

Welcome!
Parks and Trails Master Plan
Open House #2
Saturday, November 22, 2025

Parks and Trails Master Plan – Project Overview

The District is developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan to cover the five parks and over 50 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**



A first draft of an integrated Master Plan was put out for comment on November 10, 2025. The goal of the draft plan is to:

- 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 ability to receive grants to support future projects. Master Plans are often required when applying for grants

Process and Anticipated Timelines

Date	Activity
January 2025	Approval by Council for the development of a Master Plan by the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC)
April 2025	Open House #1
April to October 2025	Research, continued public engagement, development of draft material for Plan
November 2025	Release of Draft #1 of the Master Plan for comment Open House #2.
November 2025 to January 2026	Continued public engagement; prepare Draft #2 to reflect on-going community input
January / February 2026	Submit Master Plan to Council for review / approval

Overview Parks and Trails Master Plan – Draft 1

The draft Master Plan is structured as follows:

- **Introduction:** includes a list of Metchosin's current parks, trails, beach assets
- **Community Profile:** goal was to have the profile be relevant to specific parks/trails matters
- **Process:** includes an overview of PTASC's role, public engagement / information efforts, relevance to the OCP and other planning materials
- **Trends:** A look at key matters relating to our parks/trails
- **Trails, Parks, Beaches:** Focused sections on each, including a set of recommendations
- **What We Heard:** includes a summary of comments received to date



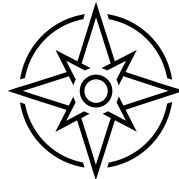
Metchosin's Parks and Trails – Facts



District managed assets include over 101 hectares (249 acres) of parks and ~20 km of trails



Over 50 trails within the network, including 11 roadside trails



Parks range in size from the 100-acre Metchosin Wilderness Park to the 2.24-acre Carlton Kosh Nature Park



The addition of the Buffer Land and section 95 would bring another 85 hectares (213 acres) of park land

The Master Plan does not include parks managed by the Capital Regional District:, including Devonian Regional Park, Witty's Lagoon Regional Park, Matheson Lake Regional Park, Sooke Hills Wilderness Park.

Community Profile - Highlights

Core Information

- District covers 69.57 km² and is the 2nd largest jurisdiction by land mass in CRD
- Contains over 50 km of coastline and has over 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres or 14%) of land in the ALR.
- Population: 5,067 (2021 census)
- Median age among residents is 50.8 years. That's higher than the regional (45.2 years) and provincial (42 years) median ages
- ~26% of Metchosin residents are 65 years of age or over
- Significant growth is occurring on our borders with Colwood and Langford

Key take-aways:

- With continued urban growth in the CRD, Metchosin's natural spaces will likely take on increasing importance on a region-wide basis
- With our older population further consideration may be given to new accessibility enhancements on our trails (such as benches) to assist older walkers
- Given its size, the distances to jobs, school, shopping (and the low-level of transit service), Metchosin residents will likely continue to rely on vehicles for transportation. That said...
- New technology (e-bikes and scooters, etc..) will bring interest in alternative modes of transportation.

Trends and Planning Considerations

The Plan looks at:

- Accessibility
- Regional Growth and potential impacts
- District resourcing
- Our volunteer base
- Invasive plants
- Impacts of new technology
- Biking
- Land use matters



A range of recommendations are made, including:

- Accessibility and safe passage improvements be brought into future planning parks / trails planning
- That additional benches be installed on key trails to support walkers with limited mobility
- That partnership opportunities be sought with the CRD and neighbouring municipalities on key projects, potentially biking lanes on Metchosin and Happy Valley Roads
- That the District confirm its position on commercial dog walking within District parks and other property (i.e. Buffer Land), including the potential of a licensing program with fees and identification requirements
- That invasive species management continue to be a priority in parks/trails maintenance

Metchosin's Trails Network

Background:

- District staff and volunteers manage a network of 51 trails covering 20kms of walkable area
- Trails are on both public and private property
- The Plan identifies new opportunities and reviews past efforts on trail development



Selected draft recommendations:

- Amenities (such as bathrooms, parking, benches, signage) continue to be limited, except where amenities like benches) are identified as aids to accessibility
- Develop a volunteer Trails Steward Program
- Bike use be allowed on all roadside trails; that certain natural trails be “no bike” areas
- Criteria for the development of new trails is proposed
- That trails proposed as part of residential subdivisions be completed during the subdivision development process

Metchosin's Parks

Background:

- District owns or actively manages 101 hectares (249 acres) of park land
- Two additional parcels (the Buffer Land and Section 95) with a combined area of 85 hectares (213 acres) are expected to be added to these assets in the future



Selected draft recommendations:

- Prioritize efforts to address threats to the local environment or biodiversity, such as invasives or damage through human use
- Encourage and enable volunteer support for appropriate parks maintenance
- That under-utilized parks be assessed and options be considered: 1) development as formal and useable public parks; 2) designation as protected/conservation area; 3) enhanced public recreation (playgrounds, community gardens; 4) disposition by the District
- That a new name for the Buffer Land be considered. A potential name could be the Metchosin Creek Preservation Area. This would acknowledge the area's important riparian values, and support the potential conservation focus of a new zone

Metchosin's Beaches

Background:

- Section covers Weir and Taylor Beaches, which are relevant to the Master Plan because of the existing park on Weir Beach and the fact that the District has responsibilities in both areas
- Both beaches are part of a complex chain of shoreline features spanning the 50 kilometres of Metchosin coastline



Selected draft recommendations:

- At least one mobility impaired parking space be considered at Taylor and Weir Beach
- Any future increases to parking for the beaches should be considered only in the context of an environmentally and economically compelling opportunity
- The District maintain its current position on not having garbage receptacles or bathroom facilities
- Steps be taken to encourage biking to the beaches, particularly Taylor Beach. This may include reduced speeds or awareness signage on William Head Road
- Implement a 20 km/hr speed limit on Taylor Road

Community Engagement

Community engagement will occur throughout the process:

- Two open houses have been held
- Input at regular PTASC meetings is welcomed
- 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 has brought the Master Plan process.

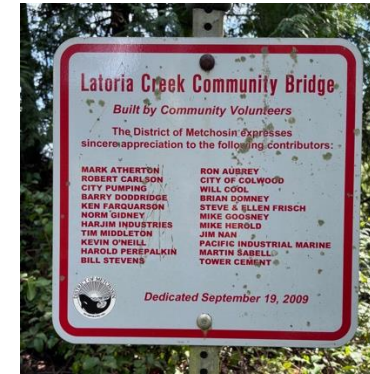
Metchosin's rural character and tradition

- 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 has brought the Master Plan process.

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



Seeking Your Input

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

- What have we missed?
- Are there new parks and trails opportunities you want the District to explore? Specific locations? Places to connect? Galloping Goose access?
- What do you agree with in the plan? What do you disagree with?
- Do you have concerns about how our parks and trails are being managed? How can these be addressed in the plan?
- What else should the District be aware of and be planning for?
- Did we identify the key risks/issues our parks and trails network are facing? Are there others?

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.