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ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2025 has been a milestone year for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation as we celebrated 25 years of protecting, connecting, and nurturing regional parks. This anniversary gave us the opportunity to reflect on the impact of our first quarter-century, while also serving as a springboard for new ideas, new partnerships, and new ways to connect people with parks. This year reminded us that our parks are more than just green spaces. They are places where communities come together, where people reconnect with nature, and where memories are made across generations.

This year brought an exciting wave of new initiatives. We hosted our first-ever Corporate Breakfast, forging stronger partnerships with local businesses to support park projects. Our Pints for Parks program brought the community together in fun, social ways while raising funds for park conservation. Through our Seniors in Regional Parks program, we connected older adults to the healing power of nature through guided excursions and meaningful experiences.

None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of our board members, staff, and supporters. Your passion ensures that Metro Vancouver's regional parks remain thriving, accessible, and protected for everyone.

As someone with a background in Landscape Architecture and environmental planning, I have always appreciated the thoughtful design and care that goes into creating spaces that inspire, connect, and endure. That same attention to stewardship guides our work at the Foundation. As we look to the next 25 years and beyond, we remain committed to building on our legacy while continuing to grow, evolve, and innovate.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.



Mark van der Zalm
President



Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

MESSAGE FROM METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

As Vice Chair of Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors and Chair of the Regional Parks Committee, it is my pleasure to continue serving as the liaison to the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation. This relationship remains an important part of advancing our shared commitment to protecting and enhancing the region's exceptional park system.

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks works to protect natural areas and connect people to nature, guided by a clear and enduring set of goals that shape our decision-making across the system:

1. The region's important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.
2. Everyone has the opportunity to benefit from exceptional experiences in nature.
3. Regional parks are sustainably managed and well-maintained for the safety of visitors and integrity of ecosystems.
4. First Nations have an active role in the planning and stewardship of regional parks.
5. Regional parks adapt to change and contribute to regional resilience.

Through our collaboration agreement, Metro Vancouver and the Foundation work closely together to strengthen regional parks and the services they provide. This partnership allows us to align resources, expertise, and community support in ways that maximize benefits for both people and the environment.

Over the past year, the Foundation has continued to demonstrate the value of a strong, mature charitable organization dedicated to supporting regional parks. Its contributions help fund public programs, stewardship initiatives, volunteerism, and the planning and development of capital projects that enhance park experiences across the region. These investments play a meaningful role in sustaining and improving the park system for current and future generations.

Looking ahead, I am encouraged by the Foundation's growing connections with individuals, organizations, and communities throughout Metro Vancouver. Continued partnership and philanthropic support will be essential to the long-term growth, resilience, and sustainability of our regional parks. On behalf of the Regional Parks Committee, I thank the Foundation's Board, staff, donors, and supporters for their ongoing dedication and commitment.



JOHN MCEWEN
Chair, Regional Parks Committee

PARK PARTNERS

The Foundation collaborates with local Park Partners and Park Associations who play a vital role in our initiatives, consistently demonstrating their significance as a crucial element and major contributors in the regional parks system. Their support takes various forms, increasing the impact of every dollar we raise. With unshakeable passion for their local parklands, these volunteers are the driving force behind the realization of projects and programs in regional parks, year after year.

- BC Mobility Opportunities Society
- Bowen Island Horse Owners & Riders Association
- Burnaby Lake Park Association
- Burns Bog Conservation Society
- Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
- CTS Youth Society
- Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association
- Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society
- Langley Field Naturalists
- Lower Coquitlam River Nature Association
- Minnehada Park Association
- Nature Kids BC
- Pacific Spirit Park Society
- Stream of Dreams
- Vancouver Avian Research Centre
- Vancouver Cycling Without Age Society



COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

The Foundation is deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, whose tremendous support in 2025 has enabled us to realize park protection, projects, and programs. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in ensuring that regional parks, vital to the community, remain vibrant, accessible, and restored. The success of our endeavours is attributed to the numerous organizations and individuals who have chosen to invest in the green spaces of Metro Vancouver. As we reflect on another year, we are touched by a community that recognizes the importance of preserving natural areas, and extend our gratitude to those who believe in our cause.

FUNDED PROJECTS

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation funds numerous park projects, spanning from saplings and seedlings to the nurturing of flourishing forests. With a significant allocation of grant funds returning to regional parks this year, here are some of the exciting projects we successfully realized in 2025.



AMPHIBIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

Amphibians are among BC's most at-risk species, and the Northern Red-legged Frog is a species of special concern. A Rocha Canada is studying how new wetlands in Campbell Valley Regional Park support frog breeding and recovery, tracking their use, comparing trends with nearby ponds, and identifying what drives successful breeding. Their return signals healthier, more resilient habitats and helps guide conservation across the Regional Parks system.



ECOBLITZ STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

In October 2025, we kicked off the Ecoblitz season by planting over 1,400 trees and plants across Pacific Spirit and Boundary Bay Regional Parks. Volunteers came together to help restore these important natural areas, creating a stronger, healthier forest. Planting in October gives trees and shrubs a head start, as the cooler temperatures and fall rain help roots establish before winter.



ACADIA FOREST RESTORATION

A restoration project with Pacific Spirit Park Society will bring new life to this aging, challenged forest. Once cleared for development, it now has old red alder trees, few conifers, sparse understory, and invasive plants like laurel and holly spreading from nearby gardens. Our work introduces native plants and controls invasives to rebuild a healthy forest structure and support the long-term ecological health of Pacific Spirit Regional Park.



FUNDED PROJECTS

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.



ACCESSIBILITY TRAILRIDER

The TrailRider is an adaptive mobility device that makes hiking possible for individuals who are not ambulatory. Lightweight and equipped with safety straps and handles for guides, it allows participants to remain comfortably seated while navigating trails and natural areas that are otherwise inaccessible. This addition helps more people with mobility challenges explore regional parks and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of the outdoors alongside family and community.



NATURE HOUSE UPGRADES

The Nature House at Campbell Valley Regional Park received upgrades, including improved accessibility ramps and updated materials, enhancing the space for teaching and environmental education. These improvements make the Nature House more welcoming and functional for visitors, supporting hands-on learning and community programs in the park.



RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

This project restored critical habitat in Alder Grove Regional Park in Fall 2025. Over the past century, the Fraser Valley has lost much of its natural areas to agriculture, urbanization, and resource extraction. Along Pepin Creek, Indigenous trees and shrubs were planted to improve stream and riparian habitat for at-risk species such as Nooksack Dace, Salish Sucker, Coho Salmon, Pacific Water Shrew, and Barred Owl.





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 2025, our donors helped CTS Youth Society:

Youth Engagement:

- Register 682 youth for summer camp
- Engage 25 Youth Council members
- Log 5,074 volunteer hours in the community
- Mentor 26 Peer Leaders to inspire campers
- Complete 23 stewardship & park projects in collaboration with local partners
- Deliver 22 summer camps full of outdoor exploration and learning
- Deliver 4 Indigenous-led camps
- Deliver 1 spring break camp (their first ever!)
- Support and deliver Metro Vancouver's playful 'Pawsitivity' campaign, teaching park users about dog etiquette

High Demand:

- 130+ Youth Waitlisted for camps due to limited spaces
- Overnight camps sold out in 48 Hours

Participant & Staff Feedback:

- 100% of Peer Leaders said they would like to sign up for the program again next year
- 100% of youth campers said they are more likely to visit a regional park in the future
- 100% of Camp Counsellors said they would recommend working at CTS Youth Society to their peers

Diverse & Inclusive Community:

- Participants from 15 municipalities across British Columbia
- 85% of Peer Leaders reported being members of a racialized group
- 21% of guardians identified their camper as a recent immigrant or New Canadian





SEEK THE PEAK

Grouse Mountain's Seek the Peak event raised \$40,000 for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation. Over 850 participants came together to support vital initiatives, including trail maintenance, conservation projects, habitat restoration, and community programming.

The challenging 15 km course started at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver, wound through scenic North Vancouver, and culminated with the iconic Grouse Grind ascent to The Peak of Vancouver—a 1,400 m climb that tests both stamina and mental resilience.

This year, the Foundation supported key projects such as Canyon Trails Restoration in Capilano River Regional Park, restoring and replanting degraded riparian areas, and Big Cedar Route Safety Upgrades in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park, improving safety along a heavily used route while controlling erosion.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our partners at Grouse Mountain for their support, and to all the runners, hikers, and nature enthusiasts who embraced the challenge. Together, we're helping protect and enhance Metro Vancouver's regional parks for a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future!

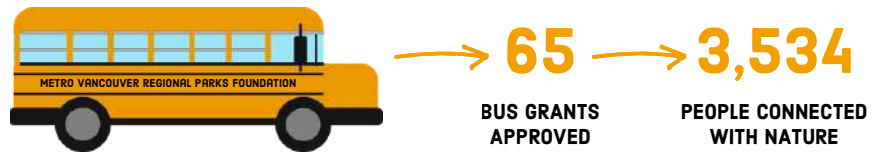


Grouse Mountain Regional Park

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 the 2024 fiscal year, 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.



SENIORS IN REGIONAL PARKS PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation launched a new seniors-focused initiative in 2025 through an expansion of our Bus Grant Program. This funding helps remove transportation and activity cost barriers, making it easier for seniors to access and enjoy regional parks.

The program supports a range of engaging, low-impact experiences including guided nature walks and birdwatching, shared picnics, outdoor art and photography, and gentle yoga and mindfulness. These activities are designed to foster connection, wellbeing, and time in nature. We are also working with community partners to identify mobility-friendly regional parks, ensuring seniors of all abilities can enjoy meaningful and memorable outdoor experiences.



PINTS FOR PARKS

#PINTSFORPARKSVANCOUVER

In 2025, Metro Vancouver's inaugural Pints for Parks invited beer lovers to raise a glass for our regional parks, and the response was incredible. Local breweries across the region joined the initiative, turning each pint into a direct contribution to the protection and restoration of our natural spaces.

Participating breweries included Main Street Brewing, The Parkside Brewery, La Cerveceria Astilleros, Four Winds Brewing, Dageraad Brewing, and Tinhouse Brewing.

Thanks to the community's enthusiasm, Pints for Parks helped fund projects such as:

- Riparian Restoration in təmtəmişwtən/Belcarra Regional Park
- Camosun Bog Restoration in Pacific Spirit Regional Park
- Big Cedar Route Safety Upgrades in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park
- Raptor Trail & Wetlands in Boundary Bay Regional Park
- Nature House Native Species Planting in Burnaby Lake Regional Park
- Post-Fire Recovery in Minnekhada Regional Park

Pints for Parks proved that supporting the environment can be fun, local, and social. With each pint enjoyed, the community contributed to healthier ecosystems, safer trails, and thriving wildlife, setting the stage for even bigger campaigns in the years to come. We look forward to expanding our brewery partners and continue raising glasses and funds for the parks we all love.



REEL EARTH DAY CHALLENGE

In 2025, the fifth annual REEL Earth Day Challenge continued to inspire local film crews, productions, sponsors, and industry stakeholders to raise funds for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, a registered charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing the region's parks.

The challenge offers a unique opportunity for B.C. film productions, which frequently film in Metro Vancouver's regional parks, to give back to the natural spaces where they work, live, and play. Crews, productions, and sponsors rallied together in the days leading up to Earth Day, April 22, to raise funds, with industry sponsors contributing to the top teams' daily challenge totals. The production that raised the most funds overall was crowned the winner.

In 2025, Team Virgin River returned with the same unstoppable drive and enthusiasm that made them a standout last year, once again taking center stage to claim the top spot on the leaderboard. With an impressive \$28,090 raised, they helped propel the REEL Earth Day Challenge to a grand total of \$81,430 for the year, contributing to a remarkable \$555,000 raised since 2021.

TOGETHER, WE:

- Delivered a "Picnic in the Park" event for new Canadians in Surrey Bend Regional Park
- Are building a bird viewing tower in Boundary Bay Regional Park
- Advanced floodgate and salmon research in ʔéxətəm Regional Park (formerly Colony Farm)
- Supported Indigenous-led summer camps in various Regional Parks
- Created bat & owl habitat boxes in Campbell Valley Regional Park
- Provided invasive species & local good education in East Area Regional Parks
- Funded Ecoblitz Stewardship Activities in various Regional Parks
- Supported a native species planting around the nature house in Burnaby Lake Regional Park

[Check out the Impact Report here!](#)

35mm FILM



2025 AWARDS

DR M. WOSK ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Award, established by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation in 2006, supports youth leadership development. The fund engages, trains, and empowers youth (ages 15–19) with the skills needed to support the future sustainability of our regional parks. Participants receive training in ecological issues, environmental preservation, and leadership and communication skills to help them make a meaningful impact. This year, the Foundation was honoured to recognize the following recipients for their dedication to environmental sustainability:

ISABEL SHANG | 2025 WINNER

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary

MARCUS CHEW | 2025 WINNER

Windermere Secondary School

ELLA YAN | 2025 WINNER

Moscrop Secondary School

GORDON SMITH YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Gordon Smith was dedicated to serving people and the environment, with a strong passion for stream and wetland stewardship and conservation work in Langley and Delta. In his honour, friends, family, and colleagues at Metro Vancouver Regional Parks created the Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Award. Each year, the award provides a bursary to a youth aged 12–19 who has demonstrated leadership in environmental stewardship through volunteer efforts and inspired others to get involved. This year, the Foundation was honoured to recognize the following recipient for their commitment to environmental stewardship:

JADE TAO | 2025 WINNER

Moscrop Secondary School

HANKIN LEGACY AWARD

In 2025, the Foundation proudly established the Hankin Legacy Award to honour individuals who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime service to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. This award celebrates those whose dedication, leadership, and passion for protecting and enhancing our natural spaces have left a lasting impact on the community and the parks they cherish.

Richard Hankin not only spent his life working for the regional parks system, creating the first regional park at Campbell Valley Regional Park and playing a key role in building out the entire regional parks system, but he also helped establish Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, laying the groundwork for decades of conservation and public enjoyment. On top of that, in 2025 he plans to leave a generous gift in his will, hoping this will encourage others to do the same. Fittingly, Richard Hankin is the first recipient of the Hankin Legacy Award.



2025 ENGAGEMENT

FUELLING FUTURES CORPORATE BREAKFAST

In May 2025, supporters came together at Redwoods Golf Course in Langley for the Fuelling Futures Community Breakfast, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation. The event raised funds for regional parks and CTS Youth Society's free summer camps, while giving guests a chance to connect, enjoy breakfast, and support the people, wildlife, and natural spaces that make our communities thrive.

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS EVENTS

We continue to support Metro Vancouver Regional Parks events by helping bring communities together and accepting donations that directly benefit park programs and experiences. From beloved celebrations like Goodbye Chums, where families release salmon fry and learn about their lifecycle through hands-on activities, to immersive evening experiences like Night Quest and Owl Hootenanny, as well as the Regional Parks Snap & Share event, where we host registration and create a dedicated webpage to guide participants in exploring parks, capturing and sharing observations of plants and wildlife on iNaturalist, these events foster meaningful connections to nature while supporting conservation, education, and community engagement across the regional parks system.

LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Foundation attended the Lower Mainland Local Government Association Conference, connecting with local government leaders and community partners from across the region. The conference offered a valuable opportunity to share our work, strengthen relationships, and gain insight into emerging priorities that will help inform future partnerships and support regional parks and community well-being.

COLD PLUNGE FOR A CAUSE

Our first-ever Cold Plunge event at Acadia Beach, in collaboration with Wirth Hats, invited participants to experience the invigorating benefits of a cold-water plunge for mental health and wellbeing. The event also included optional breathwork and sauna sessions, allowing guests to fully connect with the natural beauty of the park. It highlighted the restorative power of nature and encouraged mindful ways to support mental health outdoors.

VANCOUVER OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL SHOW

In March 2025, we attended our first-ever Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show at the Vancouver Convention Centre, sharing the wonders of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks with visitors from across the region. The event was a great opportunity to get the word out about regional parks, highlight the experiences and programs they offer, and inspire everyone to take part in protecting and enjoying these natural spaces.

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.

THE FIGURES

FUNDS

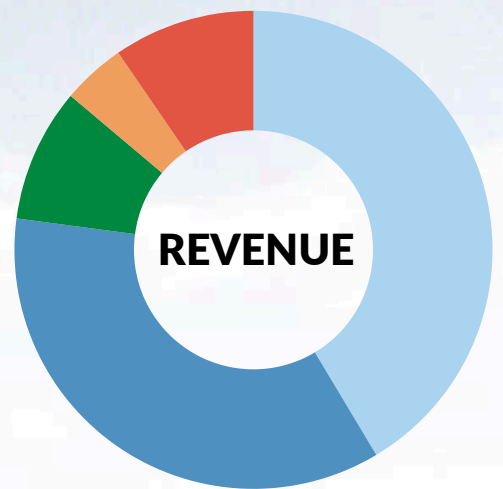
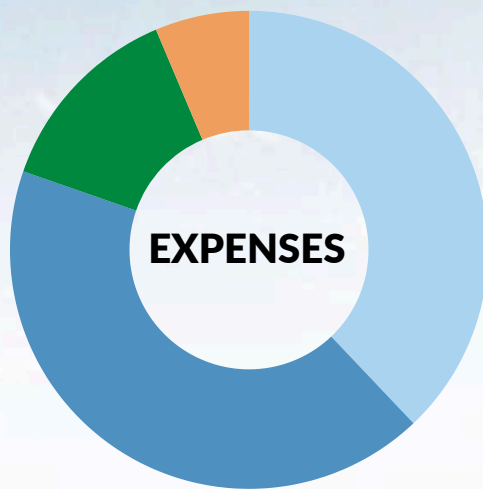
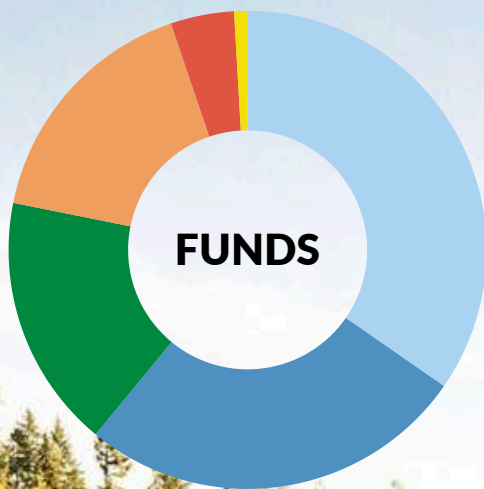
Property	\$666,000
General Funds	\$539,860
Programs & Projects	\$289,685
Endowment	\$464,838
Dr. M. Wosk Fund	\$86,360
Gordon Smith Fund	\$18,219
Total:	\$2,064,962

EXPENSES

Administration	\$295,125
Projects	\$299,682
Programs & Awards	\$151,532
Communications & Public Relations	\$30,045
Total:	\$776,384

REVENUE

Designated	\$346,398
Government Grants	\$205,699
Commemorative	\$81,430
Income	\$56,463
Undesignated	\$78,204
Total:	\$768,194



LEGACY GIVING

Choosing what legacy you want to leave is a unique opportunity to express your values and make a meaningful mark on the future. By including Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation in your will, you join a special group of visionaries, people who care deeply about preserving Metro Vancouver Regional Parks for generations to come.

We are pleased to share that in 2025, the Foundation received multiple notifications of legacy giving, with more supporters adding Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation to their wills.

The pristine wild spaces we protect make Metro Vancouver the envy of the world. They are ours to explore, share, and safeguard. Legacy gifts also provide the added benefit of reducing income tax during your lifetime or through your estate. Most importantly, they represent one of the greatest opportunities we each have, the chance to leave a lasting 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 **\$379,470** to stewardship projects in regional parks.



OUR LEADERSHIP

2025 Volunteer Board

Mark van der Zalm
President

Micheal Jerowsky
Vice President

Sarah Marsh
Past President

Terri Van Sleuwen
Treasurer

Roy Millen
Director at Large

Directors

Adam Heffey
Liyang Wan
Nadine Mross

Non Voting Directors

John McEwen - Mayor of Anmore
Rebecca Bligh - Vancouver City Council

Metro Vancouver Advisors

Mike Redpath - Director, Regional Parks
Paul Brar - 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
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
Minnekhada Regional Park
North Alouette Regional Greenway
Pacific Spirit Regional Park
Pitt River Regional Greenway
Seymour River Regional Greenway
South Langley Regional Park
Surrey Bend Regional Park
Thwaytes Landing Regional Park
Tynehead Regional Park
Widgeon Marsh Regional Park
Áléxətəm Regional Park
(formerly Colony Farm Regional Park)

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