



Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

# Regional Parks Plan



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

LEES  
+  
ASSOCIATES

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Regional Parks Plan  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

April 2021

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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509-318 Homer Street, Vancouver BC Canada, V6B 2V2 | t: 604.899.3806

51 Wolseley Street, Toronto ON Canada, M5T 1A4 | t: 416.645.7033

8 Boswell Crescent, Whitehorse YT Canada, Y1A 4T3 | t: 867.332.3806

[info@elac.ca](mailto:info@elac.ca) | [www.elac.ca](http://www.elac.ca)



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The development of this plan was guided by input from the following groups and individuals:

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE STAFF & DIRECTORS

Bryan Boyes  
Petra Wildauer  
Renee McCloskey  
Lara Beckett  
Art Kaehn  
Murry Krause

## INDIGENOUS GROUPS

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation  
McLeod Lake Indian Band  
Simpco First Nation

## GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

BC Parks  
Caledonia Ramblers  
City of Prince George  
Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society  
Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society  
Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development  
Nechako Watershed Roundtable  
Prince George ATV Club  
Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society  
Prince George Cycling Club  
Recreation Sites and Trails BC  
Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society  
Robson Valley Chapter, Back Country Horseman Society of British Columbia  
Tourism Prince George  
Valemount Tourism Committee  
Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association

## THE CONSULTING TEAM

Heidi Redman, LEES+Associates  
Ivy Smith, LEES+Associates  
Tracey Raume, R.F. Binnie & Associates  
Wai-Sue Louie, R.F. Binnie & Associates

Thank you to those residents and members of the public who shared their thoughts and ideas through the Regional Parks Plan surveys.

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# 1. Introduction

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) is located on the territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation. The Regional District encompasses more than 52,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the central interior of British Columbia. The Regional District is comprised of four municipalities and seven electoral areas.

The Regional District is home to a diverse economy with roots in trade, transportation, and forestry. The area has rich and varied landscapes including mountain passes, the Interior Plateau, many rivers and valleys including the Rocky Mountain Trench, and sub-arctic boreal forest to the north.

In 1976, the Regional District opened its first regional park, at Ness Lake. Over the next thirty years additional parks were established across the region. Today, the Regional District operates eleven regional day use parks encompassing a total of 330 hectares.

The RDFFG adopted its first Official Regional Parks Plan in 1981 (Bylaw No. 465). A revised plan was subsequently adopted by the District Board in 1986. Revisions to the Plan were developed in 1993 and 1998 but not adopted. The next revised Plan was adopted in 2010, setting out priorities over a 10-year time frame.

Since 2010, the needs of the Regional District have evolved, the District's population has changed, and new trends in park and trail use have emerged. In addition, the Regional District 2019-2023 Strategic Priorities point to "Climate Action" and "Indigenous Relations" as key goals it strives towards strong, healthy, livable communities in the region.

## RDFFG Regional Parks at a Glance

### The Regional parks system includes:

- 11 regional parks
- 3 park planning areas
- 330 hectares of parkland

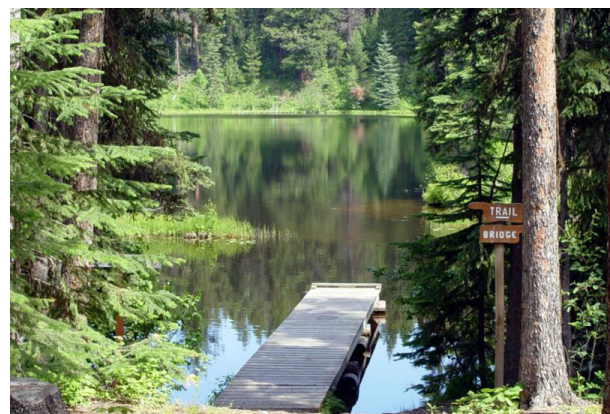


Figure 1. Berman Lake Regional Park

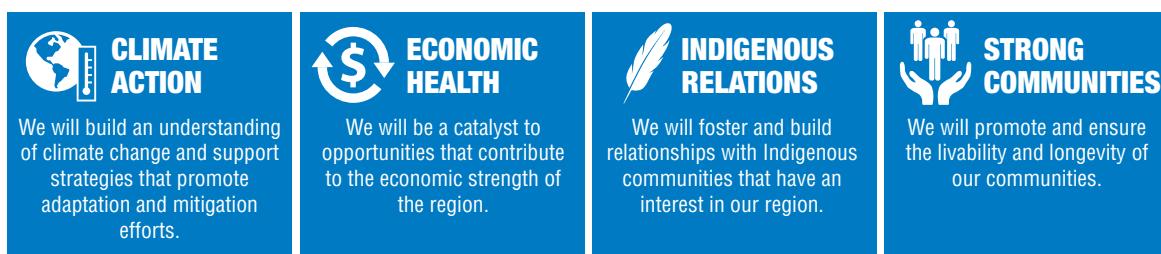


Figure 2. RDFFG Strategic Priorities, 2019-2023

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## 1.1 The Purpose of the Plan

Building on preceding Plans, this Regional Parks Plan Review establishes a road map to guide the planning, acquisition, development and management of regional parks, and sets out priorities to guide the Regional District over the next 10 years.

This plan draws on the 2010 Regional Parks Plan, as well as projects that have been completed over the past 10 years (Appendix D). A background review, and input received through engagement with government, staff, Indigenous groups, stakeholders and the public has also guided this plan.

Key areas to be addressed include:

- Provide a clear direction and priorities for regional parks in the Regional District for the period 2020 to 2030;
- Integrate trails compatible with the City of Prince George's Trail Task Force goals;
- Determine the current and future needs for parks and identify opportunities to make up for unmet needs within the Regional District;
- Develop recommendations and policy for parkland acquisition for the period 2020 to 2030;
- Review existing park infrastructure to include implementation strategies/priorities and recommendations for renewal and improvement, as well as scope of use available year-round;
- Include any changes and future considerations for applicable legislation;
- Complete public consultation with residents and stakeholders, and the staff project team to ensure the incorporation of feedback into the Plan, and
- Prepare a long-term financial plan relating to the execution of the reviewed Regional Parks Plan.



*Figure 3. Ness Lake Regional Park*

## 1.2 The Planning Process

The review and revision of the Regional Parks Plan included the following five phases:



Figure 4. Project Planning Phases and Timeline

1. Plan Review and Current State – The first phase consisted of background information gathering including existing maps, past plans, relevant reports and policies. The project goals and objectives were confirmed, and a community engagement plan prepared. This phase also included a review and analysis of demographics, park visitation data, benefits and trends that affect park and trail use.
2. Community Engagement Round 1 – Gauging satisfaction and demand – the first round of engagement focused on gathering input from government, Indigenous groups, stakeholders and the public through a public survey and one-on-one interviews. Team members also conducted field visits to assess each of the Regional Parks. The focus of the visits was to complete an inventory of existing facilities, identify constraints and condition issues, and opportunities for improvement. Regional District staff assisted with site assessments at park sites in the more remote park planning areas.
3. Draft Plan Development – Information from the first two phases was compiled into a draft revised Regional Parks Plan. Outcomes from the background review, feedback from RDFFG staff, comments from the public survey, and information from Indigenous groups, and stakeholder interviews all provided important input into developing the draft Regional Parks Plan.
4. Community Engagement Round 2 – After review with RDFFG staff, the draft plan was presented for feedback. Input from project stakeholders, government, Indigenous groups and the public was gathered through materials posted on the RDFFG website, a second public survey and key follow up interviews.
5. Finalizing the Plan – The Round 2 engagement results were reviewed and incorporated into a final plan with direction from RDFFG staff. The final Regional Parks Plan was presented to the RDFFG Environment and Parks Standing Committee for approval.

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## 1.3 Role of Regional Parks

The Regional Park system is intended to provide primarily day-use outdoor recreation opportunities and complete the range of open spaces between Provincial and Municipal Parks.

It is the intention of the RDFFG to complement and coordinate with the overall network of parks and trails in the region, but not duplicate the services of other agencies in fulfilling its Regional Parks mandate. The general role of the regional park system is to provide opportunities for the public to access and enjoy scenic or historically significant locations for a range of year-round outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, walking, boating, paddling, fishing, wildlife viewing, picnicking and swimming.

## 1.4 Role of the Regional District

The role of the Regional District is to:

1. Acquire, develop and manage Regional Parks under the Regional Parks Bylaw (Bylaw No. 724). The Regional District allocates funds to a Regional Parks budget for this purpose. The Regional District may contract out some development, operational and maintenance services to member municipalities and community organizations, the funds for which are provided under its Regional Parks budget.
2. Coordinate with and support the efforts of other levels of government and community organizations in developing and managing parks, recreational areas and open spaces that complement the goals and objectives of the Regional Parks system. The RDFFG may support these efforts, by application, through the Regional District's Community Grants in Aid program, through park budget allocation, or through "in kind" activities such as equipment, staff time of administrative support.



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## 1.5 What's in the Plan?

The following components make up this plan:

**Chapter 2: Regional Context** – provides an overview of Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the context in which it is situated. This chapter outlines key demographics, visitation data of current regional parks, other park and trail systems, and identifies gaps in the existing regional parks system.

**Chapter 3: Benefits and Trends** – summarizes the benefits of regional parks and outlines relevant trends that should be considered when planning the future of regional parks.

**Chapter 4: Parkland Needs Assessment** – provides an analysis of current and future parkland supply and distribution.

**Chapter 5: Vision and Goals** – includes a summary of the vision, goals and objectives of the Regional Parks Plan to guide future management, planning and development decisions.

**Chapter 6: Engagement** – What We Heard – summarizes feedback received and key findings from Round 1 and Round 2 engagement.

**Chapter 7: Existing Regional Parks - Priorities 2020-2030** – describes the existing regional parks and provides specific recommendations for future development in each of the parks over the next 10 years.

**Chapter 8: Proposed Regional Parks** – presents criteria and priorities for future regional parkland acquisition.

**Chapter 9: Financial Plan** – identifies and prioritizes estimated costs, including capital, operational and maintenance budgets to chart the path for successful implementation of the plan.

## 1.6 Related Plans and Policies

The Regional Parks Plan is being updated in the context of existing plans, policies and legislation. A summary of background documents relevant to the Regional Parks Plan is presented in the table below.

Document Title	Content	Implications
<b>RDFFG Strategic Priorities (2019-2023)</b>	Outlines four strategic goals to ensure strong, healthy and livable communities in the Regional District	The Regional Parks Plan can help to achieve the RDFFG's goals of Climate Action, Economic Health, Indigenous Relations and Strong Communities.
<b>Regional Park Bylaw No. 724</b>	Sets a general framework for the regional parks function.	Outlines a roadmap for the acquisition, development and operation of Regional Parks.
<b>RDFFG Cultural Plan (2016-2020)</b>	Sets out goals, objectives and actions related to cultural development in the region.	Identifies significant maintenance required at the Huble Homestead Historic Site in Giscome Portage Regional Park.
<b>The Prince George Centennial Trails Project (2008)</b>	An implementation plan that identifies trail development priorities to achieve a comprehensive, City-wide trails system.	Identifies potential future trail connections from the City trails system to McMillan Creek Regional Park.
<b>Northeastern BC Destination Development Strategy (2019)</b>	Outlines development strategies to support the collaboration of agencies in the further development of BC as a world class tourism destination.	Can help achieve the goal of building on the wealth of regional parks in Northeastern BC to better service existing and future visitors.

*Table 1. Related Plans and Policies*

# 2. Regional Context

## 2.1 Study Area

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George encompasses more than 52,000 km<sup>2</sup> in central and eastern British Columbia, which is about 6% of the total land area of the Province of British Columbia (Figure 5). Geographically, it is among the largest Regional Districts in the province.

The RDFFG contains a variety of landscapes from alpine environments to rivers and lakes. The eastern side of the Regional District is located within the Rocky Mountain Trench and the central part of the district within the Interior plateau. The majority of the Regional District is comprised of the sub-boreal spruce bio geoclimatic zone, with the remaining portion made up of Engelmann spruce – subalpine Fir and a small portion containing Interior Cedar-Hemlock forests.



*Figure 5. Location of the RDFFG in British Columbia*

There are numerous rivers and lakes within the Regional District, including the headwaters of the Fraser River.

In terms of transportation, the Regional District is connected by Highway 97 running north-south and Highway 16 east-west. The Town of Mackenzie is accessed via Highway 39 in the north while Highway 5 serves Valemount and other communities in the eastern part of the Regional District.

Residents live in one of four municipalities (Prince George, Mackenzie, Valemount and McBride) or seven unincorporated Electoral Areas. For the purposes of regional parks planning, the Regional District is divided into three park planning areas, concentrated around major population centres (Figure 6):

1. Greater Prince George (Prince George, Electoral Areas A, C, D, E & F)
2. Mackenzie (Mackenzie and Electoral Area G)
3. Robson Valley-Canoe (McBride, Valemount and Electoral Area H)

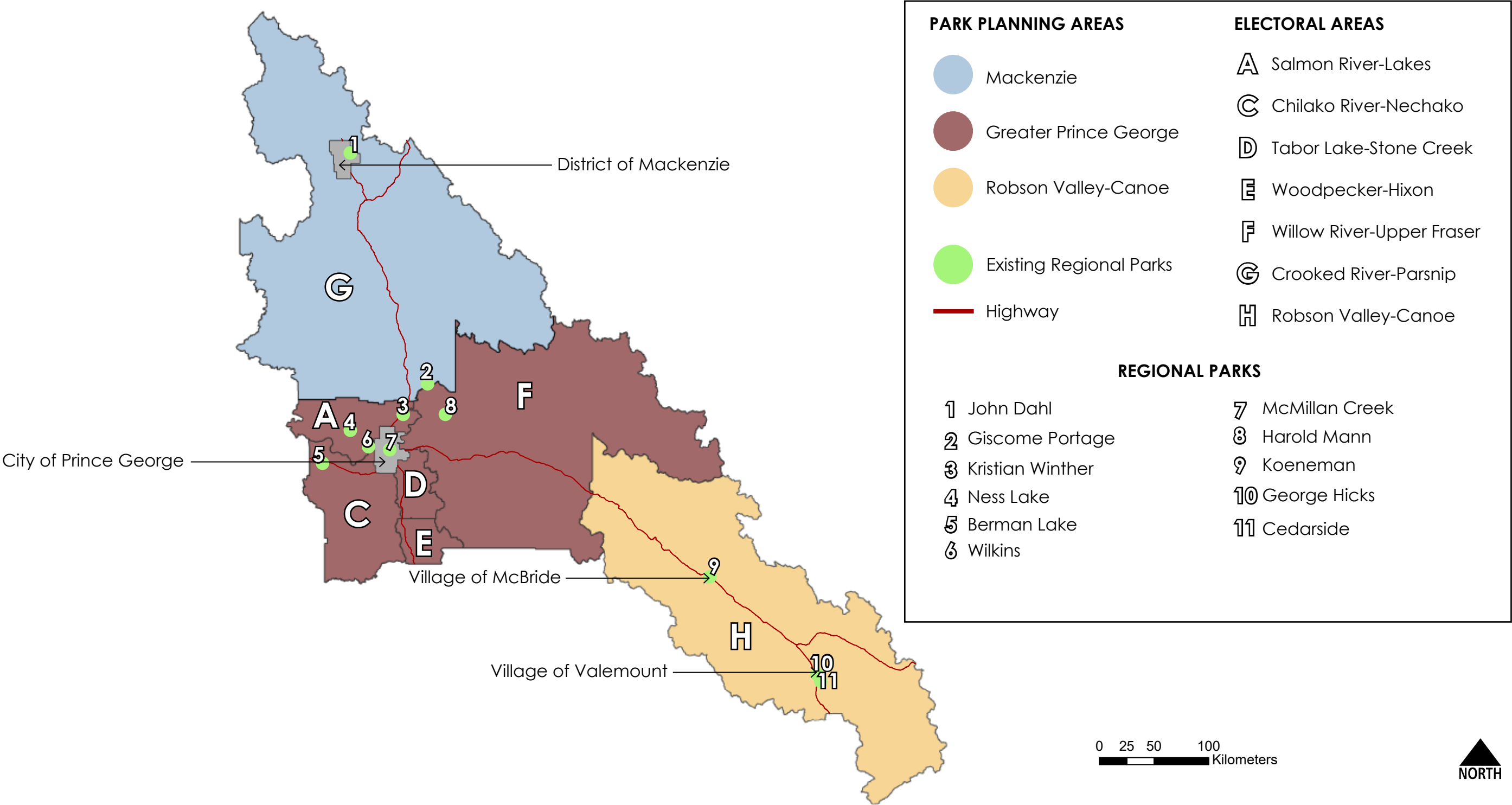


Figure 6. Park Planning Areas in the Regional District of Fraser Fort George

## 2.2 Demographic Profile

As of 2016, the total population of the Regional District was 94,506 (Table 2). This was a 2.9% increase since 2011 (Figure 7). The most populated area is Prince George which comprises over 90% of the total Regional District population.

	2016 Census Population	Land Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population Density (people/km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Municipality</b>			
District of Mackenzie	3,714	155.4	23.9
Village of McBride	616	4.6	132.8
Village of Valemount	1,021	5.2	197.5
City of Prince George	74,003	17,686.1	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,354</b>		

<b>Electoral Areas</b>			
Salmon River-Lakes (A)	3,463	1,381.7	2.5
Chilako River-Nechako (C)	3,527	2,806.3	1.3
Tabor Lake-Stone Creek (D)	4,278	668.6	6.4
Woodpecker-Hixon (E)	526	614.9	0.9
Willow River-Upper Fraser (F)	1,246	12,506.1	0.1
Crooked River-Parsnip (G)	334	17,259.6	0.02
Robson Valley-Canoe (H)	1,586	14,940.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,960</b>		

Table 2. Population Distribution in the RDEFG

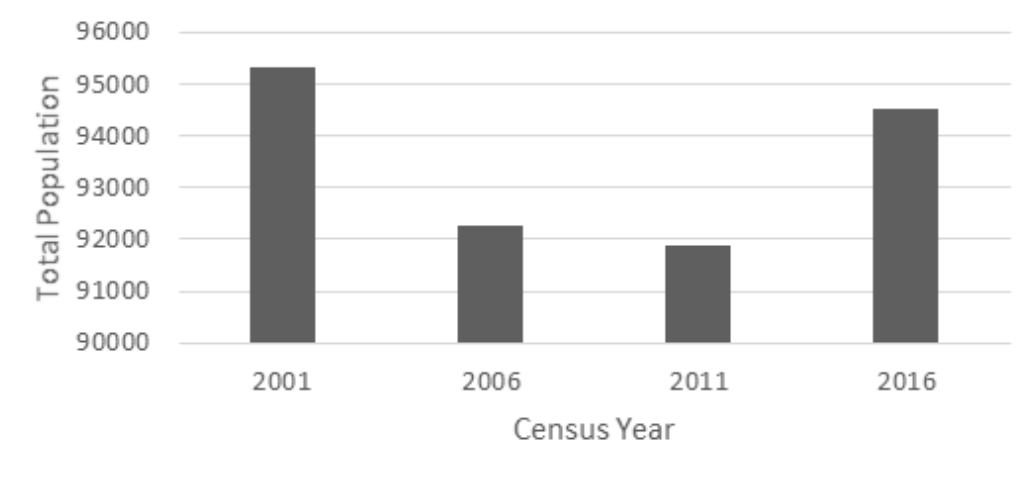


Figure 7. Population change in the RDFFG

The following table shows 2016 population figures broken down by park planning area:

Park Planning Area	2016 Census Population
<b>1. Greater Prince George</b> (Prince George, Electoral Areas A, C, D, E & F)	87,043
<b>2. Mackenzie</b> (Mackenzie and Electoral Area G)	4,048
<b>3. Robson Valley-Canoe</b> (McBride, Valemount and Electoral Area H)	3,223

Table 3. Population by Park Planning Area



The Statistics Canada Census Reports (2016) reveal the following key characteristics about the population of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George:

- Approximately 97% of the total RDFFG population resides in the four municipal jurisdictions (District of Mackenzie, Village of McBride, Village of Valemount, and City of Prince George); the remainder of the population is distributed among the seven Electoral Areas.
- Electoral Area D (Tabor Lake-Stone Creek) is the second highest population centre with 4,278 residents.
- Seventy-five percent of the Regional District's population identifies as European while approximately 15% of the population identifies as Aboriginal.
- Children and youth under 14 years of age represent 17% of the population.
- The average age in the RDFFG is 39.6 years.
- Over one third of the total population is between the ages of 25 and 49, with the highest concentration (15%) between the ages of 50 to 59 years of age. This is about on par with the national average.

To ensure the updated Regional Parks Plan aligns with changing demographics, the Regional District should focus on providing:

- Family-oriented parks where a mix of ages can spend time recreating together;
- Recreational opportunities for people (particularly children) to interact with the natural environment in a meaningful way;
- Parks and trails for a variety of users and levels of mobility, ensuring accessibility to as many residents as possible;
- Parks that are evenly distributed across the Regional District, and
- Opportunities to respect and engage with Aboriginal rights holders in regional park planning.

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## 2.3 Visitation Data

In order to gain a better understanding of the volume of users in the Regional Park system, the Regional District has installed counters at six Regional Park locations. Park visitation data available from 2014 to 2019 is summarized in the following table. The data collected provides important information about the relative volume of users at these locations.

Regional Park	Average Annual Total (2014-2019)
Wilkins	41,528*
George Hicks	40,513
Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead)	7,514**
Berman Lake	6,198
Ness Lake	5,105
Cedarside	987
Kristian Winther	903

\*counter broke down after July 23 2018

\*\* data based on Huble Homestead visitor data provided by Huble Homestead/  
Giscome Portage Heritage Society

*Table 4. RDFFG Counter and Visitor Data*

### Key Findings:

- According to counter data as well as the public survey (September 2020), Wilkins Regional Park is the most visited Regional Park, with an average annual total of over 41,000 visitors captured on counters and 60% of survey respondents indicating they have visited the park in the past two years.
- It is noted that visitation to George Hicks Regional Park includes a large cohort of tourists in comparison to other Regional Parks, particularly in the summer, and during the annual salmon migration.

Regional Park	# Visits Reported (Public Survey, 2020)	Electoral Area/ Municipality	Visits per 100 residents (Based on 2016 Census population)
<b>Giscome Portage</b>	192	Area G	57.49
<b>Koeneman</b>	227	Area H	14.31
<b>Kristian Winther</b>	195	Area A	5.63
<b>Harold Mann</b>	56	Area F	4.49
<b>George Hicks</b>	68	Area H	4.29
<b>Wilkins</b>	129	Area C	3.66
<b>Cedarside</b>	50	Area H	3.15
<b>Berman Lake</b>	90	Area C	2.55
<b>John Dahl</b>	89	District of Mackenzie	2.40
<b>Ness Lake</b>	69	Area A	1.99
<b>McMillan Creek</b>	146	City of Prince George	0.20

*Table 5. Visitation Results from Public Survey*

The above table shows visitation results as reported in the Regional Parks Plan public survey (September 2020) compared to 2016 Census population data for the relevant Electoral Area or Municipality.

Key Findings:

- When combining the public survey visitation results with 2016 Census population data, Giscome Portage Regional Park has the highest visitation rate per 100 residents, followed by Koeneman Regional Park.

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## 2.4 Other Park and Trail Systems

In addition to Regional Parks, there are other types of parks such as municipal parks, provincial parks and other protected areas that make up the overall Fraser-Fort George parks system.

### 2.4.1 MUNICIPAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Municipal parks, located within the four major municipalities in the RDFFG, vary in size and typically aim to serve the needs of local residents. The City of Prince George contains the most municipal parks in the Regional District, with over 100 parks. These parks offer amenities such as sports fields, walking paths, benches, and playgrounds. In 2017, The City of Prince George completed a City Parks Strategy which prioritized parks infrastructure investment to meet the needs of the growing population.

### 2.4.2 PROVINCIAL PARKS, PROTECTED AREAS AND RECREATION SITES

There are a number of Provincial Parks, Protected Areas and Recreation sites within or within close proximity to the RDFFG. There are approximately 41 Provincial Parks, 15 Protected Areas and 8 Ecological Reserves located within the RDFFG. These parks and protected lands are typically managed by BC Parks under the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Provincial Parks are lands that are dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Most Provincial Parks are larger than Regional Parks and offer amenities including vehicle access camping, backcountry camping, hiking, biking, caving, picnic areas, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. An example of a Provincial Park is Eskers Provincial Park located less than a 15-minute drive northeast of Ness Lake Regional Park.

Protected areas are designated under the Environment and Land Use Act by order in council. These lands typically have one or more existing or proposed activity that are not usually allowed in a park and allowed uses are determined by provisions and special conditions.

Ecological Reserves are crown lands reserved for ecological purposes including protection of rare or endangered species or ecosystems. These lands are considered the most highly protected and the most isolated from human disturbance as all extractive activities are prohibited. An example of an Ecological Reserve in the RDFFG is the Tacheeda Lakes Ecological Reserve north of Prince George.

There are over 200 Recreation Sites and over 750 km of managed Recreation Trails within the RDFFG. Recreation Sites and Trails are managed by the provincial government Recreation Sites and Trails BC under the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Recreation Sites are located in remote areas and usually accessed via gravel forestry roads. They typically provide rustic camping opportunities and offer basic facilities including fire rings, picnic tables, outhouses, and in some cases boat launch ramps. Occasionally, these sites will contain a cabin or shelter. Often BC Recreation Sites and Trails will partner with local groups to manage the recreation site.

Recreation Trails can be used for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Recreational trail types can range from wide trails with quality surface to single track pathways with natural surface. Examples of Recreation Sites are Gataiga Lake Rec Site south of Mackenzie, Camp Lake Rec Site South of Prince George and Beaver River Falls Rec Site south of McBride.

### **2.4.3 OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

The Regional District continues to partner with the Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society to operate and maintain Giscome Portage Regional Park which contains the Huble Homestead Historic Site. The Heritage Society hosts public events, and runs school programs and tours for visitors. Since being declared a designated heritage site in 1986, the Heritage Society has restored the homestead building, and restored other buildings on site. The Heritage Society has operated under Operations Service Agreements with the Regional District since 2006. This service agreement is currently under review.

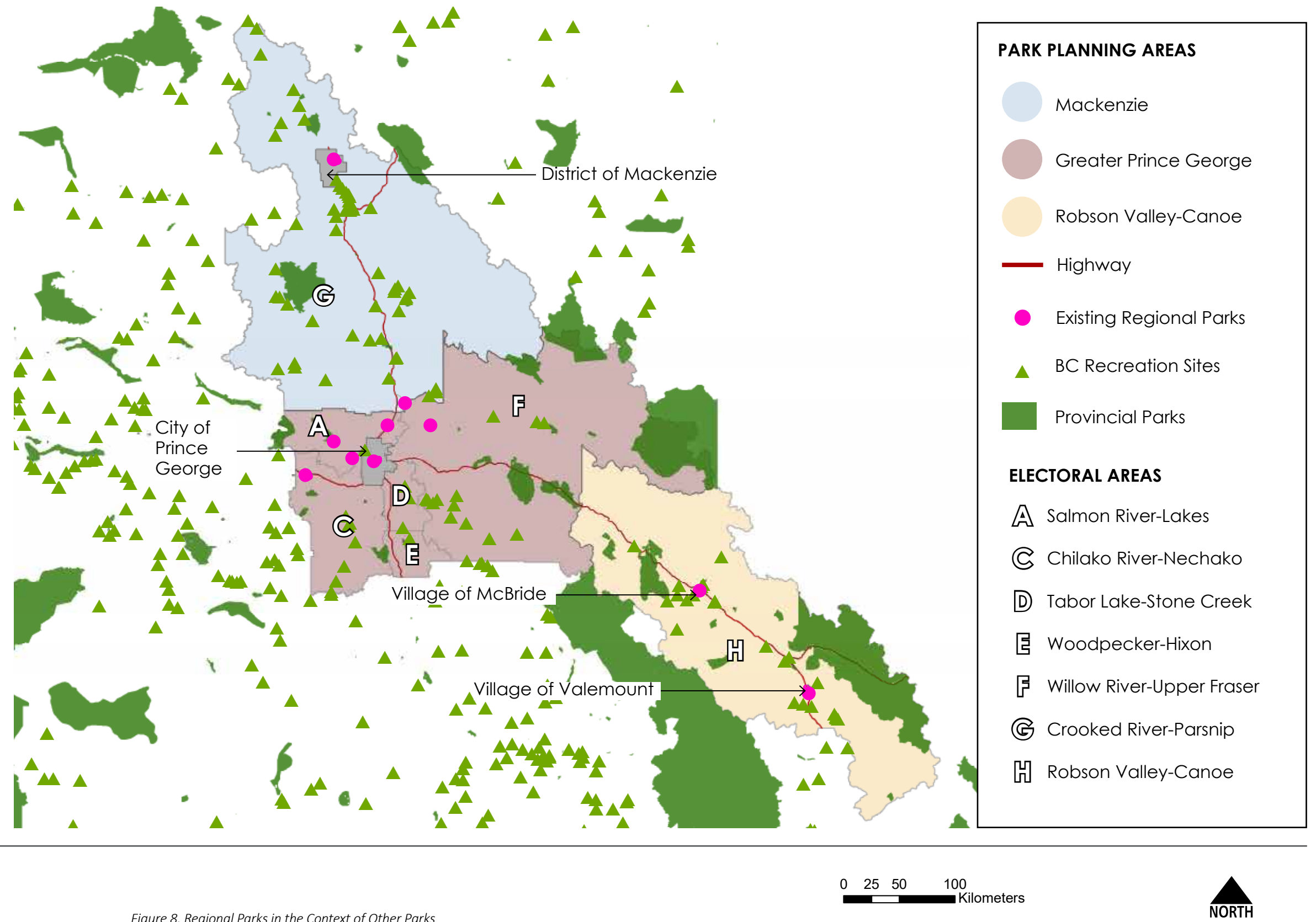


Figure 8. Regional Parks in the Context of Other Parks



# 3. Benefits & Trends

## 3.1 Benefits of Parks and Trails

Research shows the numerous benefits of parks and trails including positive effects on individual well-being, physical health, ecological health, and economic benefits.



### Health Benefits

Health concerns including obesity, diabetes, and mental health issues are on the rise due to contributing factors such as increasingly sedentary lifestyles and increased prevalence of technology (i.e., screen time). In 2018, 63% of adults in Canada had increased risks due to excess weight, a 2% increase from 2015 (Statistics Canada, 2018).

When parks and trails are accessible and equitably distributed across a community, they contribute to a better quality of life for everyone. Studies have shown that people exercise more when they have access to parks. Reducing barriers and increasing accessibility can decrease the health inequities that exist for vulnerable populations (BC Centre for Disease Control), and benefit all ages and abilities.



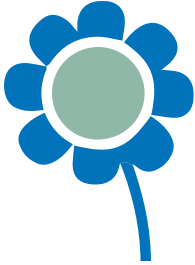
### Community Social Benefits

Regional parks and trails contribute to a livable region. They conserve natural features and ecosystems and connect people with nature. Parks and trails enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors and offer opportunities to explore and experience the natural world. Parks offer a great opportunity to host events outdoors. Events such as the Kids Carnival and Halloween Spooktacular held at the Huble Homestead in Giscome Portage Regional Park are opportunities that bring the community together.

Parks and trails also offer the opportunity for educating the public on topics of history, culture, geography and the natural world through interpretive signage. In some areas, parks have become classrooms, by which children can learn by first-hand by experiencing nature.

Parks are an opportunity for people to learn about the traditional territories of the region's Indigenous groups.

*The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, in partnership with the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, has assembled the National Benefits Hub (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association National Benefits Hub, n.d.), an online resource with over 1,000 evidence-based references that detail the benefits of parks, recreation, sports, fitness, arts, and culture. Key areas of benefit include individual well-being, community connectedness, ecological health, and economic benefits.*



### **Environmental Benefits**

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), parks and trails help to conserve natural resources, provide wildlife habitat, protect air and water quality, balance carbon, and preserve open space for future generations. Stewardship and volunteer activities in parks are ways that the public can get involved in preserving parks for the future as well as increase the awareness of environmental issues both locally and globally.

Regional Parks in the RDFFG play a role in protecting important ecosystems and natural features like rivers, lakes, spawning areas, and marshes while providing habitat for a variety of wildlife including moose, caribou, deer, bears, birds, salmon and trout.



### **Economic Benefits**

Parks and trails encourage people to get outside and moving, contributing to long term reductions in healthcare costs associated with the health burden of physical inactivity and associated chronic diseases. It is estimated that an increase of 10% in physical inactivity rates in Canadians would result in \$280 billion dollar reduction in direct healthcare costs (BC Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019).

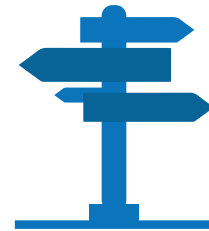
Regional parks and trails are destinations that attract visitors and residents alike. Park and trail infrastructure offers opportunities to generate revenue through venue rentals, events, educational and interpretive programs. Huble Homestead at Giscome Portage currently offers venue rental for weddings, birthdays, and other occasions. Other Regional Parks can be used for planned events at no cost through application for a Park Use Permit.

The economic benefits have the potential to spill out into the adjacent communities. Visitors to parks help to stimulate the economy of the local community by purchasing food, gas and other supplies.

## 3.2 Trends In Park and Trail Use

### Signage and Interpretation

There is an increasing desire to be educated and informed about the world we live in. People are interested in learning more about Indigenous culture and history as well as interest in learning more about the flora and fauna that inhabit parks. Interpretive signage and guided tours within parks can educate park visitors about the place they are visiting and offer a more meaningful experience than simply just being in the space.



During interviews with stakeholders, it was suggested that there could be more interpretive panels in parks, and a desire for interpretive talks hosted in parks.

### Tourism

According to the 2017 Annual Cultural Report for the RDFFG, the eight funded cultural sites within the Regional District saw a 5% increase in visitors between 2016-2017.



Visitor Centres in Mackenzie, Prince George and Valemount also saw significant increases in visitors between 2016-2017, with the largest increase in Prince George which saw a 41% increase in visitors in 2017 (Annual Cultural Report, 2017). Huble Homestead Historic site located in Giscome Portage Regional Park is one of the eight cultural sites within the region and received 7,701 visitors in 2017 which is a 2% increase from 2016 (Annual Cultural Report, 2017). With this rise in the popularity of visiting northern regions of BC, Regional Parks in the RDFFG could expect to see more visitors in the coming years.

With an increased interest in nature-based adventure travel activities like hiking and mountain biking outside of the city, Regional Parks may become important destinations for tourists. Visitors will likely stop in at nearby communities to pick up supplies before venturing out to a park. This could bring more economic activity to smaller communities adjacent to Regional Parks.

### Accessibility

With an aging population in BC, there will be growing numbers of people facing mobility challenges at a time in their lives when the importance of getting out and staying active increases.

Options within Regional Parks that are safe and pleasant for the elderly and those with limited mobility are attractive and usable for all age groups, including children and parents with strollers. Safe and easily usable trails are especially important in encouraging and empowering children and youth to exercise. Accessibility is not just an issue for children and the elderly. According to



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the Canadian Survey on Disability Reports, one in five (22%) of the Canadian population aged 15 and older had one or more disabilities in 2017 (Canada, 2020). Disabilities ranging from mild to severe pose challenges to the most vulnerable members of the community in accessing public facilities. In order to achieve the many benefits of parks and trails for everyone, accessibility is a key consideration.

Accessibility was highlighted by survey respondents with 15% of respondents indicating that they were not satisfied with the existing accessibility within Regional Parks.



### **Climate Change**

Northern BC is experiencing the effects of climate change that contribute to wildfire risk, extreme weather events, and other changes that impact residents' health and community infrastructure. "Climate Action" is identified by the RDFFG as one of four strategic goals as part of the 2019-2023 RDFFG Strategic Priorities. Climate change will be top of mind for future park endeavors including operational practices, maintenance considerations and park acquisition.

### **Recreation Trends**

Activities such as fishing, mountain biking, cycling for recreation, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, horseback riding, motorized trail use, walking and hiking continue to increase in popularity – highlighting the importance of planning and managing for diverse use and potential conflicts associated with shared use of parks.



Wildlife viewing is an increasing trend among both residents and visitors in northern BC. Northern areas of BC including the Prince George area have been touted as some of the best places to see undisturbed wildlife in more remote areas. Wildlife viewing is relatively accessible and can be done with little equipment, making it an accessible activity for all ages. Education of park visitors is key to ensuring the safety of the public when wildlife viewing and to prevent human-wildlife conflicts. The public survey indicated that bird watching and wildlife viewing (46%) and photography (43%) were among the top five activities enjoyed in Regional Parks.

Mountain biking is a growing trend internationally, and is also rapidly expanding as a recreational pursuit in Northern BC for both residents and visitors. The sport has the potential to increase tourism and the local economy within the RDFFG. Mountain biking is becoming more accessible, shifting from an exclusive sport only done by elite riders to a recreational activity for all ages. Fat biking (winter mountain biking) is also on the rise, adding to the suite of winter activities favoured by local residents. A number of stakeholder groups and provincial agencies interviewed reported an increase in the popularity of mountain biking in the region, and a need for infrastructure to support those increases.

The Northeastern BC Destination Development Strategy (2019) identifies growth in mountain biking infrastructure and services in the region, and recommends mountain biking (including winter mountain biking) as a key experience to be developed in locations that possess great terrain for this activity. Mountain biking can be supported through partnerships with local volunteer organizations, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

In discussions with provincial Fisheries, staff noted that while there is a strong angler base in the region, fishing is decreasing as a recreational activity, with a steady decline in angler days over the last 15 years. However, this can vary depending on the lake and season. In general, fishing at stocked lakes has remained popular, and is supported by learn to fish programs offered by organizations such as the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC.

Equine tourism is established in the region, and has potential for future growth, supported by organizations such as the Back Country Horsemen Society of British Columbia. For example, the Robson Valley Chapter is actively looking to rebrand Highway 16 as a horse-friendly route to support people travelling with horses through the Robson Valley through multi-use and multi-season trail development, and equine campgrounds. Regional Parks can support equine recreation by providing infrastructure such as equine friendly rest areas, parking for horse trailers and staging areas to access local riding trails.

### **Year-Round Park Use**

In the RDFFG winter weather can be experienced for almost six months of the year. Embracing the snow and cold by promoting winter outdoor recreation is important to keep people moving and using parks year-round.

Suggestions for promoting year-round recreation arising from the parks plan engagement include promoting family friendly activities such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and skating in Regional Parks where these can be realistically accommodated.

The Northeastern BC Destination Development Strategy (2019) recommends the development of more formalized winter tourism experiences (including ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, wind kiting on frozen lakes, and winter mountain biking) as a key action for the region.



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# 4. Parkland Needs Assessment

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## 4.1 Parkland Supply – Does Inventory Meet Need?

There is not a definitive way to establish whether a region has an adequate supply of parkland; it depends on the values, wants and needs of the communities. However, common metrics include comparisons to other jurisdictions, assessments of the amount of parkland per capita, and whether residents can easily access parks. The following sections provide an analysis and discussion of these metrics and their utility in evaluating the RDFFG's parkland supply.

### 4.1.1 COMPARATIVE PARKLAND AVERAGES

Every region is unique in its geography, population, economy, values, and opportunities. However, comparisons offer useful reference points against which the RDFFG can measure its parkland provision and identify significant gaps. For this purpose, an average of regional parkland area was assembled from five other Regional Districts in British Columbia (see Table 6). Comparable districts were selected with similar characteristics such as large geographic areas with low population density. It is noted that some Regional Districts, such as Bulkley-Nechako and Skeena-Queen Charlotte, do not provide regional park services. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is currently exploring options for regional park service delivery.

Parkland supply metric calculations are developed for high level comparisons and are based on information from various available sources. This analysis provides a “snapshot” of current regional park supply by which the RDFFG can evaluate current and future levels of service.

While this benchmarking exercise provides a useful point of comparison, it should be recognized that many jurisdictions do not use these type of quantity standards because the facilities and quality of parks play an equal, if not more important, role in meeting community needs. These metrics are provided as a reference point for understanding where the RDFFG's supply of parkland fares relative to comparable districts.



Regional District	Population (2016 Census)	Total Area of Regional Parks (ha)	Parkland (ha) per 1,000 residents
Thompson-Nicola	132,663	67	0.5
Peace River	62,942	72	1.1
Central Kootenay	59,517	86	1.4
Fraser-Fort George	<b>94,506</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>3.5</b>
East Kootenay	60,439	254	4.2
Central Okanagan	194,882	2,020	10.4
Average			3.5

\* Note: Parkland supply metric calculations are developed for high level comparisons and are based on information from various available sources.

Table 6. Comparative Parkland Supply Metrics

#### 4.1.2 PARKLAND PER CAPITA ANALYSIS

Data on existing Regional Parks in the RDFFG was provided in Geographic Information System (GIS) format. Using GIS area calculations and population estimates, the current supply of regional parkland was determined for each of the park planning areas within the RDFFG and is summarized in Table 7. Overall, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has approximately 330 hectares of regional parkland. This equates to an overall average of 3.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents for the Regional District.

Compared to the parkland average of comparable Regional Districts, the Greater Prince George park planning area is below average in its supply of regional parkland (3.2 ha per 1,000), while the Mackenzie and Robson Valley-Canoe park planning areas are above average (5.9 and 7.9 ha per 1,000 respectively). Approximately 96 hectares of additional parkland would be required to provide a comparable provision of regional parkland in the Greater Prince George park planning area.

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Park Planning Area	Population (2016)	Regional Parkland Area (ha)	Current Parkland Provision (ha per 1,000)	Additional Parkland Requirement (ha)
<b>Greater Prince George</b> (Prince George, Electoral Areas A, C, D, E & F)	87,043	280.0	3.2	96
<b>Mackenzie</b> (Mackenzie and Electoral Area G)	4,048	23.8	5.9	none
<b>Robson Valley-Canoe</b> (McBride, Valemount and Electoral Area H)	3,223	25.5	7.9	none

*Table 7. Present and Potential Regional Park Need*

## 4.2 Parkland Distribution

As mentioned above, while population-based parkland supply and adequacy standards and comparisons are a useful tool, they alone cannot address all of the unique conditions, needs and goals of specific jurisdictions. How well a region is served also depends on equitable distribution of parks. For example, if a park planning area has a high amount of parkland in hectares per 1,000 population, but the parks are all located in one municipality or electoral area, they may be relatively inaccessible to some residents. To address overall accessibility, a measure of relative distribution of regional parkland provides an additional meaningful indicator of parkland adequacy.

Regional Parks within the RDFFG are relatively well distributed. However, as illustrated in Figure 9, two electoral areas within the Greater Prince George park planning area are deficient in regional parks. These include:

- Electoral Area 'D' (Tabor Lake-Stone Creek), and
- Electoral Area 'E' (Woodpecker-Hixon)

## 4.3 Parkland Needs Assessment – Key Findings

The parkland needs assessment analyses indicate that:

- The Mackenzie and Robson Valley-Canoe park planning areas are well served with parkland.
- The Greater Prince George park planning area is below the standard for parkland per 1,000 residents compared to the average of other Regional Districts. Approximately 96 hectares of additional parkland would be required to provide a comparable provision of regional parkland.
- Within the Greater Prince George park planning area, Electoral Areas 'D' (Tabor Lake-Stone Creek) and 'E' (Woodpecker-Hixon) are underserved in parkland.

# UNDERSERVED AREAS MAP

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW

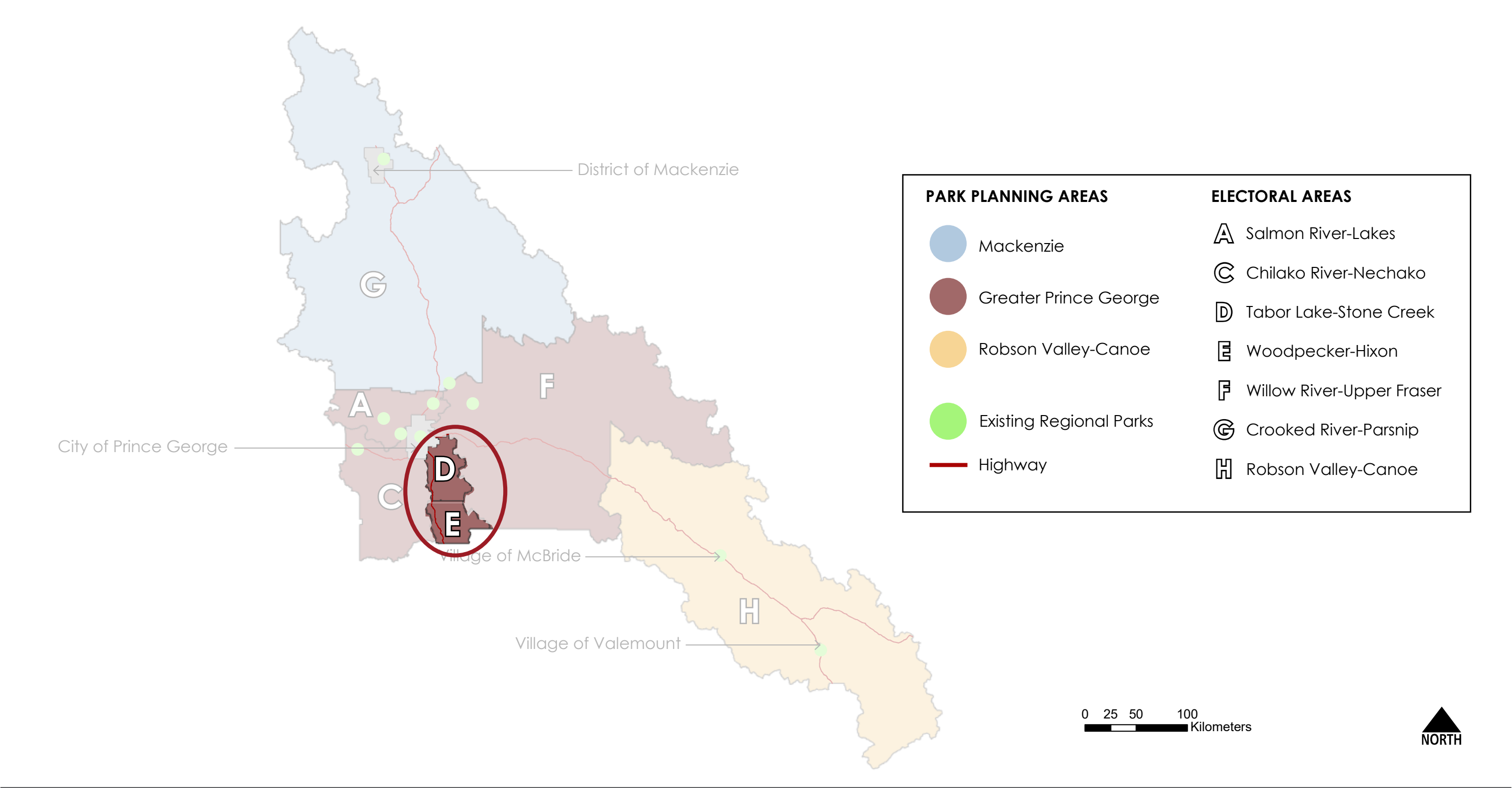


Figure 9. Areas underserved in parkland in the RDEFG

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# 5. Vision & Goals

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Building from the 2010 Regional Parks Plan and from government, Indigenous groups, stakeholder and public input, this section presents an updated vision, goals and objectives to guide the management of Regional Parks and trails for the next ten years.

## 5.1 Vision

The RDFFG has a diverse, accessible and high quality Regional Parks system that:

- Secures, protects and stewards lands and waterbodies of recreational, environmental and historic value to the region and its communities;
- Provides day-use facilities that support rewarding outdoor recreational opportunities;
- Preserves the environmental and heritage values represented in the parks;
- Promotes the history and culture of Indigenous peoples in the region;
- Moves toward an interlinked system of public trails and open spaces in coordination with other park and trail systems in the region;
- Fosters understanding and appreciation of the region's natural and cultural assets;
- Incorporates the RDFFG's climate action targets, and
- Enhances the quality of life, health and wellbeing of current and future residents and visitors of the region.

## 5.2 Goals

1. To provide primarily day-use, year round outdoor recreation opportunities close to population centres and available for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, within developed park areas that are representative of the region's natural environment, recreation and heritage resources.
2. To support the creation of trail-based linkages amongst regional, provincial, and municipal park and trail systems.

## 5.3 Objectives

1. To provide Regional Parks on a reasonably balanced geographic basis throughout the Regional District, recognizing the main population centres.
2. To relate the amount, location and type of Regional Park development as well as present and future recreation needs, environmental considerations, respect for traditional territories, opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships, and other existing and planned outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
3. To identify, reserve and preserve land for Regional Park purposes that are representative of the natural and cultural resources of the region.
4. To develop, operate and maintain Regional Parks at a level that is cost-efficient and financially sustainable to the taxpayer.
5. To provide rewarding outdoor recreational opportunities in a way that stewards the land while fostering education and appreciation of the region's natural and cultural assets.
6. To consider the RDEFG's climate action targets.
7. To foster and build Indigenous relations in planning and implementing regional park projects and activities.

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# 6. Engagement: What We Heard

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Feedback and ideas from residents, stakeholders, Indigenous groups, the general public and other affected groups was gathered in several ways. Feedback from the engagement was used to understand what people think about the existing Regional Park system and inform the drafting of a well-supported vision for the future. The following is a summary of the engagement process as well as the key findings from the feedback received.

## 6.1 Engagement Purpose

The engagement was separated into two rounds with distinct objectives. They are described below.

### Round 1 Objectives:

- Increase knowledge of the Regional District's parks system;
- Understand satisfaction (likes and dislikes) with the existing Regional Park system;
- Understand the public's needs and demands for parks, preferred activities, and values;
- Understand any barriers to using Regional Parks;
- Understand people's vision for the future, including potential future park sites, areas for park improvements or other actions, and
- Identify partnership and cooperation opportunities.

### Round 2 Objectives:

- Present a Draft Regional Parks Plan, including "what we heard" from Round 1;
- Share how feedback influenced the creation of draft recommendations;
- Confirm vision; vet and prioritize key draft recommendations, and
- Seek feedback on the draft recommendations and policies outlined in the plan.

## 6.2 Round 1: How We Reached Out

### 6.2.1 PUBLIC SURVEY

Input from the public was sought through a public survey (Appendix A). Survey responses were collected from September 1 to 30, 2020. Hard copies of the survey were made available at regional transfer stations. The survey received 408 responses in total, of which 394 (97%) were completed online. Just under half of survey respondents were from Prince George, with remaining surveys coming from elsewhere in the Regional District. A small number were from elsewhere in BC.

### 6.2.2 INTERVIEWS

Government, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders were invited to participate in one-on-one interviews. A total of 55 representatives were contacted by letter and invited to participate in an interview and complete the survey. One-on-one interviews were conducted with the following representatives:

#### GOVERNMENT, INDIGENOUS AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation: Rena Zatorski, Economic Development Manager and Chus Sam, Natural Resource Manager
- McLeod Lake Indian Band: Adele Chingee, Band Manager and Stephanie Rocheleau, Land & Stewardship Director
- Electoral Area C / Chilako River-Nechako: Lara Beckett, Director
- Electoral Area E / Woodpecker-Hixon: Art Kaehn, Director
- Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society: Krystal Leason, Executive Director
- Tourism Prince George: Tracey McBride, Chief Executive Officer and Sherry McKay, Visitor Services Manager
- Tourism Valemount: Silvio Gislimberti, Valemount Tourism Committee, and Economic Development Officer at Village of Valemount; Patricia Thöni, Valemount Tourism Committee, and President, Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association
- Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society: Roger Wheate, Vice-Chair
- Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society: Alex Bevington, President
- Prince George ATV Club: Lance Anderson, President
- Nechako Watershed Roundtable: Wayne Salewski, Core Committee

A complete list of agencies and organizations who were contacted can be found in Appendix A.



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### **6.2.3 RDFFG WEBSITE**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George website was used as a primary information sharing tool. It was updated with information about the project objectives and planning process through a project Fact Sheet (Appendix A), and a link to the online version of the public survey.

## **6.3 Round 1: Public Survey Summary Results**

### **6.3.1 KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC SURVEY:**

Key themes:

- Interest in having more Regional Parks as well as having them distributed equally across the Regional District;
- Accessibility within Regional Parks could be improved (for those with limited mobility but also for families and elders);
- Water and lake access are desired park features;
- Desire for more interpretive and educational signage and information (about local ecology and conservation) available at Regional Parks, and
- Desire to learn more about Indigenous culture and history.

### 6.3.2 ACTIVITIES:

The two most popular activities when using Regional Parks from respondents were walking/hiking (94%) and picnicking (62%) with other popular activities being kayaking/canoeing/stand up paddle boarding (47%), bird watching/ wildlife viewing (47%) and photography (43%).

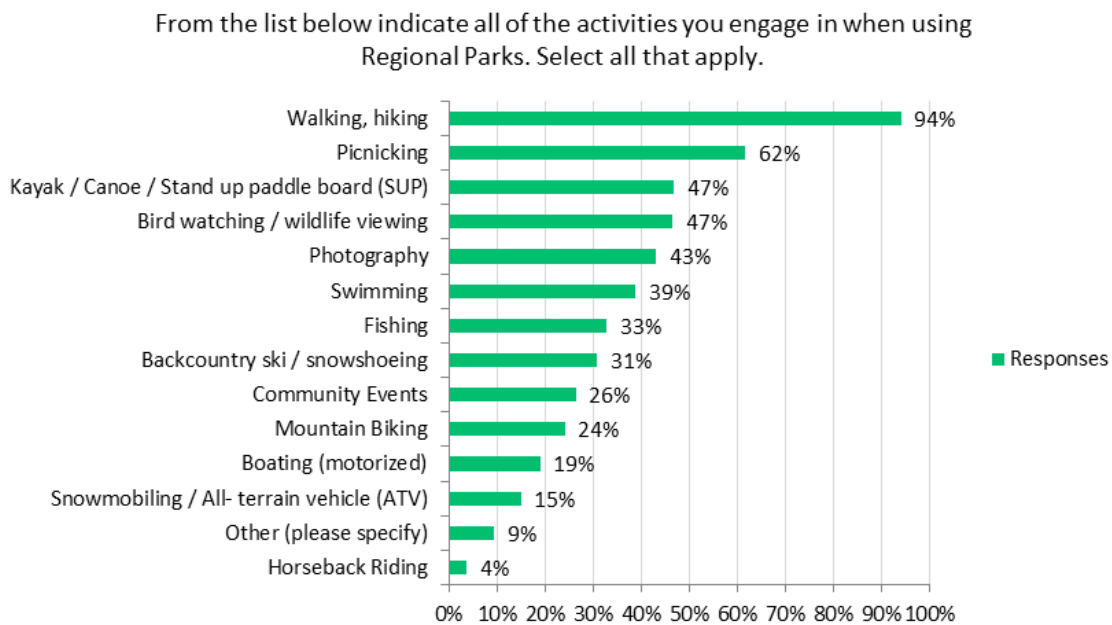


Figure 10. Activities in RDFFG Regional Parks from Online Survey

### 6.3.3 REGIONAL PARK USE:

- Most respondents used regional parks and trails monthly (36%) or weekly (33%);
- Being too busy (42%) was the top reason for not using Regional Parks more often, and
- Wilkins (60%), Ness Lake (51%) and McMillan Creek (50%) were the top three most visited Regional Parks by survey respondents. The least popular Regional Parks to visit were Koeneman (13%) and Cedarside (12%).

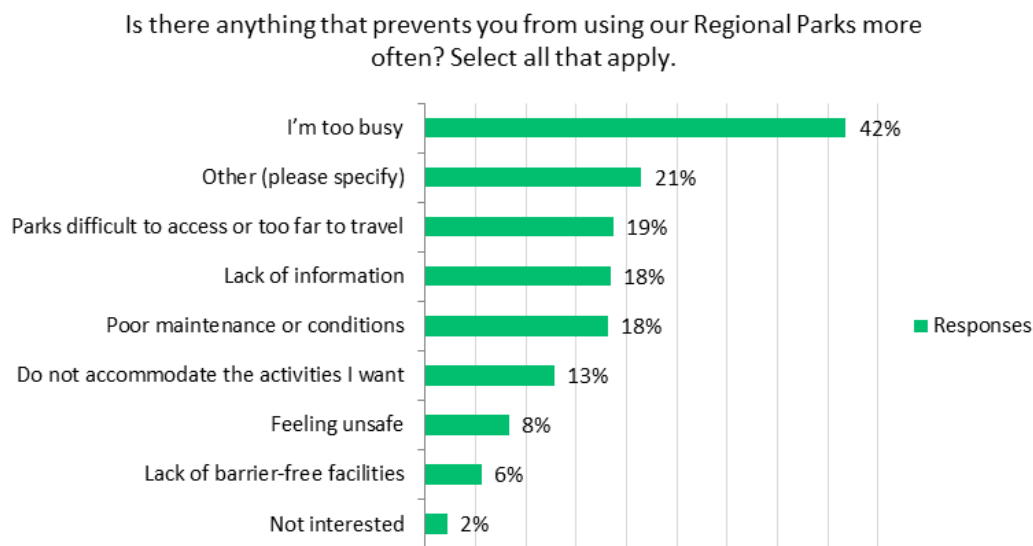


Figure 11. Reasons preventing Online Survey Respondents from using Regional Parks

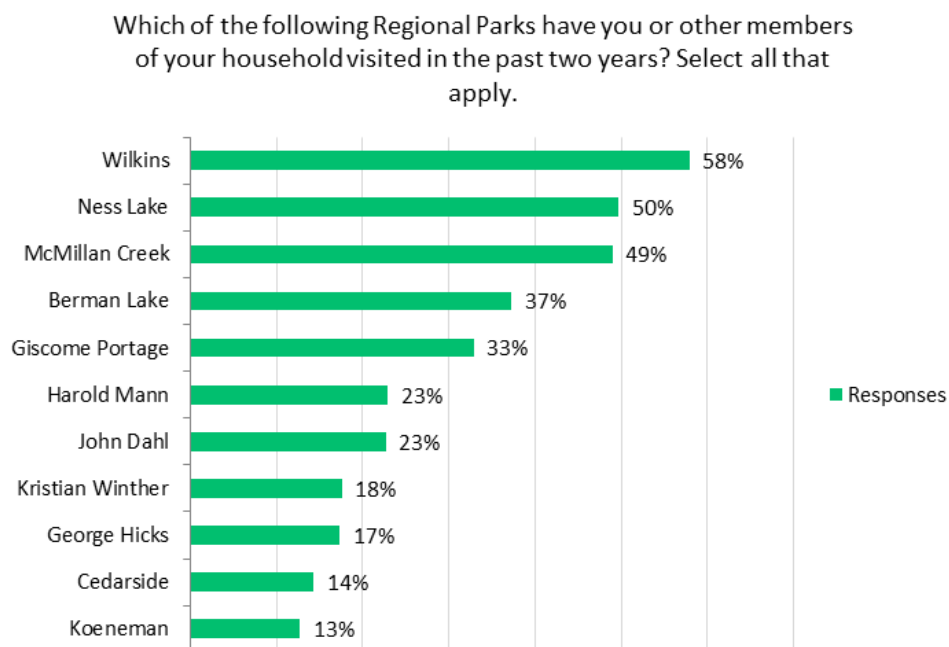


Figure 12. Parks Visited by Survey Respondents

### 6.3.4 SATISFACTION:

Regional Park system:

- Ease of getting to the parks: 73% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Variety of recreational activities: 69% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Directional signage and information: 67% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Distribution of regional parks and trails: 49% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Sufficient Regional Parks: 46% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied

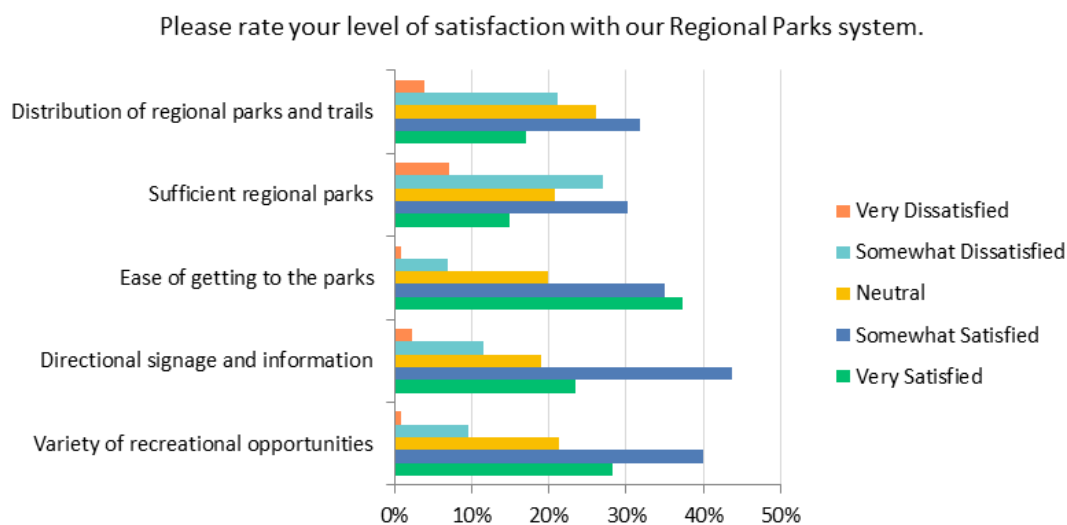


Figure 13. Satisfaction with the Regional Parks System from the Online Survey

Regional Park Facilities:

- Parking: 72% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Maintenance: 64% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Trail conditions: 64% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Garbage/recycling: 59% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Seating/benches: 55% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Interpretive/educational signage: 50% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Maps & information: 50% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Washrooms: 49% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied
- Accessibility within the parks: 48% Satisfied or somewhat satisfied

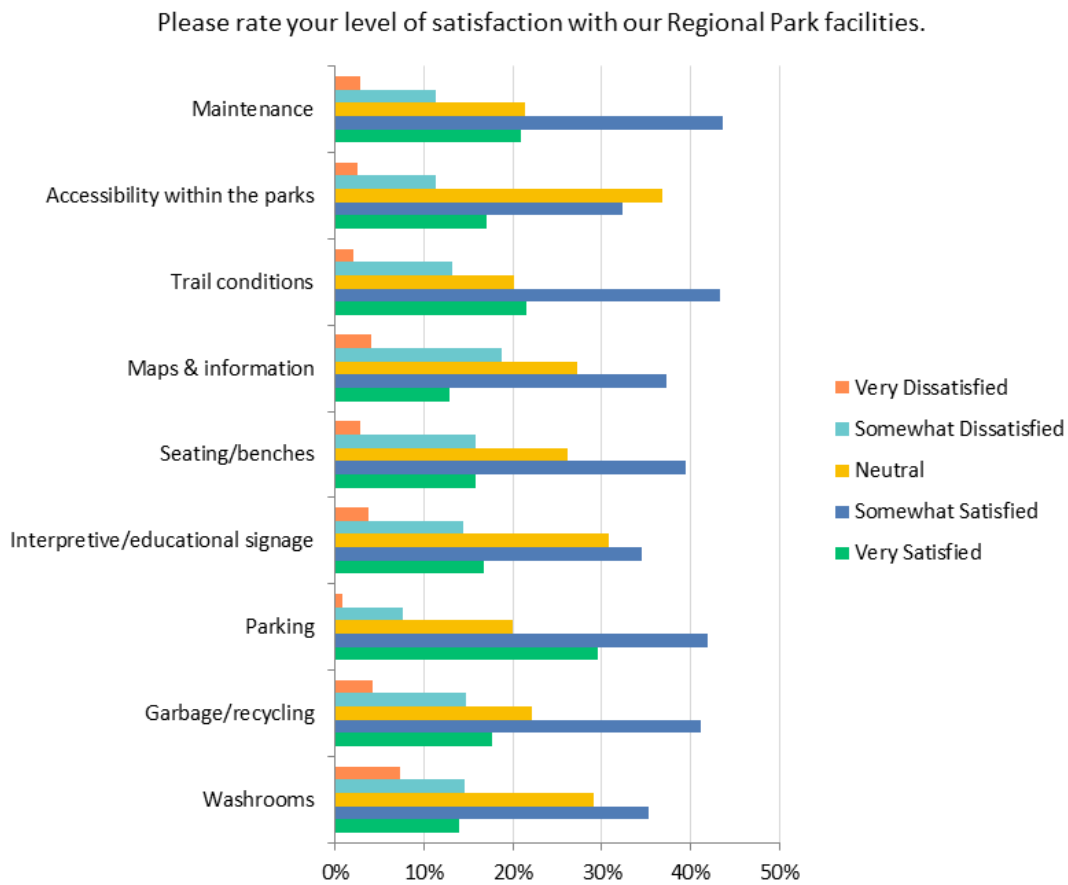


Figure 14. Satisfaction with Regional Parks Facilities from the Online Survey

### 6.3.5 PRIORITIES FOR EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS:

- Most selected priorities for improvements to the existing Regional Parks system were “developing more trails within Regional Parks” (68%), “preserving and restoring natural features” (59%) and “improving maintenance of Regional Parks” (42%).

Additional ideas for improvement included:

- Designating more land for parks (16 mentions)
- Accessibility improvements (including wheelchair access and parking and opportunities for families) (11 mentions)
- Improved maintenance including cleaning washrooms regularly, trail clearing and disposing of garbage (12 mentions)
- Provide more information on parks including opening and closing times and types of activities available (9 mentions)

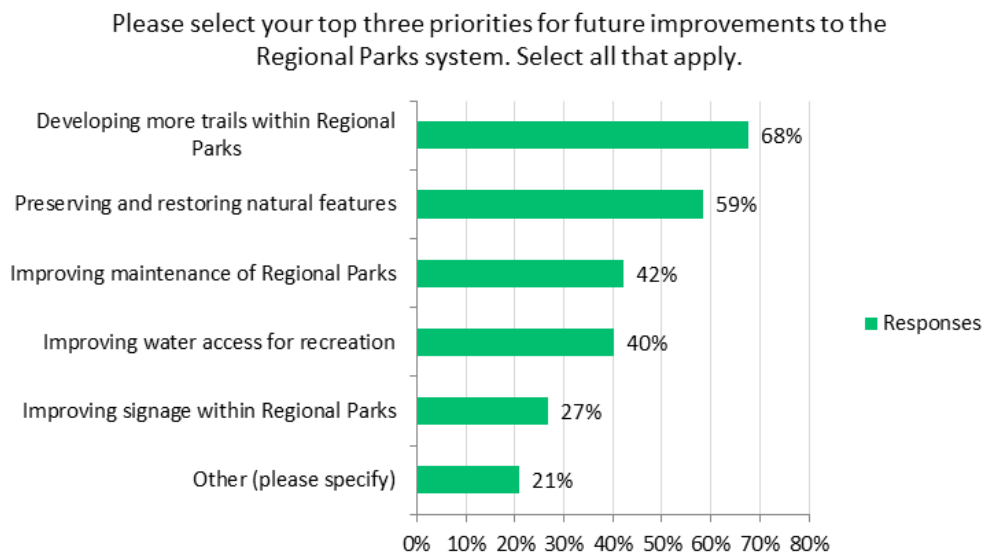


Figure 15. Priorities for Future Regional Parks System Improvements From Online Survey

### 6.3.6 PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE REGIONAL PARKS:

- The top two priorities in terms of future parks for survey respondents were “Parks with lake access” (54%) and “More regional trail connections” (54%).
- Other important priorities were: “river corridor parks” (37%), “mountain or alpine parks” (33%) and cultural heritage (including historic sites and areas supporting traditional Indigenous use) (31%).

Locations for future regional park sites suggested by respondents include:

- Tabor Mountain/Tabor Lake area (12 mentions)
- Nechako River (9 mentions)
- Crooked Lake/River area (5 mentions)
- Salmon Valley area (4 mentions)

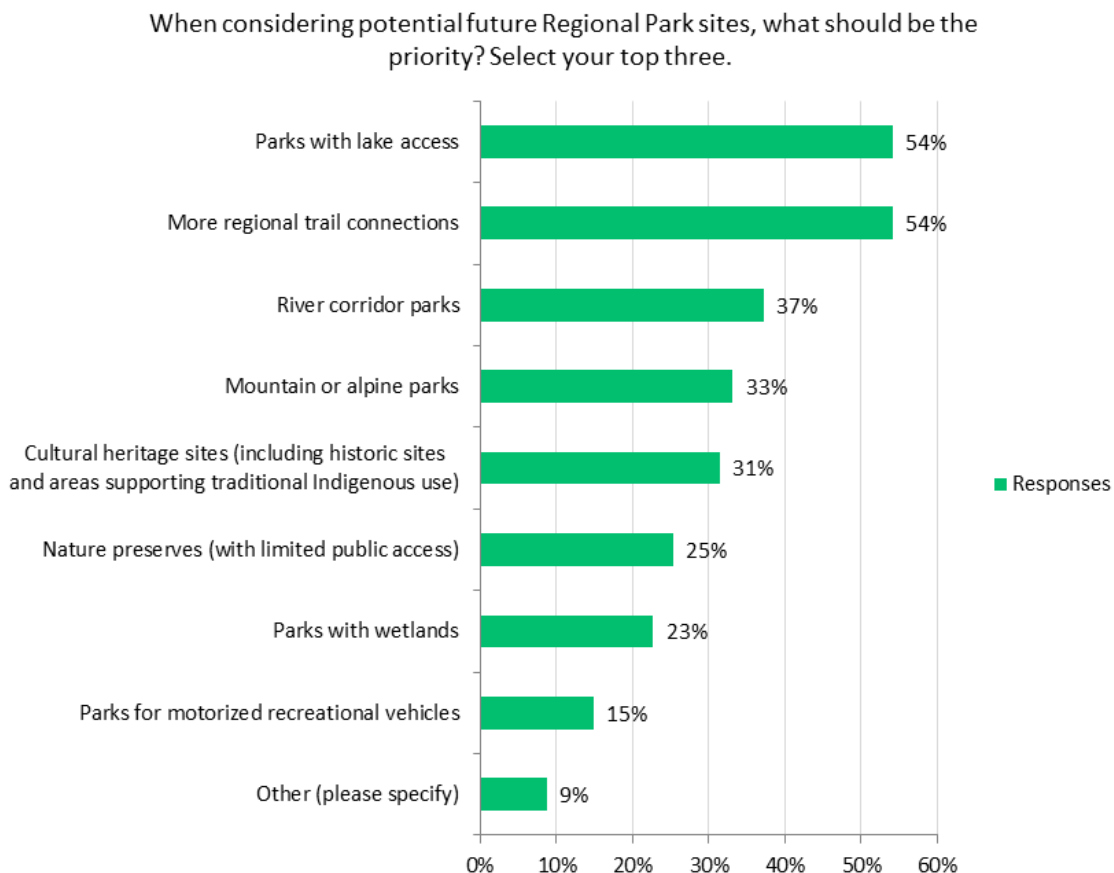


Figure 16. Priorities For Future Regional Parks Sites From Online Survey

### 6.3.7 DEMOGRAPHICS:

- The majority (57%) of survey respondents were from the Prince George area.

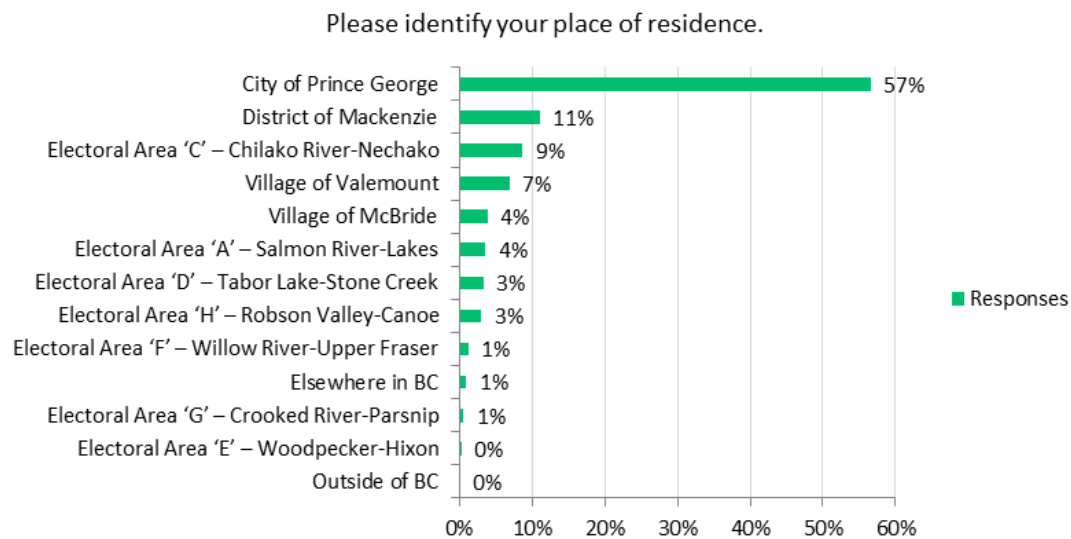


Figure 17. Residence of Online Survey Respondents

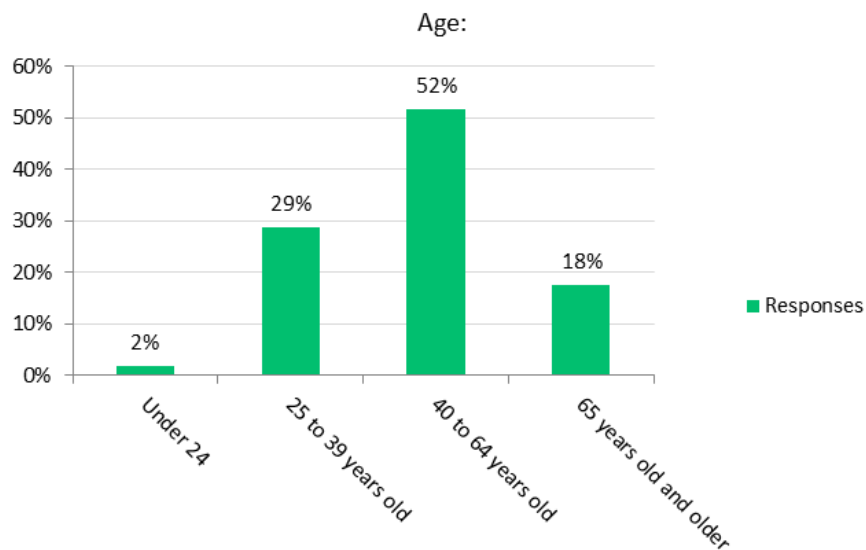


Figure 18. Age of Online Survey Respondents



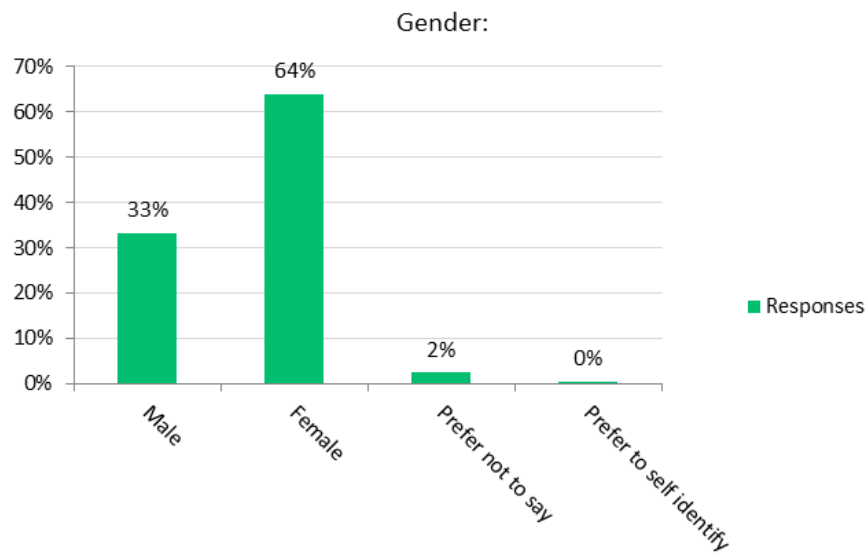


Figure 19. Gender of Online Survey Respondents

*A sample of additional comments from the survey:*

- *"Maintenance and safety should always be #1 and #2 should be well lit and accessible."*
- *"Signage to control motorized use."*
- *"Need more water access for beaches similar to Lucerne Lake provincial park."*
- *"Add indigenous place names and stories!"*
- *"Invest in parks in the smaller communities too not just where the larger population centres are."*
- *"More signage is needed to direct on trails and amenities."*
- *"Wheelchair access is important."*
- *"More promotion about them to increase awareness."*



Figure 20. Highlights from the Regional Parks Plan public survey, September 2020

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## 6.4 Round 1: Interviews Key Findings

During the one-on-one interviews government representatives, Indigenous groups and stakeholders were asked to share their thoughts about Regional Park issues and opportunities and hopes for the future. Feedback emerging from the interviews is summarized below.

### 6.4.1 WHAT IS VALUABLE ABOUT THE EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM?

The most frequent value identified was “Connects people with nature.” Other include:

- Enhances quality of life for residents and visitors
- Opportunities to experience nature
- Mitigate climate change, contributes ecological goods and services
- Public access
- Interpretation about historical and cultural resources
- Low impact, relaxing experiences
- Proximity to towns
- Adds to the overall mosaic of parks
- Accommodates flexible activities
- Well distributed

### 6.4.2 WHAT IS GREAT THAT THE RDFFG COULD DO MORE OF?

- More picnic areas, water access, trails
- More interpretive signage
- Park representation in all electoral areas
- Education around appropriate uses, safety
- More maps and information

### 6.4.3 WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE CHALLENGE FOR THE REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM?

The most frequent challenge identified was “Lack of accessibility.” Other issues included:

- Awareness of regional parks, information on what is available in the parks
- More directional/access signage
- Geographically spread out
- Misuse related to motorized uses

#### **6.4.4 WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU SEE FOR IMPROVING EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS?**

- Improve accessibility, highlight accessible features
- More trails, trailhead signage, variety of loops
- More picnic areas, fire pits
- Viewing platforms, expand wildlife/nature viewing opportunities
- More interpretation about natural systems
- Exploit active transportation opportunities
- Connections with other park and trail systems
- Work together with Indigenous groups to promote culture & heritage, traditional territories
- Inclusion of Indigenous languages, trails and traditional site names
- Work with Indigenous groups to identify potential archaeological sites within existing parks
- Increase public knowledge about parks (brochure/marketing/promotion/outreach)
- Education around stewardship
- Educational events in parks (host speakers on relevant topics i.e., Indigenous Peoples Day, Indigenous culture and history, local ecology, biology, conservation, safety talks, community paddling events)

#### **6.4.5 OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE YEAR-ROUND USE**

- Snowshoeing, skating, cross-country skiing, ice fishing where winter access/plowing is feasible

#### **6.4.6 WHERE SHOULD THE RDPFG PRIORITIZE NEW REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT?**

- In proximity to residents
- Underserved areas and electoral areas
- More diversity of parks

#### **6.4.7 WHAT TYPES OF PARKLAND ACQUISITION SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED?**

- Lake access
- River edges (Nechako and Fraser Rivers)
- Cultural/heritage sites
- Indigenous cultural sites
- Agriculture/agricultural history
- Wetlands
- Mountain/alpine sites

#### 6.4.8 DO YOU HAVE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN MIND FOR FUTURE REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT?

- Tabor Lake (4)
- Cranberry Marsh (2)
- Crooked River / Parsnip area (2)
- Others: Lost Lake Area, Horseshoe Lake, Crystal and Emerald Lakes, McLeod Lake area (in partnership with McLeod Lake Indian Band), Salmon Valley, Bear Lake, Otway/Miworth Trail, Pine Pass, Pass Lake, McBride Peak, Support for trails connecting Wilkins to McMillan, Dome Creek, Stoner/Stone Creek, Hixon Creek Falls, Woodpecker Heritage Church, Robson Valley

#### 6.4.9 VISION – DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM



Figure 21. Vision for the Regional Parks system

## 6.5 Round 2: How We Reached Out

### 6.5.1 PUBLIC SURVEY

A second public survey gathered feedback and comments on the draft Regional Parks Plan. Survey responses were collected from January 15 to February 5, 2021. The survey was available online via the RDFFG website, and hard copies of the survey were made available at regional transfer stations. The survey received 192 responses in total. Over 60% of survey respondents were from Prince George, with remaining surveys coming from elsewhere in the Regional District. A small number were from elsewhere in BC.

### 6.5.2 INTERVIEWS

In the second round of one-on-one interviews, we reached out to government agencies, Indigenous groups, key stakeholders who did not participate in the first round of interviews, and additional groups mentioned during the first round of interviews. In addition, those who participated in Round 1 interviews were provided with a project update and a copy of the draft report for comment. A total of 28 groups were contacted by email to participate in interviews and complete the online survey. One-on-one interviews were conducted by telephone or video conference with the following representatives:

#### GOVERNMENT, INDIGENOUS AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- Simpcw First Nation: Kerri Jo Fortier, Natural Resource Manager
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC: Karen Mohr District, Recreation Officer, and Brock Paciejewski, Recreation Technician
- BC Parks: Dave Merritt, Omineca Area Supervisor
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development: Nikolaus Gantner, Senior Fisheries Biologist and Ian Spendlow, Fish Biologist - Omineca Region
- City of Prince George: Sean LeBrun, Manager of Parks & Solid Waste Services
- RDFFG Board of Directors: Murry Krause, Director, City of Prince George
- Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA): Ross Hobbs
- Caledonia Ramblers: Mark Nielsen, President and Nowell Senior, Past President
- Prince George Cycling Club: Byron Conroy, President
- Robson Valley Chapter, Back Country Horseman Society of British Columbia: Eileen MacDonald and Brian Wallace

In addition, written comments, or acknowledgement was received from several groups including the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society, and Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society. A complete list of agencies and organizations who were contacted in Round 2 can be found in Appendix A.

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## 6.6 Round 2: Public Survey Summary Results

### 6.6.1 KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC SURVEY:

#### Key Findings:

- The draft Vision Statement received general support among survey respondents with 88% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposed vision.
- The highest ranked recommendation themes from the draft report were Accessibility, Stewardship and Education and Interpretation.
- In terms of proposed improvements to existing regional parks, all of the proposed improvements were generally supported, with recommendations for Wilkins (83%), Ness Lake (80%), Berman Lake (76%), McMillan Creek (73%) , and Giscome Portage (71%) receiving the most support.
- All of the proposed potential future Regional Park site options received general support from respondents with Hixon Creek Falls receiving the most support with 84% strongly agreeing (55%), or agreeing (29%).
- The additional comments showed that respondents valued accessibility within Regional Parks, for all ages and abilities to experience parks.

### 6.6.2 VISION STATEMENT

When asked to what extent respondents agreed with the Vision Statement within the draft report, 88% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

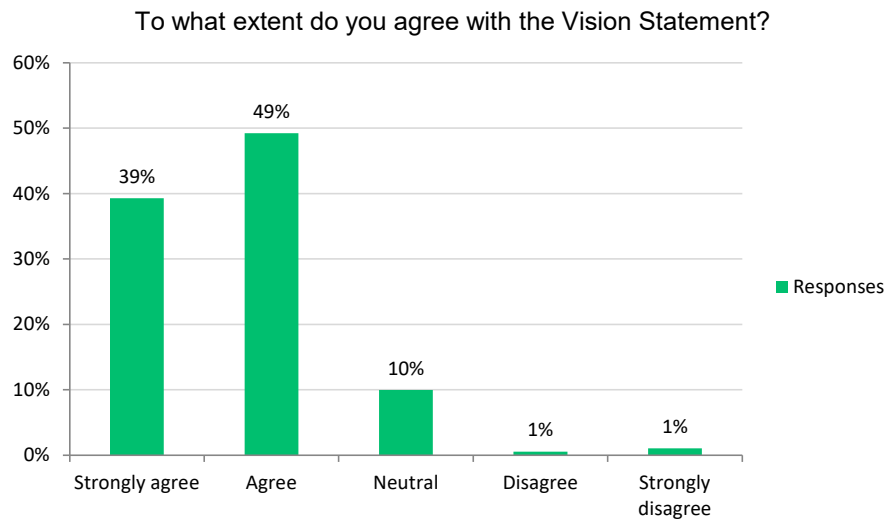


Figure 22. Vision Statement Agreement from Online Survey

### 6.6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS:

#### Recommendation Themes

When asked to rank key recommendation themes within the draft report, respondents valued Accessibility, Stewardship and Education & Interpretation as the top ranked themes.

#### Proposed Improvement Recommendations

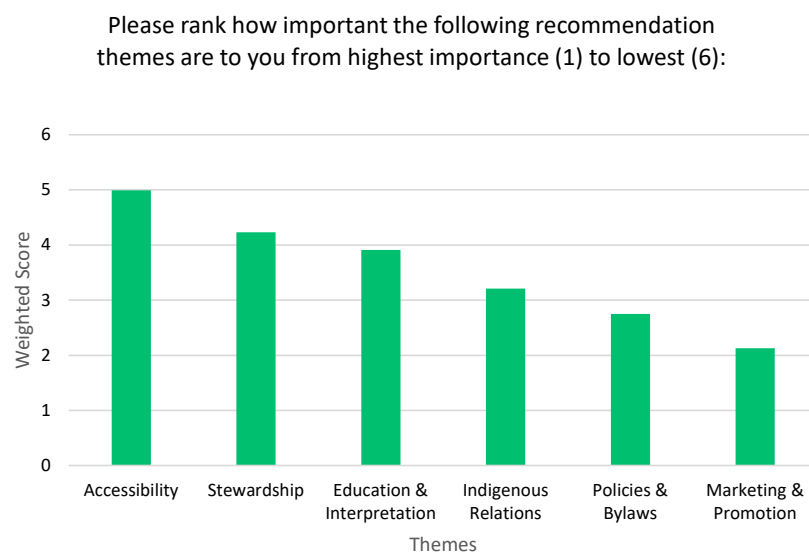


Figure 23. Recommendation Themes ranking from Online Survey (higher weighted score indicates higher ranking)



When asked to rank proposed improvements at existing Regional Parks, recommended improvements for Wilkins (83%), Ness Lake (80%), Berman Lake (76%), McMillan Creek (73%), and Giscome Portage (71%) were the most supported with over 70% respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposed recommendations.

Harold Mann (55%), Kristian Winther (52%), Cedarside (52%), Koeneman (51%) and George Hicks (50%) received majority support with over 50% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing to the proposed recommendations.

Most respondents felt neutral about John Dahl recommendations with 51% reporting they felt neutral about the proposed recommendations.

### Potential Future Regional Park Sites

To what extent do you agree with the proposed recommendations for improvements at each of the Regional Parks.

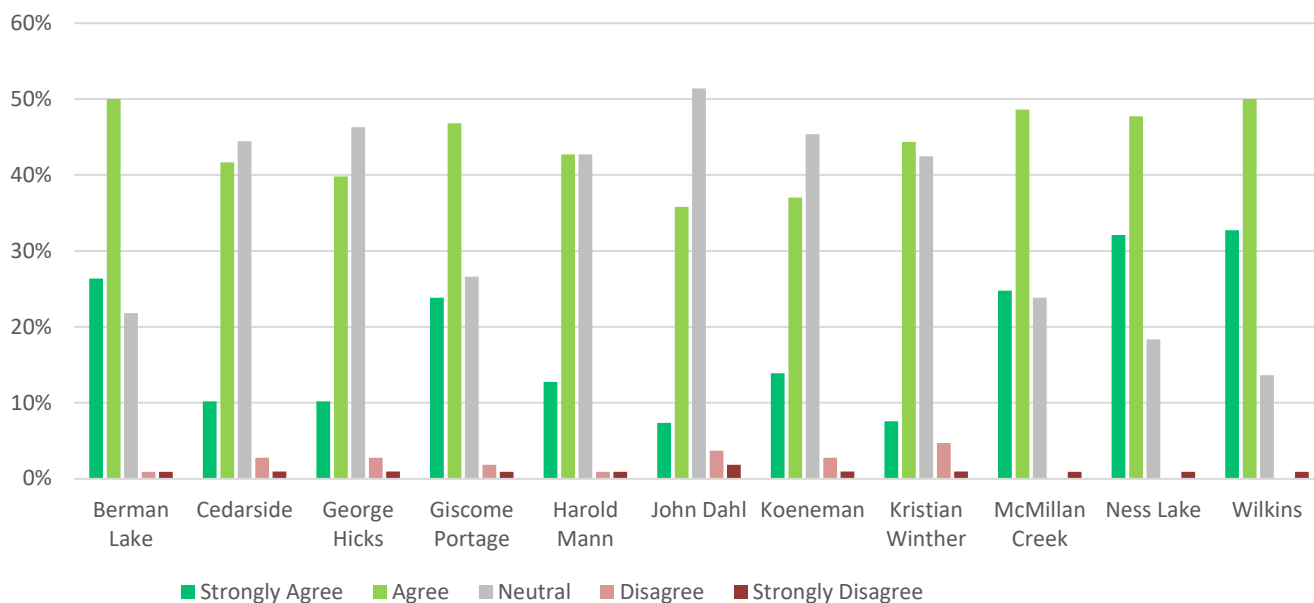


Figure 24. Proposed Recommendations Agreement from Online Survey

When asked about the level of agreement with the potential future Regional Park locations, respondents generally agreed or strongly agreed with all of the proposed sites. Hixon Creek Falls (Electoral Area 'E') received the most support with 55% strongly agreeing and 29% agreeing.

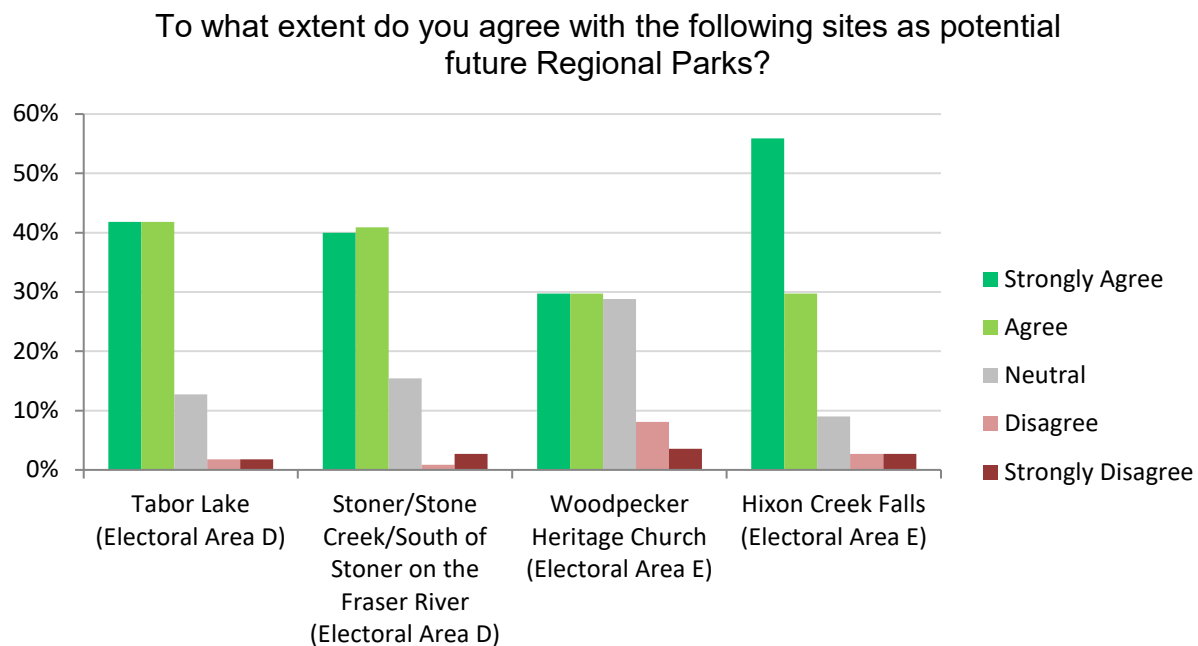


Figure 25. Potential Future Sites Agreement from Online Survey

*A sample of additional comments from the survey:*

- "I would like to see focus on elements of conservation which contribute to the values that result in human use."
- "It would be great to see RD take such great care of Hixon falls that they do of their other parks."
- "More areas for families and more spots for short term camping."
- "We live in the Shelley Rd area and would really love to see and have facilities/park built at Tabor Lake."
- "I would like to see more nature hiking trails that are not so advanced just a really nice walk."
- "Accessibility is an important issue. It would be great to have a dedicated walker/wheelchair accessible beach."

#### 6.6.4 DEMOGRAPHICS:

Similar to the first public survey, most of the respondents (64%) lived in Prince George.

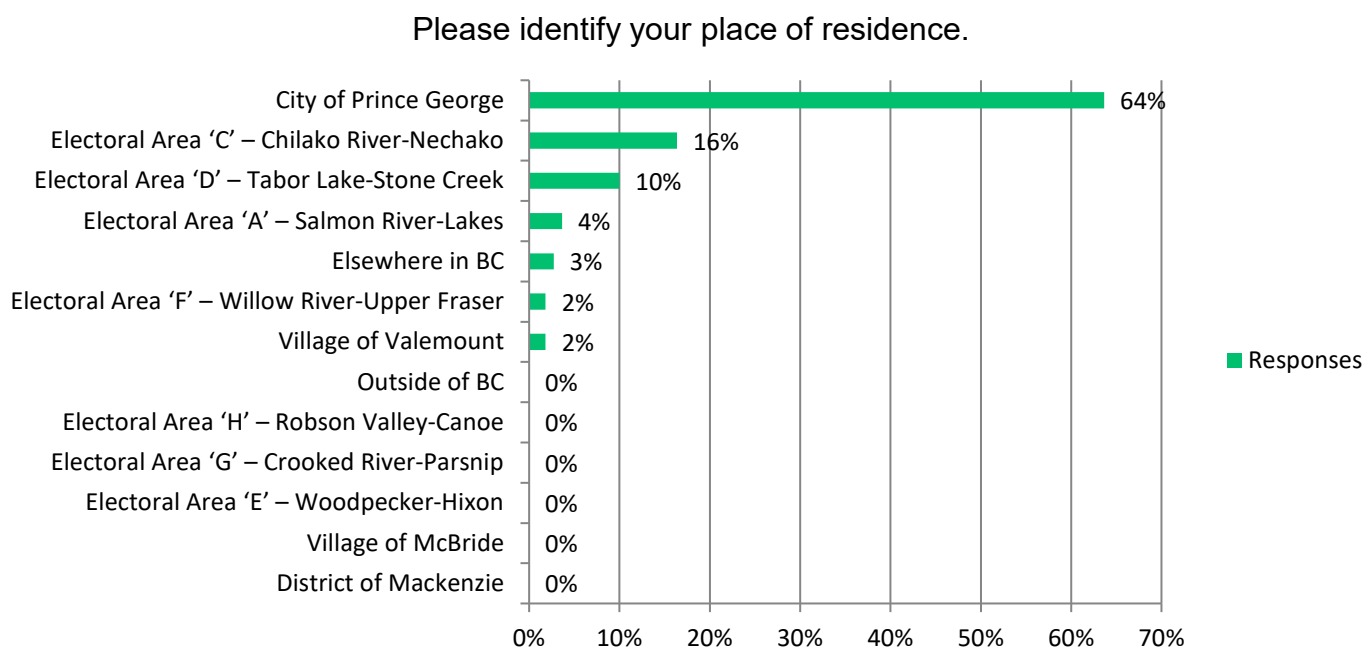


Figure 26. Residence of Online Survey Respondents

Most of the survey respondents were between the ages of 40 and 64 years of age.

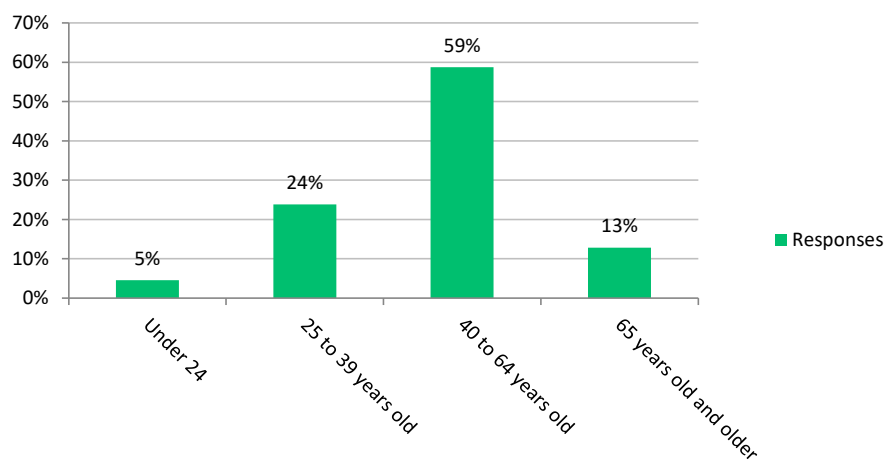


Figure 27. Age of Online Survey Respondents

Most of the survey respondents were female.

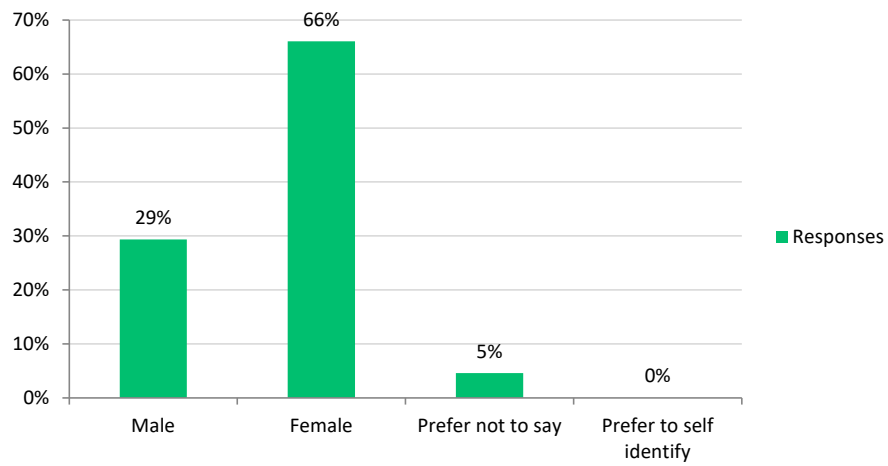


Figure 28. Gender of Online Survey Respondents

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## 6.7 Round 2: Interviews Key Findings

### 6.7.1 DO YOU SUPPORT THE DRAFT PLAN'S PROPOSED VISION?

- General support for the proposed vision

### 6.7.2 DO YOU HAVE FEEDBACK ON ACTIONS PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT PLAN?

- Connect McMillan with Prince George Heritage Trails
- Prioritize new signage at McMillan
- Prioritize expansion of trail system at Wilkins
- Enhance equine friendly facilities at Koeneman
- John Dahl is underutilized

### 6.7.3 ARE THERE ANY ISSUES OR OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED?

- Integration of electric vehicle charging stations, wifi at Regional Parks
- Consider the increasing trend in mountain biking / fat biking in the region

### 6.7.4 ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE IDENTIFIED?

- Relationship agreements with Indigenous groups
- Finding synergies with various recreation land management agencies
- Freshwater Fish Society of BC, promotion & resources, learn to fish programs

### 6.7.5 ARE THERE ANY OTHER POTENTIAL FUTURE REGIONAL PARKS SITES THAT SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED?

- Morfee Lakes
- Little Lost Lake
- Eena Lake
- Pidherny

### 6.7.6 FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

- Promoting history and culture of Indigenous peoples
- Engagement with Indigenous groups
- Public safety
- Accessibility
- Year round use
- Signage
- Better amenities
- Stewardship of the land
- General support for Hixon Creek Falls and Tabor Lake as potential future Regional Park sites





# 7. Existing Regional Parks – Priorities For 2020 to 2030

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This section of the plan describes the existing regional parks and specific recommendations for future development in each of the parks over the next 10 years.

## 7.1 Current Status

There are currently 11 Regional Parks in the RDFFG totaling approximately 330 hectares. Most of the Regional Park acquisition occurred between 1976 and 1993, with the latest park acquired in 2003. Six of the Regional Parks are owned by the RDFFG and five are on leased Crown land.

The RDFFG maintains the Regional Parks in the greater Prince George park planning area, while contract agreements are in place for some operation and maintenance duties with the Village of Valemount and District of Mackenzie for parks in the Mackenzie and Robson Valley-Canoe park planning areas. An agreement is also in place with a non-profit organization for the operation and maintenance of the Giscome Portage Regional Park. The Regional District also retains some site contractors for day-to-day operational duties with the Regional Parks, such as opening and closing, lawn care and cleaning.

Since the 2010 Regional Parks Plan, thirteen improvement projects were completed at eight Regional Parks, including the installation of signage, fencing, viewing areas, trails and shoreline improvements. These projects are noted in Appendix D.

The main features and facilities found in each of the 11 Regional Parks is summarized in Table 8. Site assessments of parks within the Greater Prince George park planning area were completed by R.F. Binnie & Associates staff, in September and October 2020. Site assessments of parks within the Mackenzie and Robson Valley-Canoe park planning areas were undertaken by RDFFG staff. The most common facilities in the Regional Parks include trails, picnic areas and outhouses. Seven of the Regional Parks have fire pits, and six of the parks have picnic shelters. Seven of the Regional Parks have highway/entrance road directional signage.



Park (Electoral Area)	Size (ha)	Year Acquired	Tenure	Contract Agreements	Trails	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Fire Pit	Outhouse	Boat Launch (nm = Non Motorized)	Swimming Area	Change Rooms	View Points	Heritage Buildings	Play Areas	Entry Gate	Interpretive Sign	Highway Sign	Informal Area (Lawn)
Berman Lake (Area C)	38	1976	Crown lease	-	●	●		●	●	nm	●	●						●	●
Cedarside (Area H)	18.5	1993	Crown lease	Village of Valemount		●		●	●		●						●		
George Hicks (Area H)	2.5	1984	RD owned; MoT right-of-way at bridge	Village of Valemount	●	●			●				●				●	●	
Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead Historic Site) (Area G)	22	1989	RD owned	Giscome Portage Heritage Society	●	●	●		●					●		●		●	●
Harold Mann (Eaglet Lake) (Area F)	13	1984	RD owned	-	●	●	●	●	●		●	●					●		●
John Dahl (located within District of Mackenzie boundary)	1.8	1990	Mackenzie lease	District of Mackenzie	●	●			●				●		●				
Koeneman (Area H)	4.5	1981	RD owned	-		●	●	●	●	nm				●			●		●
Kristian Winther (Area A)	28	2003	RD owned	-	●	●	●	●	●							●		●	
McMillan Creek (located within City of Prince George boundary)	60	1980's	Crown lease	-	●				●				●				●	●	
Ness Lake (Area A)	84 (inc. 14 developed)	1976	Crown lease	-	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●
Wilkins (Area C)	57	1976	RD owned	-	●	●	●	●	●	●						●		●	
Totals					# of Specific Facilities														
	329.3	-	6 RD Owned	-	9	10	6	7	11	3	4	3	3	2	2	4	5	7	5

Table 8. Current Status of 11 Existing Regional Parks in the RDFFG

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## 7.2 Development Priorities

This section provides a summary of the highlights of each regional park, current issues, and opportunities for future park development, renewal and improvement. The proposed recommendations are based on: background review and analysis, input from government, Indigenous groups, the public and stakeholders during the engagement process, individual park site assessments, and improvements noted in previous park plans.

The park development recommendations are assigned a priority rating based on urgency, and ease of implementation:

- High Priority (with 1-5 years)
- Medium Priority (within 6-10 years)
- Low Priority (within the 2020-2030 period as time and funding permit, or after 2030)

Chapter 9 includes additional information on implementation including cost estimates for each of the projects listed below.

### 7.2.1 BERMAN LAKE

#### Park Description

Berman Lake Regional Park is located 45km west of Prince George. Park highlights include a dock, swimming beach, and trails. Other facilities include picnic areas, fire pits, outhouses, changing shelter, informal lawn area. Trails follow the shoreline and naturally formed eskers, enabling access to view a variety of wildlife and their habitats.

The park has two separate picnic areas. One is located in a small treed area with a dock for launching canoes. The second picnic area is located in a large open lawn area with a sandy beach, and a designated swimming area.

#### Issues and Opportunities

During the engagement process, the public and stakeholders expressed a desire for improved access to the dock and picnic areas. Park assessments revealed a need for upgrades to the trails. Many facilities such as the outhouses and picnic areas are not accessible for those with mobility constraints. There is an opportunity for increased interpretation of the lake and wetland habitat and associated wildlife.

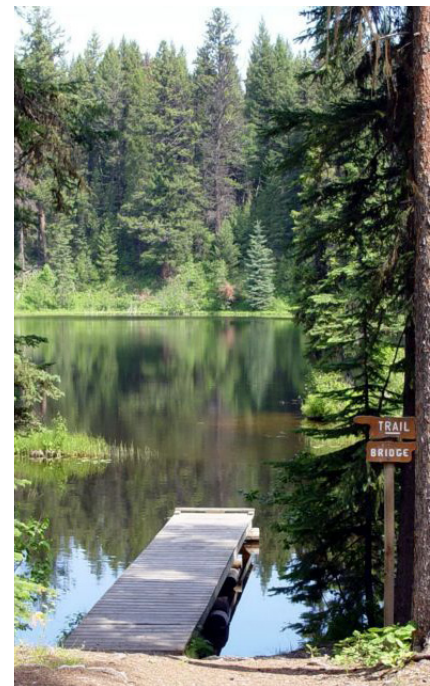


Figure 29. Berman Lake Regional Park

#### Park Development Recommendations

1. Create more accessible grades to access the dock and picnic areas. (High)
2. Upgrade trails (including repair of wooden stairs, bridge railings, and trail surfaces). (Medium)
3. Install a viewing platform into the wetland with interpretive signage. (Low)



Figure 30. Cedarside Regional Park

## 7.2.2 CEDARSIDE

### Park Description

Cedarside Regional Park is 18.5 ha in size and is located 2.5 km south of Valemount on Little Cranberry Lake. The Park is maintained by the Village of Valemount under contract to the Regional District.

Cedarside is a popular spot for swimming in the summer, and skiing, snowshoeing and sledding in the winter. Facilities include a large parking area, outhouses, picnic tables, fire pits and access to a large sandy beach.

### Issues and Opportunities

During the engagement process, the public and stakeholders expressed a desire for improvements to the picnic area, beach and swimming area, and the development of trails. While there is a signed trail from the parking lot to the beach, a steep bank at the north end is used for informal, more direct access. This is accelerating erosion.

### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Widen the trail to the beach and develop a loop trail with interpretive signage. (High)
2. Install additional barriers to discourage access on steep banks to beach. (High)
3. Rake and screen the beach. (Medium)
4. Install highway directional signs at 200m and/or 400m before the park entrance. (Low)

## 7.2.3 GEORGE HICKS

### Park Description

George Hicks Regional Park is 2.5 ha in size and is located in Valemount, BC. The Park is maintained by the Village of Valemount under contract to the Regional District.

The Park has a walking trail and two viewing platforms that offer excellent Chinook salmon viewing opportunities along Swift Creek in late July to mid August. George Hicks was the second most visited Regional Park of those where the Regional District collects park counter data.

Other facilities at George Hicks include an information kiosk, picnic area, and outhouses.



Figure 31. George Hicks Regional Park

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### Issues and Opportunities

A trail connection was recently constructed between the park and visitor's centre, as well as installation of a second viewing platform and interpretive signage along the new trails. Due to its prominent and central location this park acts as a gateway to Valemount and plays an important role for residents and visitors. Tourism Valemount and the Village of Valemount expressed an interest in partnering with the Regional District to extend trail connections within the park. Specifically, there is an interest in creating a new trail that connects north from the existing viewing bridge to the North Thompson Highway, to allow visitors staying at the campground to access the park directly without walking along the Highway.

### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Support the extension of a trail from the viewing platform to the North Thompson Highway on the north side of Swift Creek. (Med)

## 7.2.4 GISCOME PORTAGE (HUBLE HOMESTEAD HISTORIC SITE)

### Park Description

Located 40 km north of Prince George, Giscome Portage Regional Park was created to preserve the Huble Homestead, Giscome Portage, and surrounding area. Located on the upper Fraser River, the homestead site includes the original 1912 dovetail log house, as well as reconstructed buildings including the general store, blacksmith shop, barns and others. Events are held at the Park during the summer season.

The Giscome Portage was a historic trade route used by the Lheidli T'enneh, who called the trail Lhdesti or "the shortcut." The Giscome Portage is a designated Heritage Trail operated by BC Parks. Trailhead parking is located at the Huble Homestead.

The Huble Homestead at Giscome Portage Regional Park is operated and maintained by the Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society under contract to the RDFFG.

### Issues and Opportunities

- Giscome Portage Regional Park provides a casual, family friendly setting for visitors to relax, explore the natural surroundings and learn about important history of area.
- Given the ongoing partnership with the Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society, the Park would benefit from a park-specific Park Management Plan, separate from the existing RDFFG Cultural Plan, that defines a vision for the Park, and clarifies roles and responsibilities.



*Figure 32. Giscome Portage Regional Park*

- Signage at Highway 16/Mitchell road is faded and should be replaced to attract more visitors. Signage could better identify the park as a Regional Park.
- The parking lot could be improved with a turnaround area and designated parking aisles through use of signage and physical delineations such as bollards or islands.
- The riverfront trail is scenic but prone to flooding and can be extremely wet in sections.

### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Prepare a park management plan (complementing the RDFFG Cultural Plan) that defines a mutually-agreed vision for the park management function of this important park, and identifies how the RDFFG will work with the Huble Homestead / Giscome Portage Heritage Society and other interested organizations to achieve the long-term vision. Include BC Parks to identify and address mutually beneficial opportunities for the Regional Park and Giscome Portage trail. (High)
2. Support trail enhancements on the site such as exploring alternatives for the riverfront trail and creating rest points with benches along the trail from the parking lot to the Huble Homestead entrance. (Medium)
3. Replace Highway signage (at Highway 16 and Mitchell Road). (Medium)
4. Improve entry drive by adding signage at corners, and advisory signage at the first cattleguard on Mitchell Road. (Low)



Figure 33. Harold Mann Regional Park

### 7.2.5 HAROLD MANN

#### Park Description

Harold Mann Regional Park is located 50 km northeast of Prince George via Highway 16 East and Upper Fraser Road on Eaglet Lake. The park is 13 ha in size and provides opportunities to view wildlife, especially birds, on the short but scenic trail along the creek, marsh and lake.

A large open area of grass, and a new picnic shelter provide flexible spaces to relax and enjoy the scenery or take part in recreational activities. Fishing can occur from the shoreline, however no dock or boat launch is provided.

Facilities at the park include picnic tables, a picnic shelter, fire pits, outhouses, a swimming area and a changing structure.



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## Issues and Opportunities

- Beaver activity has led to ongoing seepage from the wetland area, which is surfacing in the lawn as it drains towards the lake, leading to standing water in some areas and erosion at the beach.
- There is an opportunity for enhanced trails, viewpoints and interpretive signage around the wetland area for wildlife viewing, especially birdwatching.

## Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Monitor and assess the impacts of the shoreline mitigation work conducted in 2020. Consider expanding as required to mitigate seepage along the lake shore. (High)
2. Improve trails along the creek and bog with sections of boardwalk, and add informational and interpretive signage to highlight the flora and fauna of the area. (Medium)
3. Install Highway signage (from Prince George) at 200 m and/or 400 m from the park entrance. (Low)

### 7.2.6 JOHN DAHL

#### Park Description

John Dahl Regional Park, jointly developed by the District of Mackenzie and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, is located within the District of Mackenzie. At 1.8 ha it is the smallest of the Regional Parks, and primarily serves the residents of Mackenzie.

The Regional Park contains the 2.2 km long Barb Dahl trail, the 1.5 km long Dick Dauphinee trail, and viewpoints overlooking Morfee Lakes. Trails remain open year-round and provide walking and hiking experiences in spring, summer and fall. The trails are groomed by the District in the winter for cross-country skiing. The RDFFG contracts basic maintenance to the District of Mackenzie.

#### Issues and Opportunities

- There are very few amenities in the Park which diminishes the quality of the park. The lack of amenities, as well as wet areas mean the park is generally underutilized.
- There is little directional signage to the entrance of the park and/or informational signage making it difficult for visitors to Mackenzie to utilize the park.
- The District of Mackenzie has recently installed a small informal parking area.



*Figure 34. John Dahl Regional Park*

- There are opportunities for enhanced viewpoints to Morfee Lakes, and increased winter use with more consistent winter grooming.

### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. In consultation with the District of Mackenzie consider handing John Dahl over to the District for use as a community park and acquiring another regional park site in the Mackenzie area, such as at Mugaha Creek or in the Morfee Lakes area, if this would better meet the Regional District and area's park needs. Mugaha Creek and Morfee Lakes are discussed further in Appendix E. (Med)
2. Formalize a trailhead with a kiosk to convey information on trail use, etiquette and maps. (Med)
3. Consult with the District of Mackenzie on options to improve directional signage to the park entrance. (Low)

## 7.2.7 KOENEMAN

### Park Description

Koeneman Regional Park is located near the southern boundary of McBride. The 4.5 ha park is located on the east side of the Fraser River. The Park was donated to the RDFFG by the Koeneman family in 1981. The park features the Koeneman House, a dovetail cornered log house, a picnic shelter and infrastructure to support equine tourism including an equine emergency stop, rest area and parking area for accessing local riding trails on McBride peak. Other facilities include a picnic area, outhouses, interpretive signage and informal lawn area. The Koeneman House was previously used for community activities but remains unused as local community organizations have not been able to raise consistent funds to support restoration and maintenance.



Figure 35. Koeneman Regional Park

### Issues and Opportunities

Since the 2010 Parks Plan the RDFFG has investigated the feasibility of a boat launch. However, since the Village of McBride has installed a boat launch directly across the Fraser River, demand for a launch at Koeneman has been minimized. The Koeneman House is a heritage asset for the park but requires upgrades and ongoing maintenance. The ground in the park is soft, particularly in spring making it susceptible to rutting by vehicles.

Koeneman received the lowest amount of use of the Regional Parks according to the 2020 public survey, underscoring that the park is currently underused. Multi-use trail networks in the area (including McBride Peak and the Teare Mountain Bike Trail Network) attract a broad range of users including equine, mountain biking and hiking, suggesting the park could be improved as a hub and staging area for trail users. There is an opportunity for improved directional and informational signage on the highway, and interpretive signage within the park. There is interest in a non-potable water source for watering horses to support the parks use as an equine rest area.

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## Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Create a defined loop road, and upgrade the upper parking area with gravel and grading. (High)
2. Install Highway signs at 200 m and/or 400 m before the park entrance. Ensure signage highlights equine facilities available within the park. (High)
3. Replace existing garbage receptacles and the outhouse at the north end of the Park. (Med)
4. Add interpretive information to the existing kiosk to highlight local heritage within the Park and surrounding area, such as the Koeneman House and fire lookout near McBride Peak. (Med)
5. Investigate the potential for a non-potable water source on the site. (Low)
6. Consult with the community to define levels of community interest in using the Koeneman House, and supporting the long-term maintenance of this heritage structure. Apply for funding to complete renovations once community support becomes evident. (Low)

### 7.2.8 KRISTIAN WINTHER

#### Park Description

Kristian Winther Regional Park is located on the south shore of the Salmon River, 30 km north of Prince George. The park is 28 hectares in size and has a short 700 m loop trail that follows the Salmon River and back through new growth forest. The trail offers opportunities for birdwatching and wildlife viewing including deer, moose and bear tracks.

Facilities at the park include an informal lawn, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, fire pits and outhouses.

#### Issues and Opportunities

- Erosion and undercutting is present at three trail access points.
- A lack of highway directional signage travelling south makes the park underutilized.

#### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Install interpretive signage and benches along the Salmon River loop trail. Install warning signage and/or barriers where riverbank erosion is severe along the trail. (High)
2. Install a kiosk in the parking lot with maps, trail and park information. (Med)
3. Install Highway signage (on Hwy 97 travelling south) at 200 m and /or 400 m from the park entrance. (Low)



Figure 36. Kristian Winther Regional Park





Figure 37. McMillan Creek Regional Park

### 7.2.9 MCMILLAN CREEK

#### Park Description

McMillan Creek Regional Park is situated in northern Prince George, and is the only Regional Park located within the City of Prince George boundaries. The Park is accessed via the Hart Highway 97 North off Hoferkamp Road. At 60 hectares it is the largest of the Regional Parks. The Park offers outstanding views from the top of the Nechako River cutbanks to the City of Prince George and surrounding landscapes.

McMillan Creek passes through a deep ravine surrounded by towering Douglas fir trees. The creek is an important habitat for rainbow trout and provides valuable spawning beds.

A scenic 2.5 km forested trail system, starting at the main parking lot, winds through several ecosystems allowing an opportunity to view various plant species. A shorter, 1 km trail returns to the lookout on the cutbanks. The northern portion of the park is currently undeveloped.

Facilities at the park include trails, outhouses, interpretative signs regarding the geographic history of Prince George and safe and scenic viewpoints of the City from the cutbanks.

#### Issues and Opportunities

- The parking lot is located away from the main trailhead forcing hikers to walk along a narrow section of Hoferkamp Road, and thus reducing the overall accessibility of the park. There are limited sight lines in one direction for vehicles to see pedestrians walking along the road.
- Informal trails have been created at each end of the viewpoint fence line.
- Interpretive signage is in poor condition, and requires replacement.
- There is an opportunity to further link the park with the City of Prince George trails system. Specifically, there is a vision to establish a connection with the McMillan Creek Fishing Park through the Heritage River Trail system. There are also potential connections to the Cranbrook Hill Greenway and beyond.

#### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Improve informational and etiquette signage at the parking lot for hikers using the park. (High)
2. Perform selective pruning, and removal of dead and dangerous trees alongside the road. (High)
3. Extend fence line barriers and replace interpretive signage to enhance the viewpoint. (Med)
4. Consider improvements to enhance connectivity and universal access to the viewpoint, and future trail connections to the McMillan Creek Fishing Park. (Low)

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## 7.2.10 NESS LAKE

### Park Description

Ness Lake Regional Park is located 35 km northwest of Prince George. The 14 hectare park has 1.2 km of trails within its boundaries. The trails provide an easy walk to view the wildlife and plant life of the park. The park is frequented year round with a full fifty percent of survey respondents reported visiting Ness Lake in the past two years.

The park has a scenic lake front with a beach that provides access to the lake for canoe launching, and a designated swimming area. In the winter the lake is a destination for ice fishing. Other facilities at the park include picnic tables, fire pits, a picnic shelter, outhouses, change houses, terraced lawn area with a sand box, and a forested trail system which showcases the site's natural ecosystem and large fir trees.



Figure 38. Ness Lake Regional Park

### Issues and Opportunities

- The shoreline has experienced erosion, particularly at the north edge at the end of the retaining wall. A shoreline mitigation project was undertaken by the Regional District in 2018 to address erosion and stabilize the edge. Although erosion protection measures have been introduced, some areas of the shoreline remain steep, impeding access to the lake.
- Access points along the outer trail can be accessed by motorized vehicles which are causing some damage to the ditch and slopes.

### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Monitor the effectiveness of the shoreline stabilization project and conduct enhancements, as necessary. (High)
2. Consider further improvements to the shoreline to improve access to the water for swimming. (High)
3. Install signage and bollards or barriers at access points along the outer trail to discourage use by motorized vehicles. (Med)
4. Enhance trails with additional wayfinding and interpretive signage. Improve timber stair access and slope angle on trails at the south end of the park which are quite steep. (Low)



Figure 39. Wilkins Regional Park

### 7.2.11 WILKINS

#### Park Description

Wilkins Regional Park is located in Miworth, 15 km west of Prince George. At 57 hectares, Wilkins is the second largest of the Regional Parks. The park is located on the Nechako River with a large system of trails offering scenic views of large cottonwood trees. At certain times of the year, salmon can be viewed moving up the river to spawn.

The site is popular for walking, boating, picnics, campfires and in the winter for snowshoeing. The picnic shelter is often used for special events such as weddings, family gatherings and community events. Wilkins is the most visited of the Regional Parks according to both park counter data, and the public survey.

Facilities include a picnic shelter with a wood burning stove, outhouses, picnic tables, fire pits, trails, a boat launch and a large lawn area providing a place to hold events.

#### Issues and Opportunities

- The gravel access road requires re-grading.
- Trail access is discontinuous from the park gate to the river, requiring hikers to walk on the road.
- The concrete base around the wood stove in the shelter has been vandalized. There is some damage (heavy rutting) in picnic areas at the east end of the park from motorized vehicle use.
- Paddling the Nechako from Wilkins Regional Park to Prince George is a popular day trip.
- The concrete boat launch is too short at some water levels and is experiencing erosion at the end. Many visitors are using the adjacent gravel launch due to grades and conditions.

#### Future Park Development Recommendations

1. Repair the concrete boat launch. (High)
2. Create a short accessible loop trail with interpretive signage about the park. (High)
3. Repair worn or missing timber elements, including bridge decking, loose railings and picnic tables. Add railings to the boardwalk/bridge on the trail to Miworth Road. (Med)
4. Install educational signage about park etiquette including motorized vehicle use. (Med)

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## 7.3 General Park System Recommendations

The following is a summary of key findings related to the overall RDFFG Regional Park system that were identified through the course of the background review, site assessment, and engagement. In order to address these system-wide issues and opportunities a series of recommendations are proposed under the following themes: Policies & Bylaws, Accessibility, Education & Interpretation, Stewardship, Marketing & Promotion, and Indigenous Relations.

### 7.3.1 POLICIES & BYLAWS

#### Key Findings

The current Park Bylaw (Bylaw No. 724) was last updated in 1986 and is in need of an update to reflect current park practices and uses.

#### Recommendation

1. Review and update the Regional Parks Bylaw (Bylaw No. 724).

### 7.3.2 ACCESSIBILITY

#### Key Findings

Lack of accessibility was a frequent challenge identified by the public and stakeholders, and during the site assessments.

#### Recommendations

1. Ensure all parks have an accessible outhouse.
2. Ensure parking lots have accessible parking stalls identified near the park entrance.
3. Ensure universal access, where feasible, at the main park entrance and to day use picnic areas, with provision of accessible picnic tables.
4. Explore partnerships to undertake accessibility audits at all Regional Parks to identify and prioritize where further accessibility improvements within parks can be addressed.
5. Establish accessibility standards to ensure future Regional Park facilities, and upgrades to existing Regional Parks amenities are built to an age-friendly standard.
6. Enhance and promote accessible trail loops at Regional Parks.

### **7.3.3 EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION**

#### **Key Findings**

People are increasingly looking for interpretive and cultural history experiences in parks, and opportunities to learn about historical and cultural resources in the region. There is also a desire to be connected with nature, and for more education around appropriate uses and safety.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Support the enhancement of existing trails, and development of new trails within Regional Parks to create a variety of loop trails with interpretive signage that offer opportunities to learn about flora and fauna i.e., topics such as the role wildfire and succession in the boreal forest, and the role of key species such as beavers in the landscape. Collaborate with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (fisheries and ecosystems sections) to create interpretive signage relating to park ecosystems, conservation initiatives, invasive species, fishing regulations, best fishing practices, and regulatory information.
2. Support the hosting of educational and interpretive talks in Regional Parks. This could include speakers about relevant topics such as Indigenous Peoples Day, Indigenous culture and history, local ecology, wildlife and conservation, safety education talks, winter recreation, learn to fish programs, and community paddling events.
3. Consider opportunities to facilitate more year-round use in Regional Parks such as snowshoeing, skating, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing where winter access/plowing is feasible. Ness Lake was identified by stakeholders as a potential site for enhanced access for winter recreation opportunities such as ice fishing and snowshoeing.

### **7.3.4 STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **Key Findings**

There is a growing awareness about our environment, and a desire for this to be addressed in Regional Parks, including through life-cycle costs and waste reduction.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Ensure all Regional Parks have recycling bins in addition to standard waste receptacles.
2. Consider alternative materials such as concrete or recycled plastic at sites where timber amenities such as benches and tables are repeatedly vandalized.
3. Establish and assign service levels to parks to help prioritize and schedule regional park maintenance activities in a cost-effective manner, while keeping in mind safety, budgets, personnel and environment concerns. These can also be used as a mechanism for evaluation.

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### **7.3.5 MARKETING & PROMOTION**

#### **Key Findings**

There is a lack of knowledge and awareness about the Regional Parks system. There is an interest in more maps and information about what is available in each of the parks.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Update brochures noting facilities available at each Regional Park; use universally recognized symbols that can be readily interpreted by residents and visitors, and highlight accessible features available at the parks, such as trails and outhouses.
2. Ensure all Regional Parks have a central kiosk with maps, etiquette, safety & informational signage.
3. Undertake cross-training with the tourism sector, through presentations of the Regional Park system to tourism teams within the park planning areas. Enhance linkages with other agencies providing park services such as BC Parks, Recreation Sites & Trails BC, and the City of Prince George.

### **7.3.6 INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**

#### **Key Findings**

There is an interest in working together with Indigenous groups in the region to foster and build relationships, and promote Indigenous history, language and culture within the Regional Parks system.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Increase collaboration by establishing "Relationship Agreements" or Memoranda of Understanding on Regional Park planning with local Indigenous groups with a priority on outlining how and when the groups will communicate regarding park planning issues.
2. Engage with Indigenous groups to incorporate informational and interpretive signage that reflects Indigenous cultural values, historical trails, culture camps, and other uses within the region.
3. Ensure park signage acknowledges the traditional territories of local Indigenous groups.
4. Partner with Indigenous groups to ensure the preservation of culturally modified trees (CMT) and understory and culturally significant trees (CST) within Regional Parks, and interpretation where appropriate.
5. Consider the re-naming of Regional Parks and trails, and where Indigenous languages and place names can be represented.
6. Partner with Indigenous groups when strategizing to manage wildlife issues encountered in the parks.
7. Work with Indigenous groups to identify where archaeological sites may exist within existing Regional Parks.

# 8. Proposed Regional Parks

This section of the plan outlines recommendations and policies for proposed Regional Parks for the period 2020 to 2030. It provides qualitative parkland acquisition criteria for considering potential Regional Park sites, discusses potential future park sites identified during the public and stakeholder engagement process, and recommends priorities for future Regional Park development.

## 8.1 Criteria For Acquisition

As the RDFFG grows, the following parkland acquisition criteria can assist in ensuring that appropriate future parkland sites are identified through the planning process. The following criteria build on the those developed in the 2010 Regional Parks Plan with the addition of two criteria that are important to consider in parkland acquisitions: accessibility and indigenous relations.

<b>Public input/ demand</b>	This is gauged through the public engagement processes associated with the review of this Plan, requests from interest groups regarding specific sites, and other past and future interaction with the residents of the Region.
<b>Geographic coverage</b>	All electoral areas should be represented in the Regional Parks system, taking into consideration that the majority of the population, and therefore demand arises, from the Prince George area.
<b>Park and/or trail linkages</b>	The site should provide or enhance linkages among existing parks, trails and recreation areas of all types.
<b>Recreational capacity, experiential value</b>	The site already supports current recreational activities or has the ability to support activities that are in high demand; e.g., hiking, picnicking, fishing, etc.

<b>Water access</b>	Ready access to lake and river shores is generally in high demand throughout the Region; the type of access and uses would depend on the nature of the shore and water body.
<b>Environmental, cultural or heritage representation</b>	The occurrence of a representative or unique landscape or a regionally significant historic or cultural site may be a consideration, particularly if the site fills a gap in such representation.
<b>Existing level of protection (or threat)</b>	Sites that are already protected under provincial or municipal park or recreational site designations may not need regional park status compared to unprotected sites. The RDFFG wishes to complement not compete with or take over existing park areas.
<b>Priorities from past plans</b>	These are sites identified as possible parks or recreational concepts in the 2010 Regional Parks Plan.
<b>Accessibility</b>	The relative ease with which the public (and the RDFFG) could access the site is an important factor.  Where feasible, a desirable park gradient will be in the range of 0-5% for the majority of the site to ensure accessibility to a wide population.  Lands up to a 10% slope may be considered if they can be graded to 5% to accommodate park uses. Consideration of natural geographic features (such as hills, knolls) must be made on a park by park basis. These may act as features of a regional park, but active portions of the park should be capable of accommodating universal accessibility and a range of recreational activities.
<b>Costs</b>	Acquisition cost may be a consideration if the site is privately owned; for the longer term, development and operation/maintenance costs must also be considered.
<b>Partnerships</b>	The potential to offset costs and stretch the RDFFG's limited resources more effectively, through the involvement of interest groups or other government agencies in acquiring, funding, developing and/or maintaining the site, is an important consideration.
<b>Indigenous Relations</b>	There may be the potential to foster and build relationships with Indigenous groups when considering land acquisition. Sites that could support the promotion of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples should be considered with a commitment to reconciliation.

*Table 9. Parkland Acquisition Criteria*



## 8.2 Potential Future Regional Park Sites

The following potential Regional Park sites were suggested for consideration during the Round 1 engagement with government, Indigenous groups, stakeholders and the public. Potential future sites were identified in each of the Electoral Areas of the Regional District.

### **Electoral Area A:**

Saxton Lake  
Chief Lake  
Nukko Lake  
Salmon Valley  
Wilkins-McMillan Creek Connections  
Eena Lake  
Pidherny

### **Electoral Area C:**

Bednesti Lake  
Lost Lake (near Beaverly)  
Fraser River Canyon by West Lake

### **Electoral Area D:**

Stoner or Stone Creek  
Two miles south of Stoner on Fraser River  
Tabor Mountain and Tabor Lake

### **Electoral Area E:**

Woodpecker Heritage Church  
Hixon Creek Falls

### **Electoral Area F:**

Sinclair Mills area  
McGregor River/Torpy Mountain/Pass Lake area  
Penny (potential sites around community)

### **Electoral Area G:**

Morfee Lakes  
McLeod Lake  
Mugaha Creek  
Crooked River  
Bear Lake  
Teapot Mountain

### **Electoral Area H:**

Dome Creek  
McBride Peak  
Cranberry Marsh  
Horseshoe Lake  
Trail to access Mount Terry Fox Provincial Park

The locations of the potential future Regional Park sites identified during the engagements are shown on the map on the following page.

## SUGGESTED PARKS BY ELECTORAL AREA:

### Electoral Area A:

1. Saxton Lake
2. Chief Lake
3. Nukko Lake and Eena Lake
4. Salmon Valley
5. Wilkins-McMillan Creek Connections and Pidherny

### Electoral Area C:

6. Bednesti Lake
7. Lost Lake (near Beverly)
8. Fraser River Canyon by West Lake

### Electoral Area D:

9. Stoner or Stone Creek
10. Two miles south of Stoner on Fraser River
11. Tabor Lake

### Electoral Area E:

12. Woodpecker Heritage Church
13. Hixon Creek Falls

### Electoral Area F:

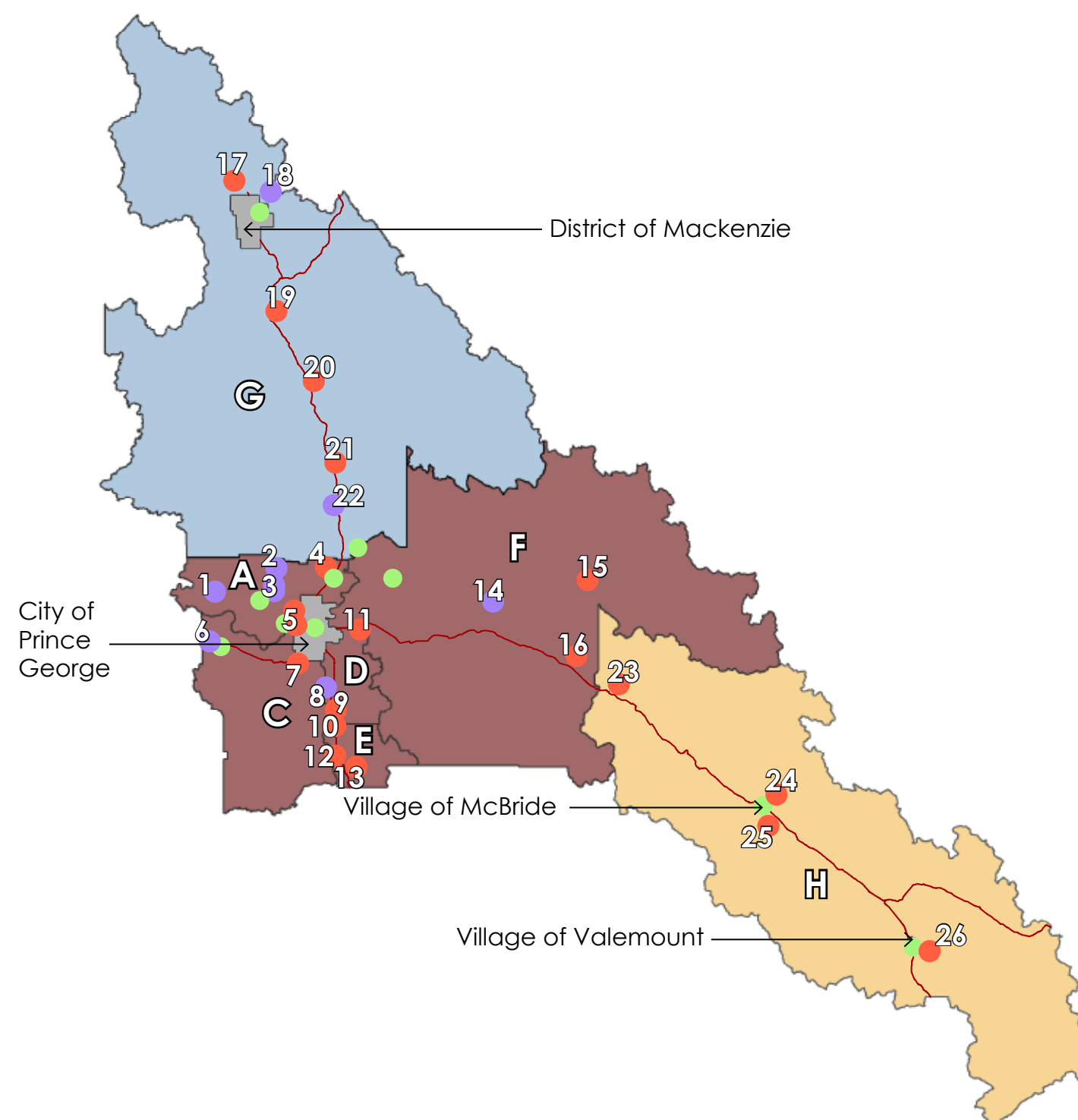
14. Sinclair Mills area
15. McGregor River/Torpy Mountain/Pass Lake area
16. Penny (potential sites around community)

### Electoral Area G:

17. Mugaha Creek
18. Morfee Lakes
19. McLeod Lake
20. Crooked River
21. Bear Lake
22. Teapot Mountain

### Electoral Area H:

23. Dome Creek
24. McBride Peak
25. Horseshoe Lake
26. Cranberry Marsh



## PARK PLANNING AREAS

- Mackenzie
- Greater Prince George
- Robson Valley-Canoe
- Highway
- Existing Regional Parks
- Suggested Future Regional Parks Sites (Stakeholders)
- Suggested Future Regional Parks Sites (Public Survey)

## ELECTORAL AREAS

- A** Salmon River-Lakes
- C** Chilako River-Nechako
- D** Tabor Lake-Stone Creek
- E** Woodpecker-Hixon
- F** Willow River-Upper Fraser
- G** Crooked River-Parsnip
- H** Robson Valley-Canoe

Figure 40. Suggested Future Regional Park Sites

0 25 50 100  
Kilometers



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Given the parkland deficiencies identified in the Greater Prince George park planning area, and in Electoral Areas 'D' and 'E' specifically (see Section 4 – Parkland Needs Assessment), potential sites suggested within these Electoral Areas are discussed further on the following pages. These include: Tabor Lake and Stoner (Electoral Area 'D'), and Woodpecker Heritage Church and Hixon Creek Falls (Electoral Area 'E'). For each potential Regional Park site the current status is summarized, and the concepts from previous plans are outlined (if applicable).

### 8.2.1 TABOR LAKE (Electoral Area 'D')

#### Background

Tabor Lake is approximately 18 km east of Prince George and due to its proximity, is a longstanding recreational area for residents of Prince George and the surrounding area. The area is truly multi-use and has significant recreation values including hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails. While Tabor Lake is the closest lake to Prince George City limits, there is currently no public access to the lake.



*Figure 41. Tabor Lake (Photos: TMRS)*

#### Concepts from Previous Plans

Previous Regional Park plans contemplated development of a Regional Park on Crown land on the east side of Tabor Lake, as a local destination that could also be developed as a staging area for the Groveburn area. Development of a park on Tabor Mountain was also considered but not pursued, and protection is already in place, to some extent, at the provincial level.

#### Current Status

Tabor Lake received significant support in the Regional Parks Plan engagement and was the most identified potential Regional Park site in both the public survey and one-on-one interviews. Development of a Regional Park at Tabor Lake is generally supported by stakeholders interviewed including BC Parks and the City of Prince George. Members of the public and stakeholders expressed a desire for public access on the south east side of Tabor Lake. Potential types of development at the site could include a dock, beach access, a picnic shelter, picnic sites, fire pits and a trail system. Lake access should accommodate day use activities such as paddle boarding, canoeing and swimming. There is also significant potential for winter recreational activities to occur in the area. The site can be accessed via the existing road network.

It is recognized that the development of a Regional Park in this area could be complex in terms of acquisition. Other interests in the lake are present, such as its connection to the drinking water system for local residents. As such water quality is of high concern in the area. Security concerns and the potential for vandalism are also concerns due to the proximity to residential areas. This could potentially be mitigated through use of access gates with limited opening hours, similar to other Regional Parks in proximity to residential areas, such as Wilkins.

The Prince George ATV Club expressed an interest in assisting with a Tabor Lake Regional Park – through grants for remediation or help with trail maintenance. Members of the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society also use the area and should be involved. Further discussion with stakeholder groups including the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society needs to occur in future engagement. Development of a Regional Park in the area also requires further consultation with Indigenous groups and area residents.

### 8.2.2 STONER / STONE CREEK / SOUTH OF STONER ON THE FRASER RIVER (Electoral Area 'D')

#### Concepts from Previous Plans

Crown land parcels adjacent to the Fraser River in the Stoner area were previously identified as possible future park sites, including District Lots 4615, 922 and 924.

#### Current Status

The above parcels were put forward for consideration during the 2020 Regional Parks Plan interview process. The Crown land parcel 3 km south of Stoner includes access to the Fraser River. This would fulfill an underrepresented park type in the area, as there is currently very little public access to the Fraser River between Prince George and Quesnel. This site could possibly be developed as an agriculture themed park, as the property includes a small field, and previous uses included traditional farming with mixed operations (potatoes, berries, etc.). Development challenges include the need for an access road.

Consideration of a Regional Park in this area should involve early discussions and consultation with local Indigenous groups as there is likely evidence of traditional use.

### 8.2.3 WOODPECKER HERITAGE CHURCH (Electoral Area 'E')

#### Background

St. Marks Anglican Church is a heritage building located in the community of Woodpecker, about 11 km north of Hixon on Highway 97. Built in 1939 as the first church in the district, it was later turned over to the Hixon Women's Institute Heritage Committee but remains a dedicated Anglican church. The church did not see regular church services for most of the last 30 years, but reopened in 2019, for monthly Sunday morning services. The church was refurbished by the Women's Institute and Volunteer Fire Department in Hixon.



Figure 42. Woodpecker Church (Photo: PG Citizen)

The site straddles Highway 97, and includes the church and a heritage cemetery, and several acres of land on the west side of the highway.

#### Concepts from Previous Plans

The potential of a Regional Park was considered in previous plans pending commitments from local community interest groups to take on fundraising, operation and maintenance responsibilities. While the church has heritage and possible tourism value, the building would require significant ongoing maintenance.

#### Current Status

Consideration of this site as a Regional Park candidate was validated during the 2020 Parks Plan engagement. However, similar to the RDFFG's experience with the heritage building at Koeneman this site would require firm commitments from local community interests to take on restoration and upkeep. Proximity to private land, and the noncontiguous nature of the parcel are challenges to Regional Park development at this site.

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## 8.2.4 HIXON CREEK FALLS (Electoral Area 'E')

### Background

Hixon Creek Falls is located on Crown land, via a trail at the end of Hixon Creek Road, approximately 4 km from Highway 97 at the north edge of Hixon. Often described as a "hidden gem," the site has two short trails - one trail follows Hixon Creek for 3-4 km to the falls with very little elevation gain. The second trail follows Hixon Creek to a narrowing in the gorge with fast flowing water. The latter trail is in need of upgrades. The respective trailheads are 200 m apart. The site is a very popular day use destination for families, offering views and access to pools of water along the creek.

The trails, as well as an informal parking area were constructed in the early 1990s under the Community Forest Program with funding, materials and labour provided by the RDFFG, the provincial government, the Hixon Community Association and local businesses. Current maintenance of the trails is unknown.

### Concepts from Previous Plans

A possible park around Hixon Creek Falls was identified in previous park plans, pending further consultation with the community to confirm its status as a local priority, and levels of interest to participate in its development and operation.

### Current Status

Hixon Creek Falls is an extremely popular area primarily as a day use recreational destination. This fits well with the Regional Park mandate. Hixon Creek Falls received significant support in the public survey and interviews as a potential regional park site, including general support from organizations such as Recreation Sites and Trails BC, BC Parks and the Caledonia Ramblers.

Challenges to acquisition and development include mining and a tree farm license in the area, and access road issues. Improvements to the access road could possibly be completed by or in partnership with other interested agencies.

Potential types of development at the site could include picnic sites, fire pits, an accessible outhouse facility, accessible boardwalk and viewpoint, interpretation and an improved trail system.



Figure 43. Hixon Creek Falls (Photo: Pat Suter)

### 8.3 Priorities For Future Regional Park Development

The four potential Regional Park sites discussed in Section 8.2 were compared against the acquisition criteria to gauge the extent to which they fulfill the desired attributes for future park sites. Table 10 compares the proposed park sites against the criteria for acquisition. Tabor Lake and Hixon Creek Falls fulfill the greatest number of criteria. Given their location in underserved Electoral Areas, their potential to meet the regional parkland acquisition criteria, and the current context, the Tabor Lake and Hixon Creek Falls sites are recommended for further exploration as future Regional Park land acquisition opportunities.

Acquisition Criteria	Tabor Lake	Stoner/Stoner Creek	Hixon Creek Falls	Woodpecker Heritage Church
Public input/demand				
Geographic coverage				
Park and/or trail linkages				
Recreational capacity, experiential value				
Water access				
Environmental, cultural or heritage representation				
Existing level of protection (or threat)				
Priorities from past plans				
Accessibility				
Costs				
Partnerships				
Indigenous Relations				

Table 10. Potential Regional Park Sites Comparison

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In order to further exploration of these sites as potential future Regional Parks, it is recommended that the District undertake the following phases.

#### **Tabor Lake - Recommendations**

1. Phase 1: In consultation with Indigenous groups, the province and area residents explore options for a future Regional Park site on Tabor Lake.
2. Phase 2: If a suitable parcel is identified, take steps to acquire the land through a lease, grant or purchase.
3. Phase 3: Design and develop appropriate facilities in consultation with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and area residents. Consider site development options to accommodate a range of day use activities such as fishing, a boat launch, beach access, swimming, picnic shelter, picnic sites, fire pits and a trail system.

#### **Hixon Creek Falls - Recommendations**

4. Phase 1: In consultation with Indigenous groups, the province and area residents explore options for a future Regional Park site at Hixon Creek Falls.
5. Phase 2: If a parcel is identified, take steps to acquire the land through a lease, grant or purchase.
6. Phase 3: Design and develop appropriate park facilities in consultation with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and area residents. Consider site development options to accommodate a range of day use activities such as picnicking, fire pits, hiking, interpretive trails and viewpoints.

# 9. Financial Plan

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Chapters 7 and 8 outline the proposed priorities for existing and future Regional Parks respectively. The recommendations are assigned a broad priority rating based on urgency, and ease of implementation:

- High Priority (with 1-5 years)
- Medium Priority (within 6-10 years)
- Low Priority (within the 2020-2030 period as time and funding permit, or after 2030)

The allocation of RDFFG budget to implement these projects is outlined in this chapter. This section addresses operational and capital budgets, and is supported by detailed cost estimates included in Appendix B. The cost estimates incorporate a 2% construction inflation rate over the horizon of this plan.

The cost estimates provided are Class 'D' estimates intended as a general guideline suitable for budget planning purposes. More detailed cost estimates will be required during planning, design and prior to construction of specific recommendations. Some of the recommendations will require detailed design including engineering services, while others can likely be achieved using typical standards and details.

The budgets should be reviewed annually to respond to changes, ensure integration with other RDFFG initiatives, and take advantage of potential funding and partnership opportunities.

## 9.1 Operational Budget

The operations and maintenance budget includes two main components:

- Park maintenance contracts: This includes annual contractor costs for existing parks, as well as contracts for proposed future parks starting in 2023.
- Park maintenance (conducted by the RDFFG): This includes trail maintenance, lawn care, painting, staining, pine beetle, pest, and invasive plant management, parking lot maintenance, signage and vandalism management.

With inflation, the total operations and maintenance budget is estimated at approximately \$1.2 million over the 10 year horizon of this plan.



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## 9.2 Capital Budget

Capital budgets for existing parks, proposed parks and general park system upgrades, as described in this plan, are presented in this section, and in Appendix B.

### 9.2.1 PROJECTS FOR EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS

Ten-year budgets for completing capital projects within each of the 11 existing Regional Parks are provided in Appendix B. The 10-year budget for all existing Regional Parks after inflation is in the order of \$408,965.

### 9.2.2 PROJECTS FOR PROPOSED REGIONAL PARKS

Capital projects for establishing future Regional Parks at Tabor Lake and Hixon Creek Falls are presented in Appendix B. The 10-year budget for developing new Regional Parks totals approximately \$194,896 over the ten-year horizon of this plan. This does not include any land acquisition costs, as these are assumed to be covered under the Regional Park Development Reserve Fund.

### 9.2.3 PROJECTS FOR GENERAL PARK SYSTEM UPGRADES

Ten-year budgets for completing general park system capital projects to improve communications and marketing, as well as accessibility within each of the 11 existing Regional Parks are provided in Appendix B. The 10-year budget for general park system upgrades with the Regional Parks totals approximately \$135,666 after inflation.

The total 10-year budget, including inflation, to implement this plan is estimated at approximately \$1.9 million.

## 9.3 Regional Park Development Reserve Fund

This fund was created in the 1980s to provide the Regional District with a source of surplus funding to cover unexpected expenses, special one-time projects and future parkland acquisition.

Separate reserve funds are established for Regional Parks including the Operating Reserve, Equipment Reserve, and Parks Development Reserve.

# Appendices

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**Appendix A: Engagement Materials**

**Appendix B: Cost Estimates**

**Appendix C: Maps**

**Appendix D: Projects Completed From 2010 Regional Parks Plan**

**Appendix E: Additional Regional Park Development Opportunities**



# Appendix A: Engagement Materials



## **Government, Indigenous and Stakeholder Contacts - Round 1**

The following groups and organizations were contacted in Round 1 by letter and invited to participate in an interview and complete the public survey.

### **Indigenous Groups**

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation  
McLeod Lake Indian Band  
Simpco First Nation

### **Provincial Government**

Recreation Sites and Trails BC  
BC Parks

### **Local Government**

City of Prince George  
District of Mackenzie  
Village of Valemount  
Village of McBride  
Electoral Area A / Salmon River-Lakes  
Electoral Area C / Chilako River-Nechako  
Electoral Area D / Tabor Lake- Stone Creek  
Electoral Area E / Woodpecker-Hixon  
Electoral Area F / Willow River-Upper Fraser Valley  
Electoral Area G / Crooked River-Parsnip  
Electoral Area H / Robson Valley-Canoe

### **Community Interest – Heritage, Tourism and Education**

Huble Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society  
Tourism Prince George  
Robson Valley Visitor Centre  
McBride Tourism  
Tourism Valemount  
Valemount Chamber of Commerce  
Mackenzie Tourism  
Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce  
University of Northern British Columbia  
School District 57  
College of New Caledonia

### **Community Interest – Outdoor Recreation and Environment**

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club  
Northwest Brigade Paddling Club & Backwater Paddling  
Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society  
Alpine Club of Canada- Prince George Section  
Caledonia Nordic Ski Club (Otway)  
Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society  
Ridge Riders ATV Club  
Prince George ATV Club  
Prince George Snowmobile Club  
Tabor Mountain Recreation Society  
Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association  
Mackenzie Nordiques Ski Club  
Prince George Cycling Club  
Prince George Rod & Gun Club  
UNBC Outdoors Club  
Prince George Horse Society  
Prince George Naturalists Club  
Mackenzie Nature Observatory  
Spruce City Wildlife Association  
McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association  
Ducks Unlimited  
Nechako Watershed Roundtable  
REAPS (Recycling & Environmental Action Planning Society) Prince George

## **Government, Indigenous and Stakeholder Contacts - Round 2**

The following groups and organizations were contacted in Round 2 and invited to participate in a one-on-one interview, provide written comments and/or complete the public survey.

### **Indigenous Groups**

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation  
McLeod Lake Indian Band  
Simpchw First Nation

### **Provincial Government**

BC Parks  
Recreation Sites and Trails BC  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development (Fish & Wildlife)

### **Local Government**

City of Prince George  
District of Mackenzie  
Village of Valemount  
Village of McBride  
Electoral Area A / Salmon River-Lakes  
Electoral Area C / Chilako River-Nechako  
Electoral Area D / Tabor Lake- Stone Creek  
Electoral Area E / Woodpecker-Hixon  
Electoral Area F / Willow River-Upper Fraser Valley  
Electoral Area G / Crooked River-Parsnip  
Electoral Area H / Robson Valley-Canoe

### **Community Interest**

Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club  
Cranbrook Hill Greenway Society  
Horse Council British Columbia  
Huble Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society  
Tabor Mountain Recreation Society  
Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association  
Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society Prince  
George Cycling Club  
Nechako Watershed Roundtable  
REAPS (Recycling & Environmental Action Planning  
Society) Prince George  
Robson Valley Chapter - Back Country Horseman  
Society of British Columbia  
Tourism Prince George  
Tourism Valemount

## REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW - PUBLIC SURVEY

**We want to hear from you!** The Regional District of Fraser Fort George is reviewing and updating our Regional Parks Plan to provide a clear direction and priorities for regional parks over the next 10 years. We need your help to create a plan that reflects our communities' needs and aspirations for regional parks, trails, and outdoor recreation areas. We invite you to fill out this survey and let us know what you think.

### SECTION 1: REGIONAL PARK USE

The following questions ask about your USE of the Regional Park system. Think about how you have used the parks over the past two years. Consider all times of year when responding to the questions.

1. From the list below indicate all of the activities you engage in when using Regional Parks.  
*Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking, hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching / wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry ski / snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling / All- terrain vehicle (ATV)
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kayak / Canoe / Stand up paddle board (SUP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	

2. How frequently do you use Regional Parks in the Regional District of Fraser Fort George?

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Once every few months	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a user
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a year	

3. Is there anything that prevents you from using our Regional Parks more often? *Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> I'm too busy	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks difficult to access or too far to travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of information
<input type="checkbox"/> Feeling unsafe	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor maintenance or conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Not interested
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of barrier-free facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not accommodate the activities I want	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

4. Which of the following Regional Parks have you or other members of your household visited in the past two years? *Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Wilkins	<input type="checkbox"/> Ness Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> McMillan Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristian Winther
<input type="checkbox"/> Koeneman	<input type="checkbox"/> John Dahl	<input type="checkbox"/> Harold Mann	<input type="checkbox"/> Giscome Portage
<input type="checkbox"/> George Hicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Cedarside	<input type="checkbox"/> Berman Lake	

## SECTION 2: EXPERIENCES

The following questions ask about your EXPERIENCES while using the Regional Park system. Think about your experiences in the parks over the past two years. Consider all times of year when responding to the questions.

5. Please rate your level of satisfaction with our Regional Parks system.

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Variety of recreational opportunities					
Directional signage and information					
Ease of getting to the parks					
Sufficient regional parks					
Distribution of regional parks and trails					

6. Please rate your level of satisfaction with our Regional Park facilities.

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Washrooms					
Garbage/recycling					
Parking					
Interpretive/educational signage					
Seating/benches					
Maps & information					
Trail conditions					
Accessibility within the parks					
Maintenance					

7. Please select your top three priorities for future improvements to the Regional Parks system.  
*Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Improving maintenance of Regional Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Improving signage within Regional Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing more trails within Regional Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving water access for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Preserving and restoring natural features	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

8. How else can our Regional Parks system be improved to better serve your needs?


## SECTION 3: FUTURE USE

The following questions ask about your thoughts on FUTURE PLANNING for the trail network.

9. When considering potential future Regional Park sites, what should be the priority? *Select your top three.*

<input type="checkbox"/> More regional trail connections	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks with lake access	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain or alpine parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks with wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> River corridor parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks for motorized recreational vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural heritage sites (including historic sites and areas supporting traditional Indigenous use)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature preserves (with limited public access)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:

10. Do you have a specific site that you would like to see developed as a future Regional Park or Regional Trail? Please specify:




11. Do you have any other comments related to Regional Parks in the Regional District of Fraser Fort George that you would like to share?


## SECTION 4: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These questions ask about you. We use this information to better understand who is using Regional Parks and how. Your answers to these questions will not identify you in any way.

12. Please identify your place of residence.

<input type="checkbox"/> City of Prince George	<input type="checkbox"/> District of Mackenzie	<input type="checkbox"/> Village of McBride
<input type="checkbox"/> Village of Valemount	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'A' – Salmon River-Lakes	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'C' – Chilako River-Nechako
<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'D' – Tabor Lake-Stone Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'E' – Woodpecker-Hixon	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'F' – Willow River-Upper Fraser
<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'G' – Crooked River-Parsnip	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'H' – Robson Valley-Canoe	<input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in BC
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside of BC		

13. Gender and age.

Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self identify: _____
Age:	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 39 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 64 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> 65 years old and older

**Thank you for your valuable input!**

Please return your completed survey by **September 30, 2020** to the RDFFG main office: 155 George St., Prince George, BC V2L 1P8, or to a local Regional District office or facility.

Or email it to: [hredman@elac.ca](mailto:hredman@elac.ca)

This questionnaire can also be completed online at: [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)

## PUBLIC SURVEY - DRAFT REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW

**We want to hear from you!** The Regional District of Fraser Fort George is reviewing and updating our Regional Parks Plan to provide a clear direction and priorities for regional parks over the next 10 years. We need your help to create a plan that reflects our communities' needs and aspirations for regional parks, trails, and outdoor recreation areas.

We are seeking input on the Draft Plan including the proposed vision and draft recommendations. We invite you to fill out this survey and share your feedback.

Please review the Draft Parks Plan Fact Sheet prior to filling out the survey. We recommend you keep it on hand to refer to when completing the survey. The Fact Sheet can be found here: [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)

### 1. VISION STATEMENT

Building from the 2010 Regional Parks Plan and public input, the vision for the RDFFG's Regional Parks for the next 10 years is a system that:

- Secures, protects and stewards lands and waterbodies of recreational, environmental and historic value to the region and its communities;
- Provides day-use facilities that support rewarding outdoor recreational opportunities;
- Preserves the environmental and heritage values represented in the parks;
- Promotes the history and culture of Indigenous peoples in the region;
- Moves toward an interlinked system of public trails and open spaces in coordination with other park and trail systems in the region;
- Fosters understanding and appreciation of the region's natural and cultural assets;
- Incorporates the RDFFG's climate action targets, and
- Enhances the quality of life, health and well being of current and future residents and visitors of the region.

To what extent do you agree with the Vision Statement?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
---	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

### 2. GENERAL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Please refer to the Fact Sheet for a description of specific recommendations under the following themes: Policies & Bylaws, Accessibility, Education & Interpretation, Stewardship, Marketing & Promotion, and Indigenous Relations

Please rank how important the following recommendation themes are to you from highest importance (1) to lowest (6):

	Priority Ranking (1-6)
Accessibility	
Education & Interpretation	
Indigenous Relations	
Marketing & Promotion	
Policies & Bylaws	
Stewardship	

### 3. EXISTING REGIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

To what extent do you agree with the proposed recommendations for improvements at each of the Regional Parks. Please refer to the Fact Sheet for details on specific recommendations for each park.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Berman Lake					
Cedarside					
George Hicks					
Giscome Portage					
Harold Mann					
John Dahl					
Koeneman					
Kristian Winther					
McMillan Creek					
Ness Lake					
Wilkins					

### 4. POTENTIAL FUTURE REGIONAL PARKS

Potential future Regional Park sites were suggested for consideration during the Round 1 engagement. The following sites were proposed within areas currently underserved in parkland: Electoral Area 'D' (Tabor Lake-Stone Creek) and Electoral Area 'E' (Woodpecker-Hixon). To what extent do you agree with the following sites as potential future Regional Parks?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Tabor Lake (Electoral Area D)					
Stoner/Stone Creek/South of Stoner on the Fraser River (Electoral Area D)					
Woodpecker Heritage Church (Electoral Area E)					
Hixon Creek Falls (Electoral Area E)					

## 5. General Comments

Do you have any comments that you would like to share regarding the Draft Regional Parks Plan?


## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These questions ask about you. We use this information to better understand who is using Regional Parks and how. Your answers to these questions will not identify you in any way.

### 6. Please identify your place of residence.

<input type="checkbox"/> City of Prince George	<input type="checkbox"/> District of Mackenzie	<input type="checkbox"/> Village of McBride
<input type="checkbox"/> Village of Valemount	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'A' – Salmon River-Lakes	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'C' – Chilako River-Nechako
<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'D' – Tabor Lake-Stone Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'E' – Woodpecker-Hixon	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'F' – Willow River-Upper Fraser
<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'G' – Crooked River-Parsnip	<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area 'H' – Robson Valley-Canoe	<input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere in BC
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside of BC		

### 7. Gender and age.

Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-identify: _____
Age:	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 39 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 64 years old	<input type="checkbox"/> 65 years old and older

**Thank you for your valuable input!**

Please return your completed survey by **February 5, 2021** to the RDFFG main office at: 155 George St, Prince George BC, V2L 1P8, or to a local Regional District office or facility.

Or email it to: [hredman@elac.ca](mailto:hredman@elac.ca)

This questionnaire can also be completed online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/RDFFGparksplan2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RDFFGparksplan2)

# Appendix B: Cost Estimates



RDFFG Regional Parks Plan Capital and O&M Budget Summary				2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Project	10-Year Capital Budget Total	Net % RD capital after contributions	10-Year Net Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Annual Capital Budget	Capital Budget Total w/ Inflation (2%)
CAPITAL PROJECTS - EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS														
Berman Lake	\$ 30,500	100%	\$ 30,500			\$ 8,480				\$ 14,250	\$ 11,600			\$ 34,330
Cedarside	\$ 39,850	100%	\$ 39,850			\$ 33,125			\$ 2,800	\$ 2,850			\$ 4,320	\$ 43,095
George Hicks	\$ 10,000	100%	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,400									\$ 10,400
Giscome Portage	\$ 43,300	100%	\$ 43,300		\$ 26,000		\$ 16,200		\$ 2,016		\$ 1,740			\$ 45,956
Harold Mann	\$ 36,800	100%	\$ 36,800				\$ 10,800		\$ 28,000		\$ 2,088			\$ 40,888
John Dahl	\$ 9,000	100%	\$ 9,000			\$ 10,600				\$ 8,550		\$ 1,770		\$ 20,920
Koeneman	\$ 43,100	100%	\$ 43,100		\$ 26,000	\$ 3,816		\$ 13,200		\$ 2,850				\$ 45,866
Kristian Winther	\$ 19,300	100%	\$ 19,300						\$ 8,400				\$ 2,160	\$ 10,560
McMillan	\$ 37,500	100%	\$ 37,500		\$ 2,600	\$ 5,300				\$ 5,700		\$ 29,500		\$ 43,100
Ness Lake	\$ 30,000	100%	\$ 30,000		\$ 5,200		\$ 16,200		\$ 2,800	\$ 8,550				\$ 32,750
Wilkins	\$ 76,500	100%	\$ 76,500	\$ 30,600			\$ 40,500	\$ 7,150		\$ 2,850				\$ 81,100
Subtotal Capital - Existing Parks	\$ 375,850		\$ 375,850											\$ 408,965
CAPITAL PROJECTS - PROPOSED REGIONAL PARKS														
Tabor Lake (Proposed)	\$ 92,000	100%	\$ 92,000					\$ 27,500	\$ 11,200	\$ 10,146	\$ 18,560	\$ 12,508	\$ 30,000	\$ 109,914
Hixon Creek Falls (Proposed)	\$ 75,800	100%	\$ 75,800			\$ 21,200	\$ 5,184	\$ 7,150	\$ 7,952	\$ 7,296	\$ 29,000		\$ 7,200	\$ 84,982
Subtotal Capital - Proposed Parks	\$ 167,800		\$ 167,800											\$ 194,896
Subtotal Capital Budget	\$ 543,650		\$ 543,650	\$ 30,600	\$ 70,200	\$ 82,521	\$ 88,884	\$ 55,000	\$ 63,168	\$ 63,042	\$ 62,988	\$ 43,778	\$ 43,680	\$ 603,861
GENERAL PARK SYSTEM PROJECTS														
Parks Bylaw Update	\$ 20,000	100%	\$ 20,000					\$ 22,000						\$ 22,000
Accessibility Upgrades to Outhouses	\$ 15,050	100%	\$ 15,050		\$ 15,652									\$ 15,652
Accessible Parking Stalls near Park Entrances	\$ 8,800	100%	\$ 8,800										\$ 10,560	\$ 10,560
Improve Universal Access to Park Entrance/Picnic Areas	\$ 25,200	100%	\$ 25,200							\$ 28,728				\$ 28,728
Accessible Picnic Tables	\$ 16,875	100%	\$ 16,875						\$ 18,900					\$ 18,900
Recycling Bins	\$ 16,200	100%	\$ 16,200									\$ 19,116		\$ 19,116
Support for Eductational/Interpretive Talks	\$ 10,000	100%	\$ 10,000								\$ 11,600			\$ 11,600
Regional Parks Brochure Update	\$ 3,500	100%	\$ 3,500			\$ 3,710								\$ 3,710
Website Upgrades	\$ 5,000	100%	\$ 5,000				\$ 5,400							\$ 5,400
Subtotal General Park System Projects Budget	\$ 120,625		\$ 100,625	\$ -	\$ 15,652	\$ 3,710	\$ 5,400	\$ 22,000	\$ 18,900	\$ 28,728	\$ 11,600	\$ 19,116	\$ 10,560	\$ 135,666
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE														
Park Operations														
Contracts Existing Parks	\$ 617,570		\$ 617,570	\$ 62,992	\$ 64,252	\$ 65,537	\$ 66,848	\$ 68,185	\$ 69,548	\$ 70,939	\$ 72,358	\$ 73,805	\$ 75,281	\$ 689,746
Contracts Proposed Parks	\$ 83,200		\$ 83,200			\$ 6,784	\$ 6,920	\$ 14,080	\$ 14,362	\$ 14,649	\$ 14,942	\$ 15,241	\$ 15,545	\$ 102,522
Park Maintenance	\$ 322,884		\$ 322,884	\$ 32,934	\$ 33,593	\$ 34,265	\$ 34,950	\$ 35,649	\$ 36,362	\$ 37,089	\$ 37,831	\$ 38,588	\$ 39,359	\$ 360,620
(painting, lawn care, invasive plant removal, etc.)														
Subtotal O&M Budget	\$ 1,023,654		\$ 1,023,654	\$ 95,926	\$ 97,845	\$ 106,586	\$ 108,717	\$117,914	\$120,272	\$ 122,677	\$125,131	\$ 127,634	\$ 130,186	\$ 1,152,889
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 1,687,929		\$ 1,667,929	\$ 126,526	\$183,697	\$ 192,817	\$ 203,001	\$194,914	\$ 202,340	\$ 214,447	\$199,719	\$ 190,528	\$ 184,426	\$ 1,892,416

RDFFG Regional Parks Plan Review  
Proposed Capital Projects within Existing Regional Parks  
Class 'D' Cost Estimate



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	APRX QTY	EXTENDED AMOUNT
1 Berman Lake						
1.1	Create more accessible trail access to picnic areas and dock	High	L.S.	\$ 8,000.00	1	\$ 8,000.00
1.2	Upgrade trails (including repair of wooden stairs, bridge railings, trail surfaces)	Med	ea.	\$ 12,500.00	1	\$ 12,500.00
1.3	Install a viewing platform into the wetland with interpretive signage	Low	L.S.	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 30,500.00
2 Cedarside						
2.1	Widen trail to beach and develop a loop trail with interpretive signage	High	l.m.	\$ 25.00	1,250	\$ 31,250.00
2.2	Install additional barriers to discourage access on steep banks to beach	High	L.S.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
2.3	Rake and screen the beach	Med	L.S.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
2.4	Install Hwy directional sign	Low	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	2	\$ 3,600.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 39,850.00
3 George Hicks						
3.1	Support the extension of a trail from the viewing platform to the Hwy	Med	l.m.	\$ 50.00	200	\$ 10,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 10,000.00
4 Giscome Portage						
4.1	Prepare a Park Management Plan	High	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
4.2	Support trail enhancements on the site	Med	L.S.	\$ 15,000.00	1	\$ 15,000.00
4.3	Replace highway signage (at Hwy 16/Mitchell Road)	Med	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	1	\$ 1,800.00
4.4	Improve entry drive by adding signage at corners and first cattleguard	Low	ea.	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 43,300.00
5 Harold Mann						
5.1	Monitor shoreline mitigation work, expand as required to mitigate seepage along shore	High	L.S.	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
5.2	Improve trails w/ sections of boardwalk, add informational/interpretive signage	Med	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
5.3	Install Hwy directional sign (from PG)	Low	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	1	\$ 1,800.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 36,800.00
6 John Dahl						
6.1	Consult with District of Mackenzie to confirm long term park management needs	High	ea.	\$ -	1	\$ -
6.2	Install a trailhead kiosk with trail information, etiquette and maps.	Med	ea.	\$ 7,500.00	1	\$ 7,500.00
6.3	Consult with the District of Mackenzie on options to improve directional signage	Low	L.S.	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 9,000.00
7 Koeneman						
7.1	Create a defined loop road, upgrade the upper parking area with gravel and grading	High	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
7.2	Install Highway signs at 200m and/or 400m before the park entrance	High	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	2	\$ 3,600.00
7.3	Replace existing garbage receptacles and outhouse at the north end of the Park	Med	L.S.	\$ 12,000.00	1	\$ 12,000.00
7.4	Add interpretive signage to the existing kiosk with information about local heritage	Med	ea.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
7.5	Consult with the community to define levels of interest in using the Koenenman house	Low	ea.	\$ -	1	\$ -
Sub-Total =						\$ 43,100.00
8 Kristain Winther						
8.1	Install interpretive signage & benches along loop trail & barriers/signage along bank	High	L.S.	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
8.2	Install a kiosk in the parking lot with trail information, and maps	Med	ea.	\$ 7,500.00	1	\$ 7,500.00
8.3	Install Highway directional sign (Hwy 97 travelling south)	Low	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	1	\$ 1,800.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 19,300.00

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	APRX QTY	EXTENDED AMOUNT
9 McMillan Creek						
9.1	Improve informational and etiquette signage at the parking lot for hikers using the park.	High	L.S.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
9.2	Selective pruning / removal of dead & dangerous trees alongside road	High	sq. m.	\$ 5.00	1,000	\$ 5,000.00
9.3	Extend fenceline barriers and replace interpretive signage at the viewpoint.	Med	L.S.	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00
9.4	Consider improvements to enhance connectivity and access to the viewpoint	Low	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 37,500.00
10 Ness Lake						
10.1	Monitor shoreline erosion through the services of a professional engineer	High	L.S.	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00
10.2	Consider further improvements to the shoreline to improve swimming access	Med	L.S.	\$ 15,000.00	1	\$ 15,000.00
10.3	Install signage and barriers at access points along the outer trail	Med	L.S.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
10.4	Enhance trails with wayfinding/interpretive signage, and improve stairs	Low	L.S.	\$ 7,500.00	1	\$ 7,500.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 30,000.00
11 Wilkins						
11.1	Repair the concrete boat launch	High	L.S.	\$ 30,000.00	1	\$ 30,000.00
11.2	Create a short accessible loop trail with interpretive signage	Low	l.m.	\$ 50.00	750	\$ 37,500.00
11.3	Repair timber bridge decking/loose railings/picnic tables	High	L.S.	\$ 6,500.00	1	\$ 6,500.00
11.4	Install educational signage about park etiquette including motorized vehicle use	Med	L.S.	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 76,500.00
Sub-Total for CAPITAL Projects:						\$ 375,850.00

RDFFG Regional Parks Plan Review  
Proposed Capital Projects for General Park System Upgrades  
Class 'D' Cost Estimate



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	APRX QTY	EXTENDED AMOUNT
1	General Park System Projects					
1.1	Park Bylaw Update	High	ea.	\$ 20,000.00	1	\$ 20,000.00
1.2	Accessibility Upgrades to Outhouses	High	ea.	\$ 2,150.00	7	\$ 15,050.00
1.3	Accessible Parking Stalls near Park Entrances	High	ea.	\$ 800.00	11	\$ 8,800.00
1.4	Improve Universal Access to Main Park Entrance/Picnic Areas	Low	ea.	\$ 3,600.00	7	\$ 25,200.00
1.5	Accessible Picnic Tables	High	ea.	\$ 1,875.00	9	\$ 16,875.00
1.6	Recycling Bins	Med	L.S.	\$ 1,800.00	9	\$ 16,200.00
1.7	Support for Eductational/Interpretive Talks	Med	ea.	\$ 1,000.00	10	\$ 10,000.00
1.8	Regional Parks Brochure	High	ea.	\$ 3,500.00	1	\$ 3,500.00
1.9	Website upgrades	High	L.S.	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 120,625.00
Sub-Total:						\$ 120,625.00

RDFFG Regional Parks Plan Review  
Proposed Capital Projects within Proposed Regional Parks  
Class 'D' Cost Estimate



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	APRX QTY	EXTENDED AMOUNT
1	Tabor Lake (Proposed)					
1.1	Gravel parking area	High	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
1.2	Highway signage	High	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	1	\$ 1,800.00
1.3	Park entry signage	High	ea.	\$ 3,000.00	1	\$ 3,000.00
1.4	Outhouse / pit toilet	High	ea.	\$ 6,500.00	1	\$ 6,500.00
1.5	Informational kiosk	Med	L.S.	\$ 3,500.00	1	\$ 3,500.00
1.6	Waste and recycling receptacles	Med	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	3	\$ 5,400.00
1.7	Picnic area	Med	L.S.	\$ 3,200.00	5	\$ 16,000.00
1.8	Fire rings	Med	ea.	\$ 250.00	4	\$ 1,000.00
1.9	Park interpretive signage	Med	ea.	\$ 1,200.00	4	\$ 4,800.00
1.10	Install a trail system	Low	l.m.	\$ 25.00	1,000	\$ 25,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 92,000.00
2	Hixon Creek Falls (Proposed)					
2.1	Gravel parking area	High	L.S.	\$ 20,000.00	1	\$ 20,000.00
2.2	Highway signage	High	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	1	\$ 1,800.00
2.3	Park entry signage	High	ea.	\$ 3,000.00	1	\$ 3,000.00
2.4	Outhouse / pit toilet	High	ea.	\$ 6,500.00	1	\$ 6,500.00
2.5	Informational kiosk	Med	L.S.	\$ 3,500.00	1	\$ 3,500.00
2.6	Waste & recycling receptacles	Med	ea.	\$ 1,800.00	2	\$ 3,600.00
2.7	Picnic area	Med	L.S.	\$ 3,200.00	2	\$ 6,400.00
2.8	Improve the trail system	Low	L.S.	\$ 25,000.00	1	\$ 25,000.00
2.9	Park interpretive signage	Med	ea.	\$ 1,200.00	5	\$ 6,000.00
Sub-Total =						\$ 75,800.00
Sub-Total for PROPOSED CAPITAL Projects:						\$ 167,800.00

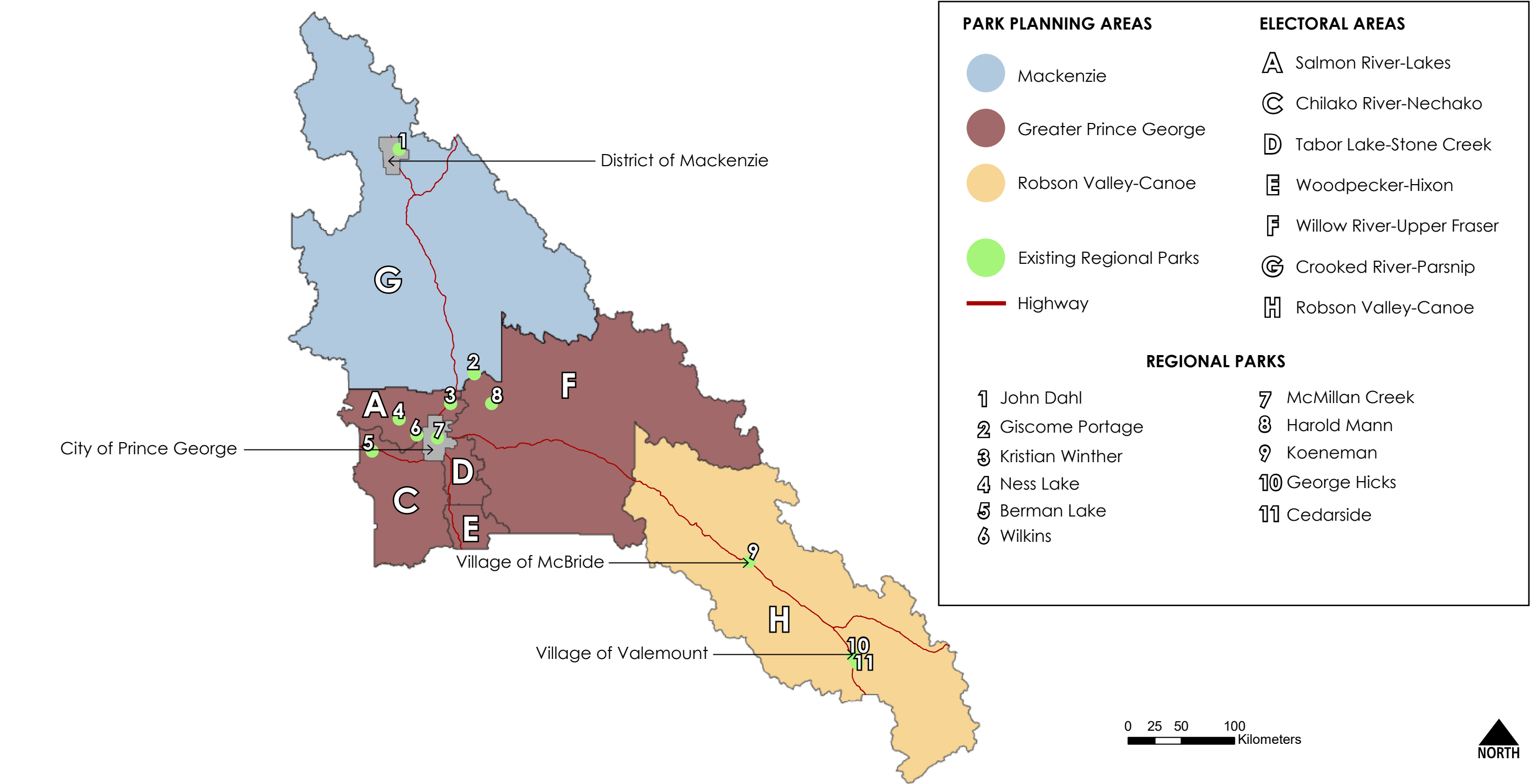


# Appendix C: Maps



# PARK PLANNING AREAS MAP

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW

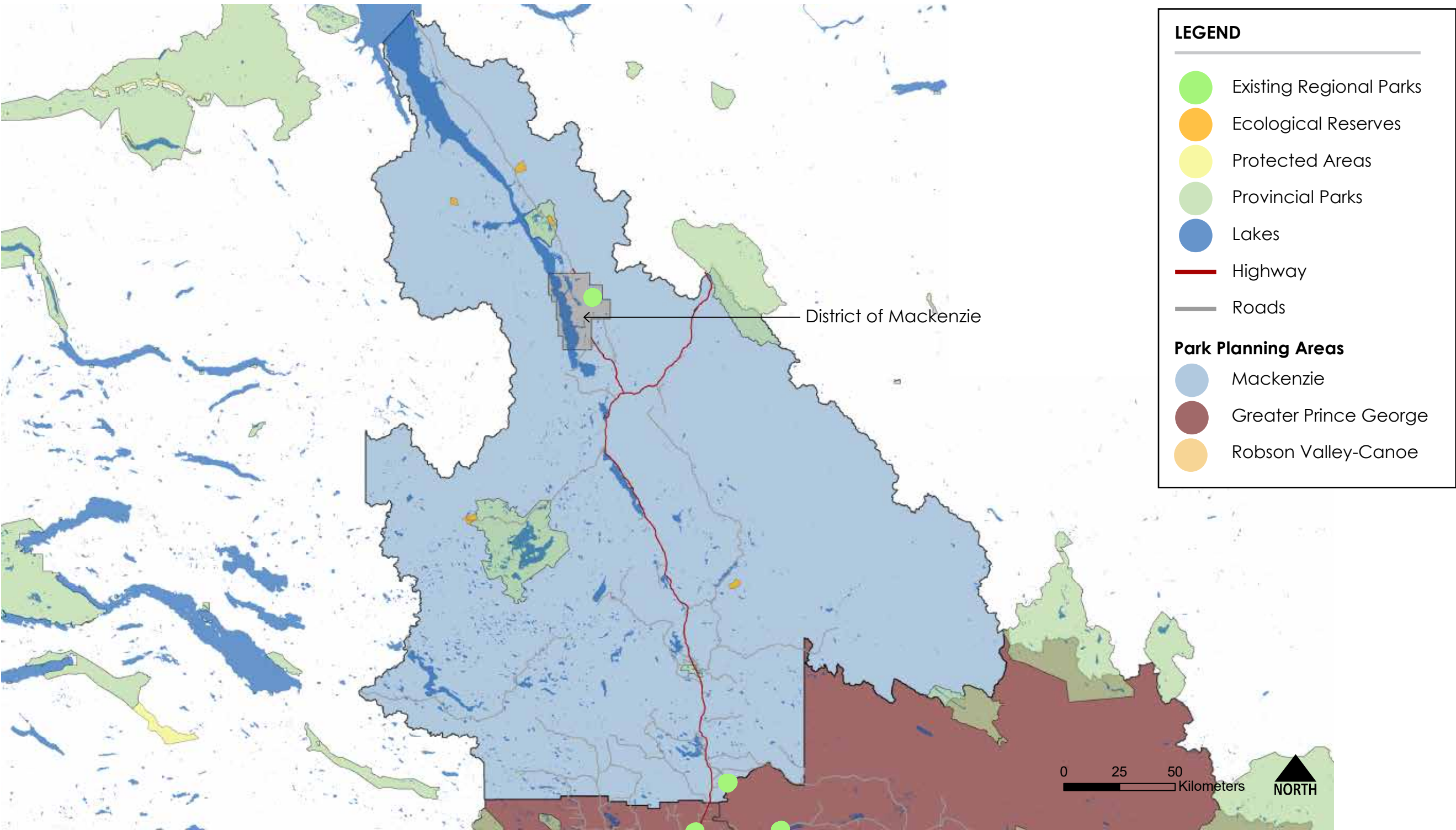


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of Fraser-Fort George

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# MACKENZIE PARK PLANNING AREA MAP

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



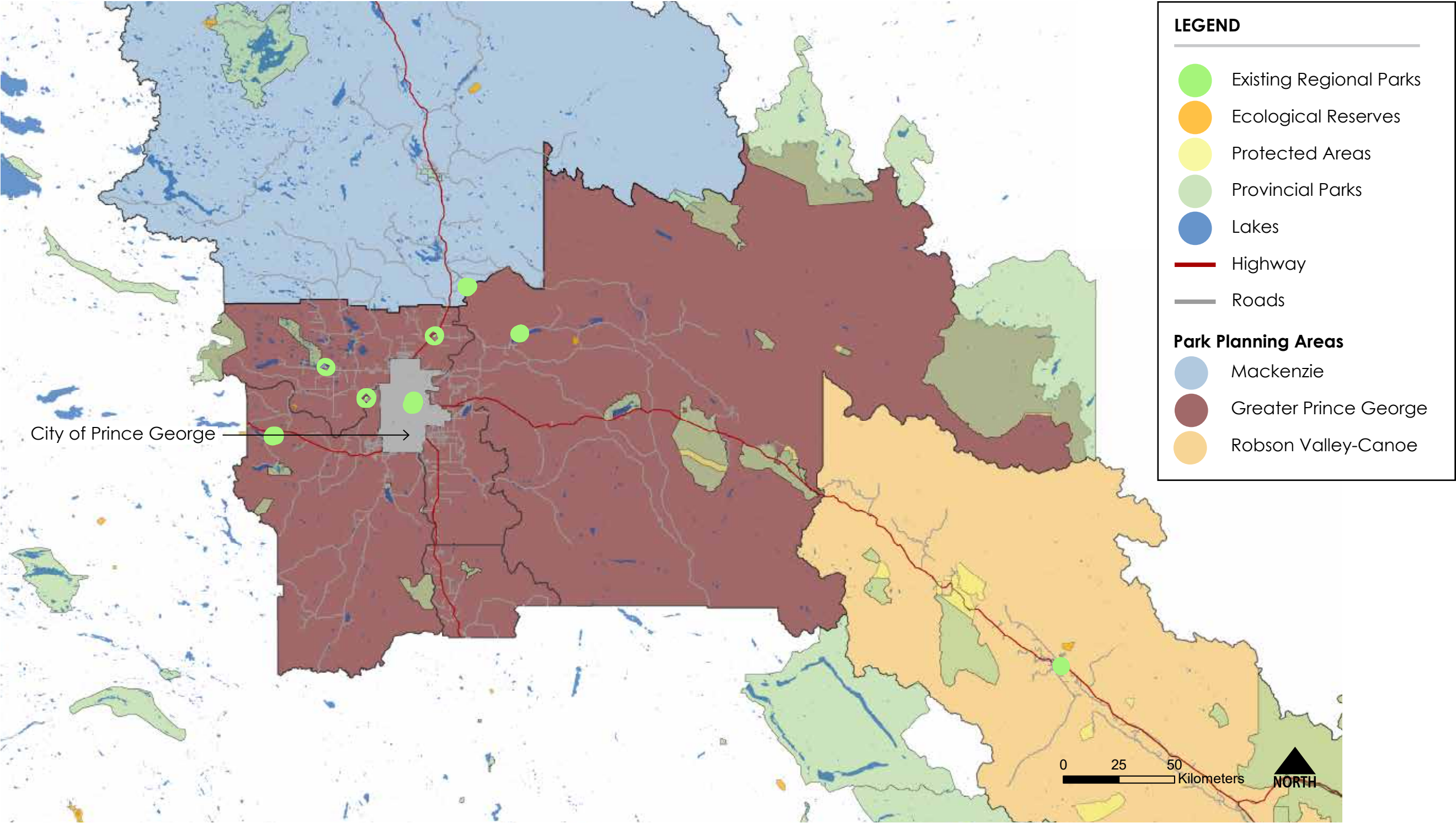
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# GREATER PRINCE GEORGE PARK PLANNING AREA MAP

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW

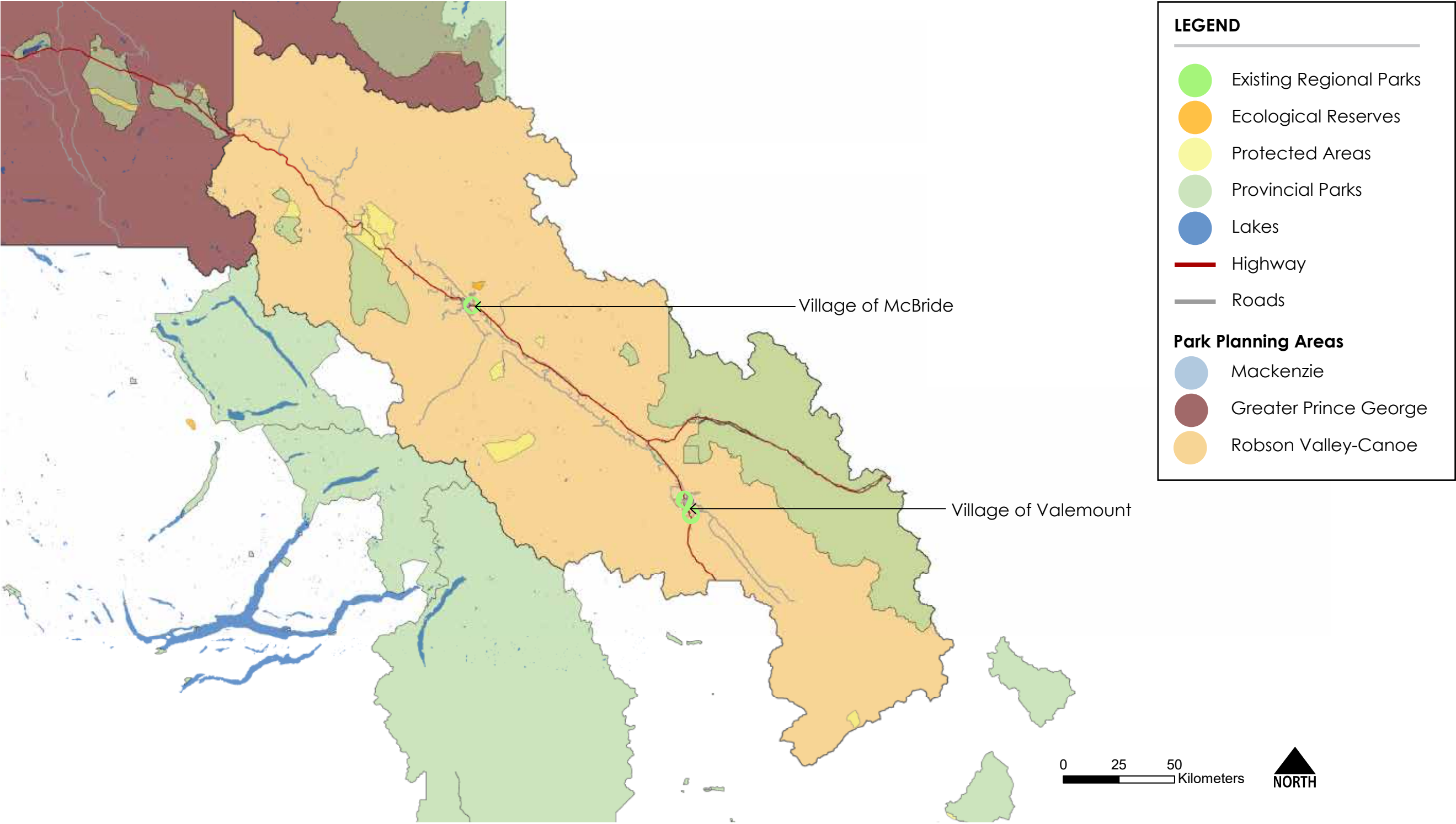


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# ROBSON VALLEY-CANOE PARK PLANNING AREA MAP

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



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# BERMAN LAKE REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



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0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers





# CEDARSIDE REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW





# GEORGE HICKS REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW





# GISCOME PORTAGE REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW





# HAROLD MANN REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

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0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers





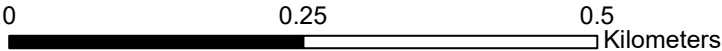
# JOHN DAHL REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
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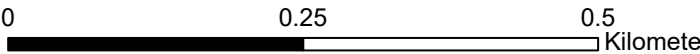
# KOENEMAN REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
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# KRISTIAN WINTHER REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

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0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers





# MCMILLAN CREEK REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW





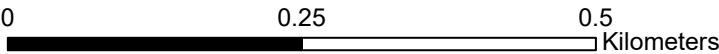
# NESS LAKE REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

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ASSOCIATES





# WILKINS REGIONAL PARK

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER FORT GEORGE - REGIONAL PARKS PLAN REVIEW



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

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ASSOCIATES





# Appendix D: Projects Completed From 2010 Regional Parks Plan



# Projects Completed From the 2010 Regional Parks Plan

## **Cedarside**

- Fencing around pine beetle area
- Install barrier and restore steep bank to shoreline

## **George Hicks**

- Add interpretive signage
- Trail connector between park and visitor center
- Install second viewing area

## **Giscome**

- Install highway directional signs (with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)

## **Harold Mann**

- Install a picnic shelter
- Seepage control project (2020)

## **Koeneman**

- Investigate boat launch

## **Kristian Winther**

- Install highway signage
- Invasive plant removal ongoing

## **McMillan**

- Trail improvements ongoing

## **Ness Lake**

- Mitigate lake shore erosion

# Appendix E: Additional Regional Park Development Opportunities



## ADDITIONAL REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following additional potential future Regional Park sites were suggested for consideration during Round 1 and Round 2 engagements with stakeholders.

### CRANBERRY MARSH (ELECTORAL AREA 'H')

#### Background

The Cranberry Marsh site is situated just southeast of the Village of Valemount. It is recognized as a valuable wildlife area and is a popular recreational destination for residents of Valemount and the surrounding area. The proposed site on McKirdy Road is located on Crown Land, adjacent to a 319 ha provincial Wildlife Management Area designated in 2013.

The area has significant year-round recreation values including bird-watching, wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, canoeing, berry picking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and skating. The site has an existing parking lot, easily accessible trail system, and a new boardwalk with viewpoints to the marsh.



Figure 44. Cranberry Marsh (Photo: Valemount Trails)

#### Concepts from Previous Plans

The 2010 Regional Park plan contemplated development of a regional park at Cranberry Marsh (McKirdy Road) to serve the local population as well as a draw for visitors. The proposed site was supported by local proponents including the Valemount Chamber of Commerce, Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association, Friends of Valemount, Village of Valemount and BC Parks.

#### Current Status

The site received continued support for consideration as a future regional park during the 2020 stakeholder and public consultations. The proposed site is well used, offering beautiful views, and has the potential for further development as a recreational area. Its proximity to town and the Valemount Visitor Centre make it an ideal location for year-round recreational activities.

Proponents envision additional day-use facilities at the site such as portable toilets, garbage containers and a picnic shelter. Existing facilities such as the boardwalk could be retrofitted to be further accessible to those with limited mobility.

Local organizations including Tourism Valemount, the Village of Valemount and the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association see a partnership opportunity and role for the RDFFG in supporting further development of the site and would be willing to contribute funding and assist with planning, site development and maintenance efforts. As a Resort Municipality, the Village of Valemount can access potential funding for allocation through the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT), formerly known as the Hotel Room Tax.

## EENA LAKE (ELECTORAL AREA 'A')

### Background

Eena Lake is located 35 km north west of Prince George. The lake has a dock, installed by the provincial Fisheries branch, but no managed recreation. The site is easily accessible and popular with a range of users for activities such as boating, canoeing, kayaking and angling. There is an electric only policy for motorized use. Facilities are limited to an earthen boat ramp, dock, garbage receptacle, and signage.

### Concepts from Previous Plans

Eena Lake was not contemplated in the 2010 Regional Park plan.

### Current Status

The Eena Lake site received support as a potential future regional park site during the 2021 stakeholder consultations. The proposed site is well used and has the potential for future development as a recreation area.

The lake is a valuable fishing destination for families and has potential ice fishing opportunities. The access road is managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.



Figure 45. Eena Lake (Photo: Nikolaus Gantner)

Challenges to development include limited land, as there are private properties at either end of the proposed site. In addition, Eena Lake is in close proximity to an existing Regional Park (Ness Lake).

Proponents envision additional facilities such as managed (gated) access, outhouses, additional informational and interpretive signage, an improved boat launch, picnic sites and fire pits.

## PIDHERNY (ELECTORAL AREA 'A')

### Background

The Pidherny Recreation Site is a 620 hectare area located about 12 km to the northwest of downtown Prince George. The trail network is managed by the Prince George Cycling Club through an agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. With approximately 30 kilometres of trails, it is used by walkers, runners, hikers, skiers, mountain bikers and snowshoers.

The area has an abundance of suitable terrain for trail development and the potential to accommodate increased growth of the trail network.

### Concepts from Previous Plans

Pidherny was not contemplated in the 2010 Regional Park plan.

### Current Status

Pidherny was identified as a potential future regional park site during the 2021 park plan stakeholder consultations, with support from the Prince George Cycling Club, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The site is well used with increasing pressure on the existing parking area, and many requests for improved day use amenities.



Figure 46. Pidherny Recreation Site

The site has an existing lower and upper parking lot and an access gate. The access gate is often closed in the winter, however, there is a desire for increased winter plowing and access. Trails are groomed in the winter for fat biking, and are also used by walkers, snowshoers and hikers.

The upper parking lot has limited parking, some picnic tables and a pump track geared towards children and youth. The upper parking lot has the potential to be developed as a day use area with additional amenities and infrastructure. The Prince George Cycling Club is currently pursuing grant funding to develop an adaptive mountain bike trail and accessible washroom facility at the site.

There is a beetle kill area nearby that was recently logged (approximately 500 m from the current parking area) that could serve as a future overflow parking lot.

Proponents envision additional day use facilities such as an improved parking lot, outhouses, picnic areas, garbage and recycling, and improvements to the gated access.

Challenges to development include proximity to the RDFFG's largest drinking water resource, and its location downstream of the landfill.

## MORFEE LAKES (ELECTORAL AREA 'G')

### Background

Morfee Lakes is located 2 km east of the District of Mackenzie town centre, accessible by a gravel road. Morfee Lakes is divided into two sections by a large sandbar and has two sandy beaches. It is recognized as a popular destination for fishing, boating, swimming, hiking and mountain biking. The first lake is restricted to canoes, kayaks, and electric motorboats. Morfee Lakes currently has a wild fishery.

### Concepts from Previous Plans

Morfee Lakes was not contemplated in the 2010 Regional Park plan.

### Current Status

The Morfee Lakes area has high potential recreational value and is easily accessible due to its adjacency to town.

The site was proposed as a potential future regional park during the 2021 stakeholder consultations. The Mackenzie Outdoor Recreation and Trails Association (MORATA) has been working on creating a mountain biking and tourist destination in the Morfee Mountain and Morfee Lakes area and is spearheading the creation of a Master Plan to guide development of recreational assets in the area. Recreation Sites and Trails BC has been working with MORATA to provide support and permitting for the development of the mountain bike network in the Morfee Mountain area, however there is a desire for additional trailheads and amenities in the Morfee Lakes area closer to town.



*Figure 47. Morfee Lakes (Photo: District of Mackenzie)*

MORATA is working on a perimeter trail with the District of Mackenzie which goes around the community, and ties into John Dahl Regional Park. The perimeter trail is an important community amenity popular with a range of users including walkers, hikers, and dog walkers. There is also a lakeshore perimeter trail around Morfee Lakes, and MORATA envisions that additional portions of the perimeter trail be developed for adaptive mountain bike use. The District of Mackenzie maintains a beach at the Morfee Lakes, however, the lake is currently lacking a day use area as a hub for activities around the lake.

A day use area would ideally include support amenities and infrastructure such as a parking lot, accessible outhouse, picnic area, garbage receptacles, and potentially a bike tool stand and bike washing station.

If boat access to the lake is upgraded, and it sees more use and fishing it is possible the lake would need to be managed as a conservation area.



## MUGAHA CREEK (ELECTORAL AREA 'G')

### Background

Mugaha Creek is located approximately 10 km north of the District of Mackenzie, on Highway 39. It is recognized as a popular area for activities such as fishing, gold panning and wildlife viewing. The site has the potential to provide a range of economic, health, social, and tourism opportunities as a regional park site, with a particular interest in increasing community awareness to the importance and history of mining in the area.

### Concepts from Previous Plans

Mugaha Creek was not contemplated in the 2010 Regional Park plan.

### Current Status

Mugaha Creek is proposed as a potential future Regional Park site that could serve as a multi-use year-round recreational destination. Proponents are interested to see the site developed to include a public gold panning area that would draw on the mineral history of the Mackenzie region that began following the Cariboo Gold Rush of 1870, similar to existing park destinations such as Tranquille Creek in Kamloops, and Mission Creek Regional Park, in Kelowna, BC.



*Figure 48. Panning at Mugaha Creek (Photo: Snowshoe Mountain Resources)*

The site was brought forward in 2021, by a long time Mackenzie resident, with letters of support for the proposal from the Member of Parliament for Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies, as well as the Mayor and Council of the District of Mackenzie, who unanimously passed a resolution to provide a letter of support in March 2021.

The site's proximity to the District of Mackenzie makes it an ideal location to support the growing outdoor recreation and tourism portfolio of the area. Mugaha Creek is located in proximity to several other popular recreational destinations including Heather-Dina Lakes Provincial Park, and Morfee Mountain. The site has natural and cultural features including old growth forest, and an old trapper's cabin on the north side of the creek. Potential interpretive elements could highlight natural features of the area as well as historic activities in the region such as fishing, timber, mineral extraction and trapping.

Potential day use activities in the park would include fishing, bird watching, berry picking, hiking and gold panning. Proponents envision day use facilities to include a gravel parking area with accessible parking, signage, and trail development. There is a vision for development of a 1 to 1.5 km trail running parallel to Mugaha Creek, including a 100 m fully accessible trail to access the creek, which would make it one of the only gold panning parks in BC to feature a fully accessible design. Future trail development could include a trail on the north side of the creek to access the trapper's cabin and create an interpretive trail loop.

Additional day use facilities could include outhouses, picnic areas, garbage and recycling, and access improvements.