

Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area H

Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Purpose and Operations Statement

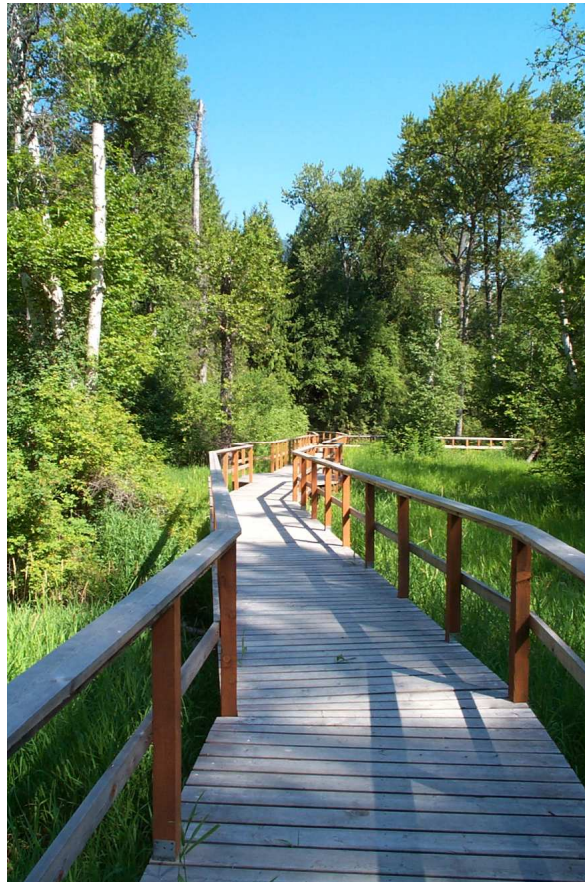




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WINLAW REGIONAL & NATURE PARK PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS STATEMENT

Introduction and Background

This Purpose and Operations Statement (POS) will guide the management of Winlaw Regional & Nature Park into the foreseeable future.

The park is a 9.2 ha (22.7 ac) parcel located approximately 600m north of the Winlaw bridge on the west shore of the Slocan River. It is categorized as a waterfront access park in the Official Regional Parks Plan.

The park is an area which has been extensively used by humans for many years, and which will continue to be impacted by humans. However, local residents wish to allow natural process dominate on the majority of the park area. While natural processes unfold, and large-scale disturbances (e.g. cattle grazing, farming, logging) are eliminated, small scale disturbances (e.g. trails, signage, infrastructure maintenance) will continue. Sections of the park have been converted to lawn, roads, parking areas, trails, and boardwalks.

This POS provides the direction for the priority management and development of Winlaw Regional & Nature Park. Implementation of this POS is of an operational nature, with follow-through on an as-needed basis and dependent on the availability of financial and staffing capacity.

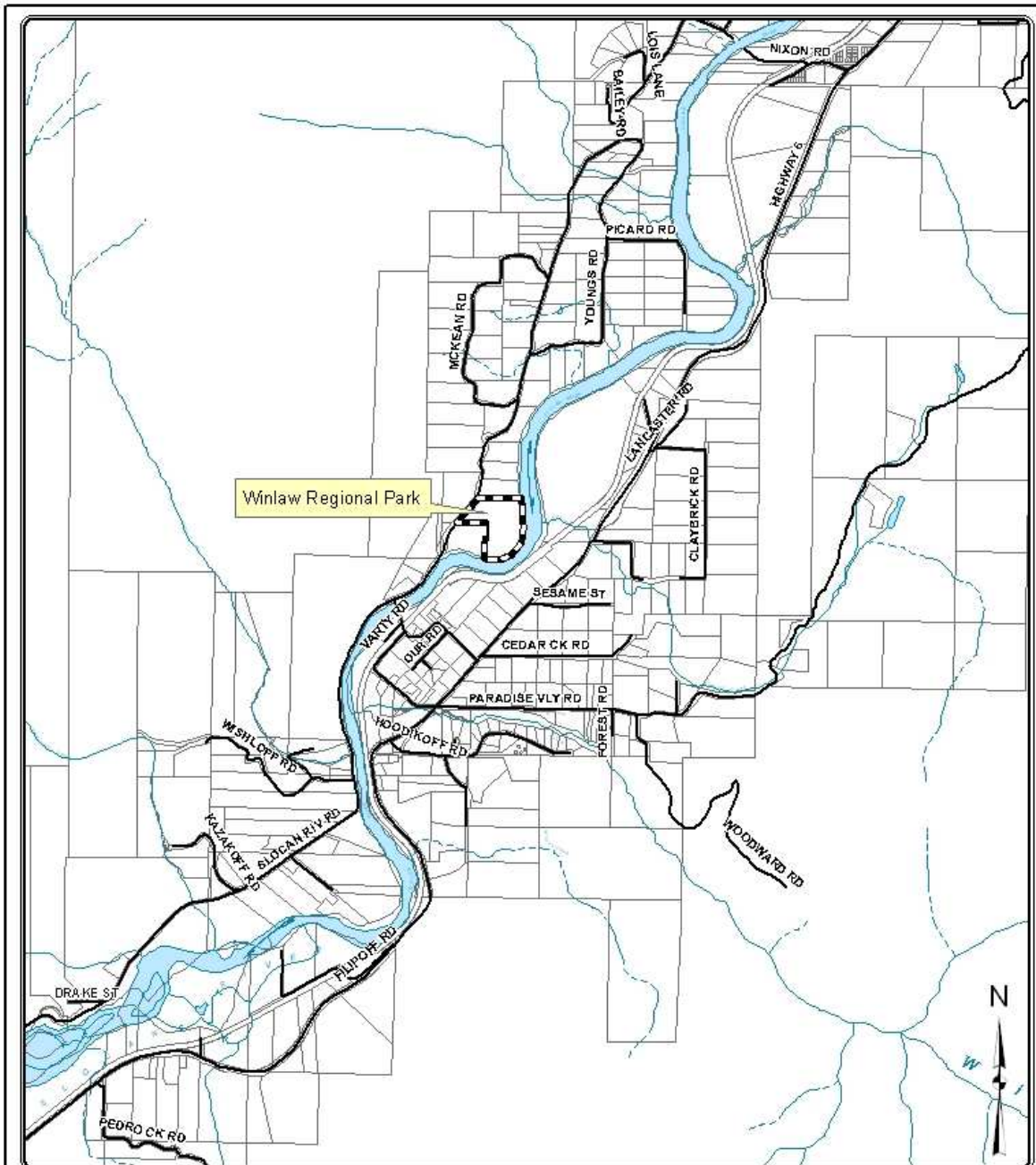
Park Purpose

Winlaw Regional and Nature Park serves as a local day use recreation area for regional district residents and tourists alike. Opportunities include beach activities, nature appreciation, walking, kayaking, rafting canoeing and picnicking. A large portion of the park is identified as a protected natural area.

Note: Information in this POS was obtained from the following:

- 1. Winlaw Regional Park Plan, October 1997*
- 2. Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Commission members*

Map 1: Park Location



 <p>Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5P4 Phone: (250) 352-6665 Toll-Free 1-800-268-7325 (BC) Fax: (250) 352-9300 Info: www.rdkc.ko.ca</p> <p>The mapping information shown are approximate representations and should only be used for reference purposes. The Regional District of Central Kootenay is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Winlaw Regional Park Overview Map</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads - REQ Creeks Cadastre - REQ Lake 	<p>Map Scale:</p>  <p>Map Projection: UTM Zone 11 Map Datum: NAD83 Date Plotted: Sept. 2011</p> <p>Mapsheet: 82F043.12</p>
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Map 2 Park Map



Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Photos



Community Significance

Natural Features

- The park is bounded by the Slocan River on one side and lies entirely within the Slocan River riparian area. Specifically, 94% of the park area is located within the floodplain of the Slocan River, with the remaining 6% on a toe slope immediately adjacent to the floodplain.
- Vegetation cover is composed of a variety of floodplain and wetland forest types.
- Vegetation patterns in the park result from the interaction of human disturbance patterns and the complex ecology of a large river floodplain. Some terrain features are also a result of human disturbance.
- Localized flooding allow the open grasslands to be maintained.
- Significant beaver population along riverbank.

Recreational Features

- Contains a developed lawn/recreation area, a low impact trail system in the forested area, and boardwalks through the wetland area.
- The developed recreation area in the south east portion of the park occupies a 1.1 ha area, and represents the majority of human use.
- Used for a mixture of community events, day-use recreation, and nature viewing, primarily be local residents, but also includes regional school groups.
- A park contractor handles regular park maintenance, and the local Parks Commission is an advisory group to the RDCK for park activities and development.
- There is a gated road leading to the beach area from the parking lot, however is only used for service needs, special events, and handicapped access.

Local & Historic

- Park property was initially surveyed as two separate lots in 1913, and has seen a variety of land uses and ownership since then.
- Formerly an old growth cedar forest, with large stumps still visible. This forest was burned in the early 1900s and has been regenerating since then.
- In the 1960s the land was used for cattle grazing, and the land improved to support this use.
- Designated a UREP (Use, Recreation, and Enjoyment of the Public) by the Province.
- Became an RDCK Regional Park in 1989, after an extensive park planning process in which potential parks were identified throughout the RDCK. Following establishment, grants and volunteer labour were instrumental in the development of park infrastructure.

First Nations

The park is within the asserted traditional First Nation territories of the West Bank First Nation, Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Indian Band, and Splots'in First Nation. The first residents of the area were the indigenous peoples known as the S'inixt. They are thought to have arrived as early as 10,000 years ago. However, it is not clear whether the park land was used or impacted by either the Sinixt people, who lived year-round in parts of the Slocan Valley in villages, or the Ktunaxa people who came to the valley for seasonal hunting and gathering.

The S'inixt were declared extinct in Canada by the Federal Government in 1956, preventing them from making any possible land claims or restitution. They are currently in a struggle to have that label lifted, the first step in a large process of amends.

Zoning

This POS uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park (see Map 3). The majority of the park is zoned Natural Environment, with the objective of preserving the natural landscape and providing minimal facility development. This area may include trail development and signage, with the objective of maintaining the natural landscape, while providing interpretive facilities for park users. The area delineated as the Limited Recreation Zone includes is intended to be used for relatively more intensive public recreation than the Natural Environment Zone, but still maintain the natural landscape. Appendix 1 describes the RDCK Regional Parks zoning framework.

Map 3: Zoning

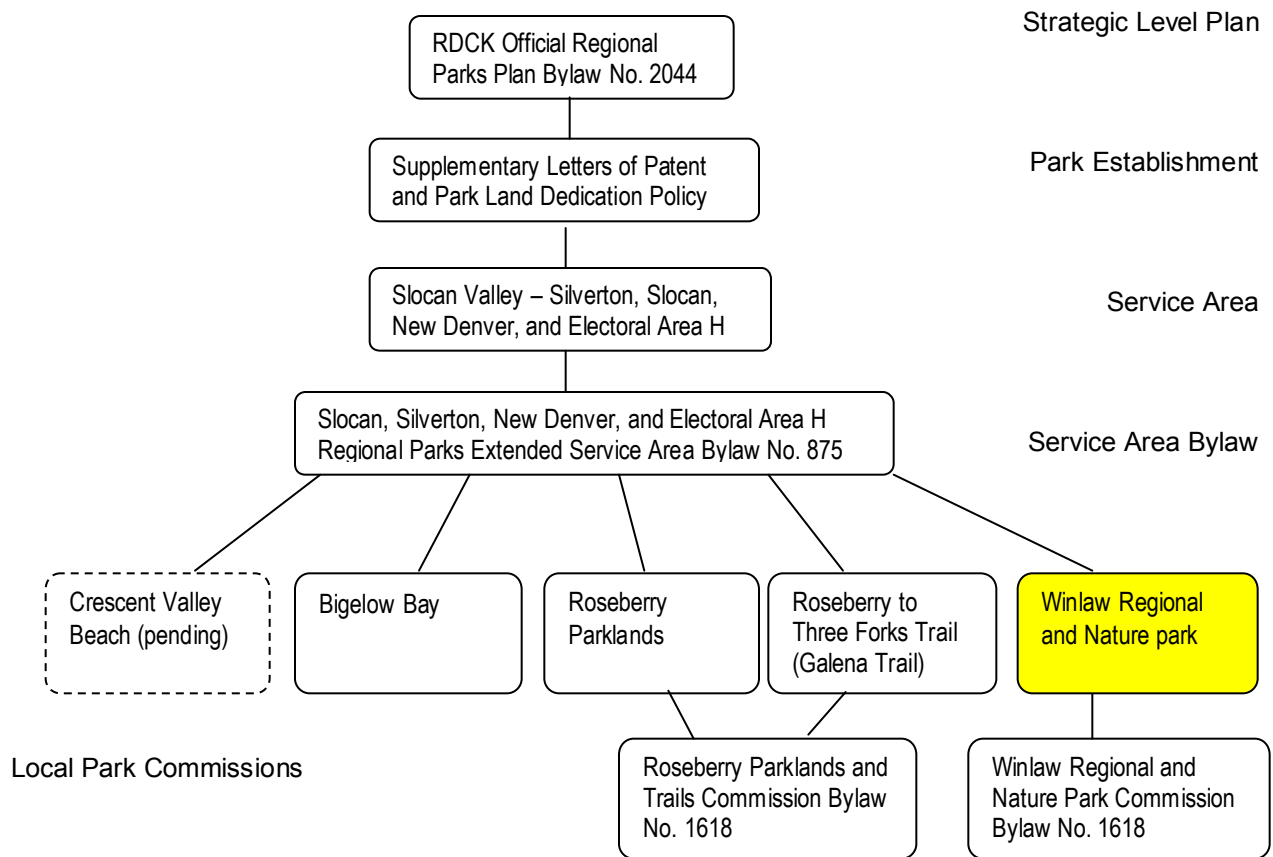


Operations and Governance

Park operations is an important component in ensuring that the daily experience of park users is enjoyable and safe. Park operations responsibilities include seeing that park regulations are understood and enforced, facilities are maintained and repaired when required, and the day use areas kept clean and accessible. Park management is undertaken jointly by RDCK staff and the Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Commission. The Regional Parks Commission makes recommendations to the RDCK Board about matters concerning the park. The RDCK Board is the decision making authority for the park budget, policy, and regulations.

The RDCK currently operates and maintains Winlaw & Regional Nature Park through a maintenance contractor. The work will be carried out by the contractor according to specifications in the contract, and the contractor must supply all equipment necessary to perform the duties and meet the required standards of service.

Figure 1: Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Governance Structure



Facilities and Activities

RDCK Regional Park rules and regulations are stated in the RDCK Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 2173.

ACTIVITY	Zone		Comments
	Limited Recreation	Natural Environment	
Camping	N	N	
Day-Use	Y	Y	
Dogs	Y	Y	Leash only
Horses	N	N	
Motorized Use	N	N	
Swimming	Y	Y	
Fishing	Y	Y	
Boating	Y	Y	Non-motorized only
Fire Mgmt	Y	Y	
Grazing	N	N	
Hunting	N	N	
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	
Bicycles	Y	Y	
Skiing	Y	Y	
FACILITY			
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	N	
Boat Launch	N	N	
Roads & Parking Lots	N	N	
Trails	Y	Y	
Playground	Y	N	
Day-Use Facilities	Y	Y	Related to trail use only in the Natural Environment Zone
Toilets	Y	N	
Picnic Shelter	Y	N	
Fire Pits	Y	N	

Management Priorities

This section outlines the immediate park priorities that are to be undertaken over the next five to ten years. It is understood that project proposals may come forward which are not anticipated, based on immediate management issues. These projects may be considered on a case by case basis by the General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Development Services, the RDCK Board, as well as the Winlaw Regional & Nature Park Commission.

Currently park infrastructure includes a park entrance sign, trailhead signage, gated service road, picnic tables, fire pits, trails, washrooms at the walk-in beach area, open shelter, parking area, boardwalk, and a small play area. Immediate park infrastructure priorities include replacing worn and rotted boards on boardwalk, danger tree falling and identification of other public safety issues, beach restoration, and minor park improvements such as new kiosk flashing, screening on the park entrance sign, new washroom roof, and maintenance of other aging structures. Long term projects may include expanding and upgrading the trail system and play area and/or other facilities.

The RDCK will be responsible for funding capital works at the park, and intends to prioritize projects listed below. The ability to do any of the projects presented is contingent on revenue and the resources available.

Management priorities include the following:

- Primary management interest is to ensure public safety by identifying potential hazardous features and areas that may pose a liability risk to the RDCK (e.g. illegal and/or unsafe structures, illegal activities, hazard trees)
- Enhancing park infrastructure based primarily on ensuring public safety (e.g. clearing debris from park trails, regularly maintain infrastructure), and secondarily on enhancing the user experience (e.g. fostering natural processes, extend beach area).
- Enforcing park rules and regulations, pursuant to RDCK Park Regulation Bylaw 2173
- Fostering both public and commercial activities compatible with park values
- Managing for-profit commercial activities through a Park Use Permit process
- Protecting and maintaining key park natural and recreational values (e.g. sensitive natural features/areas, sensitive cultural/heritage areas, focusing development away from sensitive features)

Projected Cost Analysis

Winlaw Regional & Nature Park possesses a varying amount of development necessary for safe and satisfactory visitor experiences. Currently park improvements are aimed at ensuring public safety and enhancing the user experience. As a minimum standard, RDCK provides administrative support to the Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission. Depending on priority management issues and further assessment of risk to RDCK, improvement costs could range from \$0-\$10,000.

Winlaw Regional & Nature Park costs should be prioritized at 1) ensuring public safety, 2) maintaining park infrastructure, and 3) enhancing the user experience through infrastructure upgrades and development. Operating costs will include infrastructure maintenance, road and trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, and identification and mitigation of any public safety hazards. A range of \$6,000 to \$10,000 can be expected for yearly facility operations.

Tax revenues are the current source of base funding for regional parks. Other sources may be used at some point to enhance facilities or services for specific purposes (e.g. donations, grants, increased tax revenue, corporate sponsorship). Funding sources would have to be studied and be approved by the RDCK Regional Board on a case by case basis.

Maintenance & Operations Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Maintenance contractor	Yearly	1,800, plus staff administration time
Toilets	On-going	350, plus Contractor time
Garbage to dump	Yearly	200-500
Supplies	Yearly	100-200
Hazard Tree assessment/removal	Yearly	1,000-1,500
Facility repair contingency	Yearly	1,500-2,000

Administration Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Office support	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=250-500
Planning	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=500-1,000
Supplies	Yearly	50-100
Advertising and Promotion	Yearly	200-300

Other Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Archaeological & Cultural Investigation	Once, incomplete	500-1000
Detailed Archaeological Assessments	If required	

Consultation and Future Planning

The RDCK Community Services Department and Development Services Department is jointly accountable for the planning, administration, and management of the park through the application of regulations and policies.

Revisions or updating of this POS will be coordinated by RDCK, with involvement of other agencies, including but not limited to the Provincial and Federal Governments, First Nations, Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission, commercial interests, and other stakeholders as required.

Appendix 1: Regional Park Zoning

	Intensive Recreation	Limited Recreation	Special Feature	Natural Environment
Objective	Provide for a variety of accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities	Protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment	Protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility, and heritage values	Protect undisturbed natural environment, providing limited recreation opportunities
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use	Relatively low use, but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access	Generally low	Very low use to provide for solitary experiences and protect natural features. Uses may be limited and/or controlled
Access	All weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high	Motorized and non-motorized	Variable, may require special permission	Non-motorized
Location	Contiguous with all weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas	Removed from all-weather roads, but easily accessible on a day-use basis	Determined by location of special resources. May be surrounded by or next to any other zone	Removed from easy access
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas	Boundaries consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of special resources	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
Recreation Opportunities	Full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities	Limited due to access constraints	Limited to protect special resources	Non-motorized only
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience, e.g. campgrounds, boat launches, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience, e.g. walk-in campsites, docks, small accessory buildings	Interpretive facilities only	Minimal or no facility development
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas	Area where human presence is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.	None	Natural area with little evidence of human presence. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high quality recreation experience.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high quality recreation experience.	High level of management protection with on-going monitoring. Oriented to maintaining special resources.	Oriented to protecting the natural environment. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels.
Examples of Zoning	Winlaw, Robson Wharf, Bonnington, Pass Creek	Rosebud Lake, Winlaw Nature Park, Roseberry Parklands	Historic Ainsworth Wharf, Brilliant Bridge, Sandon	Portion of Sunshine Bay