Welcome!

Parks and Trails Master Plan

Open House #1

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Parks and Trails Masterplan – Project Overview

The District is developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan to cover the five parks and over 30 trails under its management. The Master Plan will also:

- Look ahead to **Metchosin's future needs and goals.**
- Provide an updated planning tool for some of Metchosin's **most valuable natural assets.**



The goal is to develop an integrated Master Plan that will:

- Provide direction on how to **best manage our current assets**.
- Incorporate **community interests** and aspirations for our parks and trails.
- Identify **new projects and opportunities** to pursue.
- Identify **issues and risks that could impact** our parks and trails.
- Improve the mapping of our assets.
- Improve **ability to receive grants** to support future projects. Master Plans are often required when applying for grants.

Process and Anticipated Timelines

In January 2025, Metchosin Council authorized Metchosin's Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (PTASC) to develop the Parks and Trails Master Plan. The process is expected to take a year to complete.

Date	Activity
January 2025	Approval by Council for Master Plan
April 2025	Open House #1
April to October 2025	Research, continued public engagement, development of draft material for Plan
November 2025 (anticipated)	Open House #2. Goal will be to share information on material developed to date
November 2025 to January 2026	Finalize draft Master Plan; continued public engagement
January 2026	Submit Master Plan to Council for review / approval

Focus of Parks and Trails Master Plan

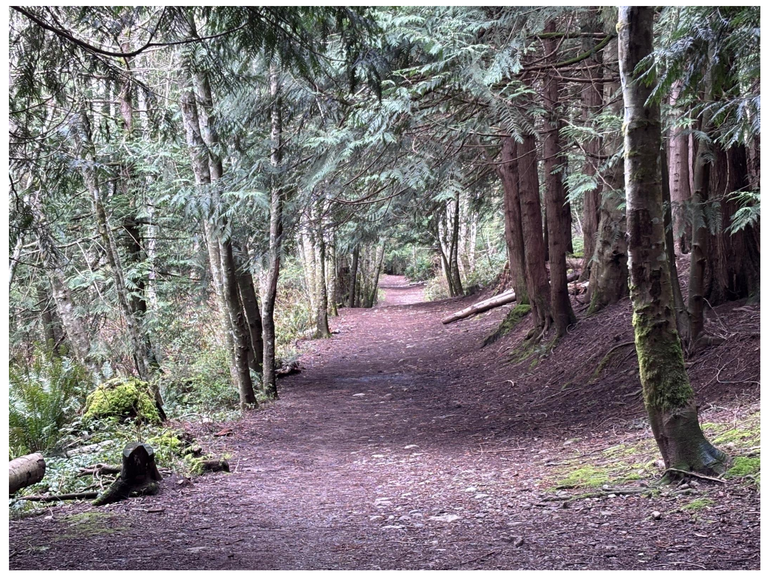
The Master Plan process will cover District owned or managed parks and trails assets, as well as Weir Beach and Taylor Beach. It will also assess **new opportunities to connect to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.**

The process will **not include** parks managed by the Capital Regional District: Devonian Regional Park, Witty's Lagoon Regional Park, Matheson Lake Regional Park, Sooke Hills Wilderness Park.

The Parks and Trails Master Plan process is distinct from the Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP), which is about supporting transportation options that can replace vehicle trips. PTASC will work to incorporate learnings and ideas from the ATNP process into Master Plan.







Community Engagement

Community engagement will occur throughout the process:

- Two open houses are planned
- Input at **regular PTASC** meetings
- Comments received **by email** at info@metchosin.ca (please put "Parks and Trails" in the subject line
- Public Participation at **Council and Committee of the Whole** meetings
- Information sharing at PTASC meetings, District **website,** ***Metchosin Muse***

Time for an update

Metchosin does not have a **unified Parks and Trails Master Plan**. A plan focused specifically on trails was completed in 2009 and a Parks and Recreational Master Plan was done in 1986 (the year of Metchosin's incorporation!). Many of the projects that were identified in the 2009 plan have since been completed or were assessed and deemed unfeasible.

Guiding Values and Principles – Pt 1

PTASC has developed a set of values and principles it will bring to the Master Plan process. **What do you think?**

Metchosin's rural character and tradition

- Parks and trails are a vital element of Metchosin's **community character** and our **connection to the environment**.
- **Preserve, enhance and protect** our community's natural features.
- Encourage and **enable volunteers** in maintaining parks and trails.



Connectivity

- **Connecting our trails** in a meaningful way for community members. For example, as access points to the Galloping Goose or between neighbourhoods.
- Connectivity considerations will be important in assessing **future parks and trails opportunities**.



Acknowledging First Nation traditional and ancestral connection to these lands

Guiding Values and Principles – Pt 2

PTASC has developed a set of values and principles it will bring to the Master Plan process. **What do you think?**

Respect for environment

- Support **wildlife corridors** (i.e. undeveloped spaces that support biodiversity)
- **Manage risks**: invasives, climate change risk (fire, flooding), activities that may cause damage.
- Assess impacts from **various new and future uses:** mountain biking, e-bikes, commercial dog walking, dogs in parks, random camping.

Accessibility

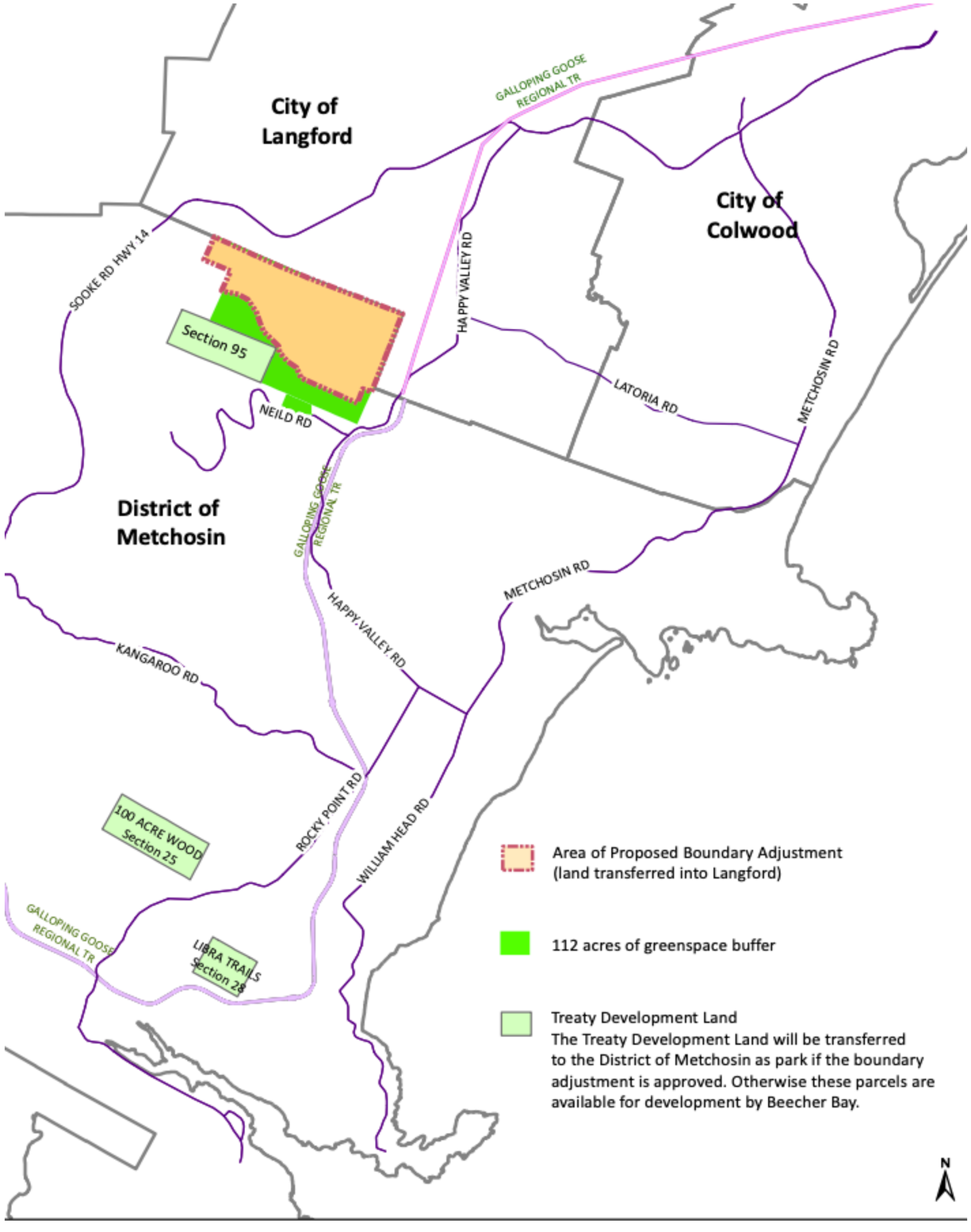
- Look for opportunities to **improve accessibility** for those with mobility limitations, consistent with the District's Accessibility strategy.



Looking ahead…

In the 2017 referendum, Metchosin residents supported the historic Land Swap involving the Sc'ianew Nation, the District and the City of Langford. Parks related matters:

- Metchosin came into ownership of the 113.5-acre **Buffer Land** (green area). The District is currently assessing re-zoning this area to conservation-oriented parkland.
- Pending the completion of the Sc'ianew Nation's Treaty, Metchosin will receive three parcels of Crown Land for parks:
- Section 95: 100-acre parcel adjacent to the Buffer Land in the Neild Road area.
- Section 28: 50-acre parcel, known as the Libra Trails.
- Section 25: 100-acre parcel, known as 100 Acre Wood or Metchosin Wilderness Park.



Seeking Your Input

Community input is a vital part of this process. Questions to consider:

- Where do you walk? What are your favourite trails or parks?
- How do you use Metchosin's trails: Exercise? Enjoying nature? Connecting to other places?
- How do you access the trails: Walking? Cycling? Horseback?
- What's great about our parks and trails? What needs to be improved?
- Do you have concerns about how our parks and trails are being managed?
- Do you have concerns for the future? What emerging issues do you see? What should the District be aware of and be planning for?
- Are there new parks and trails opportunities you want the District to explore? Specific locations? Places to connect? Galloping Goose access?
- Would you be interested in volunteering or becoming a Trail Steward?

Parks and Trails – Finances and Funding

The District's operating budget typically provides PTASC with the following:

- $5,000 for trail maintenance.
- $10,000 for trail development.

These amounts are often not fully spent due either to volunteer efforts or projects not ready for work.

Metchosin's Public Works team is involved in parks and trails maintenance. Average annual spend over the last five years (time and materials): $22,045

Metchosin's Public Works staff, PTASC and volunteers often work together on projects, such as the recent refurbishing of the Latoria Creek Community Bridge.

Special projects are funded through either the capital budget, budget surplus or through reserves:

- Parks and Trails Master Plan (2025) - $20,000 allocated from the Canada Community Building Grant (formally the Federal "Gas Tax" annual grant).
- Duke Road East Roadside Trail and Pedestrian Safety Study (2025) - $20,000 allocated from the Canada Community Building Grant.
- Latoria Creek Community Bridge (2025) - $5,530 drawn from Metchosin's operating budget. Project was a joint effort between Public Works, community volunteers, and donations.
- Duke Road East Survey (2024) - $11,965 for a survey. Funds allocated from the Canada Community Building Grant.
- Weir Beach Stairs (2024) – $19,220 Funds drawn from Metchosin's capital budget.

How to Share Your Thoughts

Community input is an important element of the Parks and Trails Master Plan development process. Here's how you can share your thoughts and perspectives.

Email us at

Info@metchosin.ca

(please put "Parks and Trails" in the subject line)



Provide your comments directly

PTASC meets monthly (normally the third Tuesday)

An open forum (public participation) occurs at every meeting. Public Participation is also a regular part of every Council meeting.

Stay informed

Please watch the District's website and the *Metchosin Muse* for more information.

Share Your Thoughts

Post your ideas, views, perspectives here.