regional parks system provides a broad range of outdoor recreation related infrastructure and amenities, including:

- Trails
- Day Use / Picnic Areas
- Firepits
- Campgrounds
- Exhibition grounds
- Equestrian facility
- Playgrounds
- Skateparks
- Sports fields and ball diamonds
- Outdoor ice rinks
- Cross country ski trails
- Manicured Beaches and Water Access Infrastructure (boat launches, fishing platforms, swimming areas)
- Comfort & Convenience Amenities (toilets, garbage bins, etc .)

In many cases, these assets are the foundation on which outdoor recreation opportunities are enabled (e.g. trails, campgrounds) and are what attracts visitors to the parks. In other cases, assets such as comfort and convenience amenities (e.g. toilets, parking areas, picnic tables, etc.) are not what attracts visitors to the parks, but their conditions and quality are critical to the comfort and convenience of visitors and therefore the quality of their experience.

The regional parks and trails themselves are also assets for outdoor recreation and community use. A Park Use Permit (PUP) is required for any organized event and use of RDCK park spaces , including events, large gatherings, or commercial activities. Applications must be submitted a minimum of 14 days in advance, with earlier submission recommended for complex or high-impact events. Permits are assessed based on potential impact to the park, alignment with park use objectives, and consistency with RDCK bylaws. Supporting documentation—such as insurance, site maps, or safety plans—may be required depending on event scope. Fees are applied based on the type of activity and user group (e.g., commercial, non-profit, or community use). Permits are not guaranteed and are issued at the discretion of staff following review. This policy ensures equitable access while protecting ecological and recreational values. This also helps the RDCK manage assets and provide needed maintenance and repairs as necessary. Currently, PUPs are intended for non-exclusive use of RDCK regional parks (with the exception of the concession and or kitchen at Sunshine Bay Regional Park and the shelter at Pass Creek Regional Park Campground). If exclusive use is requested, options include a Facility Use Agreement or Event Site License. Typically, these are done for larger events such as concerts, farmers markets etc.

Across all RDCK regional parks and trails there are 322 amenities. The most common amenities include parking areas, pit toilets, and boat launches. Table 13 provides a summary of all outdoor recreation related infrastructure and amenities in regional parks and trails. A spatial representation of this (i.e. where each amenity is located in each park) is available in Appendix A. While the below table highlights these essential regional assets there is currently no public facing inventory of this information.



Image Source: RDCK

Table 13: RDCK outdoor recreation related infrastructure and amenities

PARK	BOARDWALK(S)	BALL DIAMOND	BEACH	BIKE PARK or AREA	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT DOCK	FOOTBRIDGE/ TRESTLE	CAMPGROUND	EQUESTIRIAN FACILITIES	FIRE PITS	HAND LAUNCH	HERITAGE FEATRURE	LAKE , CREEK or RIVER	PARKING	PICNIC SHELTER	PLAYGROUND	TOILET (PIT)	NATURAL AREAS	TRAILS	TRAILS (ACCESSIBLE)	SKATEPARK	SPORTS FIELD	SPORTS COURTS	FISHING PLATFORM	SWIM PLATFORM	SWIM AREA (DEFINED)
1.Balfour Beach Regional Park			✓										✓					✓	✓							
2.Bigelow Bay Regional Park			✓								✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓	
3.Bonnington Regional Park		✓		✓										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
4.Brilliant Bridge Regional Park							✓					✓	✓						✓							
5.Cottonwood Lake Regional Park			✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
6.Crawford Creek Regional Park			✓								✓		✓	✓				✓	✓							
7.Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park			✓										✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
8.Glacier Creek Regional Park			✓		✓			x		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	
9.Glade Regional Park					✓	✓					✓		✓	✓												
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park											✓	✓	✓	✓										✓		
11. James Johnstone Regional Park										✓			✓				✓	✓	✓							

PARK	BOARDWALK(S)	BALL DIAMOND	BEACH	BIKE PARK or AREA	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT DOCK	FOOTBRIDGE/ TRESTLE	CAMPGROUND	EQUESTIRIAN FACILITIES	FIRE PITS	HAND LAUNCH	HERITAGE FEATRURE	LAKE , CREEK or RIVER	PARKING	PICNIC SHELTER	PLAYGROUND	TOILET (PIT)	NATURAL AREAS	TRAILS	TRAILS (ACCESSIBLE)	SKATEPARK	SPORTS FIELD	SPORTS COURTS	FISHING PLATFORM	SWIM PLATFORM	SWIM AREA (DEFINED)
12. Krestova Regional Park																		✓	✓							
13. Lardeau Regional Park			✓		✓						✓		✓	✓				✓								
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park			✓			✓					✓		✓		✓											
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park				✓										✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail							✓							✓				✓	✓	✓	✓					
17. Pass Creek Regional Park		✓						✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail														✓				✓	✓							
19. Riondel Regional Park		✓																				✓				
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park					✓	✓							✓													
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park			✓								✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							

PARK	BOARDWALK(S)	BALL DIAMOND	BEACH	BIKE PARK or AREA	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT DOCK	FOOTBRIDGE/ TRESTLE	CAMPGROUND	EQUESTIRIAN FACILITIES	FIRE PITS	HAND LAUNCH	HERITAGE FEATRURE	LAKE , CREEK or RIVER	PARKING	PICNIC SHELTER	PLAYGROUND	TOILET (PIT)	NATURAL AREAS	TRAILS	TRAILS (ACCESSIBLE)	SKATEPARK	SPORTS FIELD	SPORTS COURTS	FISHING PLATFORM	SWIM PLATFORM	SWIM AREA (DEFINED)
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)							✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park													✓	✓				✓	✓							
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park			✓							✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park					✓						✓		✓	✓				✓								
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	✓		✓								✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
SYSTEM TOTAL	1	4	12	3	6	4	3	2	2	6	13	3	20	20	9	3	13	21	20	7	1	4	2	3	2	1

5.6 OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

A wide variety of nature-based outdoor recreation activities currently occur in regional parks. Outdoor recreation activities occurring in in regional parks can be grouped into one of the following activity categories:

Camping

- Frontcountry / auto accessible camping

Trail Activities

- Hiking/running/walking
- On and off-leash dog walking
- Equestrian

Motorized Recreation

- ATV
- Snowmobile
- Dirt Bike

Cycling (including class 1, 2,3 e-bikes)

- Road Biking
- Gravel Biking
- Mountain Biking (downhill, enduro, cross Country)
- Fat Biking
- Adaptive Mountain Biking (aMTB)

Water Activities

- Swimming
- Rowing
- Paddling (canoes, kayak, Paddle Board)
- Sailing
- Powerboating
- Beach access

Fishing

- Fly and Spin

Snow Activities

- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Ice Skating

Other

- Wildlife Viewing
- Photography
- Geocaching
- Picnicking/Day Use
- Sports based
  - » Softball/baseball
  - » Sports field based
  - » Sport court based
  - » Skateboarding

Regional parks, trails, and water access areas provide these activities at differing levels based on location, amenities, and community need/interest. However, the most common activities include nature appreciation, bird watching, and picnicking which can be done in every site (with the exception of 3 sites that do not accommodate picnicking), followed by dog walking, which is accommodated in 23 sites, walking/running can be done in 22 sites, and fishing, which can be accessed in 19 RDCK sites. Additionally, swimming, boating, and beach access is available in approximately 17 sites (2 of which do not provide beach access). Currently, only 1 RDCK site allows for sanctioned motorized recreation use (Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail). Table 14 highlights the variety of outdoor recreation activities visitors can participate in across the RDCK system of parks, trails, and water access areas.

Table 14: Outdoor Recreation Activity Listings

PARK	ATV or DIRT BIKING	BEACH ACTIVITIES	BIIKING (GRAVEL TRAIL)	BIKING (MOUNTAIN)	BIRD WATCHING	CAMPING	CANOE, KAYAK or SUP	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	DOG WALKING	FISHING	HORSEBACK RIDING	ICE SKATING	INTERPRETIVE INFO	MOTORIZED BOATING	NATURE APPRECIATION	PICKNICKING	SKATEBOARDING	SPORT COURT ACTIVITIES	SPORT FIELD ACTIVTIES	SNOWSHOE/ FATBIKING	SOFTBALL or BASEBALL	SWIMMING	WALKING/ RUNNING
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
2. Bigelow Bay Regional Park		✓			✓		✓			✓					✓	✓						✓	
3. Bonnington Regional Park				✓	✓				✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
4. Brilliant Bridge Regional Park			✓		✓				✓				✓		✓								✓
5. Cottonwood Lake Regional Park		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
6. Crawford Creek Regional Park		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
7. Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓							
8. Glacier Creek Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
9. Glade Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park					✓		✓			✓					✓	✓							
11. James Johnstone Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
12. Krestova Regional Park				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				✓	✓							✓
13. Lardeau Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park				✓	✓				✓			✓			✓	✓				✓			✓

PARK	ATV or DIRT BIKING	BEACH ACTIVITIES	BIIKING (GRAVEL TRAIL)	BIKING (MOUNTAIN)	BIRD WATCHING	CAMPING	CANOE, KAYAK or SUP	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	DOG WALKING	FISHING	HORSEBACK RIDING	ICE SKATING	INTERPRETIVE INFO	MOTORIZED BOATING	NATURE APPRECIATION	PICKNICKING	SKATEBOARDING	SPORT COURT ACTIVITIES	SPORT FIELD ACTIVTIES	SNOWSHOE/ FATBIKING	SOFTBALL or BASEBALL	SWIMMING	WALKING/ RUNNING
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓						✓	✓	✓						✓
17. Pass Creek Regional Park		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail					✓				✓						✓								✓
19. Riondel Regional Park					✓										✓	✓			✓				✓
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park										✓				✓	✓								
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓				✓			✓
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park					✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓							
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park					✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓						✓	✓
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓						✓	✓
SYSTEM TOTAL	1	15	5	7	26	2	17	5	23	29	3	3	3	6	27	24	1	2	4	2	3	15	22

5.6.1 Outdoor Education and Nature Based Programming

Nature interpretation, outdoor education and cultural programming are educational activities which aims to reveal meanings and relationships between humans and the natural environment through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media rather than simply to communicate factual information. Interpretive programs have been shown to enhance park visitors' enjoyment, increase knowledge of natural and cultural resources, and promote stewardship behaviours (both in and out of parks). Currently the RDCK supports the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre through the Kootenay Conservation Program, as the only outdoor education program in the RDCK. However, the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre is not located with an RDCK Regional Park. While this nature education centre is vital to the region there are no regional park run nature-based or stewardship programs. There are significant opportunities to enhance partnerships with community member, volunteer groups, and schools to strengthen outdoor education and nature-based programming within RDCK regional parks and trails.



Image Source: RDCK

5.7 VISITOR EXPERIENCE THEMES

The visitor experiences currently authorized or occurring within the regional parks system are generally categorized as follows:

- Trail Experiences
- Water Experiences
  - » Boating
  - » Swimming
  - » Water Access
- Day Use and Picnic Areas
- Camping (front country)

Each regional park was assessed to identify the primary and sanctioned visitor experience theme(s) that are provided in each park (Table 15). Visitor experience themes are also included in Appendix A (Data Driven Pages)

Primary Visitor Experience Theme

The primary grouping of visitor activity(s) to which the park's natural characteristics and/or or built infrastructure, features and amenities are optimized to support.

Table 15: Visitor Experience Themes

ROS	BEACH	BOAT LAUNCH	CAMPGROUND	PLAYGROUND	SPORTSFIELD	TRAILS	WHARF	VIEWING PLATFORM
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	✓					✓		
2. Bigelow Bay Regional Park	✓					x		
3. Bonnington Regional Park				✓	✓	✓		
4. Brilliant Bridge Regional Park						✓		✓
5. Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	✓					✓		
6. Crawford Creek Regional Park	✓					✓		
7. Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	✓					✓		
8. Glacier Creek Regional Park	✓		✓					
9. Glade Regional Park		✓						
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park							✓	
11. James Johnstone Regional Park	✓					✓		
12. Krestova Regional Park						✓		

ROS	BEACH	BOAT LAUNCH	CAMPGROUND	PLAYGROUND	SPORTSFIELD	TRAILS	WHARF	VIEWING PLATFORM
13. Lardeau Regional Park		✓						
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park							✓	
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park						✓		
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail						✓		
17. Pass Creek Regional Park			✓	✓	✓	✓		
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail						✓		
19. Riondel Regional Park					✓			
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park		✓						
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	✓					✓		
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)						✓		
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park						✓		
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park	✓					✓		
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park						✓		
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	✓			✓		✓		
SYSTEMS TOTAL	11	4	2	3	4	20	3	1

Summary of Visitor Experience Themes

The analysis of visitor experience themes suggests the following:

- The regional parks system contains a significant supply of beach and water access experiences.
- Trails are the most frequent visitor theme offered across Regional Parks.
- Some gaps in recreation exists as there are few or no regional parks and trails offering the following visitor experiences:
  - » Backcountry camping (multi-day hiking experiences)
  - » Rock climbing
  - » Motorized recreation (only allowed on 1 regional trail)

5.8 ACCESSIBLE & ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

A disability is defined by the Government of Canada as “any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society” While the proportion of the RDCK population that is living with a disability is not available nor are their insights on their recreation preference or demands, anyone, at any time, could become a member of the disability community, and most people will experience a disability at some point in their life.

Access to parks, trails and water areas for outdoor recreation can have a powerful positive impacts on the mental, emotional and physical health and quality of life of participants. However, people living with disabilities tend to have less equitable and inclusive access to park spaces than those that do not live with a disability. People living with disabilities often face barriers that prevent them from being able to enjoy parks like others do, and some prevent them from being able to enjoy these services entirely. Barriers to accessing these essential services further contributes to the inequities that people with disabilities face in other aspects of their life such as housing, health care and employment.

Meeting the diverse demands for accessible and adaptive outdoor recreation opportunities in the RDCK requires a deliberate, coordinated, and well planned “systems approach”, that involves all park management agencies in the region. Each park management agency in the RDCK has differing strategic objectives and priorities and service delivery, accessible and adaptive outdoor recreation opportunities and programs will vary between municipal, regional and provincial parks. Accessible and adaptive outdoor recreation opportunities are currently available in the regional parks system and include trails and picnic areas. However, while not an RDCK regional park, Lakeside Park (City of Nelson) does provide accessible water access through a mobi-mat.

Disability

Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication, or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.

Barrier

Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of persons with a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or functional

Accessible British Columbia Act - The Accessible British Columbia Act became law in June 2021. The intent of the Act is to make British Columbia more accessible. The Accessible British Columbia Regulation was passed in 2022 and identifies the public sector organizations that's have to comply with the Act. In accordance with section 3(b) of the regulation, the provisions of the Act apply to Regional Districts. In accordance with the Act, prescribed organizations, such as Regional Districts, are required to establish 1) and accessibility committee (representation direction is provided), 2) an accessibility plan (does not have to be submitted to the province for review but should be made public) and 3) a tool and process to receive feedback on the accessibility plan and barriers to accessibility. The province, through the work of the Provincial Accessibility Committee, is preparing accessibility standards. Accessibility standards will outline the rules government and organizations must follow to remove barriers for a wide range of areas including, but not limited to, the built environment such as buildings, places and spaces (e.g. parks, trails and related infrastructure).

The RDCK is embracing diversity and promoting inclusivity with the formation of the both the Recreation Inclusion and Access Committee (RIAC) and the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee (RACC). The RIAC committee works to create a more inclusive and welcoming recreational landscape by identifying and breaking down barriers to ensure everyone has the ability to enjoy and access recreational services throughout the district. In addition, the RDCK recently created the RACC to advise and support any of the municipalities within the regional district who are unable to form their own accessibility advisory committees. These combined committees meet the requirements in accordance with the Accessibility British Columbia Act and demonstrate the RDCK's commitment to access and inclusion.

Accessible Outdoor Recreation Opportunities – allow a person living with a disability to independently experience the park and its facilities without the need for assistance or specialized adaptive equipment. Accessible outdoor recreation opportunities rely on the application of universal design principles to ensure that park infrastructure (e.g. trails, quiet contemplative areas, viewpoints), as well as comfort and convenience amenities (e.g. toilets, signs, benches, picnic shelters, parking areas, waste receptacles) and any services provided (e.g. programming, website registration etc.), are accessible and meet the needs and abilities of people living with disabilities (e.g. mobility, cognitive, visual, hearing). The provision of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities typically requires physical modification of park spaces and infrastructure to ensure that the park can be experienced independently using standard equipment and devices that are readily provided / available to the individual. Accessible outdoor recreation opportunities can be limited in diversity and range of challenge levels.

Adaptive Outdoor Recreation - Where accessible nature-based outdoor recreation focuses on modifying the physical park space and infrastructure to meet the needs of people with disabilities, adaptive outdoor recreation focuses on adapting the individual's abilities to enjoy the park space as it is, through the use adaptive equipment and supports. Adaptive equipment and supports are used to make it easier / possible for visitors with a disability to participate in the outdoor recreation activity. Adaptive nature-based outdoor recreation can enable people living with disabilities to experience a greater diversity of outdoor activities, at a greater range of technical difficulties, and a broader range of recreation settings than accessible nature-based outdoor recreation. However, it is important to recognize that adaptive nature-based outdoor recreation still requires the availability of accessible visitor comfort and convenience amenities (e.g. toilets, benches, picnic shelters, parking areas, waste receptacles) to ensure basic dignity and independence.



Insights from the National Trail Accessibility Survey

- Individuals with a disability use trails regularly, with 52% of respondents using trails monthly and 39% using trails weekly.
- The duration of trail outings varies from 30 minutes or less up to multi-day excursions. 57% of respondent's trail outings last 1-3 hours while 35% last 30 minutes to 1 hour. 5% of respondents spend fewer than 30 minutes while 3% spend more than 3 hours per trail outing. This suggests that trail systems must afford diversity in the length of trail outings with most of the supply being focused on outings that are between 30 minutes to 3 hours in length.
- A lack of information is one of, if not the, most significant barrier that people with disabilities face in deciding whether to recreate on trails, 56% of respondents indicated that detailed information about the trail's width, slope, and surface was the most important information to have. Use of designations such as "Accessible Trail" or a level of challenge rating scale (e.g. easy, intermediate, difficult) rated much lower in importance (23% and 17% respectively).

5.9 TOURISM, PERMITS, & SPECIAL EVENTS

Regional Parks and Trails are important for tourism, community, social cohesion, ecosystem health, human well-being and more. Considering the diversity of use within the regional parks and trails system is essential for the RDCK to effectively and responsibly support nature-based tourism and special event. Currently, special events and commercial use require permits to operate/ occur within a RDCK regional park or on a regional trail (see section 4.1 for a summary of the Park Use Permit Guidelines, Facility Use Agreements, and Event Site Licenses). However, there is currently a lack of data and monitoring of special events and key tourism drivers. Several RDCK parks—such as the Great Northern Rail Trail, Crescent Valley Beach, and Pass Creek Regional Park—see seasonal increases in visitation due to their appeal for swimming, hiking, biking, or day-use recreation, particularly among regional tourists and visitors. However, these are informal and not promoted as organized tourism offerings by the RDCK at the regional level. There are significant opportunities to work with community groups and regional tourism partners to enhance special events and promote responsible tourism in the region.

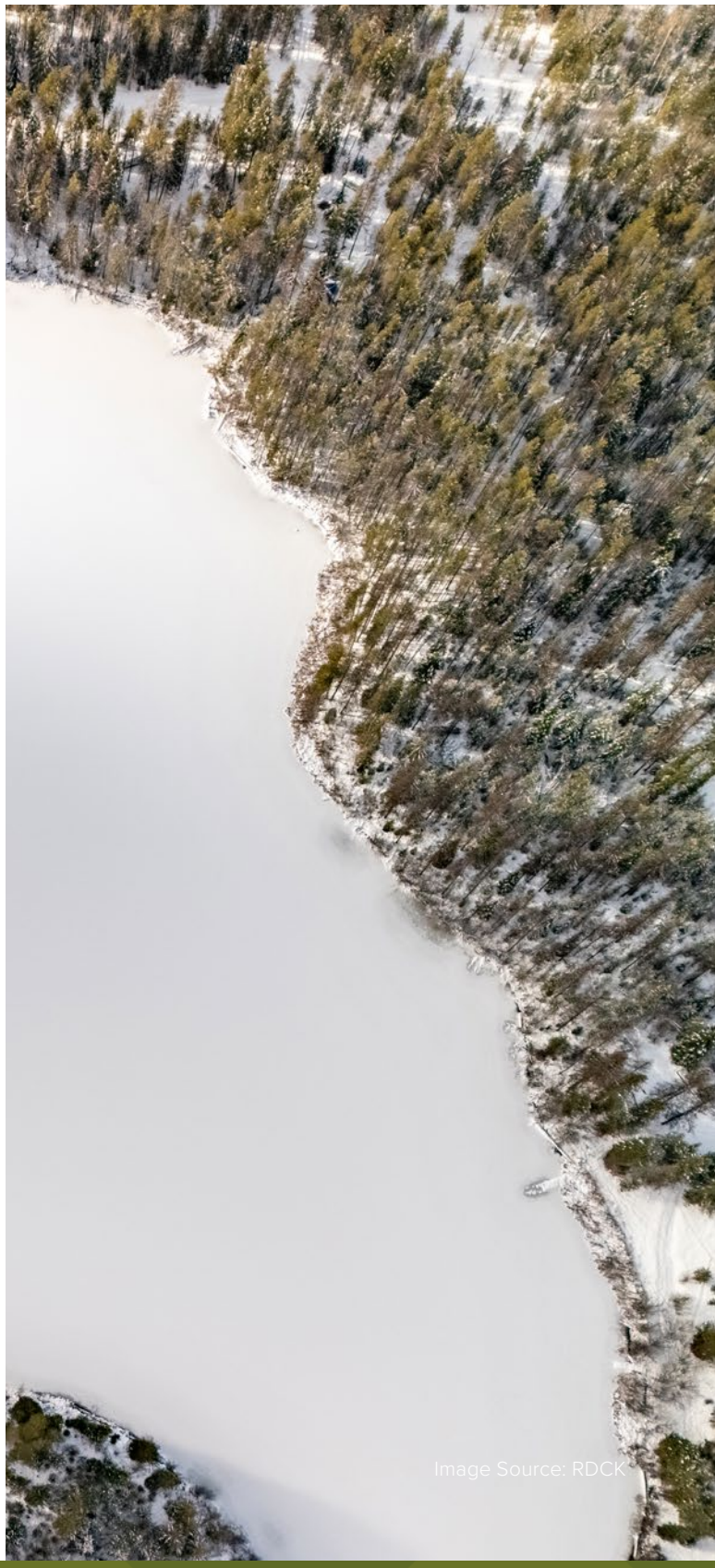
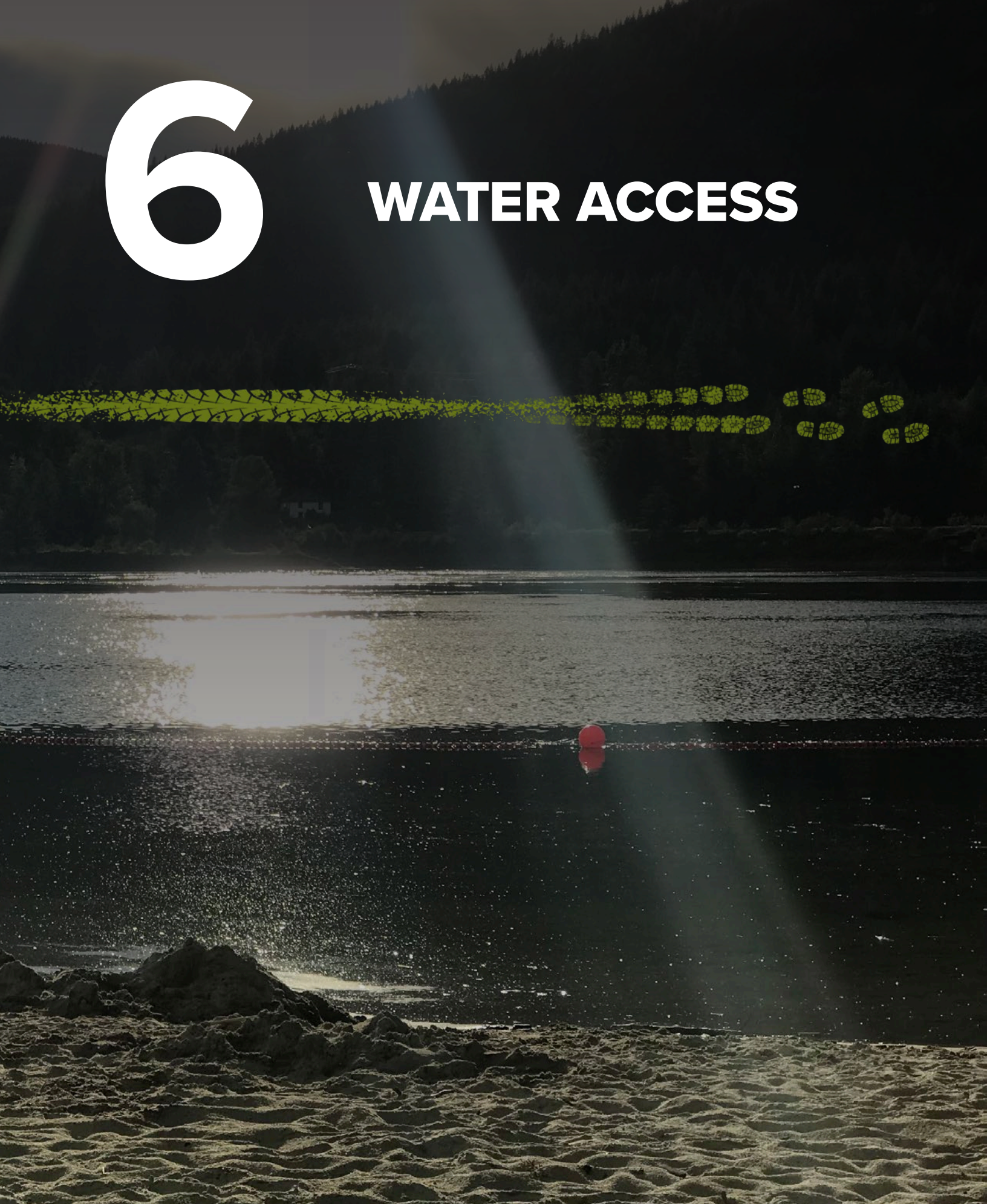


Image Source: RDCK

5.10 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- The RDCK parks system is part of a broader network, covering just 1% of the region's parks but providing core recreational services and nature access for local communities.
- Currently there is no public facing regional park, trail, or water access asset inventory . This results in the public not knowing what the current system offers and therefore may be under utilized. Further, this lack of inventory and public awareness may negatively influence the park permit procedures as not available information is readily available to park users/permit holders.
- RDCK parks and trails currently emphasize nature-based outdoor recreation and while recent land acquisitions have recognized and prioritized conservation values, there may be additional opportunities to protect and conserve environmentally significant areas along with cultural heritage and Indigenous values.
- The RDCK's collaboration with conservation organizations and Indigenous communities can strengthen ecological preservation, enhancing biodiversity and cultural values.
- There is currently minimal formal outdoor education or stewardship programming in RDCK regional parks. Yet, visitor and resident interest in environmental protection and reconciliation is rising. There is significant opportunity to integrate cultural and ecological education, volunteerism, and place-based learning into park design, management, and programming. There are no RDCK-operated outdoor education programs within regional parks. Existing nature interpretation efforts (e.g., Kokanee Creek Nature Centre) are not located in regional parks. This represents a key area for collaboration with educators, conservation groups, and Indigenous partners to develop regionally relevant interpretive programming and stewardship initiatives.
- While some RDCK regional parks and trails serve as informal destinations for tourism and events, these uses are not actively managed or promoted. With enhanced partnerships and programming, these parks could support economic development and community connection through nature-based tourism, cultural festivals, and recreational events.





6 WATER ACCESS

Within the RDCK there are There are 29 major water bodies with 1,389 km of lake perimeter. Water access areas play an important role in communities throughout the RDCK. These areas provide spaces for healthy recreational activities for people of all ages, allowing individuals to connect with nature and appreciate their natural environment. They offer communities a place to socialize and connect. In Canada, the foreshore is considered a public space, and residents of the RDCK take great pride in the many water access points available for enjoyment. However, challenges exist in maintaining a balance between public access and private, waterfront development.

The RDCK provides water access in 18 of the 24 regional parks (Roseberry to Three Forks Regional Trail is along the water but does not provide managed water access). These 18 sites provide a combination of beach activities such as swimming, non-motorized boating such as stand-up paddle boarding or kayaking, fishing, and motorized boating. Table 16 highlights which regional parks provide water access and what types of access are available.

Table 16: Water Access site within RDCK Regional Parks

ROS	BEACH	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT DOCK	HAND LAUNCH	LAKE or RIVER	FISHING PLATFORM	SWIM PLATFORM	SWIM AREA (DEFINED)
1. Balfour Beach Regional Park	✓				✓			
2. Bigelow Bay Regional Park	✓			✓	✓		✓	
3. Bonnington Regional Park								
4. Brilliant Bridge Regional Park					✓			
5. Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	✓			✓	✓	✓		
6. Crawford Creek Regional Park	✓			✓	✓			
7. Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	✓				✓			
8. Glacier Creek Regional Park	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
9. Glade Regional Park		✓	✓	✓	✓			
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park				✓	✓	✓		
11. James Johnstone Regional Park					✓			
12. Krestova Regional Park								
13. Lardeau Regional Park	✓	✓		✓	✓			
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park	✓		✓	✓	✓			
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park								
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail								
17. Pass Creek Regional Park								
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail								
19. Riondel Regional Park								

ROS	BEACH	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT DOCK	HAND LAUNCH	LAKE or RIVER	FISHING PLATFORM	SWIM PLATFORM	SWIM AREA (DEFINED)
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park		✓	✓		✓			
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	✓			✓	✓			
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)					✓			
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park					✓			
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park	✓			✓	✓			✓
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park		✓		✓	✓			
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	✓			✓				
SYSTEMS TOTAL	12	6	4	13	19	3	2	1

The majority of water access areas in the RDCK are unmanaged. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) creates public access routes to the shoreline at the time of land subdivision, pursuant to the Land Title Act, Section 75(1) (c) and (d). As part of the subdivision process, developers are generally required to dedicate a 20m wide water access point every 200 to 400m, depending on the size of the lots. These access points are shown as public rights-of-way (ROW) on subdivision plans, though a road may not actually be constructed. Because it is unclear who is responsible for making improvements to these unique water access ROWs, many of them are not fulfilling their primary function of providing access to the water. In addition, the RDCK also has non-profit societies and private business managing water access areas. However, again, these areas are sometime not formally managed or do not provide public access.

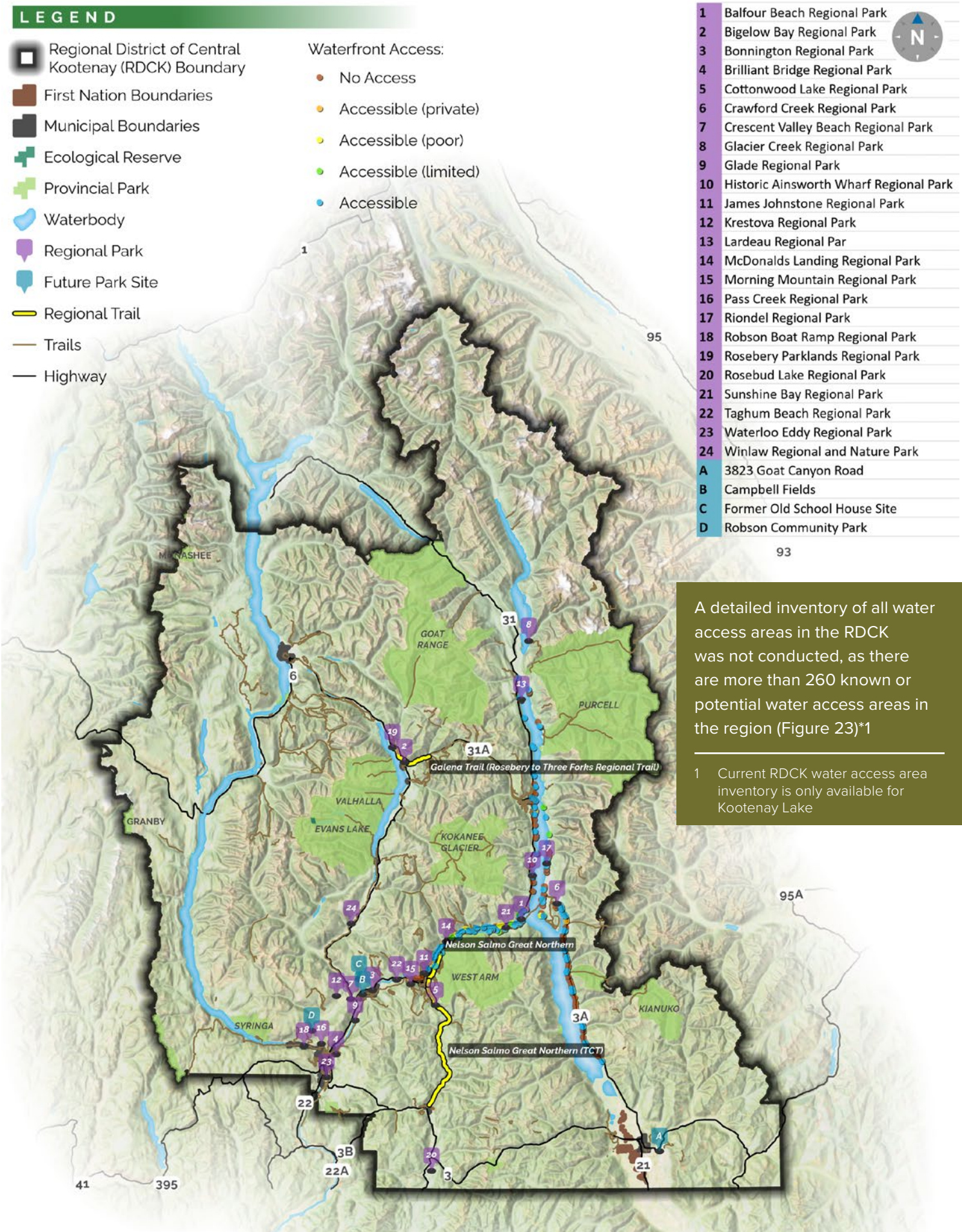
The shoreline and foreshore in the RDCK are enjoyed for many different recreation activities such as walking, beachcombing, swimming, bird and wildlife viewing, fishing, paddling, and powerboating, as well as for the incredible views that they afford residents. Public access to the water, including for the launching of powerboats, is also fundamental to many residents' transportation across the many lakes and rivers in the region. While water access is important for both recreation and transportation, riparian zones and wetlands throughout the RDCK are ecologically rich and sensitive; they are also culturally significant to local First Nations. Development of water access and infrastructure, as well as recreational use, can destroy or undesirably impact riparian ecosystems, their habitats, and wildlife.

6.1 INVENTORY OF WATER ACCESS AREAS



Image Source: RDCK

Figure 23: Known water access sites along Kootenay Lake



A detailed inventory of all water access areas in the RDCK was not conducted, as there are more than 260 known or potential water access areas in the region (Figure 23)*1

1 Current RDCK water access area inventory is only available for Kootenay Lake

However, based on the rapid field assessment that was conducted, it is recommended that the RDCK consider a future study that provides a more in-depth assessment of the many water access areas. Therefore, based on the current known information and available inventory provided by the RDCK, combined with a rapid field assessment, the following analysis was undertaken to determine how accessible water recreation is in the RDCK.

Based on inventory data (location, parking, type of access, slope, and other natural features) and GIS analysis, each site was evaluated and provided a rating of accessible, accessible (limited), accessible (poor), accessible (private), and no access. It is worth noting that none of these sites are considered managed areas by the RDCK. Some marinas and boat launches are maintained by community and non-profit organizations, as well as private marinas along Kootenay Lake.

Table 17: Accessibility assessment of known water access sites

Water Access Rating	Count
Accessible	114
Accessible (limited)	9
Accessible (poor)	19
Accessible (private)	3
No Access	116
Grand Total	261

Less than half of the known water access areas are considered accessible, and those that are considered accessible have varying degrees of “accessibility”. Some water access areas are established community-run boat launches or marinas, such as the Boswell Harbour, which provides parking, a motorized boat launch, and beach access (figures 23- 25).



Figure 24: Boswell Harbour

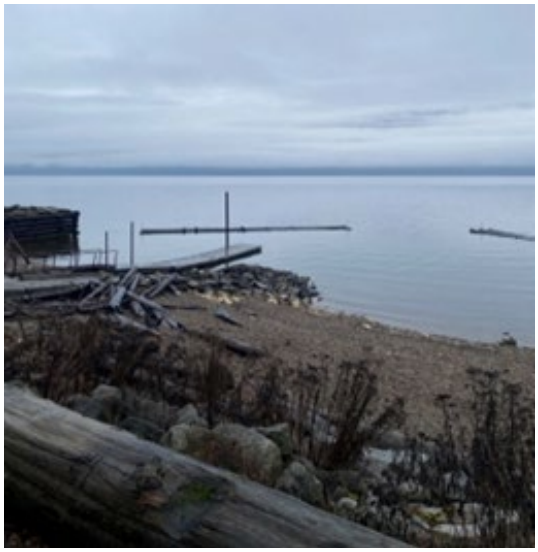


Figure 25: Boswell Harbour



Figure 26: Boswell Harbour

Other areas are less formalized and have no active maintenance or infrastructure (Figure 27 along the east shore of Kootenay Lake).



Figure 27: Water Access Site along the East Shore of Kootenay Lake

There are also social or community-developed areas that have increased access to water areas with no approvals or authority to develop access /build infrastructure. Some areas, such as five-mile and six-mile beaches, are well-known and well-used in the region. However, this type of unmanaged water access may pose a serious risk to users.



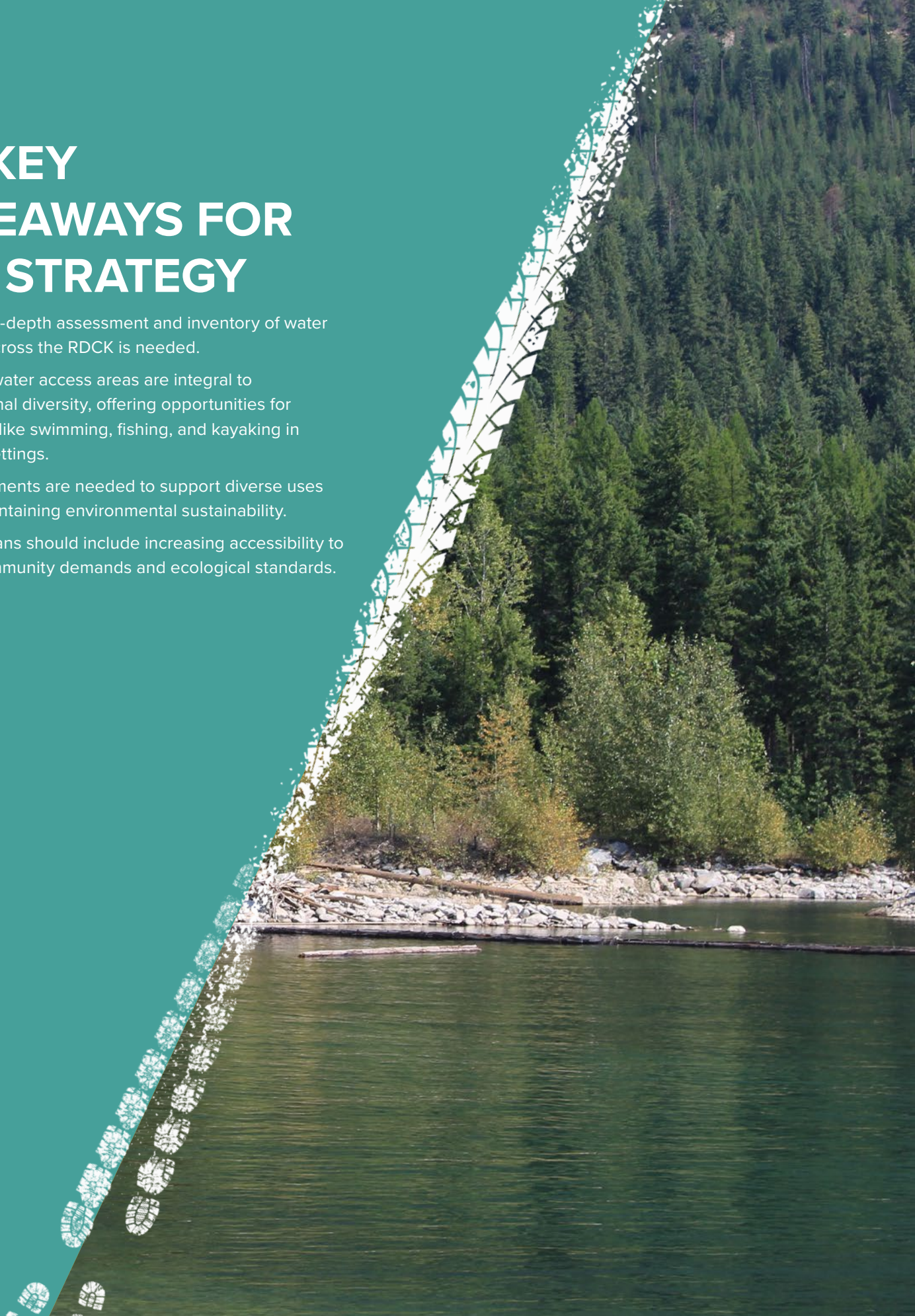
Figure 28: Unauthorized staircase leading to Kootenay Lake, near Five Mile Road.



Figure 29: Beach area on Kootenay Lake near six-Mile Road

6.2 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- A more in-depth assessment and inventory of water access across the RDCK is needed.
- Existing water access areas are integral to recreational diversity, offering opportunities for activities like swimming, fishing, and kayaking in natural settings.
- Enhancements are needed to support diverse uses while maintaining environmental sustainability.
- Future plans should include increasing accessibility to meet community demands and ecological standards.



7 CLASSIFICATIONS



Classification systems for parks, trails, and water access areas are used to provide clear direction regarding the overall experience and management objectives, as well as guidance for the design, construction, and maintenance of each site. Parks, trails, and water access area classifications are also used to identify the intended recreational (or commercial) activities and any associated restrictions. Currently the RDCK has four categories for regional parks (Table 18) and no classifications for regional trails or water access areas.

Table 18: RDCK Regional Park Classification System

Regional Park Class	Outdoor Recreation Focus
Community Park	Parklands acquired through the subdivision approvals process for the purpose of providing green space in communities experiencing development
Multiple Purpose Park	Parks that are intended to provide for a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities and should be capable of sustaining a high level and variety of recreational and other public use activities. These parks may be associated with waterfront access.
Waterfront Access Parks	Parks that are intended primarily to provide public access to high-quality waterfront areas and associated facilities, with the intensity of development dependent on the characteristics of each site.
Regional Trails	Trails that are intended to provide for trail-oriented recreation that could link communities, provide access to areas possessing scenic and special interest qualities and provide access to Provincial recreation opportunities, Regional District Parks and other recreation sites.

The current classifications do not provide sufficient detail or structure that is reflective of the entire system. Specifically, the following gaps are apparent:

1. **Limited Specificity for Ecological Preservation and Conservation:** The current categories don't include a specific classification for parks dedicated to any level of conservation. This can make it challenging to prioritize conservation efforts in parks with sensitive ecosystems or significant biodiversity, as they might be classified under "Multiple Purpose" or "Waterfront Access," leading to recreational uses that could disturb these areas.
2. **Overlap Between Multiple Purpose and Waterfront Access Parks:** Some parks serve multiple functions, providing both recreational activities and waterfront access. However, without clearer distinctions, parks with high recreational demand might be overused, potentially impacting their waterfront features. A more refined classification system would allow RDCK to better protect waterfront areas while accommodating recreational needs. Additionally, this lack of clarity creates uncertainty and risk of inadequate funding for future land acquisition, capital investments, and ongoing maintenance needs.

3. **Lack of a Classification for Cultural and Historical Sites:** RDCK includes sites with historical significance, such as the Brilliant Bridge Regional Park, which is a National Historic Site. Without a dedicated category for cultural or historical parks, these areas may not receive the targeted protection, maintenance, or interpretive support necessary to preserve their cultural value and educate the public. Additionally, many areas within the RDCK hold deep cultural, spiritual, and historical significance for Indigenous People. A dedicated classification would provide a framework to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into park planning, management, and interpretation, ensuring these spaces reflect and respect Indigenous heritage.
4. **Inadequate Differentiation for High-Intensity and Low-Intensity Use Parks:** The "Multiple Purpose Parks" classification includes parks with varying levels of infrastructure and recreational facilities. Parks that accommodate high-intensity recreation activities (like sports or large gatherings) could benefit from a distinct classification to separate them from parks meant for passive or low-intensity use, like hiking or nature observation. This would help align development, maintenance, and visitor guidelines more effectively with park usage.
5. **No Classifications within the Trails System:** While Regional Trails are recognized as a separate category, parks that feature extensive trails but also contain other recreational amenities don't have a dedicated classification. The classifications of trails would provide a general management direction regarding the types and intensity of outdoor recreation that is supported on regional trails.
    a. Trails could be classified based on the types of trail users (sanctioned use such as mountain biking, equestrian use, dogs on or off-leash, etc,). Amount of use, available funding, and environmental factors such as slope, forest cover, urban vs rural, and more.
6. **Community Parks Classification Is Limited:** The Community Parks classification focuses on areas acquired through subdivision approvals, mainly to provide green space in developing communities. This approach may overlook established communities with park needs that aren't being met, as the classification doesn't necessarily align with broader community requirements or diverse recreational purposes beyond subdivision development.
7. **Lack of Water Access Classification System:** An expanded classification system would allow RDCK to address these gaps, better balance conservation and recreational needs, and provide a more nuanced approach to managing each park according to its unique purpose and community role.

7.1 MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones help to delineate specific areas within a park or trail system into logical units with different management objectives. The different zones help to clarify what and where different levels of activity, services offered, and infrastructure development can occur. Management zones are applied at the park (or regional trail level). A limited number of RDCK regional parks currently apply management zones. They include: 1) Special Feature; 2) Limited Recreation; 3) Natural Environment; and 4) Park Services. However, these are limited to parks with management plans and may not meet the needs of the entire system or the changing service.

Based on current best practices and the RDCK regional parks and trails system the following are recommended as potential management zones that can be applied across all regional parks and regional trails:

- **Environmental protection zone** - To protect ecologically significant areas within regional parks.
- **Cultural heritage protection zone** - To protect culturally significant areas and features.
- **Indigenous use zone** – To provide Indigenous land management and foster collaboration with Indigenous communities on access, stewardship, and cultural practices.
- **Natural environment zone** - To provide easily accessible natural areas within the parks and passive non-motorized recreation opportunities.
- **Outdoor recreation zone** - To provide areas within a regional park that can accommodate concentrated recreation use (this may also include motorized recreation).
- **Visitor Services / Development Zone** - To provide designated administrative, operational, and public service functions.

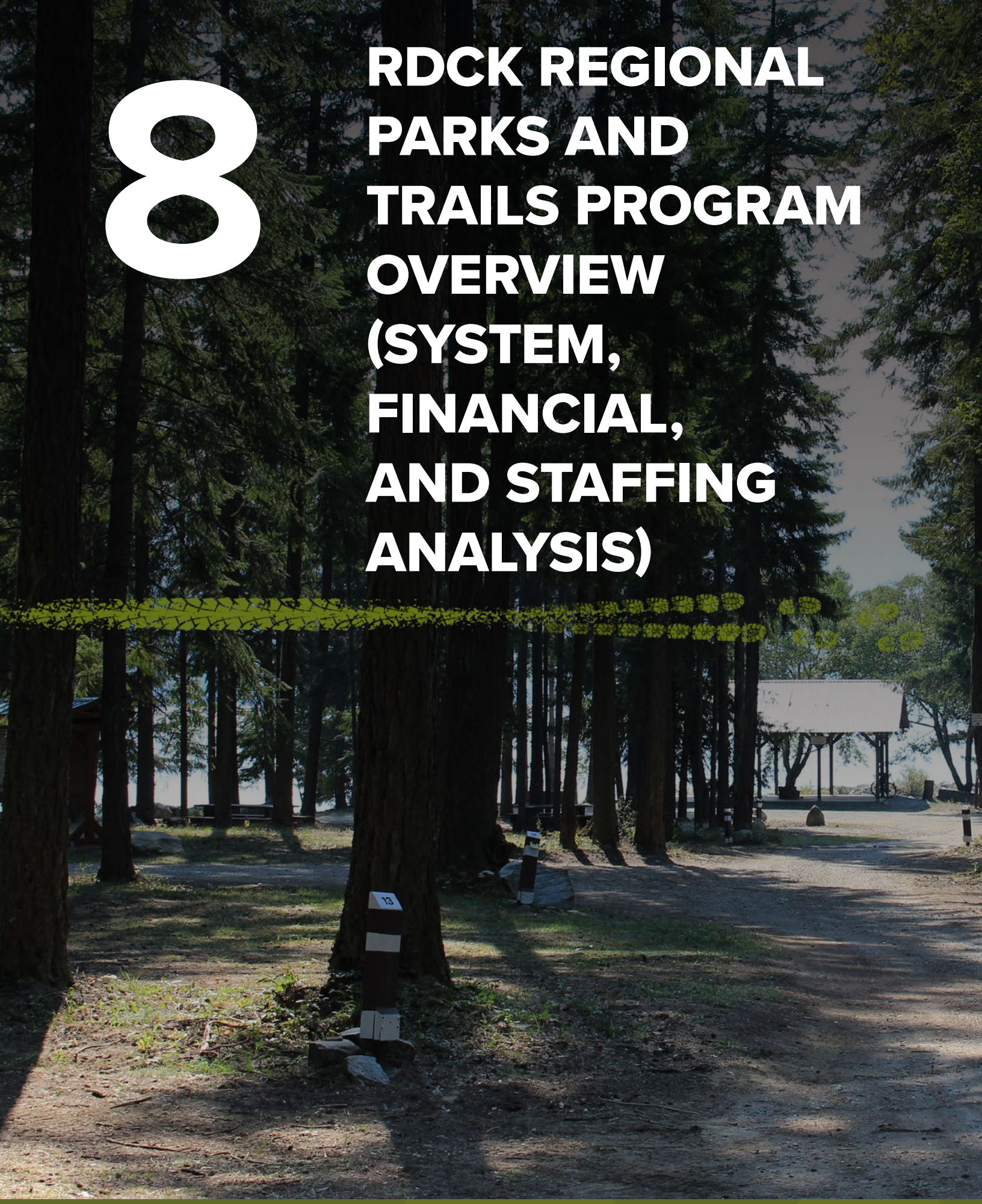
In addition to the use of a robust classification system, it is recommended that the RDCK consider implementing management zones across all regional parks and trails.

7.2 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- Classification should reflect the diverse functions and management goals of regional parks and trails.
- Updating and redefining regional parks and trails classifications and management zones will help RDCK develop and maintain a well-balanced parks and trails system that supports diverse recreational needs while promoting environmental stewardship.
- Updated classifications help prioritize park improvements and guide resource allocation.



8 RDCK REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS PROGRAM OVERVIEW (SYSTEM, FINANCIAL, AND STAFFING ANALYSIS)



Regional parks and trails are more than simply land in an area, they are highly involved and provide an integral service to residents and visitors alike. Therefore, it is prudent to understand the program of service with which regional parks and trails operate within. The following section represents a review of core functions, current staffing, budget allocations, and operational efficiency across RDCK regional parks and trails to identify potential opportunities for improvements and efficiencies.

8.1 SYSTEM AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

Currently, there are nine Regional Parks Commissions that oversee governance functions and provide operational oversight as per the Local Government Act of British Columbia. These Commissions also serve in advisory capacity to the Board and act as an information conduit between the Board, RDCK staff, and local communities. Some Commissions oversee only one regional park or trail, while others support up to 10. Given that the current RDCK regional parks and trails system is sub-regional, these Committees and Commissions are essential for funding and taxation discussions, land acquisition and capital management oversight, and programing and operational discussions. However, this also makes governance complex and can limit the ability of the Community Services Division to manage regional parks and trails in a consistent and cohesive manner.

8.2 STAFFING ASSESSMENT

The current regional parks and trails system employs only 4 full-time and 3 additional season staff (15 weeks per year). Staff are expected to complete a variety of core functions for the department, including:

- Operations and maintenance
- Planning and design
- Land use and tenures
- Community engagement
- Visitor experiences and recreation opportunities
- Promotion of regional parks and trails
- Mapping and GIS
- Development and capital projects
- Budgets, funding, and asset management
- Volunteer support and community partnerships
- Land use activity management
- Overall governance of the entire regional parks and trails system

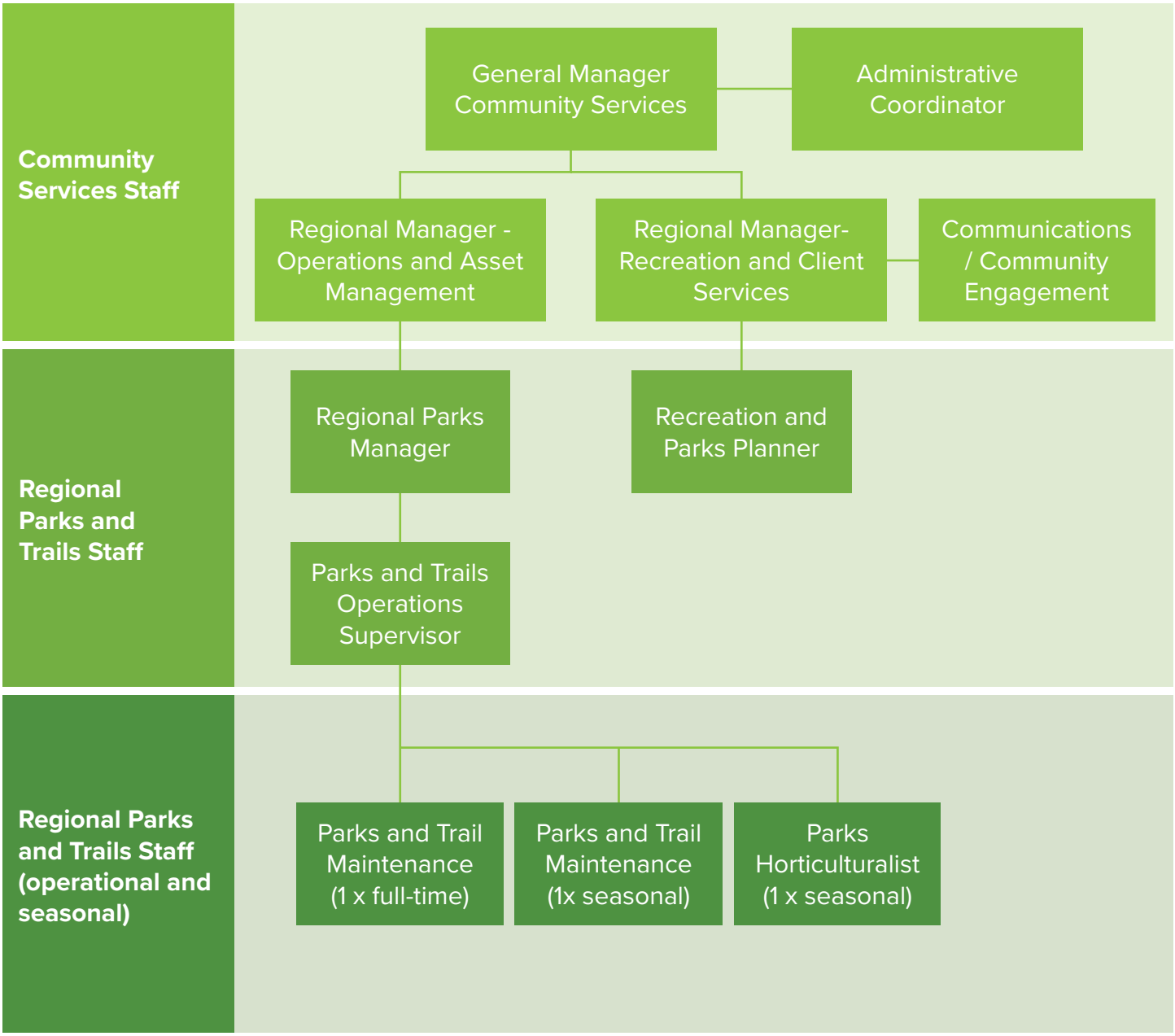


Figure 30: Staff Structure

Within the above-stated core functions of the regional parks and trails system, there are 34 key service areas. These identified services are critical to meeting the needs of RDCK residents and ensuring the regional parks and trails system is sustainable. The table below (Table 19) highlights these essential services and outlines the current deficiencies based on the current staffing levels. Based on current staffing levels only 11 out of 45 key services are being supported. This analysis demonstrates how the department may struggle to meet adequate service levels, indicating there are key service functions that are underserved due to staffing limitations.

Table 19: RDCK Regional Parks and Trails System Service Areas

	Operations & Maintenance
✓	Contract Management
✓	Park Operations & Maintenance
✓	Trail Construction
✓	Campground Operations
	Planning and Design
	Engineering and Design Services
✓	Park Standards & Park Inventory
✓	Strategic/Systems Planning
	Technical Services
✓	Management Plans
	Land and Tenures
✓	Land Acquisition
✓	Tenures, Permits and Approvals
	Community Engagement
	Community Development
✓	Communications and Public Relations
	First Nations Relationships
	Budgeting, Funding and Asset Management
	Asset Management
✓	Budgeting
✓	Grants and Other Revenues
	Develop ment and Capital Projects
✓	Development Projects (Small)
	Development Project (Large)
	Promotions and Mapping
✓	Website and Social Media
	Mapping
✓	Park Signage
	Visitor Experiences and Opportunities
	Recreation and Nature Based Programming
	Visitor Services
	Visitor Safety
✓	Special Events and Park Use Permits
	Volunteer Support and Community Partnerships
✓	Interagency Relations
✓	Stakeholder Services
	Volunteer Coordination
	Land Use and Activity Management
	Natural Resource Management
	Patrols and User Compliance (Regulations)
	Governance
✓	Commission/Committee Coordination
✓	Commission/Committee Liaison
	Policy Development

The current system accounts for more than 648 ha of land and almost 100km of trail to manage and maintain. This vast system is also spread across the entire Region, which is more than 2,320,500 ha of land. Drive time and distance analysis suggests (Table 20) that due to the extensive distances across the RDCK, staff are limited in the amount of time that can spent monitoring and maintaining each park.

Table 20: Distance to RDCK Regional Parks and Trails

Park	Staff Driving Distance one way (Km from RDCK head office)	Approximate drive times (round trip)
1.Balfour Beach Regional Park	35km	60 minutes
2.Bigelow Bay Regional Park	102km	More than 2.5 hours
3.Bonnington Regional Park	17km	20-40 minutes
4.Brilliant Bridge Regional Parkxx	42km	40-60 minutes
5.Cottonwood Lake Regional Park	8km	10-20 minutes
6.Crawford Creek Regional Park	50km	More than 2.5 hours
7.Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park	24km	40-60 minutes
8.Glacier Creek Regional Park	115km	More than 2.5 hours
9.Glade Regional Park	28km	2 hours
10. Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park	48km	2 hours
11. James Johnstone Regional Park	6km	10-20 minutes
12. Krestova Regional Park	33km	10-20 minutes
13. Lardeau Regional Park	98km	More than 2.5 hours
14. McDonalds Landing Regional Park	13km	40-60 minutes
15. Morning Mountain Regional Park	7km	10-20 minutes
16. Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail	Various entry points	10-45 minutes
17. Pass Creek Regional Park	43km	60 minutes
18. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail	6km	10-20 minutes
19. Riondel Regional Park	55km	More than 2.5 hours
20. Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park	45km	60 minutes
21. Rosebery Parklands Regional Park	110km	More than 2.5 hours
22. Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail (Galena Trail)	Various entry points	More than 2.5 hours
23. Rosebud Lake Regional Park	68km	2 hours
24. Sunshine Bay Regional Park	36km	2 hours
25. Taghum Beach Regional Park	9km	10-20 minutes
26. Waterloo Eddy Regional Park	47km	60 minutes
27. Winlaw Regional and Nature Park	50km	2 hours

8.3 FUNDING REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Currently, funding for regional parks is collected regionally but mandated to be expended on a sub-regional basis (current Parks Bylaw 2044). Regional Park tax acquisition rates vary per electoral area and municipality. In some areas, regional parks are funded through a standalone tax requisition that directly supports the acquisition, development, and maintenance of regional parks. However, in other areas, funding is provided through a combined service, such as a shared recreation service that includes regional parks as part of a broader mandate that supports recreation facilities, sports fields, and other community services. Some service areas also have parks with user fees that offset the need for tax requisition amounts (e.g. Glacier Creek Campground). This means that not all jurisdictions contribute in the same way or at the same level to the regional parks service. Tax rates and participation are determined by each community's service establishment bylaws and are influenced by local needs such as capital improvements, site-specific maintenance needs, and operational complexity. Additionally, each service contribution reflects the total number of parks and trails in each service.

This blended approach ensures that funding aligns with both system-wide priorities and local conditions, while supporting high-quality park experiences throughout the RDCK. These funding structures are reviewed and approved annually as part of the RDCK's financial planning and budgeting process, which includes input from local elected officials and community representatives through area-specific Recreation or Parks Commissions. The RDCK continues to work with local governments, commissions, and residents to improve equity and consistency across the system while respecting local autonomy and funding capacities.

The breakdown of rate/1000 is outlined in Table 21.

Table 21: RDCK Tax Requisition Rates

RDCK Electoral Area/ Municipality	Tax requisition rate/1000 for regional parks (2024 approved financial plan)*
Electoral Area A	.197
Electoral Area B	.030
Electoral Area C	.030
Electoral Area D*	.258
Electoral Area E	.136
Electoral Area F	.136
Electoral Area G	.136
Electoral Area H	.131
Electoral Area I*	.671
Electoral Area J*	.671
Electoral Area K	.023
Castlegar*	.671
Creston	.030
Kaslo*	.258
Nakusp	.023
Nelson	.136
New Denver	.131
Salmo	.136
Silverton	.131
Slocan	.131

**Combined services (recreation, facilities, sports fields)*

Taken together, these tax requisitions are the largest source of revenue for RDCK regional parks and trails.

Table 22: RDCK Regional Park Budget Overview

		2022	2023	2024
Regional Park System Budget (operating and capital)	Operating	$1,129,898.26	$1,745,638	$2,008,889
	Capital	$1,701,020.00	$448,000	$271,000
	Total	$2,830,918	$2,193,638	$2,279,889

The current bylaw does not allow for funding to support regional parks that are serving the entire RDCK tax base, either by providing regional unique recreation opportunities or by protecting regional significant features (ecological, historical, or cultural). This funding model may result in inadequate resources for regionally significant parks and trails and may place an undue burden on specific service areas. Additionally, as parks are experiencing increases in use, a reallocation of funds toward parks experiencing high visitor traffic and amenity use would align the budget with usage, ensuring resource-intensive parks receive the necessary funding.

8.4 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- Staffing levels need to align with the growing management requirements for park and trail maintenance.
- Investment in both funding and staff training is essential for delivering high-quality services.
- Review of the current financial model and Parks Bylaw to support the funding of regional and sub-regional services (e.g. community parks).



9 JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW



Jurisdictional reviews play a critical role in regional district planning by offering valuable insights into the policies, practices, and outcomes of other comparable areas. These reviews allow local governments to benchmark against leading practices, identify innovative solutions, and anticipate challenges based on the experiences of similar jurisdictions. By understanding how different approaches have succeeded or failed elsewhere, the RDCK can make informed decisions that enhance efficiency, promote sustainable growth, and address the unique needs of their communities. The following regional districts have been included in this review (and summarized below):

- The Regional District of Central Okanagan
- The Regional District of Nanaimo
- The Regional District of East Kootenay

9.1 THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) oversees an extensive parks system, with 2,100 hectares of parkland across 30 regional parks, including over 86 kilometres of trails and ten parks with lake access. This network is governed by the Official Regional Parks Plan (ORPP) Bylaw No. 884 (2000) and supported by the 2008–2020 Regional Parks and Greenways Plan, as well as the Regional Parks Design Guidelines (2015). Additionally, there is an important Memorandum of Understanding (2017) with the Westbank First Nation which emphasizes RDCO's commitment to reconciliation and protecting and respecting cultural heritage in the region.

RDCO's strategic priorities include protecting unique ecological zones, enhancing recreational opportunities, and promoting conservation in culturally significant areas. There is a commitment to stewardship and ecological integrity while balancing outdoor recreation. Parks are categorized as Conservation, Natural, Recreation/Cultural/Waterfront, or Trails, with Regionally Significant Areas highlighting essential natural and cultural assets. Future acquisitions aim to expand ecosystem coverage, complementing provincial and municipal parks for comprehensive regional representation.

The RDCO's 2024–2028 operating budget for parks ranges between $5.19 million and $5.37 million, funded through tax requisitions, the Regional Parkland Legacy Program, and partnerships. Parks services are managed by five full-time managers, a coordinator, and about 20 seasonal staff fulfilling roles in park maintenance, programming, and ranger duties. This structure enables RDCO to provide a well-rounded experience that enhances livability and ecological preservation across the Okanagan Valley.

Regional District Reviewed	Key Metric						
	System Overview	Key policy and guiding documents	Regional Priorities*[1]	Regional Park Classifications and zoning	Regional Park and Trail Mandates	Budget	Staffing
Regional District of Central-Okanagan Population: 222,162	2,100 hectares of parkland in 30 regional parks, including over 86 km of designated trails and 10 parks with lake access. Regional service (i.e. Parks and trails of regional importance are funded through the region wide service.)	Official Regional Parks Plan (ORPP) – Bylaw No 884 (2000). Updates are planned for the future as time permits. Regional Parks and Greenways Plan (2008-2020) A CENTRAL OKANAGAN REGIONAL PARKS LEGACY PROGRAM Ten Year Park Land Acquisition Strategy (2007 – 2017) Regional Parks Design Guidelines (2015) Westbank First Nation and Regional District of Central Okanagan Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites in Regional Parks (2017)	• Regional parks and trails are part of a system that plays a significant role in protecting natural habitats and providing outdoor recreation opportunities within the spectacular Okanagan Valley. • Establish new parks that protect underrepresented biogeoclimatic zones in the current system. • Establish new regional parks that highlight regionally significant outdoor recreation features. • Assist in the conservation of the cultural landscape of the Central Okanagan. • Be collaborative across levels of government • Increase parklands to support the ecological health of the region.	The following classifications are listed in both the ORPP and the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: 1. Conservation 2. Natural 3. Recreation / Cultural / Waterfront 4. Trails (Greenways) Definitions for these classification can be found here.	• Central Okanagan **Regionally Significant Areas** are geographic areas that exemplify natural and/or cultural attributes from the region which are considered important to all the residents of the region. These areas must provide opportunities for **appropriate outdoor activities** that will attract people from throughout the Central Okanagan. • Future park land acquisitions will strive to protect lands which will **augment** an existing provincial, regional and municipal parks system such that **these parks collectively represent a complete range of ecosystems for the Central Okanagan.** • Central Okanagan Greenways will contribute to livability in the region by providing citizens with **opportunities to recreate, commute and prosper through the protection of a complete range of area ecosystems.**	The 2024 – 2028 budget (operating costs) for the regional parks service ranges from $5,191,318.00 - $5,371,954.00 (**capital projects are not included**). Revenue for operating and capital costs can be funded through one of three options. 1. Tax requisition 2. Partnerships and donations 3. Regional Parkland Legacy Program (additional tax requisition of $0.02 per $1000 assessed value)	There are currently five full-time managers and one coordinator-level employee specifically for the Parks Services department. Additionally, approximately 20 season staff are hired annually to fill roles such as park rangers, park maintenance workers, and program facilitators.

1 (Master Plan goals and themes if applicable)

9.2 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) offers a well-structured and resource-diverse parks and trails system, encompassing 2,025 hectares of regional parkland, 72 kilometres of regional trails, and a significant network of 175 community parks. The 2022 Parks and Trails Strategy highlights RDN's priorities, emphasizing the protection of natural and cultural landscapes, ecological stewardship, and inclusive outdoor recreation. Individual management plans for each of the 12 regional parks, developed between 2005 and 2018, further tailor these goals, adapting conservation and recreation efforts to each park's unique features.

RDN's classification approach underscores the district's commitment to balancing conservation with recreation. Regional parks are categorized as Conservation, Recreation, or Natural Areas, while trails are designated as Front-country, Mid-country, or Back-country, each offering different levels of accessibility and remoteness. This structure aligns with zoning that delineates Conservation, Natural Environment, and Intensive Recreation areas to protect sensitive ecosystems while providing public amenities.

The RDN's budget reflects a strong financial commitment, with an operating cost of nearly $4 million annually from 2024 to 2028. This funding is derived from multiple streams: tax requisitions, Development Cost Charges (DCCs), Community Amenity Contributions (CACs), grants, donations, and user fees. The district relies on a team of 13 full-time staff and partnerships with local organizations and volunteers to manage operations, which allows for community engagement and collaboration.

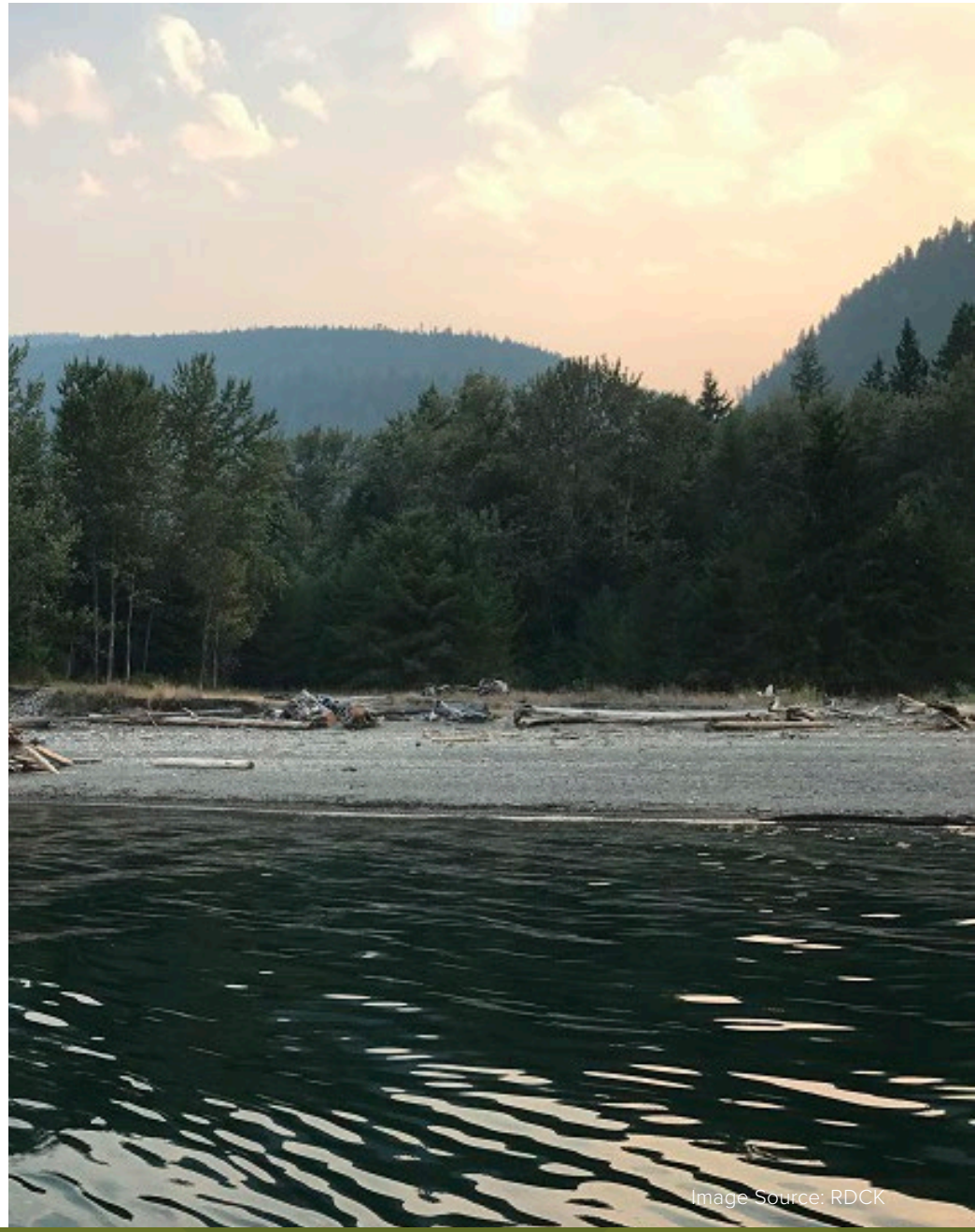


Image Source: RDCK

Regional District Reviewed	Key Metric						
	System Overview	Key policy and guiding documents	Regional Priorities*[1]	Regional Park Classifications and zoning	Regional Park and Trail Mandates	Budget	Staffing
Regional District of Nanaimo Population: 170, 367	2,025 Ha of parkland and 72km of trails across 12 regional parks and 10 regional trails. Regional service (i.e. Parks and trails of regional importance are funded through the region wide service.) Within the system, there are also 175 community parks (800 ha)– however, these are provided under two separate programs with different mandates. A summary of the differences can be found here.	Parks and Trails Strategy (2022) All 12 regional parks in the system have individual management plans. These plans were completed between 2005 – 2018	• Regional parks and trails should provide a diversity of natural and cultural landscapes • protect and steward areas of ecological significance • provide a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities and learning experiences • provide opportunities for all residents to access, connect with, and enjoy nature.	The following classifications are listed in the Parks and Trails Strategy: 1. Conservation Area 2. Recreation Area 3. Natural Area 4. Trail Additionally, regional trails have their own classification system. Regional trails are classified as: 1. Front-country 2. Mid-country 3. Back-country Park management zones are also used to help delineate management units within parks. Regional parks have three standard management zones: 1. Conservation zone 2. Natural environment zone 3. Intensive recreation use/ development zone	• Environmental protection • Nature-based recreation • Linking parks and communities	The 2024 – 2028 budget (operating costs) for the regional parks service ranges from $3,984,389.00 - $4,329,059.00 (**capital projects are not included**). Revenue for operating and capital costs can be funded through one of five options. 1. Tax requisition 2. Grants and donations 3. Development Cost Chargers (DCCs) 4. Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) 5. User fees and charges (e.g. campground improvement	There are currently 13 full-time staff dedicated to regional parks service. This includes 1 manager of parks services, 2 park superintendents, 4 park planners, 1 recreation coordinator, and 5 operations staff. The service also relies on partnerships with community-based organizations and volunteers.

1 (Master Plan goals and themes if applicable)

9.3 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY

The Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) oversees a diverse range of recreational sites, managing 20 locations, including 9 regional parks, a regional legacy trail, multiple pathways, and lake access points. Guided by the 2004 Regional Parks Plan, reviewed every five years, RDEK prioritizes public access to both passive and active recreational amenities, with a focus on non-motorized, summer-season activities. Unlike other districts, RDEK does not implement individual management plans for each site but instead adheres to overarching operational standards that ensure alignment with Official Community Plans (OCPs) and equitable cost distribution across electoral areas.

Parks and trails are classified broadly (without a formalized classification or zoning system), including categories like Regional Parks, Legacy Trails, Greenways, and Lake Access Sites. RDEK's mandate emphasizes regional connectivity and alternative transportation, linking recreational spaces with natural and cultural landmarks.

The 2024–2028 budget for parks ranges between $631,000 and $800,158, with funding sourced regionally, sub regionally, or locally, depending on the service scope. While part of the Environmental Services Department, which oversees waste management and environmental initiatives, the regional parks service has limited staff resources, with few dedicated parks personnel among the 13-department staff. This structure highlights RDEK's collaborative, resource-efficient approach to maintaining diverse, accessible outdoor spaces.



Image Source: RDCK

Regional District Reviewed	Key Metric						
	System Overview	Key policy and guiding documents	Regional Priorities*[1]	Regional Park Classifications and zoning	Regional Park and Trail Mandates	Budget	Staffing
Regional District of East Kootenay Population: 65,896	Land area of 267 ha and 41km of trails. Service is a combination of regional and sub regional (i.e. Parks and trails of regional importance may be funded through the region wide service. Others that are subregional in focus may be funded as electoral area services with participation by adjacent municipalities) A total of 20 sites managed. Including: • 9 regional parks • 1 regional legacy trail • 4 pathways • 1 greenway • 1 community park • 1 beach site • 2 lake access sites • 1 exhibition grounds	Regional Parks Plan (2004). Reviewed every 5 years or as conditions warrant and new parks and trails are added to the plan as an amendment. There are currently no individual site management plans.	• Provide a variety of publicly accessible day use passive and active recreational amenities for the region. Sites are managed primarily as areas for outdoor recreation purposes in either a natural, rural or urban setting. • Regional trails promote alternative transportation initiatives. • Parks and trails should provide public access to recreational amenities (e.g. lakes, rivers, etc.) and provide front-country trail linkages to other sites of regional importance, such as extraordinary natural and cultural features. • Operational standards • Equitable distribution of costs across electoral areas and municipalities Align with Official Community Plans	No definitions for classification or zoning are available. However, as listed in the Regional Parks Plan, the following classifications are used: • Regional Park • Legacy Trail • Community Park • Pathway • Greenway • Lake Access Site • Beach • Exhibition Grounds	• **Regional parks are not intended to duplicate the protected area strategies of other levels of government or replace Forest Service recreation sites.** • **Managed primarily for summer (snow-free) non-motorized use.**	The 2024 – 2028 budget (operating costs) for the regional parks service ranges from $800,158.00-$631,00.00 (capital projects are not included). Revenue for these operating and capital costs can be funded through one of three options. 1. Overall regional through the region-wide extended service; 2. As electoral area service areas or, 3. As local service areas. Parks and trails of regional importance may be funded through the region-wide service. Proposals that are subregional in focus may be funded as electoral area services with participation by adjacent municipalities, if applicable. Proposals that are even more local in nature, such as community halls or tot lots, or that are generated by virtue of an OCP, may require that a local service area be established.	Regional Parks and Trails fall under the Environmental Services Department (including waste management, invasive plant control, mosquito control, Elk Valley Airport, and parks, trails, & recreation facilities). The entire department has 13 staff; of those, none are specific to regional parks and trails. There is one general manager and one recreation and control services supervisors, two operations and maintenance workers, and 2 environmental services workers. Other staff are focused on waste management, recreation facilities (e.g. arena), and invasive plant control.

1 (Master Plan goals and themes if applicable)

9.4 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR THE STRATEGY

- The approaches of the Regional Districts of Nanaimo, Central Okanagan, and East Kootenay highlight the need to balance the protection of the natural environment and providing outdoor recreation to access to residents. Regional parks systems in the RDN and the RDCO emphasize ecological protection, trail connectivity, and varied recreation.
- Other jurisdictions operate Regional Parks through a region wide extended service establishment bylaw. These are regionally significant areas serving all residents and therefore funded by all residents. Whereas community parks typically require a second service establishment bylaw to then provide community or sub-regional parks to individual electoral areas or groupings/commissions of electoral areas.
- The RDCK could benefit from a clear classification system (e.g., Conservation, Recreation, Natural) and establish specific management zones, to balance recreational use with environmental stewardship.
- Opportunities to enhance collaborations and government-to-government relationships with First Nations through the use of a MOU (as per the Westbank First Nation and Regional District of Central Okanagan Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites in Regional Park example).
- Financing the regional parks and trails system in the RDCK could benefit from a more diversified funding approach.
  - » Adopting Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) and Development Cost Charges (DCCs) could bolster financial support. In terms of staffing, the RDCK could also consider expanding dedicated park personnel and seasonal roles, as other districts do, to meet maintenance and engagement needs.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A - DATA DRIVEN PAGES



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8 %
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

Bigelow Bay Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha): 0.1

→ Trail Length (km): 0.01

→ Primary Visitor Experience:
Beach, Parkking, Toilet, Trails

→ Visitor Destination:
Discover Trails, Access Water

→ Park Classification:
Waterfront Access Park

→ Regional Parks Commission:
No Commission

→ Active Transportation:
Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

Insufficient Mobile Devices / Sample Size too Low

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits:
0

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:

→ Percent Locals
%

→ Percent Tourists
%

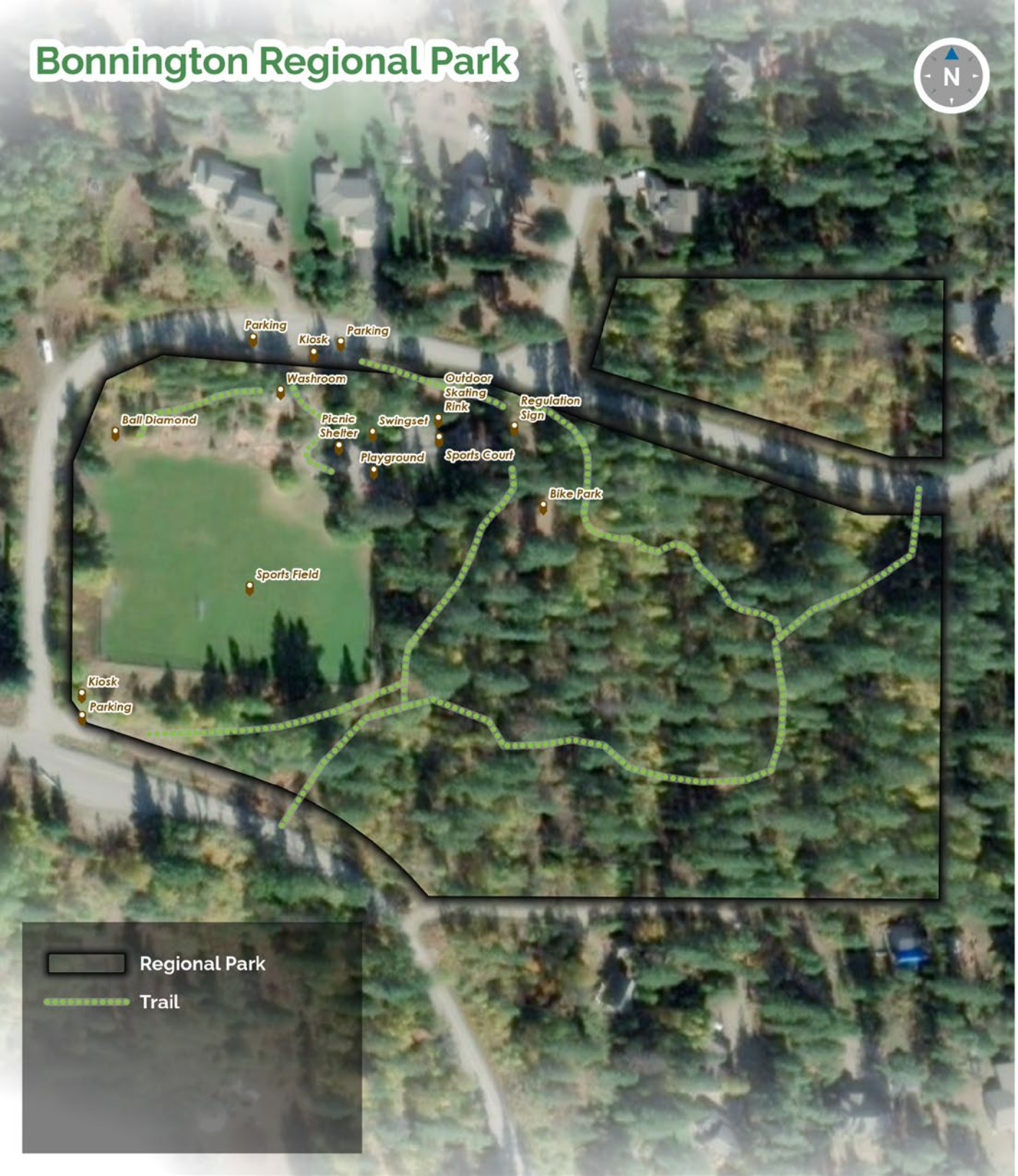
→ Average Visit Duration:
0S

→ Average Time Between Visits

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

-
-
-
-
-

Bonnington Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 5.4
- Trail Length (km): 0.80
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Playground, Sportsfield, Toilet, Trails Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Something for Everyone
- Park Classification: Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 11.14 km
- Percent Locals: 91.7 %
- Percent Tourists: 8.3 %
- Average Visit Duration: 1H 52M
- Average Time Between Visits: 101.75 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay W (67%), 61
  - Central Kootenay J (8%), 1
  - Fruitvale (8%), 1
  - Nelson (8%), 1
  - Rossland (8%), 1

Brilliant Bridge Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 2.4
- Trail Length (km): 0.50
- Primary Visitor Experience: Trails, Viewing Platform
- Visitor Destination: Something Unique
- Park Classification: Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 100
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 127.83 km
- Percent Locals: 57.1 %
- Percent Tourists: 42.9 %
- Average Visit Duration: 24M 36S
- Average Time Between Visits: 7 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Castlegar (43%), 3
  - Richmond (29%), 3
  - Central Kootenay J (14%), 1
  - Central Kootenay C (14%), 1
  -

Cottonwood Lake Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 22.1
- Trail Length (km): 2.30
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Parking, Toilet, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 1,000
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 64.02 km
- Percent Locals: 67.3%
- Percent Tourists: 32.7 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 46M
- Average Time Between Visits: 71 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (30%), 47
  - Central Kootenay E (13%), 18
  - Kaslo (6%), 15
  - Salmo (9%), 17
  - Central Kootenay I (14%), 17

Crawford Bay Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 70.7
- Trail Length (km): 3.40
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Parking, Toilet, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access & Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: No Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 20,100
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 135.00 km
- Percent Locals: 55.4%
- Percent Tourists: 44.6%
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 22M
- Average Time Between Visits: 37.86 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay A (48%), 4440
  - Vancouver (6%), 247
  - Calgary (4%), 165
  - Surrey (2%), 75
  - Trail (1%), 68

Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 2.5
- Trail Length (km): 1.40
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Parking, Toilet, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Slocan Valley South Regional Parks Commission, No Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 700
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 32.92 km
- Percent Locals: 90.5%
- Percent Tourists: 9.5 %
- Average Visit Duration: 1H 12M
- Average Time Between Visits: 67.13 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay I (34%), 46
  - Central Kootenay W (11%), 20
  - Nelson (11%), 13
  - Central Kootenay J (7%), 12
  - Central Kootenay H (7%), 9

Glacier Creek Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha):
19.0

→ Trail Length (km):
1.18

→ Primary Visitor Experience:
Beach, Campground, Parking, Toilet

→ Visitor Destination:
Go Camping, Go Boating

→ Park Classification:
Waterfront Access Park

→ Regional Parks Commission:
Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission

→ Active Transportation:
Basic Rural

PROPULSO DATA

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits:
1,500

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:
155.15 km

→ Percent Locals
5.3 %

→ Percent Tourists
94.7 %

→ Average Visit Duration:
3H 26M

→ Average Time Between Visits
71.53 Days

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

- Central Kootenay C (20%), 160
- Castlegar (10%), 46
- Central Kootenay I (20%), 17
- Burnaby (10%), 11
- Nelson (15%), 10

Glade Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 0.9
- Trail Length (km): 0.19
- Primary Visitor Experience: Boat Launch
- Visitor Destination: Go Boating
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits:
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 265.67 km
- Percent Locals: 33.3%
- Percent Tourists: 66.7%
- Average Visit Duration: 52M 30S
- Average Time Between Visits
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Victoria (33%), 1
  - Lethbridge (33%), 1
  - Castlegar (33%), 1
  -
  -

Historic Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha): 0.3

→ Trail Length (km): 0.02

→ Primary Visitor Experience: Toilet, Wharf

→ Visitor Destination: Something Unique

→ Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park

→ Regional Parks Commission: No Commission

→ Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

Insufficient Mobile Devices / Sample Size too Low

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 0

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:

→ Percent Locals: %

→ Percent Tourists: %

→ Average Visit Duration: 0S

→ Average Time Between Visits

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

-
-
-
-
-

James Johnstone Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

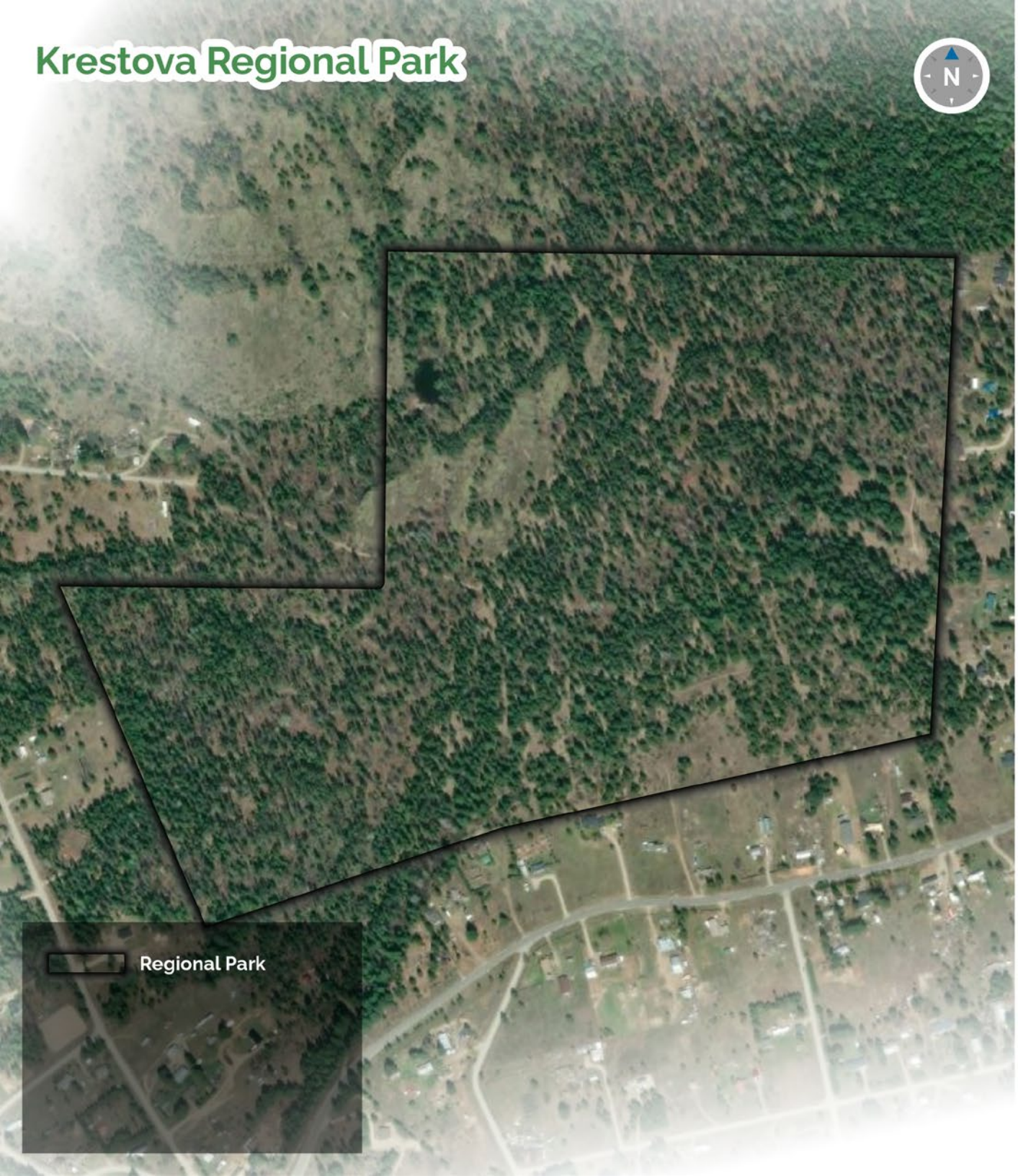
- Park Size (ha): 1.8
- Trail Length (km): 0.18
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Water Access
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

TRAFx Dataset

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 10,037
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 1.02 km
- Percent Locals: 100 %
- Percent Tourists: 0 %
- Average Visit Duration: 45M
- Average Time Between Visits
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (100%), 10
  -
  -
  -
  -

Krestova Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 54.0
- Trail Length (km): 0.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails
- Park Classification: Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: No Commission
- Active Transportation: Basic Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 5,500
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 115.29 km
- Percent Locals: 64.3%
- Percent Tourists: 35.7 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 45M
- Average Time Between Visits: 34.93 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay H (29%), 762
  - Vancouver (11%), 152
  - Central Kootenay J (12%), 92
  - Trail (4%), 53
  - Kootenay Boundary (3%), 61

Lardeau Boat Launch



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha): 2.1

→ Trail Length (km): 0.30

→ Primary Visitor Experience: Boat Launch, Parking

→ Visitor Destination: Go Boating

→ Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park

→ Regional Parks Commission: Kaslo and Area Regional Facilities and Parks Commission

→ Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

Insufficient Mobile Devices / Sample Size too Low

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 0

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:

→ Percent Locals %

→ Percent Tourists %

→ Average Visit Duration: 0S

→ Average Time Between Visits

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

-
-
-
-
-

McDonalds Landing Regional Park



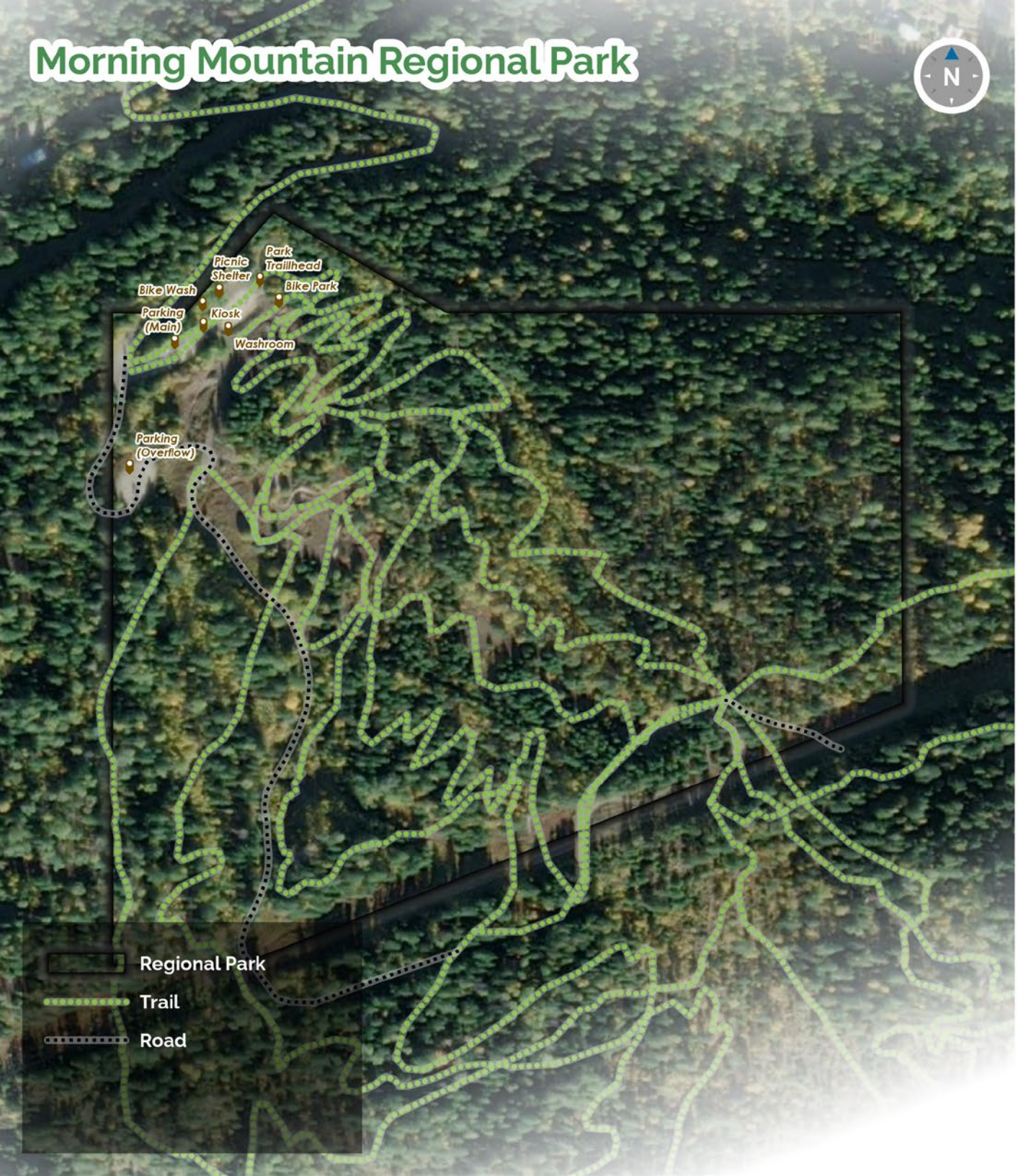
PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 0.3
- Trail Length (km): 0.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Something Unique, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 0
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 153.10 km
- Percent Locals: 50 %
- Percent Tourists: 50 %
- Average Visit Duration: 1H 09M
- Average Time Between Visits
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay W (50%), 2
  - Vancouver (25%), 1
  - Penticton (25%), 1
  -
  -

Morning Mountain Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 22.5
- Trail Length (km): 5.80
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails
- Park Classification: Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 5,800
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 66.61 km
- Percent Locals: 77.2 %
- Percent Tourists: 22.8 %
- Average Visit Duration: 23M 54S
- Average Time Between Visits: 61.48 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (27%), 138
  - Central Kootenay E (17%), 82
  - Central Kootenay W (16%), 78
  - Central Kootenay J (7%), 39
  - Rossland (2%), 18

Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail (Rail Trail)



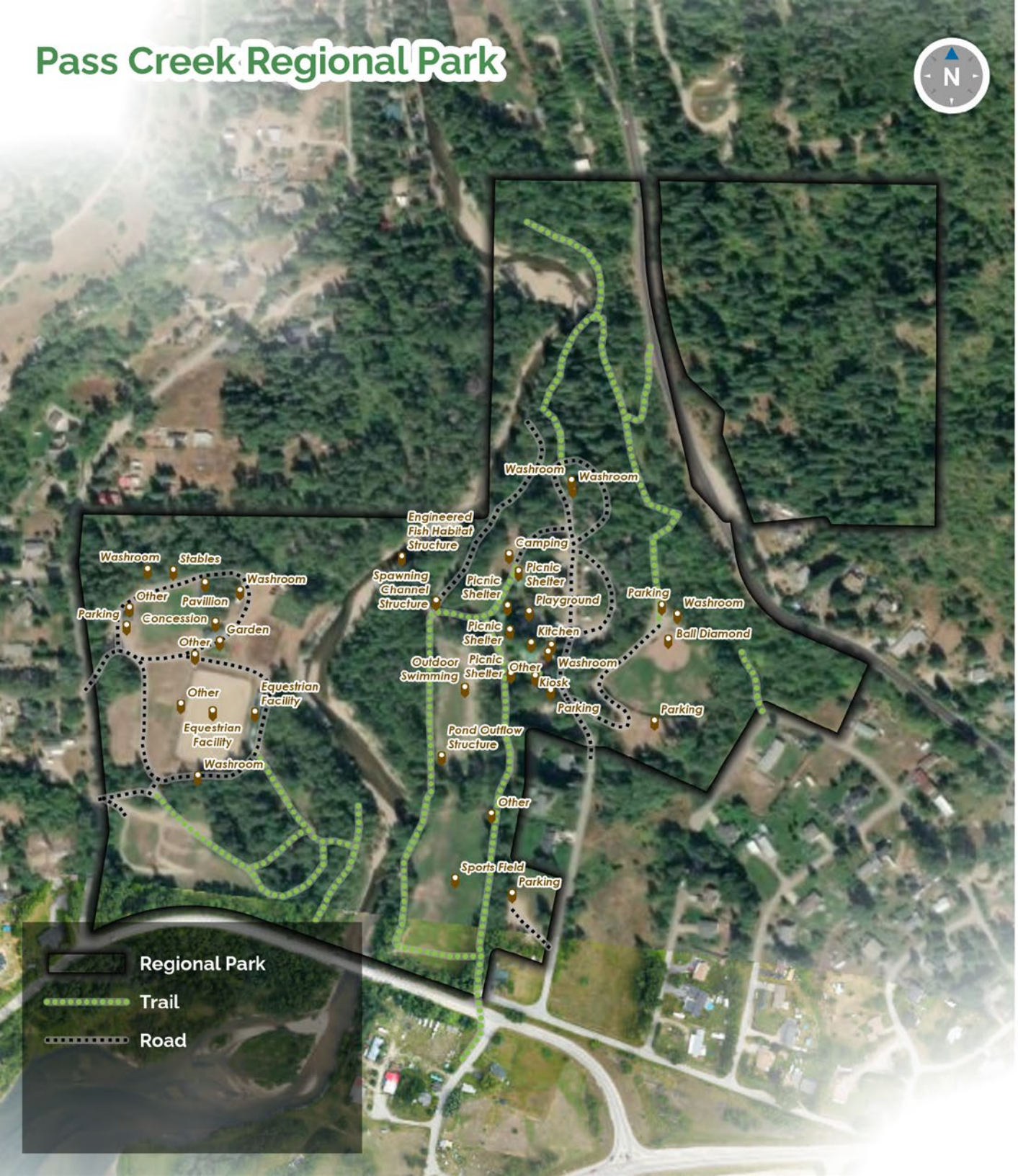
PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 222.8
- Trail Length (km): 43.27
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails
- Park Classification: Regional Trail
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Linear Rural Corridor

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 16,700
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 56.15 km
- Percent Locals: 78.1%
- Percent Tourists: 21.9 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 01M
- Average Time Between Visits: 63.72 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (35%), 1765
  - Central Kootenay E (7%), 484
  - Central Kootenay G (6%), 486
  - Salmo (7%), 291
  - Fruitvale (4%), 208

Pass Creek Regional Park



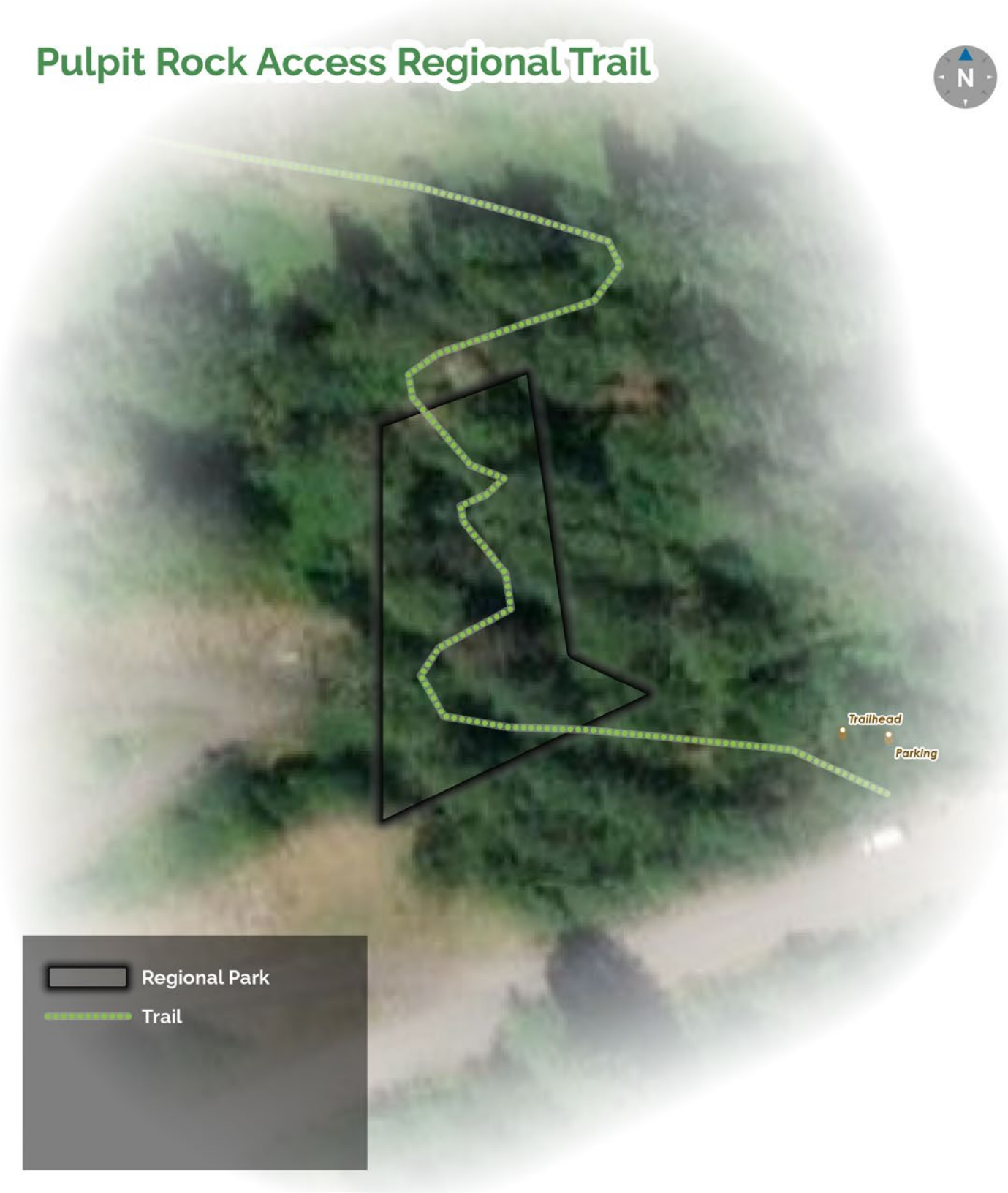
PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 35.2
- Trail Length (km): 2.30
- Primary Visitor Experience: Campground, Parking, Playground, Sportsfield, Toilet, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Go Camping, Something for Everyone
- Park Classification: Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 1,800
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 57.93 km
- Percent Locals: 79.2%
- Percent Tourists: 20.8%
- Average Visit Duration: 3HR 55M
- Average Time Between Visits: 44.78 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay J (31%), 179
  - Castlegar (20%), 48
  - Fruitvale (5%), 21
  - Woodlands County (5%), 17
  - Central Kootenay I (3%), 12

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 0.1
- Trail Length (km): 0.10
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails
- Park Classification: Regional Trail
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 200
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 157.06 km
- Percent Locals: 41.7 %
- Percent Tourists: 58.3 %
- Average Visit Duration: 8M 06S
- Average Time Between Visits: 40 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (20%), 2
  - Calgary (10%), 1
  - Victoria (10%), 1
  - Central Kootenay E (10%), 1
  - Grand Forks (10%), 1

Riondel Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha): 0.9

→ Trail Length (km): 0.00

→ Primary Visitor Experience:
Sportsfield, Toilet

→ Visitor Destination:
Something for Everyone

→ Park Classification:
Multipurpose Park

→ Regional Parks Commission:
No Commission

→ Active Transportation:
Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits:
0

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:
0.08 km

→ Percent Locals
100 %

→ Percent Tourists
0 %

→ Average Visit Duration:
32M 54S

→ Average Time Between Visits

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

- Central Kootenay A (100%), 1
-
-
-
-

Robson Boat Ramp Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 0.6
- Trail Length (km): 0.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Boat Launch
- Visitor Destination: Go Boating
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 100
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 89.83 km
- Percent Locals: 66.7%
- Percent Tourists: 33.3 %
- Average Visit Duration: 42M 12S
- Average Time Between Visits
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay J (50%), 6
  - Vancouver (17%), 1
  - Castlegar (17%), 1
  - Kelowna (17%), 1

Rosebery Parklands Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

→ Park Size (ha): 3.1

→ Trail Length (km): 0.40

→ Primary Visitor Experience:
Beach, Parking, Trails

→ Visitor Destination:
Access Water

→ Park Classification:
Waterfront Access Park

→ Regional Parks Commission:
Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission

→ Active Transportation:
Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

→ Total Extrapolated Annual Visits:
100

→ Average Distance from Place of Resident:
142.59 km

→ Percent Locals
%

→ Percent Tourists
100 %

→ Average Visit Duration:
2H 43M

→ Average Time Between Visits
68 Days

→ Top 5 Cities Travelled from:

- Fernie (67%), 10
- Central Kootenay H (33%), 1
-
-
-

Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail



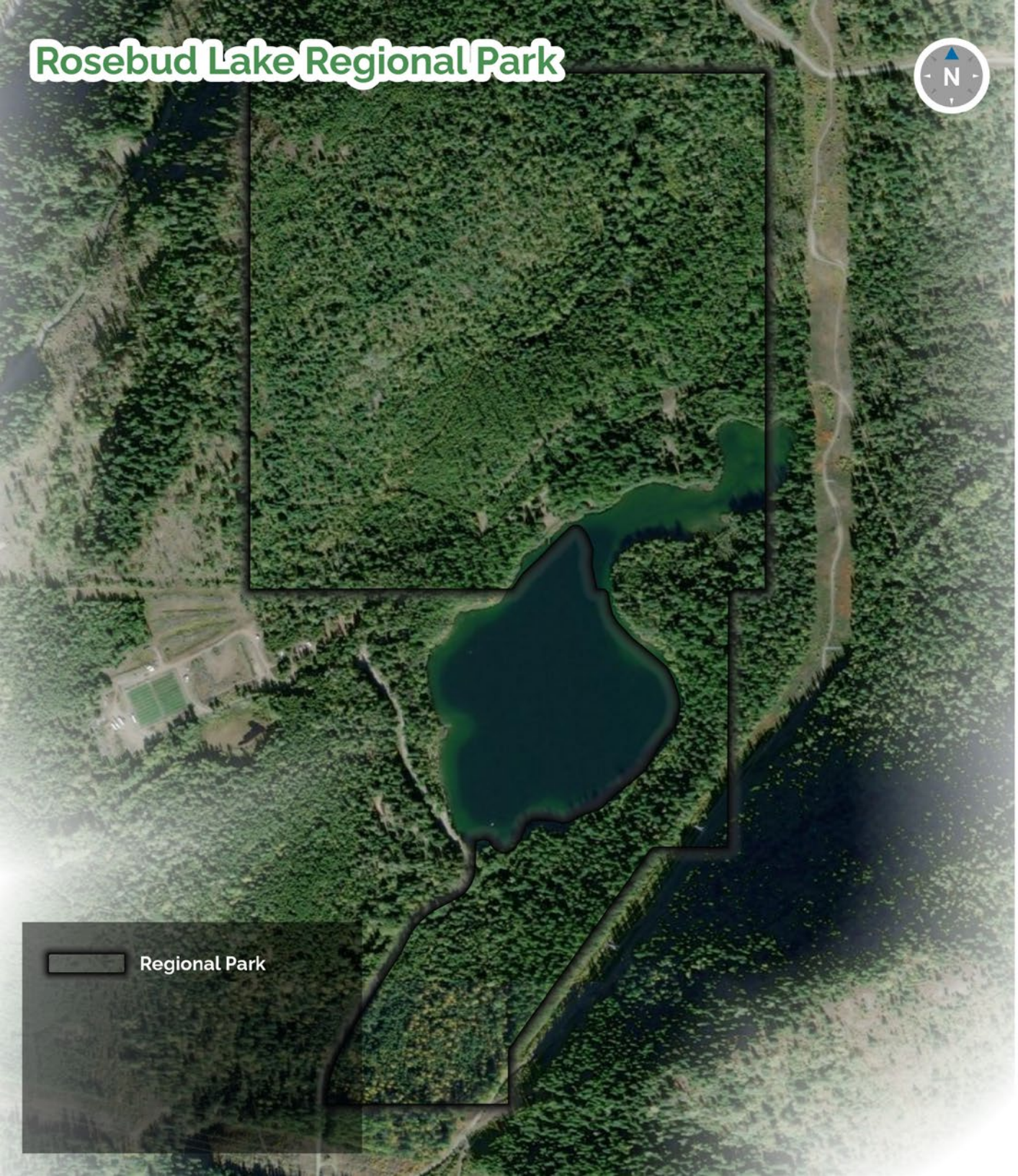
PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 50.8
- Trail Length (km): 12.20
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails
- Park Classification: Regional Trail
- Regional Parks Commission: Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission
- Active Transportation: Linear Rural Corridor

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 500
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 99.61 km
- Percent Locals 13.6% — Percent Tourists 86.4%
- Average Visit Duration: 3H 03M
- Average Time Between Visits 50.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay H (17%), 51
  - Rossland (17%), 17
  - Rocky View County (8%), 8
  - Nakusp (8%), 4
  - Columbia-Shuswa (13%), 3

Rosebud Lake Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 80.7
- Trail Length (km): 0.40
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Something Unique
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Basic Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 100
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 10.32 km
- Percent Locals: 100 %
- Percent Tourists: 0 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 27M
- Average Time Between Visits: 58 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Kootenay Boundary (50%), 1
  - Central Kootenay G (50%), 1
  -
  -
  -

Sunshine Bay Regional Park - Harrop



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 10.3
- Trail Length (km): 0.70
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Boat Launch, Parking, Sportfield, Toilet, Trails, Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Something for Everyone, Access Water, Go Boating
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access & Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Sunshine Bay Regional Park Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 600
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 231.65 km
- Percent Locals: 38.5%
- Percent Tourists: 61.5 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 17M
- Average Time Between Visits: 49.14 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (35%), 62
  - Vancouver (23%), 23
  - Calgary (8%), 5
  - Edmonton (12%), 3
  - Nelson (4%), 1

Sunshine Bay Regional Park - Procter



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 0.2
- Trail Length (km): 0.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Boat Launch, Parking, Sportfield, Toilet, Trails, Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Something for Everyone, Access Water, Go Boating
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access & Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Sunshine Bay Regional Park Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 600
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 231.65 km
- Percent Locals: 38.5%
- Percent Tourists: 61.5 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 17M
- Average Time Between Visits: 49.14 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (35%), 62
  - Vancouver (23%), 23
  - Calgary (8%), 5
  - Edmonton (12%), 3
  - Nelson (4%), 1

Sunshine Bay Regional Park - Sunshine Bay



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 13.3
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Boat Launch, Parking, Sportfield, Toilet, Trails, Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Something for Everyone, Access Water, Go Boating
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access & Multipurpose Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Sunshine Bay Regional Park Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 600
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 231.65 km
- Percent Locals: 38.5%
- Percent Tourists: 61.5 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 17M
- Average Time Between Visits: 49.14 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (35%), 62
  - Vancouver (23%), 23
  - Calgary (8%), 5
  - Edmonton (12%), 3
  - Nelson (4%), 1

Taghum Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 6.1
- Trail Length (km): 1.20
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 2,200
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 70.03 km
- Percent Locals: 69.7%
- Percent Tourists: 30.3%
- Average Visit Duration: 1H 36M
- Average Time Between Visits: 61.92 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Nelson (32%), 101
  - Central Kootenay W (17%), 85
  - Central Kootenay E (10%), 63
  - Castlegar (6%), 10
  - Central Kootenay B (2%), 10

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.0
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Parking, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 2,400
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 27.09 km
- Percent Locals: 90.2%
- Percent Tourists: 9.8 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 00M
- Average Time Between Visits: 58.12 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay J (21%), 271
  - Castlegar (45%), 112
  - Central Kootenay I (7%), 39
  - Rossland (5%), 19
  - Trail (5%), 9

Winlaw Regional and Nature Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 8.1
- Trail Length (km): 1.10
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Boat Launch, Parking, Sportfield, Toilet, Trails, Wharf
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Something for Everyone
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission
- Active Transportation: Outer Developed Rural

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 500
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 58.60 km
- Percent Locals: 75 %
- Percent Tourists: 25 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 19M
- Average Time Between Visits: 23.67 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay I (75%), 149
  - North Okanagan F (25%), 1
  -
  -
  -

Balfour Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8%
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

Balfour Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8%
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

Balfour Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8%
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

Balfour Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8%
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

Balfour Beach Regional Park



PARK DETAILS

- Park Size (ha): 4.9
- Trail Length (km): 1.00
- Primary Visitor Experience: Beach, Trails
- Visitor Destination: Discover Trails, Access Water
- Park Classification: Waterfront Access Park
- Regional Parks Commission: Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission
- Active Transportation: Developed Rural Code

PROPULSO DATA

- Total Extrapolated Annual Visits: 300
- Average Distance from Place of Resident: 42.8 km
- Percent Locals: 81.8%
- Percent Tourists: 18.2 %
- Average Visit Duration: 2H 14M
- Average Time Between Visits: 103.4 Days
- Top 5 Cities Travelled from:
  - Central Kootenay E (38%), 16
  - Nelson (23%), 14
  - Peace River V (15%), 2
  - Central Kootenay D (8%), 1
  - Castlegar (8%), 1

APPENDIX B – RECREATION SETTING DESCRIPTIONS

Backcountry Setting 1 (Primitive)

Large and essentially un-modified, undisturbed natural landscapes with no recreation infrastructure or amenities, limited evidence and interaction with other visitors and management controls. The area is typically inaccessible by motorized vehicles – minimal air access occurs. This setting affords visitors the opportunity to experience solitude, isolation from human civilization, closeness to nature, high personal challenge, and adventure. Encounters with other visitors does not typically occur.

Backcountry Setting 2 (Semi Primitive)

Generally un-modified, moderate to large natural landscapes with minimal to no recreation infrastructure or amenities and limited evidence and interaction with other visitors and management controls. The area is closer to roads but unused by motorized vehicles - minimal air access occurs. Bicycles may be encountered along trails, though accessibility challenges may limit their presence. Visitors can expect to experience solitude and isolation though infrequent encounters with other visitors should be expected. High personal challenge and adventure are typical.

Mid-country

Landscapes that are modified to a small degree, accessible by motorized vehicles (via unimproved roads or trails) and may include both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities. Evidence and interaction with other visitors and management controls exist but are not intrusive. Recreation infrastructure and basic visitor amenities are provided, but largely to mitigate visitor impacts. This setting affords the visitor a lessened sense of isolation from civilization, regular encounters with other visitors, and a moderate degree of risk and personal challenge.

Front-country

A relatively natural appearing setting where human modifications and development may exist but, for the most part, blend with the natural surroundings. Recreation infrastructure, amenities, and management controls are evident, as could be resource development activities. The area is easily accessible by motor vehicle and / or active transportation, and evidence and interaction with other visitors is common. Motorized and non-motorized activities may occur. This setting affords visitors limited opportunity to experience solitude.

Developed

This setting is dominated by human development. Recreation and tourism infrastructure and management controls are extensive, elaborate, and desired. Large numbers of users are expected and the sights and sounds of others dominate. The visitor may experience numerous modern conveniences, interaction with management in manicured environments and a feeling of high security from personal risk.

Endnotes

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iii Canadian Parks, Protected and Conserved Areas Leadership Collective (2023). Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization in Pan Canadian Parks and Protected Areas Research and Management.

iv Canadian Parks Council (2020).

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x Statistics Canada (August, 2023). More Canadians getting active outside. Retrieved from: https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/4316-more-canadians-getting-active-outside

