



20 22

ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 31, 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bear tracks in the snow. Feathers fallen from migrating birds. The splash of a salmon on its final journey. These small clues remind us of the great diversity of animals that depend on Regional Parks as well as the plants that shelter and feed them.

Urban greenspaces are an important component of meeting the Global Biodiversity Framework set by the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal. This landmark agreement addresses biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems and protecting Indigenous rights – concerns that we share at the MVRP Foundation. We support projects in young forests and old fields as well as more ecologically fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and riparian areas. In 2023 our partnerships included Indigenous projects and programs in Regional Parks.

In addition to their role for biodiversity and mitigating climate change, our Regional Parks are gaining recognition for their role in livability of the region as people seek relief from extreme heat; find safe spaces to gather with friends and family; and are becoming more aware of the health benefits of time spent in nature. As a reflection of the growing appreciation for Regional Parks, in 2023 we changed our name to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation to better reflect our mission and partnerships. This was just one of the many milestones we achieved as we approach the halfway point in our Strategic Plan from 2020.

Also, in 2023 we have seen continued growth in support from our donors which allows us to expand our projects and programs. Thank you to all our donors, our volunteer board of directors; Metro Vancouver staff and Parks Committee; and the volunteers and staff with our park partners who continue make Metro Vancouver Regional Parks the best that they can be.

Sincerely,



SARAH MARSH
President



JANET ANTONIO
Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

As Chair of the Regional Parks Committee, it is my pleasure to be an appointed Metro Vancouver liaison to the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation Board of Directors. For over 20 years, the Foundation has raised awareness and funding to support public programs, stewardship activities, volunteers, land acquisition and capital projects that enhance the park services we provide for the region.

Regional parks and greenways are vital places for people to connect with nature and each other, and directly contribute to improved physical and mental health for our region's residents. As a region, we all benefit from the 13,848 hectares that are protected within the regional parks system.

In 2022, Metro Vancouver updated the Regional Parks Plan, a long-term plan to guide Metro Vancouver's work protecting natural areas and connecting people to nature. The plan sets out a path to progress towards the vision of a resilient network of regional parks and greenways that continues to provide important climate, health, and other benefits to park visitors and the wider region.

As Metro Vancouver turns toward implementation of the Regional Parks Plan, staff will continue working closely with member jurisdictions, First Nations, and other partners. Continued collaboration with the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation will help to ensure that Metro Vancouver's regional parks remain protected and accessible for all forever.

Sincerely,



JOHN MCEWEN
Chair, Regional Parks Committee



NEW NAME, SAME GREAT CHARITY

As you may have noticed reading this Annual Report, this year the Foundation announced a total rebrand from the name Pacific Parklands Foundation to the new name, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation. While our name, logo and branding has changed, our core mission stays the same. The Foundation continues its unwavering commitment to protecting, enhancing, and advocating for regional parks.

We are confident that this evolution will further showcase our objectives and help us reach our goals with our community. As part of our Strategic Plan, our Board of Directors have put extensive work and research into refining our purpose and our brand by clarifying our relationship with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

The process of changing our name will have a positive impact on our communication with the community, as we continue to increase our exposure and expand our audience.

The new branding represents both where the Foundation is headed, and where it has always been. There are many ways that the new logo can be interpreted. Perhaps you initially see a tree in the icon, or a park way-finding arrow, or even the way it represents our three pillars of purpose; the people, nature and wildlife that make up the regional parks system. It was important to us that the visuals of our brand reflect our beloved regional parks.

To accompany this change, we also launched a fresh new website: we invite you to visit mvrpfoundation.ca to explore the new website, brand, and our latest updates. As we forge ahead into this new generation of our brand, we look forward to the next chapter of growth for the Foundation.



as we were



as we are



PARK PARTNERS

The Foundation works with park partners that support our efforts in a variety of ways, proving time and time again that they are a key pillar to our success in the regional parks system, increasing the impact of every dollar we raise. Our boots-on-the-ground, these are the volunteer individuals doing the work it takes to bring projects and programs to life in regional parks every year.

- Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association
- Pacific Spirit Park Society
- Burnaby Lake Park Association
- Minnekhada Park Association
- Colony Farm Park Association
- CTS Youth Society
- Vancouver Avian Research Centre
- Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS)
- Bowen Island Horse Owners & Riders Association
- Stream of Dreams
- North Fraser Métis Association
- Delta Heritage Air Park
- CTS Youth Society
- Langley Field Naturalists

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

The Foundation relies on the generosity of our donors; their overwhelming support in 2022 made all the park protection, projects, and programs possible. Without their support, the regional parks that the community relies on would not be as flourishing, accessible, and restored as they are today. Our work is made possible by the many businesses and individuals who are making an investment in Metro Vancouver's backyard. As another year passes, our hearts were warmed by a community that truly believes in the importance of protecting natural spaces. We would like to extend our thanks in supporting the Foundation's work in Metro Vancouver regional parks and greenways.



metrovancouver



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

creativeBC

TELUS



APPROVED GRANTS

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation funds many park projects, from saps and seedlings to flourishing forests. With a total of \$418,081 of grant funds going back to regional parks this year, here are some of the exciting projects we brought to fruition in 2022.



POLLINATOR MEADOW

Pacific Spirit Park Society's Pollinator Meadow Augmentation and Biodiversity Building project will greatly benefit the habitat in Acadia Meadow. Pollinator meadows boost healthy populations of wild resident bees and other invertebrates involved in the pollination of plants, the increasing of biodiversity, and the improvement of ecological health in their surrounding areas.



NEW WETLAND HOMES

Campbell Valley Regional Park is home to many birds, mammals, and amphibians, including Northwestern and Long-toed salamanders, and Pacific Chorus Frogs, whose songs often echo through the park. We've supported work to excavate and vegetate a seasonal pond along a new portion of the park's perimeter trail. Here, young tadpoles and other amphibians will thrive, grow, and undergo their amazing transformations.



RESTORE CREEKSIDE HABITAT

Building off the momentum of Phase I, funded by the inaugural REEL Earth Day Challenge in 2021, this project will replace harmful invasive species like English Ivy with the native species that make this habitat healthy, beautiful & unique. Restoring this fragmented habitat will improve the health of Capilano River and restore vital nature corridors for wildlife and park visitors to enjoy.



APPROVED GRANTS

These grants are only made possible because of the vision and generosity of our donors. Grants provide volunteer park associations and other groups of regional park supporters with the financial support they need to help protect and preserve our regional parks.



WILDLIFE CAMERAS

Data collected from wildlife cameras within Widgeon Marsh Regional Park will provide critical information such as helping us understand ecological drivers, seasonal and daily movement patterns, as well as coarse indexes of wildlife within the regional park. These cameras will also assist in the development of a scientifically based management plan that protects both the wildlife and people that visit.



ECOBLITZ

This year, the Foundation was proud to support yet another year of EcoBlitz – an extravaganza of volunteer efforts to enhance and restore natural areas throughout the regional parks system - through a \$35,000 contribution that supported 38 stewardship events within 13 regional parks.



INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING AND VISIBILITY

In təmtəmíxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park, the Foundation was proud to support the connection of Tsleil-Wautt families with their ancestral lands via water-taxis, as well as funding the production of signage, totem poles, designated parking spots and cultural visibility within the park.





CTS YOUTH SOCIETY

CTS Youth Society is a non-profit outdoor youth program, completely free for every participant. The Foundation is proud to support this program year after year, as we believe every youth deserves the opportunity to attend summer camp, regardless of their circumstances.

In 2022, our donors helped CTS Youth Society:

- Host over 500+ youth at summer camp
- Log 3,940 volunteer hours in regional parks
- Connect local youth to nature, their community and each other
- Fuel campers with free, healthy meals as well as the supplies and training they need to safely explore the beauty of the regional parks
- Nurture a community garden that provided youth with a true farm-to-table hands-on experience throughout the summer.
- Create new programming such as "Mishkoopitum" Indigenous-led summer camps

This year, CTS Youth Society, Stream of Dreams and the North Fraser Metis Association partnered to bring "Mishkoopitum" (meaning "discover") Camps to life in regional parks. Presented by Indigenous community representatives and free and open to all youth, participants were invited to acquire knowledge from Métis and First Nations worldviews and culture via games, art, food and storytelling in nature. The first ever launch of Mishkoopitum Camps were at full capacity (plus a waitlist!) this summer, showing great interest from youth. The REEL Earth Day Challenge made the development of this pilot program possible, and established framework that will be used to continue the success of this program in the future.

We do so many things! [CTS Youth Society] teaches you about environmental awareness, plant identification, sustainability. We do these stewardship projects every weekend with CTS and it's a way to give back to the community. It makes me so grateful that I'm able to come into these parks"

-LOGAN WILMARTH, PEER LEADER & CTS PARTICIPANT

KANAKA CREEK REGIONAL PARK INTERPRETIVE ART MURAL

The community mural project in Kanaka Creek Regional Park tells the story of the salmon lifecycle, their connection to our ecosystem, and the importance of habitat preservation and conservation. The mural is located under the 240th Street bridge at the Fish Fence site – a popular area for strolls along the creek, especially to view spawning coho and chum salmon in the fall. Adding a splash of dynamic colour to the site, the mural is in collaboration with several partners on this project: Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, City of Maple Ridge, Kwantlen First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.



A COLOURFUL EDUCATION TOOL

The mural has already proven to be a fantastic teaching tool for the many educational programs and field trips that are conducted at the mural site, which sits along the creek. The mural tells the story of the salmon lifecycle, their connection to our ecosystem, and the importance of habitat preservation and conservation. This all ties into the understanding of local salmon and the "fish fence" installed in the creek each fall to obtain broodstock for the nearby Bell-Irving Hatchery.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Lead by public arts specialist Todd Polich, the community was engaged every step of the way. Phase One began with online, in-class, in-park workshops and field trips with surrounding schools, families, seniors, and community. Phase Two included community feedback on a draft mural concept, and Phase Three rolled out the on-site painting with community members. Working alongside Polich was Carman McKay, a Consultant and Contributing Artist of the Musqueam and Matsqui heritage.



EPIC HOMES MAKES EPIC CONTRIBUTION

The mural is the first phase for enhancements to this area. The vision is to improve the visitor experience through enhancements to fish viewing, platform accessibility and safety features. Showing their devotion to shaping community in the Lower Mainland, Epic Homes made a significant contribution towards the ongoing improvements around the fish fence and mural area.



BUS GRANT PROGRAM

Our Bus Grant Program connects youth, students, seniors, immigrants, newcomers to Canada, and other individuals with financial barriers to the beautiful outdoor spaces within Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. Recognizing the many barriers that can make it challenging for community members to access nature, the Foundation works to provide transportation for people to explore new places, learn new skills, build their confidence in the outdoors, and connect with others in the nature that surrounds their community.

With your help, in 2022 we connected even more groups to the beauty of nature found in regional parks. One \$500 donation makes the dream of a chartered bus a reality. Your donation can and has made a difference.



TALES FROM THE TRAILS

"I never see those animals and plants around my neighbourhood. It's cool when you check the water!" - *Natalie, age 8*

"It was the best day of my life!" - *J.K., age 8*

"I read the book talking about British Columbia. They described BC as beautiful. Now I am here. I see it from my real eyes. I have to acknowledge that BC is beautiful." - *Participating father and new immigrant from India, Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program*

THE LYDIA CERRANO ALBERT CHILD CARE SUPPORT FUND

In 2022, the Lydia Cerrano Albert Child Care Support Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation, provided \$25,000 to the Foundation's Bus Grants Program, helping community organizations and schools in Metro Vancouver take children on nature excursions that would otherwise be unaffordable. A chance to explore ideas that they have learned in the classroom, youth are given a hands-on opportunity to experience these concepts in the great outdoors. Cerrano's funds have allowed thousands of children to "experience the world" in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

REEL EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

In 2022, the second annual REEL Earth Day Challenge was presented by Creative BC's Reel Green™ program and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation.

The challenge raises funds for the Foundation to protect and preserve Metro Vancouver's regional parks, where many of B.C. productions are filmed. The REEL Earth Day Challenge encourages crews, productions, sponsors, and other industry stakeholders to raise funds in the days leading up to Earth Day, April 22nd. Industry sponsors contribute to the top teams' daily challenge totals, and the production that raises the most funds overall is declared the winner.

Team "The Night Agent," lead by Team Captain Christina Conrad, took home the first-place trophy for the 2022 season. Thank you to all participants, donors, and industry supporters who took part in the challenge. Together we raised an astonishing \$108,785 and made 7 transformative park projects a reality.

TOGETHER, WE:

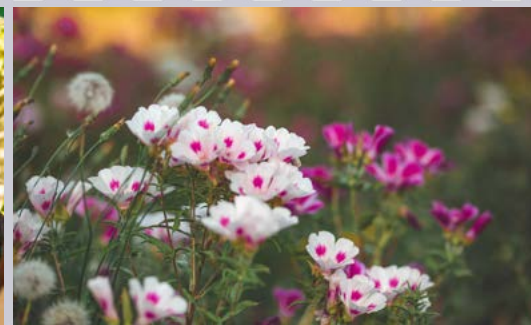
- Connected Tsleil-Wautt youth with ancestral lands
- Funded Indigenous summer programs for youth
- Restored creekside habitat
- Brought nature-based climate action to Acadia Beach
- Increased Indigenous visibility In təmtəmíxʷtən/Belcarra
- Protected newts & other creatures in Capilano River
- Collaborated on Indigenous programming
- Created new wetland homes for frogs & other amphibians



SPONSOR DOLLARS IN ACTION:

MBS Equipment Co.'s \$15,000 sponsorship single handedly funded nature-based climate action at Acadia Beach. Thanks to this contribution, volunteers have since planted 35 trees, 365 shrubs, 948 other native plants, and created a more climate-change resilient beach for future generations to enjoy.

35mm FILM



2022 AWARDS

GORDON SMITH YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Gordon Smith was an exceptional man, dedicated to serving people and the environment. He was passionate about stream and wetland stewardship and very active in conservation projects in Langley and Delta. To inspire others to follow his path, his friends, family, and colleagues at Metro Vancouver Regional Parks initiated the “Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award” fund.

Each year nominations are invited for the Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Award, which provides a bursary for youth aged 12-19 who have contributed to environmental stewardship through their volunteer efforts. The 2022 recipient has demonstrated leadership in conservation and inspire other young people to get involved in environmental work.

ANNA HUBER | 2022 WINNER

Thomas Haney Secondary School

Anna Huber’s passion and involvement in environmental conservation and stewardship demonstrate the spirit of the Gordon Smith Young Environmental Steward award. She earned the 2022 prize for her hard work and commitment to improving ecosystems and the environment through numerous volunteer undertakings.



DR M. WOSK ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Award was established by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation for the development of youth leadership in 2006. The leadership fund is used to engage, train and empower today’s youth (age 15-19) with the skills necessary for the future sustainability of our spectacular regional parks.

Participants will have training in ecological issues and environmental preservation as well as the organizational and communication skills necessary to make a profound difference. This year, the Foundation was honoured to reward the hard work and kickstart the future in environmental sustainability for the following recipients: Caio Krause Conradt, Isla Wu, Kristen Hogeterp and Kyla Stokes.

2022 EVENTS

REGIONAL PARKS SNAP & SHARE

In another successful year, we partnered with Metro Vancouver to encourage locals to explore Metro Vancouver's regional parks and greenways through the iNaturalist app. This event leads participants to pay attention to plants and wildlife they may not have noticed before by snapping photos of what they discovered and sharing their photos with the iNaturalist online community. iNaturalist is a great way for park visitors to build their nature knowledge and join a global community of citizen scientists that contribute to biodiversity science. With plenty of fun prizes up for grabs, 5,655 observations were made, 923 species were observed, and 526 identifiers participated.

ART'S NURSERY SCARECROW STROLL

The Foundation was humbled to be invited back as a beneficiary of this exciting autumnal event, which involved a pumpkin patch, scavenger hunt, and dozens of creepy, cool, and creative scarecrows. Alongside the flowers and food trucks, Art's Nursery invited local businesses and non-profits to showcase their organizations during this popular family-friendly fundraiser in support of charities in the local community.

GOODBYE CHUMS

After a brief COVID-19 hiatus, the Foundation was excited to attend this annual event once again at Kanaka Creek Regional Park that invites families within the community to come out and release salmon fry into the creek where they will start their journey to the sea. As children wandered around Kanaka Creek with their water pails full of hatchery chum fry and released them into the wild, park visitors had a chance to tour the hatchery and take part in fun activities, games, crafts, and entertainment to learn more about the salmon lifecycle.



THE FIGURES

FUNDS

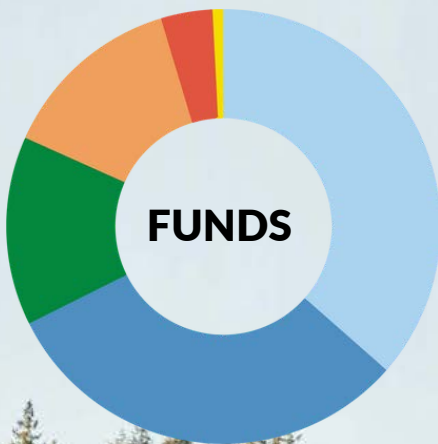
Property	\$666,000
General Funds	\$568,396
Programs & Projects	\$256,583
Endowment	\$249,070
Dr. M. Wosk Fund	\$70,229
Gordon Smith Fund	\$14,812
Total:	\$1,825,090

EXPENSES

Administration	\$271,188
Projects	\$270,124
Programs & Awards	\$147,957
Communications & Public Relations	\$22,825
Total:	\$712,094

REVENUE

Designated	\$287,622
Government Grants	\$185,988
Commemorative	\$93,645
Income	\$20,380
Undesignated	\$101,253
Total:	\$688,888



Financial support from Metro Vancouver helps defray our operating costs, ensuring our donors' gifts can make the biggest possible impact on programs and projects in Regional Parks.



LEGACY GIVING

Choosing what legacy you want to leave is a unique opportunity for you to express your values and to make a significant mark upon the future. By making a gift in your will to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, you are automatically joining a very special group of visionaries - people who care deeply about preserving Metro Vancouver Regional Parks for future generations.

The pristine wild spaces that we have chosen to protect make Metro Vancouver the envy of the world; they are ours to explore, share and protect. Legacy gifts have the added benefit of reducing income tax during your lifetime or through your estate. It is also one of the most important opportunities each of us possesses - the chance to leave our mark on the world.

GEORGE ROSS

George Ross, who loved trees and parks, was a visionary who generously left a \$2.8-million-dollar bequest for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. His legacy lives on today in the form of the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program, a funding program created to help support hands-on citizen stewardship activities by park partners in Metro Vancouver regional parks and greenways. Since 2016, the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program has granted \$214,477 to 33 different stewardship projects in regional parks.

BESSIE LUTEYN

Bessie Rose Luteyn was a passionate, resourceful, and big-hearted individual. When she designated a planned gift to Pacific Spirit Regional Park and the Foundation in her will, she solidified a lasting legacy for nature, wildlife and her local community for generations to come. Through her bequest, Bessie Luteyn continues to help protect more animals, restore more natural areas, and inspire more community members to care about regional parks each year. Her gift helps ensure the regional park she loved will remain as strong, vibrant, and full of life as she was. Her legacy will forever echo throughout the towering forests of Pacific Spirit Regional Park, alongside the birdsong and sounds of nature she held so closely to her heart.

OUR LEADERSHIP

2022 Volunteer Board

Sarah Marsh
President

Mark van der Zalm
Vice President

Kevin O'Callaghan
Past President

Lindsey Fryett Jerke
Secretary

Terri Van Sleuwen
Treasurer

Directors

Eleanor O'Connor
Adam Heffey
Micheal Jerowsky
Liyang Wan
Smiely Khurana

Non Voting Directors

John McEwen - Mayor of Anmore
Ron McLaughlin - Mayor of Lions Bay

Metro Vancouver Advisors

Mike Redpath - Director, Regional Parks
David Leavers - Division Manager, Regional Parks



Our volunteer Board of Directors are the driving force behind the Foundation. Their love of the regional parks is reflected in their energy, dedication, and expertise on the board. The Foundation is grateful for another year of their voluntary guidance and service.

**OURS TO EXPLORE.
OURS TO SHARE.
OURS TO PROTECT.**



METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENWAYS

Aldergrove Regional Park
Barnston Island Regional Park
təmtəmíxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park
Blaney Bog Regional Park Reserve
Boundary Bay Regional Park
Brae Island Regional Park
Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway
Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area
Campbell Valley Regional Park
Capilano River Regional Park
Codd Wetland Ecological Conservancy Area
Colony Farm Regional Park
Crippen Regional Park
Deas Island Regional Park
Delta South Surrey Regional Greenway

Derby Reach Regional Park
Fraser Islands Regional Park Reserve
Glen Valley Regional Park
Grouse Mountain Regional Park
Iona Beach Regional Park
Kanaka Creek Regional Park
Lynn Headwaters Regional Park
Minnehada Regional Park
North Alouette Regional Greenway
Pacific Spirit Regional Park
Pitt River Regional Greenway
Seymour River Regional Greenway
Surrey Bend Regional Park
Thwaytes Landing Regional Park
Tynehead Regional Park
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park



Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation
mvrpfoundation.ca | hello@mvrpfoundation.ca
778-900-1053 | 6825 Cariboo Rd Burnaby, BC V3N 4A3
Registered Charity Number: 889353017RR0001

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation is an independent registered charity that supports Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park