DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

---

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval
- Welcome to new members

2. Presentations

3. Public Participation

4. Adoption of Minutes
a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 17, 2026 1

5. Receipt of Minutes

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
a) Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

7. Reports
a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report
b) Council Liaison Verbal Report
c) Chair Verbal Report

8. Correspondence

9. Other Business
a) RRU Student Nick DeCarlo, Thesis Topic for Input, Metchosin Buffer Lands Potential Research Questions 5

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

MINUTES
Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison, Recorder), Kathy Atherton, Ron Aubrey, Caroline Donohue (via Teams).

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

THAT the February 17, 2026. Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting agenda be adopted as presents.

Carried by consensus.

2. Presentations

- No presentations.

3. Public Participation

Ian Baxter, Neild Road, member of the Friends of the Buffer Land, addressed the Committee to share an update from the group and for clarification regarding recent Council consideration of a reserve fund specific to the Buffer Land and the potential of $15,000 annually being allocated to the fund, and the PTASC's role in how these funds are spent and trail maintenance for Buffer Lands. The speaker also noted that the next invasive removal event in the Buffer Lands is scheduled for March 21.

Committee Discussion:

- Promotion of invasive plant removal at Buffer Lands event.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, January 28, 2026

Moved by Ron Aubrey
THAT the January 28, 2026, Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee minutes be adopted.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, January 27, 2026

Committee Discussion:

- Members will review District of Highlands Master Plan, per MEASC's recommendation.

THAT the January 27, 2026, Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting minutes received.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Trail Stewardship Program Update

- The program has been authorized by CAO Payette;
- Jim Nan has applied as the Trail Steward for Blinkhorn Nature Park; and
- Parks and Trails Coordinator will look at additional volunteers to support specific parks/ trails in this role.

b) Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

- Work continues on incorporating stakeholder input into the plan, including: MEASC, Senior's Information Resource Centre and public;
- Councillor Jay Shukin to circulate a draft for PTASC to review; significant changes to be highlighted for further comment;
- Timeline to bring draft to the Committee of the Whole; and
- Draft placement on District website for community input.

c) Trail Signage

- Bike-pedestrian signs on Duke Road East, and no-ATV signs;
- Parks and Trail Coordinator has contacted sign company for estimates on sign replacement;
- Trail sign inventory and signage consistency:
    - Committee members will photograph and review;
- Policy for inventory and records management to be developed for signs, trail list and memorial donations:
    - Councillor Jay Shukin to discuss with staff about creating an accessible inventory record for PTASC.

d) Active Transportation

- Members discussed PTASC's role in Active Transportation (AT); and
- Members discussed AT's connection to climate action and environment.

e) Glen Forest Paving Project

- Members discussed support for expanding road shoulders, even gravel.

7. Reports

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

Resident concern: Cliff Drive Trail is overgrown and needs maintenance;

- Parks and Trails Coordinator to discuss maintenance plan with CAO.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Trails work at Sea Bluff;
- Forthcoming bench on Hillman Trail; and
- Upcoming Community Thank You Celebration for Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop on March 15.

c) Chair Verbal Report

- Developing requests for CAO including:
    - Clarification on Duke Road subdivision, pocket park;
    - Clarification on Beckingham Road Trail; and
    - Utilizing William Head Institution inmate workgroups.

8. Correspondence

- None.

9. Other Business

a) Annual Maintenance Plan

- Addition of Cliff Drive trail;
- Trail Stewards program;
- Councillor Jay Shukin to circulate and finalized plan for Committee of the Whole meeting.

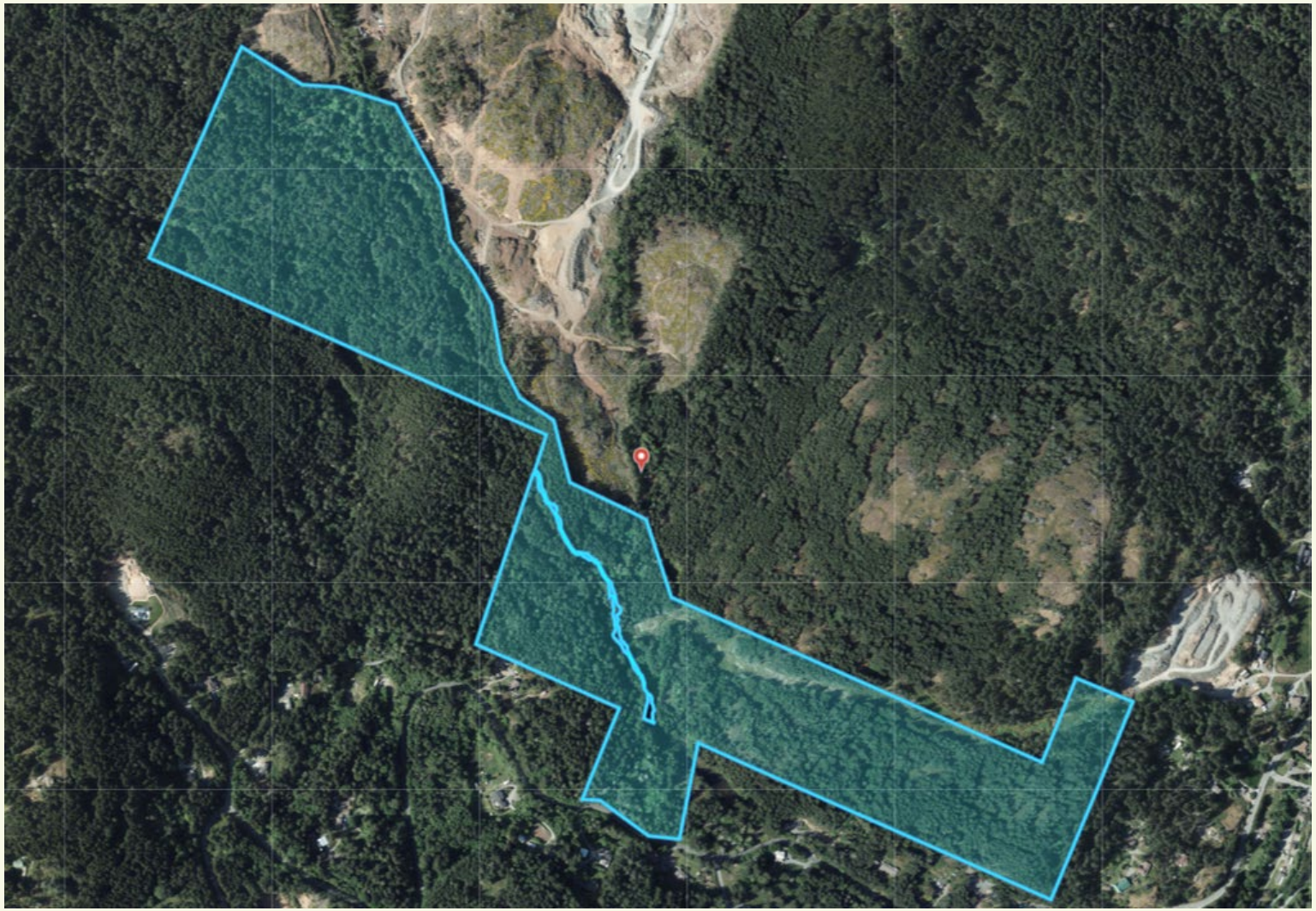
b) Annual Report – Highlights and achievements of 2025

- Deputy Corporate Officer requested highlights of 2025 for the Annual Report. The following were listed:
  - Pedestrian safety improvements on Duke Road East with road shoulder widening;
  - Trails Master Plan: two public engagement sessions; draft 1 provided for review;
  - Advances the Trail Stewards Program;
  - Volunteer work on numerous trails to remove fallen trees and hazards; June work party on the Branson-Duke Trail, Buffer Land;
  - Many thanks to 'retiring' members Jim Nan and Karen Hoffman. Jim was named Metchosin's Friend of the Earth in 2025.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.m.
The next meeting will be held on March 17.

Metchosin Bufferlands: Potential Research Questions



Nick De Carlo, Royal Roads University
Environmental Management Program

Agenda

1. Value of the Bufferlands and Potential Risks
2. What is Natural Asset Management
3. Potential Research Option #1 - Patterns of Invasive Species and Native Plant Composition Near Trails
4. Potential Research Option #2 - Identifying Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Hotspots within the Bufferlands
5. Deliverables

Bufferlands in Natural Asset Planning

Why Bufferlands matter

Vital natural assets that provide recreation, carbon sequestration, and cultural value—supporting healthier, more resilient communities.

How to integrate into planning

Build a natural asset inventory, value services economically and culturally, and embed conservation goals in local policy and decisions.

Evidence from case studies

This approach improves stakeholder engagement and supports measurable ecosystem service enhancement over time.

Value of Bufferlands and Potential Risks

Benefits

- Water infiltration and storm flow reduction
  - Tree interception and soil infiltration = increased time till outflow in Bilston Creek
- Air and water pollution reduction
  - Plant interception and incorporation in tissues and soils
- Plant, wildlife, and insect diversity
  - Native habitat
- Community mental and physical health support
  - Recreation opportunities, buffer to adjacent Langford

Risks

- Recreational use
  - Soil compaction near trails and undirected recreational use
  - Invasive species introduction and spread
  - Waste
- Adjacent Development
  - Increased run-off
  - Increased air pollution
  - Increased recreation use
- Climate change
  - Storm events (flooding, drought, wind)
  - Altered plant composition from altered temperature and moisture, potentially increased invasive species pressure

What is Natural Asset Management

Natural Asset Management

- Formalized process integrating people, natural assets, finances, and information supporting decisions on services and maintenance needs
- Recognizes natural assets (e.g., forests, creeks, wetlands) provide services that communities rely on
- First step is understanding what natural assets are present, the supported services, and risks to the assets and services
- Understanding cost savings and replacement costs helps communities understand the value and importance of maintaining natural assets

Asset Management Community of Practice, 2019

Potential Research to Support Bufferlands and Natural Asset Management

Option #1: Trail Impacts and Influence on Invasive Species

Trail Impacts and Influence on Invasive Species

Research Basis

Trail use can compact soils, reduce native plant diversity, and promote invasive species introduction and spread. These impacts could degrade the Bufferlands and complicate maintenance.

Knowledge Gap

Potential gap in understanding of trail recreational use in Coastal Douglas fir forests, including Vancouver Island.

Value for Metchosin Bufferlands

Directed or undirected recreational use may occur. Understanding patterns of impacts with recreational use would support trail placement and trail maintenance planning.

Drawbacks

Information does not address other potential challenges to the Bufferlands, nor does it identify areas of greater value in the Bufferlands. Assumes Metchosin does not currently have reliable information on invasive species occurrences and their association to trails.

Option #2: Bufferland Asset & Ecosystem Service Hotspot Identification & Risk Assessment

Bufferland Asset & Ecosystem Service Hotspot Identification & Risk Assessment

Research Basis

Information on the plant diversity and ecosystem services (e.g., flow reduction, nutrient retention, carbon sequestration) would support understanding of value and importance of maintenance.

Knowledge Gap

No known formal inventory of the Bufferlands or benefits of supported services (e.g., flood control, pollination).

Value for Metchosin Bufferlands

Would help identify areas for avoidance, areas in need of repair, risks from future adjacent development (and negotiations).

Drawbacks

Does not identify how the Bufferlands contribute to the overall natural assets and services of Metchosin or potential duplication.

Research Deliverables

Deliverables

Option #1

- Data on the relationship of trails in Metchosin to plant diversity, soil compaction, and invasive species, and prediction of expected patterns with increased trail use and potentially climate change.
- Map of landcover types in Metchosin (will be used to evaluate patterns of effects with landcover)

Option #2

- Map of landcover types in Bufferland
- Map of plant diversity hotspots and relationship to wildlife use
- Map of ecosystem service hotspots
- Prediction of risks to plant diversity and ecosystem services with future development and climate change.