

# Island View Beach Regional Park

## Draft Interim Park Management Plan

Capital Regional District | July 2013



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# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Table of Maps and Table of Figures.....	5
Executive Summary .....	6
<b>PART 1 – PLAN CONTEXT</b>	
1.1 Introduction .....	7
1.2 Purpose of the Draft Interim Park Management Plan.....	8
1.3 The Planning Context .....	9
1.3.1 Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021.....	9
1.3.2 Other Supporting Plans .....	10
1.3.2.1 District of Central Saanich Official Community Plan 2008 .....	10
1.3.2.2 Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy 2010 .....	11
1.3.2.3 Tsawout First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan 2011 .....	12
1.4 Management Plan Process .....	13
1.4.1 Public Engagement .....	15
1.5 Relationship with the Tsawout First Nation.....	16
1.6 Collaborative Park Management .....	17
<b>PART 2 – PARK DESCRIPTION</b>	
2.1 Relationship of the Park to the CRD Regional Parks System .....	18
2.2 Natural Environment.....	19
2.2.1 Geology and Biogeoclimatic Zone.....	19
2.2.1.1 Geology.....	19
2.2.1.2 Biogeoclimatic Zone.....	20
2.2.2 Park Ecosystems .....	21
2.2.2.1 Marine Ecosystems.....	21
2.2.2.2 Coastal Sand Ecosystem.....	21
2.2.2.3 Coastal Wetland Ecosystem .....	23
2.2.2.4 Bluff Ecosystem .....	24

2.2.3	Species at Risk.....	24
2.2.4	Mosquito Control Program.....	26
2.3	Outdoor Recreation .....	27
2.3.1	Recreational Use.....	27
2.3.2	Visitor Use Statistics .....	28
2.3.3	Camping.....	29
2.3.4	Dog Management.....	31
2.4	Park Infrastructure.....	32
2.4.1	Infrastructure for Park Visitors .....	32
2.4.2	Drainage System .....	32
2.4.3	Coastal Berm.....	33
<b>PART 3 – INTERIM PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>		
3.1	Park Vision .....	40
3.2	Park Management Principles.....	40
3.3	Park Classification.....	41
3.4	Park Zoning .....	42
3.5	Park Development Concept .....	45
3.6	Park Management Direction .....	46
3.6.1	Park Management Goals.....	46
3.6.2	Direction Statements, Objectives, Actions .....	47
3.6.2.1	Environmental Conservation.....	47
3.6.2.2	Cultural Heritage Management.....	50
3.6.2.3	Visitor Experience.....	51
3.6.2.4	Park Operations.....	53
3.7	Reviewing and Amending the Interim Park Management Plan .....	55
3.8	Implementation Strategy.....	56
3.8.1	Strategic Priorities .....	56
<b>APPENDIX 1 – Definition of Park Zones .....</b>		<b>60</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2 – Select Species Identified at Island View Beach.....</b>		<b>61</b>

## Table of Maps

Map 1	CRD Parks and Protected Areas .....	34
Map 2	Island View Beach Regional Park – Location .....	35
Map 3	Island View Beach Regional Park – Cordova Shore .....	36
Map 4	Island View Beach Regional Park – Ecosystems .....	37
Map 5	Island View Beach Regional Park – Park Detail .....	38
Map 6	Island View Beach Regional Park – Collaborative Management Interest .....	39
Map 7	Island View Beach Regional Park – Zoning .....	58
Map 8	Island View Beach Regional Park – Development Concept .....	59

## Table of Figures

Figure 1	Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Process.....	14
Figure 2	Island View Beach Regional Park: Annual Visits.....	28
Figure 3	Island View Beach Regional Park: Average Monthly Visits.....	28
Figure 4	Island View Beach Regional Park: Average Daily Visits .....	28
Figure 5	Island View Beach Regional Park Campsite: 2012 Visitation Summary.....	30
Figure 6	Distribution of Park Zones within Island View Beach Regional Park.....	43

## Executive Summary

The draft interim park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park sets the day-to-day management direction for the park while park managers resolve four issues related to dog management, coastal sand dune ecosystem restoration, campground location, design, and operation, and future land administration of parcels owned by the District of Central Saanich. These four issues are key strategic priorities and will be resolved prior to finalizing the park management plan.

Island View Beach Regional Park is classified as a Regional Conservation Area based on its unique and sensitive ecosystem attributes and number of identified populations of rare and endangered plant and animal species. Five species found in or near the park are listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) including the contorted-pod evening primrose, the sand-verbena moth, Howell's triteleia, Streaked Horned Lark, and Edward's Beach Moth. Island View Beach Regional Park is also part of the Sidney Channel Important Bird Area (IBA), and is considered an important feeding and resting area for migrating seabirds during spring and fall migrations. The park is comprised of a marine ecosystem, coastal sand dune ecosystem, coastal wetland ecosystem, and a bluff ecosystem.

In addition to being a significant natural area, Island View Beach Regional Park is also a popular recreation site. It is the third most visited regional park with over 317,000 park visits recorded in 2012. People visit the park to enjoy activities such as walking, camping, bird-watching, dog walking, sun-bathing, swimming, and boating. High visitor use puts pressure on park ecosystems, facilities, and services. In order to effectively manage this high visitor use, the park has been internally zoned. Approximately 92% of the park area is zoned as an environmental protection zone or natural environment zone, while the remaining 8% is zoned for outdoor recreation. A significant management challenge is maintaining an appropriate balance between conservation and recreation.

The draft interim park management plan defines a park vision and goals, and identifies direction statements, objectives and actions for environmental conservation, cultural heritage management, visitor experience, and park operations and development. A primary park management goal is to manage for both conservation and recreation values. This will be accomplished through actions including detailed ecological restoration planning, environmental education, resolving the four outstanding issues, and continuing to develop a collaborative management approach with park neighbors, visitors, the Tsawout First Nation, the District of Central Saanich, academia, and the public.

The draft interim park management plan identifies key strategic priorities and actions for plan implementation. Implementation of strategic priorities and actions will be contingent on available financial and staff resources and considered alongside management priorities of other regional parks and trails, and Regional Parks' strategic priorities identified in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

## PART 1    CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN

### 1.1 Introduction

CRD Regional Parks protects and manages 13,300 hectares of natural areas in 33 regional parks and trails on southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands (see Map 1). Island View Beach Regional Park is one of the oldest and most visited of CRD Regional Parks; it was established in 1966 and received about 317,000 visits in 2012. This 49-hectare ocean-side park is located in the District of Central Saanich and offers panoramic views of Haro Strait, James Island and Mount Baker (see Map 2). Island View Beach is significant because it is the only coastal protected area between Swartz Bay (North Saanich) and Mt. Douglas Municipal Park (Saanich) on the east side of the Saanich Peninsula.

The park is situated within a rural residential and farming community and it had a long history of agricultural use prior to it becoming a regional park. The park borders the Tsawout First Nation Reserve on its northern boundary and the District of Central Saanich's Island View Municipal Park along its southern boundary. Private land forms the western boundary of the park along the top of the bluffs, and Haro Strait forms its eastern boundary. A mosaic of interrelated ecosystems binds these coastal lands into a contiguous ecological whole known as the Cordova Shore. The Cordova Shore extends from the Cowichan Head in the south to Saanichton Bay in the north.

The first management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park was approved by the CRD Board in 1989 as Bylaw No. 2469. Because of changes in and around the park since the original plan was adopted, a park management planning process began in January 2011 to update the 1989 park management plan. The rationale for updating the 1989 plan include a 261% increase in the size of the park; a dramatic increase in visitor numbers; changing recreational preferences and activities; the introduction of tent and RV camping; growing interest in Island View Beach from park neighbors, the Tsawout First Nation, and the public; and increased knowledge of—and responsibility for protecting—the park's natural environment.

During the planning process a number of complex issues emerged that couldn't be resolved with existing information. The Regional Parks Committee put the planning process on hold in July 2011 to give park managers time to resolve issues related to mosquito control, the drainage system, the coastal berm, and protection of ecosystems and species at risk in the park. In July 2012 the Regional Parks Committee resumed the planning process, and provided policy direction around these issues.



The Regional Parks Committee policy direction statements are included in this document under Section 3.6.2.

There are still four outstanding issues that need to be resolved prior to completing a final park management plan. The four issues are: (1) completing a restoration plan for the sand dune ecosystem; (2) preparing a policy regarding dog management; (3) location, design, and future operation of the campground; and (4) future land administration of parcels owned by the District of Central Saanich. Until a final park management plan is approved, this draft interim park management plan will guide park management.

Many different perspectives exist about how the park should be managed and these interests have been considered throughout the planning process. The draft interim park management plan provides direction around protecting the natural environment while ensuring appropriate opportunities for people to sustainably enjoy the park are maintained, and the interests of park neighbors are considered. The draft interim park management plan also provides direction around cultural heritage management, and park operations and development.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Draft Interim Park Management Plan

The draft interim park management plan describes the management philosophy for the park and provides strategies for addressing issues and achieving management objectives.

The draft interim plan does this by:

- focusing on the key strategic issues that relate to the park.
- providing park management direction based upon the best information available.
- setting out the park management objectives and actions for protecting the natural environment and cultural features of the park.
- identifying the types and locations of outdoor recreation uses that will be allowed for visitors to enjoy and experience the park.
- identifying the types and locations of park facilities and services that will or may be provided.



- identifying an implementation strategy for achieving this plan.

The draft interim park management plan is guided by many documents and sources of information. The plan is designed to be conservative in nature to avoid compromising future options and it adopts an adaptive management approach to park management practices. The plan provides a commitment to the public around the protection and sustainable use of Island View Beach Regional Park during the lifespan of the document.

### 1.3 The Planning Context

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 (Regional Parks Strategic Plan) outlines the vision, mission, and purpose of regional parks. It provides a park classification system, and identifies goals and strategic priorities for the regional park system. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan guides the development of park management plans, including this draft interim park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. Section 1.3.1 provides additional context for how the Regional Parks Strategic Plan has influenced the Island View Beach park management planning process.

#### 1.3.1 Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan provides a long-term vision for the system of regional parks and trails. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan builds on the Regional Parks 2000 Master Plan. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan is system-wide in scope and gives direction for achieving the highest standards of public service and stewardship in protecting the natural environment and providing opportunities for outdoor experiences and activities.

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan is founded on the belief that regional parks and trails provide immense benefits to the region and that it is necessary to plan today to protect those natural areas that are vital to the long-term health of the region and the people who live here. This long-term and present-day perspective underpins the entire Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

An excerpt from the Regional Parks Strategic Plan vision statement expands upon this core belief:

*CRD parks and trails secure the region's ecology and quality of life by establishing, in perpetuity, an interconnected system of natural lands. Parks protect and restore our region's biodiversity, offer compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities and accessible, nourishing, joyful*

*connection with the natural world and our cultural heritage. ...Parks and trails support the health of our region, its inhabitants and the planet as a whole (p. 6).*

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan influenced the preparation of the draft park management plan by supporting a park management approach for Island View Beach Regional Park that recognizes the importance of providing visitors with opportunities to engage in a variety of nature-based recreational activities while also respecting that Island View Beach is a regionally significant conservation area with rare and sensitive ecosystems and species that need to be protected.

### 1.3.2 Other Supporting Plans

The District of Central Saanich Official Community Plan (2008), the Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy (2010), and the Tsawout First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (2011) have also provided background information for the preparation of this draft interim park management plan.

Relevant information from each of these documents and how it relates to the Island View Beach park management planning process is briefly highlighted below.

#### 1.3.2.1 District of Central Saanich Official Community Plan (2008).

Island View Beach Regional Park is located within the District of Central Saanich. Central Saanich has a long history of agricultural development and some of the lands that now comprise the park were once private lands under livestock and agricultural production. The surrounding mosaic of current land uses still reflects this historic use, although significant residential development has also occurred over the last few decades.

The District of Central Saanich, through its Official Community Plan (OCP) (2008), designates its lands under various zoning categories. The OCP identifies the park as an environmentally sensitive area, noting its significance as one of the “best intact examples of the extremely rare coastal dune ecosystem on Vancouver Island” which provides “vital habitat for a variety of plants and animals at risk in BC, including several dozens of species of migratory birds.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> District of Central Saanich OCP, Bylaw No. 1600 (2008). *Environment: Preserving Healthy Abundant Ecosystems.* (p. 44).

Island View Beach Regional Park falls within an environmental development permit area (DPA) due to its marine shoreline and its sensitive terrestrial ecosystems. The park is also classified as a riparian development permit area based on its identification as a sensitive aquatic ecosystem.

The District of Central Saanich notes the importance of Island View Beach Regional Park to its system of parks and open spaces. The OCP states that Island View Beach is “regionally significant from an ecological perspective. The park also enjoys very high recreation values. Land use decision-making must take these important conservation and recreation values into account.”<sup>2</sup>

The District of Central Saanich identifies two key objectives guiding its vision for parks, open space, and recreation (p. 37):

- *Objective 1: To support a system of parks and open space areas that meet the existing and future needs of Central Saanich residents of all ages and abilities.*
- *Objective 2: To support a system of parks and open space that meets conservation needs for species and ecosystems.*

The draft interim park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park supports these two objectives through its emphasis on providing accessible visitor use opportunities and protecting sensitive environments and species at risk.

#### 1.3.2.2 Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy (2010)

The Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy<sup>3</sup> (Conservation Strategy) is a technical document produced by the Cordova Shore Conservation Partnership. The partnership is an informal, collaborative initiative between the Tsawout First Nation, Canadian Wildlife Service, District of Central Saanich, and Regional Parks. Each of the partners is responsible for deciding how to apply the suggestions in the strategy.

The Conservation Strategy is not a policy statement of Regional Parks. For Regional Parks, the intent of the Conservation Strategy is to provide technical information to be used to inform decision-making around the development of the Island View Beach Regional Park management plan. Regional Parks has not made any commitment to implement any of the proposed strategies and actions.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> Page, N. (2010). *Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy*. Prepared for CRD Regional Parks, Tsawout First Nation, and Canadian Wildlife Service. Prepared by Nick Page, Raincoast Applied Ecology. Vancouver, BC.

The Conservation Strategy was prepared for a 437 hectare area of coastal land stretching from the Cowichan Head bluffs in the south, to Saanichton Bay in the north, to the marine zone in the east, and the coastal bluffs in the west (see Map 3). The entirety of Island View Beach Regional Park is contained within the Cordova Shore, and the park features prominently within the Conservation Strategy.

The stated purpose of the Conservation Strategy is to “improve the management of the ecosystems, plant, fish, wildlife species, and human activities in the Cordova Shore through collaborative management actions” (p. 6). The Conservation Strategy describes the conservation values of the Cordova Shore, historical and current impacts to these values, and it defines strategies and actions for restoring ecological processes, recovering species at risk, reducing recreation impacts, improving access to cultural resources, and celebrating the shore’s unique character.

#### 1.3.2.3 Tsawout First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (2011)

The Tsawout First Nation recently completed a Comprehensive Community Plan.<sup>4</sup> This plan provides direction for development by designating various land use zones, including identification of a green space network and identification of environmentally sensitive areas.

The Community Plan sets as an important goal the “preservation and enhancement of existing streams, marshes, foreshore and adjacent waters, and delicate ecosystems on Tsawout [land] (p. 36).” The Tsawout have identified a total of 53 hectares (132.5 acres) as green space. A significant part of this green space and some of the most environmentally sensitive areas lie adjacent to the northern boundary of Island View Beach Regional Park and are contiguous with the park’s coastal and wetland ecosystems.

Since the Tsawout First Nation and Island View Beach Regional Park share the same natural environment, with its unique assemblage of rare species and ecosystems, this reinforces the need for a collaborative management approach across jurisdictional boundaries. The draft park management plan supports this approach through its emphasis on shared responsibilities for environmental conservation and by ensuring visitor opportunities are appropriate for the natural environment.

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<sup>4</sup> Tsawout First Nation (2011). *Our Vision for Tomorrow: A Comprehensive Community Plan*.

## 1.4 Management Planning Process

Regional Parks began the process to update the 1989 park management plan in January 2011. During the background information phase of the planning process, an “Expert’s Workshop” was held to provide an opportunity for invited experts to share their knowledge amongst each other and with Regional Parks’ staff. A public meeting was also held in March 2011 to gather the public’s interests, and additional consultation occurred with stakeholders, including the District of Central Saanich, the Tsawout First Nation, adjacent landowners, and park user groups. Additional detail about the public consultation process is provided in Section 1.4.1.

During the 2011 planning process, it became clear that Regional Parks would be challenged to prepare a management plan that addressed protection of the natural environment while still providing for appropriate outdoor recreation, and also fitting in well with the surrounding rural residential and farming landscape. A number of complex issues emerged which couldn’t be resolved within the identified time frame for completing the plan, and with available information. The complex issues related primarily to mosquito control, drainage, the coastal berm, and protection of rare and vulnerable species and ecosystems.

In July 2011, the Regional Parks Committee put the planning process on hold so Regional Parks could address these issues. In July 2012 the Parks Committee resumed the planning process with this motion:

*That the Island View Beach Regional Park management planning process resume...and that the following policy direction be included in the draft management plan when it moves forward for Board approval:*

- a. Maintain the existing berm and as part of policy direction (d) examine the implications of extending the berm to the north and maintaining the existing berm;*
- b. Maintain the existing drainage ditch system and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquito habitat and its effect on the coastal wetland ecosystem;*
- c. Continue the mosquito abatement program and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquitos;*
- d. Examine possible actions to protect and restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem; and*

*e. Develop a trail through the coastal wetland ecosystem.*

In March, 2013, the Parks Committee considered policy direction "a" above in more detail and passed the following motion related to the coastal berm:

1. *Draft the Island View Beach draft Park Management Plan to include a policy statement regarding the berm to:*
  - a. *Maintain the coastal berm in its current state and reassess its function as part of the coastal dune ecosystem restoration work; and*
  - b. *If the berm is breached, to repair it to its existing form, and do not upgrade or extend it.*

These policy directions will guide future management actions related to the ditches, mosquito control, trail development, and the berm in cases of flooding and/or breaching, as well as in relation to coastal dune restoration and protection. Figure 1 below outlines the planning process for completing a final park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.



Figure 1. Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Process.

### 1.4.1 Public Engagement

On March 16, 2011 approximately 70 people attended a community meeting held at the Saanichton Historical Artifacts Society to gather public input into the park management plan. As well, a hard copy and on-line response form was developed to gather public input during March 2011.

Approximately 185 completed response forms were received.

In no priority order, the key messages to come out of the public meeting and response forms were:

- Keep the park the way it is now—clean, safe, undeveloped, quiet, and not over-regulated.
- Keep the park accessible and welcoming to *a//*visitors and user groups.
- Understand that park visitors are very attached to the park and value it highly.
- Protect the values that make the park such a significant Regional Conservation Area.
- Utilize information, interpretation, and volunteers to help with park stewardship.
- Support responsible dog behavior and work with visitors to reduce dog impacts.
- Keep the campground simple, affordable, accessible, controlled, and equitable.
- Work collaboratively with others to address critical park management issues.

The results of the public input phase are detailed in a separate report entitled “Preparation of the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan – Public Comment Report (April 2011).”



Participants at the March 16, 2011 public meeting for the Island View Beach park management plan.



In addition to the public meeting, staff met with the Tsawout First Nation and stakeholder groups, including the District of Central Saanich, environmental experts familiar with the park, dog advocacy groups, adjacent landowners, campers, and representatives of the kayaking community. The purpose of the stakeholder meetings was to disseminate information about the park and the planning process, receive information and listen to requests, and to respond to stakeholder comments and concerns. No decisions or agreements formed part of any of these discussions.

## 1.5 Relationship with the Tsawout First Nation

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan provides guidance around the relationship between First Nations and Regional Parks. The Regional Parks Strategic Plan clearly articulates how important the land and water in many regional parks is to First Nations in whose traditional territory these parks are located. The health of the land, plants and animals is integral to the overall cultural well-being of First Nations. Regional Parks will work with First Nations in a manner that supports the maintenance and enhancement of their cultural well-being and connection to places they have valued for thousands of years.

Regional Parks and the Tsawout First Nation share a common natural environment at Island View Beach Regional Park. This provides an opportunity to work together on planning and management issues, and to integrate the Tsawout's knowledge into relevant policies and processes. The larger Cordova Shore has been home to the Tsawout people for thousands of years, and the area is still used extensively by them for harvesting shellfish, plants, and other resources. The Tsawout also value the land for medicinal, spiritual, and other purposes. Although the Tsawout's reserve forms the northern boundary of the park, the ecosystem and cultural connections between these two areas remains unbroken.

By engaging with the Tsawout in park planning and management activities, visitors to Island View Beach Regional Park will benefit by being able to learn about the Tsawout's rich history, practices, and beliefs, as well as about their current connections to the land.



Noted Tsawout First Nation ethnobotanist J.B. Williams talking about culturally important plants at Island View Beach Regional Park.

## 1.6 Collaborative Park Management

Island View Beach Regional Park contains significant natural systems that aren't wholly protected under the current park boundaries (see Map 6). Because ecosystems conform to physical boundaries rather than legal ones, Regional Parks will consult with key stakeholders to identify important conservation areas that should be protected through collaborative management approaches. This work is predominantly concerned with enhancing and protecting critical wetland and coastal sand dune ecosystem values, and it will require dedicated effort to achieve long-term success.

Regional Parks will also work with the District of Central Saanich to identify common interests in the larger park landscape. This will include discussions with Central Saanich about park roads and parking areas, Island View Municipal Park, undeveloped road right-of-ways, and the campground and other infrastructure. A goal will be to develop a vision for municipal and regional assets in this area that maximizes their value and utility for both jurisdictions.



Student conducting research at Island View Beach Regional Park. Photo Credit Graham McGrenere.

## PART 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK

### 2.1 Relationship of the Park to the CRD Regional Parks System

Island View Beach Regional Park's environmental, cultural, and recreational values are highly significant within the regional park system. The park contains important ecosystems including sand dunes, coastal wetlands, and coastal bluffs. It is adjacent to a key marine ecosystem encompassing beach, intertidal, and shallow sub-tidal areas. Only eight other parks in the regional parks system have ocean frontage, and no other regional park contains a similar assemblage of ecosystem components. Island View Beach Regional Park is also the most significant coastal protected area between Sidney and Mt. Douglas Park in the District of Saanich. The park is part of the Sidney Channel Important Bird Area, which is well known for its many migratory bird species.

The park is the third highest visited park in the entire regional park system, receiving over 317,000 visits in 2012. This is at least partly a function of the park's easy accessibility, the variety of nature-based activities visitors can engage in, and the ability to enjoy the park year-around. The park is a favorite of many long-time visitors, some of whom have visited the park for decades, and many of whom come to the park almost daily. The park also attracts growing numbers of newer visitors. The seasonal recreational vehicle and tent campground is also popular with park visitors.

Island View Beach Regional Park has a rich cultural and paleontological history. It is within the traditional territory of the Tsawout First Nation, and the Tsawout maintains vital ties to the park. The park also has a more recent agriculturally-based history, with remnants of this past use still visible on the landscape. Fossilized bones sometimes wash ashore from nearby Cowichan Head bluffs, making the park an important destination for those interested in studying our pre-history.

The park clearly has very important natural, cultural, and visitor use values of regional significance. Although these particular values aren't replicated in any other regional park, Island View Beach Regional Park does easily tie into the regional park system by supporting other regional parks and trails on the Saanich Peninsula, as well as nearby municipal parks and trails.

Island View Beach Regional Park is an excellent representative of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan's reasons for establishing regional parks (p. 68). The Strategic Plan states that regional parks are dedicated to:

- *Protecting the region's extraordinary biodiversity in perpetuity, and*
- *Providing for the health, inspiration and education of residents and visitors through human-powered outdoor experiences and activities that foster enjoyment of, and appreciation and respect for, the region's natural environments.*

It is clear that Island View Beach Regional Park plays an essential role in protecting a significant example of regional biodiversity while providing a range of opportunities for people to experience the park's spectacular landscape. This dual purpose also presents a significant management challenge. The park's increasing popularity with visitors combined with its unique and rare assemblage of ecosystems and species puts an extra responsibility on park managers to wisely steward the park's fragile resources.

## 2.2 Natural Environment

### 2.2.1 Geology and Biogeoclimatic Zone

#### 2.2.1.1 Geology

The geology of the area is a result of the tectonic processes that formed the coast of North America.<sup>5</sup> The meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic bedrock that underlies this area formed in the Paleozoic era (540-250 million years ago) as a result of plate tectonics and metamorphosis. The study area has a complex history of glacial advances between 13,000 and 65,000 years ago.

At the height of the most recent glaciation (Fraser), ice up to 1500m thick covered the greater Victoria area. Sediments at Cowichan Head, south of the park, preserve evidence of the multiple glaciations and glacial advances. The park has been subject to sea level change within the shoreline fluctuating from 4m below the current level to 75m above.

The shoreline was approximately 75m above present sea level 13,000 years ago, but as the land rebounded from the melting ice, the relative sea level began to drop until about 11,700 years ago when the shore was similar to current levels.<sup>6</sup> Fluctuating relative sea level has made for a dynamic coast and has influenced erosion and deposition of land-forms, ecology, species, and cultures. This

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<sup>5</sup> Stacey, J.O., and Deepa S. Fillatow (2009). *Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of TIXEN/Cordova Spit, Final Report – August 2009*. BC Ministry of Environment, Conservation Data Centre and Ecosystems Information.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



complex geologic history is evident at and around Island View Beach Regional Park and the larger Cordova Shore.

#### 2.2.1.2 Biogeoclimatic Zone

The province of British Columbia contains some of the most diverse terrestrial ecosystems in Canada. The province classifies these ecosystems into fourteen different “Biogeoclimatic zones” ranging from alpine tundra to moist coastal forests to dry interior grasslands. Biogeoclimatic zones are defined as “a geographic area having similar patterns of energy flow, vegetation and soils as a result of a broadly homogenous macroclimate.”<sup>7</sup> These Biogeoclimatic zones support a wide variety of wildlife, vegetation and tree species.<sup>8</sup>

Island View Beach Regional Park is located within the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic zone.<sup>9</sup> This zone is small, representing less than one percent of BC’s land base. This zone occurs primarily on southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands between sea level and 150m in elevation. Sand beaches and dunes are uncommon in this zone.

The Coastal Douglas-fir zone includes many rare species and ecosystems.<sup>10</sup> Eight rare ecological communities are identified within or adjacent to Island View Beach Regional Park, including a coastal sand dune ecosystem. The coastal sand dune ecosystem in the park supports an unusual animal and plant relationship—the endangered yellow sand verbena moth is entirely reliant on the yellow sand verbena plant which is found in a few locations in the park.



<sup>7</sup> Biogeoclimatic Zones of British Columbia (Wikipedia). Accessed at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogeoclimatic\\_zones\\_of\\_British\\_Columbia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biogeoclimatic_zones_of_British_Columbia).

<sup>8</sup> Biogeoclimatic Zones of BC. Accessed at: <http://www.sfu.ca/geog/geog351fall07/Group06/BC%20All%20Zones.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Stacey, J.O., and Deepa S. Fillatow (2009). *Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of TIXEN/Cordova Spit, Final Report – August 2009*. BC Ministry of Environment, Conservation Data Centre and Ecosystems Information.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

## 2.2.2 Park Ecosystems

Island View Beach Regional Park contains four main ecosystems<sup>11</sup> (see Map 4):

- Marine ecosystem: beach (below high tide water mark), intertidal and shallow sub-tidal areas;
- Coastal sand ecosystem: sparsely-vegetated sand spit and stable and semi-stable dunes (but excluding sand beach ecosystems below the high water mark);
- Coastal wetland ecosystem: salt, brackish, and freshwater wetlands; and
- Bluff ecosystem: unstable and forested sand bluffs.

### 2.2.2.1 Marine Ecosystem

Marine ecosystems form an essential part of Island View Beach. The marine component is subject to dynamic ecological processes, poorly defined boundaries, and complex jurisdictional issues. The marine boundary is formed by the transition from the intertidal to the shallow sub-tidal zone. The sub-tidal zone remains wet under all normal tides and supports species that cannot tolerate even infrequent exposure. Ecological communities in the intertidal and sub-tidal portion of the park have not been formally described or mapped in detail.

Island View Beach is also part of the Sidney Channel Important Bird Area (IBA), which encompasses a 50 km<sup>2</sup> area surrounding Sidney and James Island, and includes a portion of the Cordova Shore. It is considered an important feeding and resting area for migrating seabirds which feed on sand lance that spawn in the sand substrates of the area. Of particular significance are the large concentrations of Brandt's Cormorants and Mew Gulls during spring and fall migrations. During fall, winter, and spring, a large number of Pigeon Guillemots are also present, as well as Black Oystercatchers and Marbled Murrelets.<sup>12</sup> Two species of special concern occur in the IBA, the Great Blue Heron and the Marbled Murrelet, with about 50 individuals of each species regularly reported.

### 2.2.2.2 Coastal Sand Ecosystem

Coastal sand ecosystems encompass the terrestrial portion of beaches, spits, and dunes in which sand is the dominant substrate. They contain sparsely-vegetated or herbaceous ecological

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<sup>11</sup> Page, N. (2010). *Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy*. Raincoast Applied Ecology, Vancouver, BC.

<sup>12</sup> Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy, p. 15., and Bird Studies Canada at [www.birscanada.org](http://www.birscanada.org).

communities. Coastal sand ecosystems occur at the intersection of marine and terrestrial realms where ecological patterns are structured by marine-related disturbance processes, soil development, local climate, and vegetation succession. Coastal sand ecosystems occur from Cordova Spit south to the parking areas in Island View Beach. Some of the areas that were historically sand ecosystems have been developed or stabilized by vegetation.<sup>13</sup>

Coastal sand ecosystems are adapted to cycles of disturbance and can move from periods of stability to periods of instability through extreme weather or other disturbances. Dune plants have evolved various ways to survive, and depending on their survival strategies, some species may go unnoticed to the casual dune observer. Due to their harsh environment, dunes typically have fewer species than other ecosystems, but a very high proportion of rare plant species. Island View Beach is no exception, with a number of rare plant species identified in the park's coastal sand ecosystem. Sand dunes are also attractive to people from a cultural and recreational perspective. However, given the dynamic nature of dune ecosystems and the special environment that these plant communities struggle to survive within, it is especially important that humans are aware of the impact of their activities on them.

Humans also impact the coastal sand ecosystem through shoreline stabilization activities. These activities cause changes to the sediment supply which, in turn, affects the structure and function of the coastal sand ecosystem. Historic shoreline stabilization activities in the park include a constructed berm running parallel to the beach, the deposition of an unnaturally large supply of beach logs, the presence of private retaining walls along the base of Cowichan Head, a large berm located on private property directly south of the park, an old boat launch, and an ocean outfall for the park's ditch system. These structures may be disrupting the northward drift of sand, which could contribute to altered beach erosion and accretion patterns. The impact of these structures on the park's coastal sand ecosystem is not fully understood.

It is incumbent on park managers to address these impacts to the coastal sand dune ecosystem through targeted protection and restoration measures that address ecosystem and species at risk issues. This approach is in line with the direction provided by the Regional Parks Strategic Plan (2012-2021) and the March 2013 Parks Committee direction related to the coastal berm. It also

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid. p. 6-8.



supports federal and provincial species at risk recovery approaches for endangered plant and animal species found in this coastal dune ecosystem, and for provincially listed at risk coastal sand dune ecological communities that occur in the Cordova Shore.<sup>14</sup>

#### 2.2.2.3 Coastal Wetland Ecosystem

Coastal wetland ecosystems are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and have distinctive soils and plant communities adapted to frequent or infrequent inundation by salt or freshwater. The Cordova Shore wetland complex is one of the largest coastal wetlands on southern Vancouver Island, and encompasses a large complex of mudflats, marsh, wet meadow, shallow open water, and shrub communities on the west side of the Cordova Shore and the Saanichton Lagoon. The coastal wetland is essentially a flat landscape with little elevational difference from the mean ocean level. Several ecological communities have been described for the salt marsh and a number of rare plants, invertebrates, and birds have been identified.<sup>15</sup>

Island View Beach Regional Park contains a significant portion of this coastal wetland. The wetland naturally receives water through precipitation, drainage from upland areas, and sub-surface salt water intrusion. In the past, the wetland would have also received salt water from flooding during storms in the fall and winter. The wetland is bordered by a constructed berm and naturally built up dune area on the east and coastal bluffs on the west. The berm and dunes have impacted how salt water intrudes into the wetland and contributed to changes in the ecological structure of this system. Wetland ecology is directly influenced by variations in moisture and saltwater content, and ecosystem development is controlled by very subtle changes in elevation, material texture, and organic content.

The vegetation communities in the coastal wetland have been impacted by the presence of the coastal berm and drainage ditches. Wetland ecosystems typically develop along gradients based on saline content and water levels.<sup>16</sup> Within the park, the extensive system of drainage ditches has also contributed to changes to the wetland's soil and vegetation composition. This has resulted in an irregular patterning of ecosystems with invasive and upland species establishing in what would have been a naturally forming wetland ecosystem.

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid. p. 19. Listed ecological communities: Dune wildrye-beach pea; Large-headed sedge; Pacific wormwood.

<sup>15</sup> Stacey, J.O., and Deepa S. Fillatow (2009). *Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of TIXEN/Cordova Spit, Final Report – August 2009*. BC Ministry of Environment, Conservation Data Centre and Ecosystems Information.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

The wetland ecosystem in the park is heavily impacted by this disruption to its hydrological processes. This directly impacts the type and abundance of species that can occur there, which can have implications for any rare or endangered species present. Altered hydrological functioning can also impact the number of bird species that spend at least part of the year foraging or breeding in wetland type ecosystems. More information is needed to understand these changes and their impacts on ecological functioning and species presence.

#### 2.2.2.4 Bluff Ecosystem

Bluff ecosystems rise steeply from the lowlands in the park to the plateau above. In the park, the bluffs are located behind the coastal wetland and provide protection from coastal erosion. In this area, the bluff is forested with mixed deciduous-coniferous forest that thrives on moist sandy soils. Minor slope failures occur where seepage, wind-throw, or other local conditions expose the underlying sediments. Some minor clearing of the bluffs has occurred for residential or agricultural development. No ecological communities or rare species have been described for the bluff ecosystem in the park.<sup>17</sup>

#### 2.2.3 Species at Risk

A “species at risk” is any naturally occurring plant or animal in danger of extinction or of disappearing from the province or from Canada.<sup>18</sup> Island View Beach supports or formerly supported many plant and animal species that are considered provincially or nationally at risk. Five species are currently listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) that are known to occur, or occurred historically, in or near the park. These species are the contorted-pod evening primrose, the sand-verbena moth, Howell’s triteleia, streaked horned lark, and Edward’s beach moth. Appendix 2 provides a complete listing of species of special concern identified in or proximate to the park.



Sand-verbena moth. Photo Credit Nick Page.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Species at Risk in British Columbia. Assessed at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/>.

The federal government prepares recovery strategies and associated action plans for SARA-listed species. SARA defines critical habitat as what is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species. A species critical habitat is identified in a recovery strategy or action plan. Recovery plans have been completed for the contorted-pod evening primrose and the sand-verbena moth. Howell's triteleia, streaked horned lark, and Edward's beach moth have recovery strategies in development. Two species likely to occur in the park, silky beach pea and Georgia Basin bog spider, are under assessment and will likely be designated as endangered based on the small number of known populations.

Canada is a signatory to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and Canadians have moral and legal obligations to protect biodiversity. Senior (federal and provincial) governments have some legislation, policies and initiatives to conserve—or at least slow the decline of—species at risk. However, local governments are also important in conserving species at risk. Although there are no legal obligations to protect species at risk on private property in British Columbia, local governments play an important and essential role in species at risk conservation. Local governments, such as the CRD, can do this by protecting a variety of habitats, especially those identified as important or critical to known species at risk.

A 2007 rare plant survey at the Cordova Shore recorded the presence of eight at risk species, including some SARA-listed species. The species identified in 2007 were American glehnia, beach morning glory, black knotweed, contorted-pod evening-primrose, fleshy jaumea, silky beach pea, Howell's triteleia, and yellow sand-verbena.<sup>19</sup> A number of these species were confirmed within Island View Beach Regional Park. Regional Parks recognizes its responsibility to help ensure the survival of these species where they occur in the park, and it will fully cooperate with provincial and federal agencies engaged in recovery efforts.

Appropriate management actions need to include the goal of restoring ecological and physical processes within the park. Because the park is part of the larger Cordova Shore, it is essential that any research and management actions take place in an integrated and collaborative fashion, and that results are documented and strategies adapted to improve park management practices.

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<sup>19</sup> Fairbarnes, M. (2007). Island View Beach, Central Saanich Tsawout Reservation, Cordova Spit Municipal Park: Inventory and Management Recommendations for Rare Plants. Unpublished report prepared by Aruncus Consulting.

#### 2.2.4 Mosquito Control Program

Regional Parks has been involved with a mosquito abatement program at Island View Beach since 1988. The program is carried out in partnership with the District of Central Saanich and the Tsawout First Nation. The program typically runs from March through September, with peak season control activities in May to June. The purpose of the mosquito control program is to reduce the number of nuisance mosquitos breeding in the wetted areas of the park.

Mosquitos are treated with VectoBac 200G; this product is a targeted biodegradable larvicide which is hand sprinkled in areas containing evidence of mosquitos (determined through dip netting). In 2012, approximately 133kg of VectoBac 200G was applied in the park. Post-application monitoring by the control program contractor indicated the treatments were highly effective in controlling larval development.

The Parks Committee gave direction in July 2012 to continue the mosquito control program and to continue to monitor its effectiveness in controlling mosquitos. The Parks Committee further provided direction around continuing to maintain the system of ditches in the park in order to reduce the amount of standing water which provides mosquito breeding habitat.



Typical ditch at Island View Beach Regional Park



## 2.3 Outdoor Recreation

### 2.3.1 Recreational Use

Island View Beach has been a favorite destination of regional residents for decades and it is highly valued for its diverse recreational experiences and activities (see Map 5). Recreational opportunities in the park include a long, sandy beach for exploring, sunbathing, picnicking, and swimming. Off-shore waters are popular with kayakers, wind surfers and kite boarders. Trails wind throughout the park and provide opportunities for hiking, dog walking, nature study, and bird watching. A public boat launch at the southern end of the park provides access to the Cordova Channel and Haro Strait.

Island View Beach provides a number of visitor facilities, including picnic areas, hiking trails, restrooms, interpretive signs, parking lots, and a campground. Interpretive programs are offered throughout the year. Dogs are allowed in the park year around, but are prohibited from the beach from June 1 to September 15.

**To ensure a sustainable balance of conservation values and recreational activities, the park will be managed to provide for compatible recreational opportunities in some areas, while maintaining wildlife and ecosystem values in other areas.**



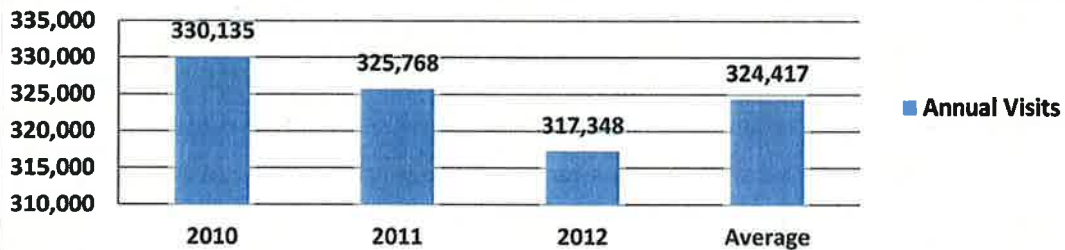
Park visitors enjoying a day at the beach at Island View Beach Regional Park. Photo credit Blake Handley.

### 2.3.2 Visitor Use Statistics

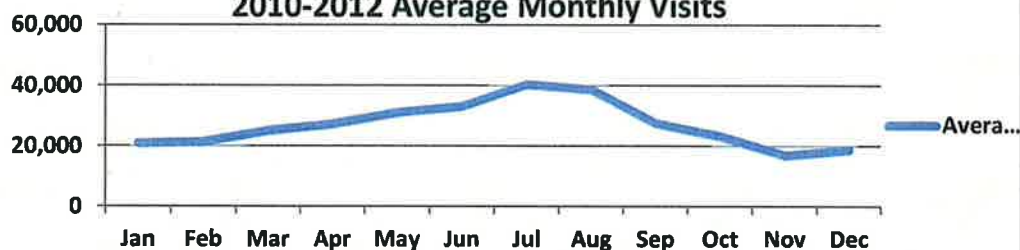
Over the last three years (2010- 2012), the park had approximately 324,000 visits. July is consistently the busiest month of the year for park visitation, with approximately 40,000 visits.

During the week, peak use occurs on the weekend, with Sunday receiving the highest use at an average of 1,220 visitors. Figures 2 through 4 below provide additional detail on visitor use patterns.

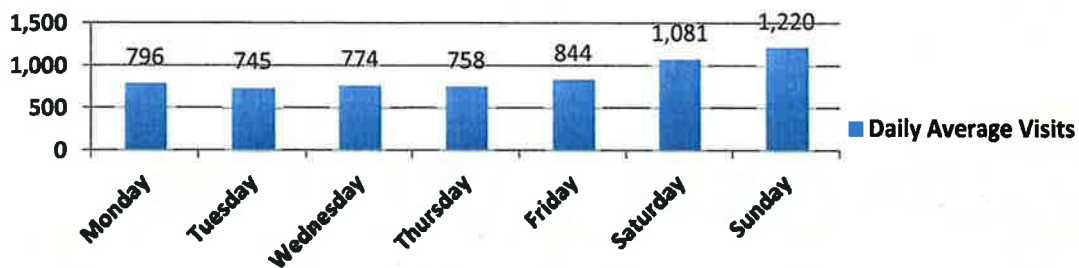
**Figure 2. Island View Beach Regional Park:  
Annual Visits**



**Figure 3. Island View Beach Regional Park:  
2010-2012 Average Monthly Visits**



**Figure 4. Island View Beach Regional Park:  
2010-2012 Average Daily Visits**



### 2.3.3 Camping

Since 2010, Island View Beach Regional Park has operated a seasonal self-contained campground for recreational vehicles (RVs) and tents under a temporary commercial use permit with the District of Central Saanich. Prior to Regional Parks obtaining the campground in early 2010, it operated for many years as a private campground. When Regional Parks acquired the campground, extensive renovations were undertaken to bring the site up to Regional Park standards.

Today, the campground offers an affordable and easily accessible family vacation destination. The presence of seasonal staff and overnight visitors contributes to overall park safety, security, and communications.



Typical tent site in the Island View Beach Regional Park campground.

The campground currently consists of 18 recreational vehicle sites, five tent trailer sites, and 24 tent sites. Limited services are provided (potable water and seasonal toilets and garbage facilities). The campground does not operate under a reservation system or with an on-site host. However, staff is present during the camping season to support campground operations and help with visitor needs.

Anecdotal evidence collected through voluntary comment cards received between 2010 and 2012 indicate overall satisfaction with the campground experience. Comments received highlight campers' positive experience, the cleanliness of facilities, and the excellent customer service provided by Regional Parks' staff. Many RV campers expressed a desire for Regional Parks to extend the camping season beyond the Labour Day weekend to the end of September so they could take advantage of the mild weather.



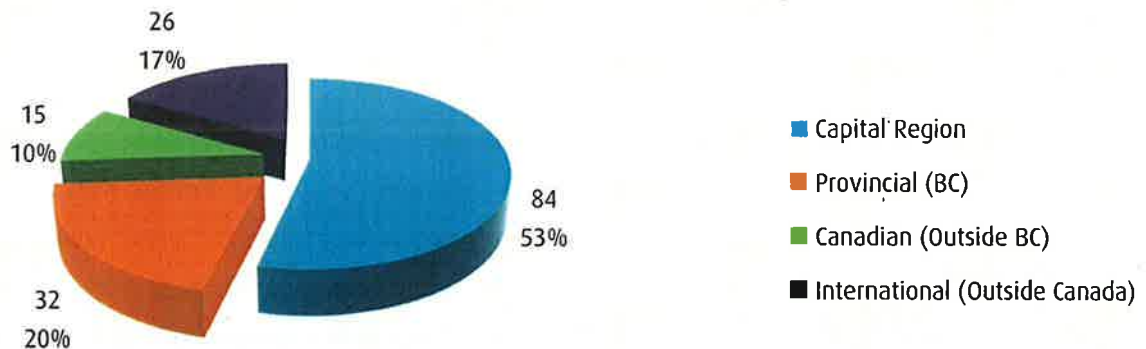
Based on the popularity of camping at Island View Beach Regional Parks, camping is expected to be continued during the life of this interim park management plan. However, planning work will be undertaken to determine the final location, design, and operation of the campground.



Ocean-front RV space at the Island View Beach Regional Park campground.

In 2012, a total of 3,350 people camped throughout the season. Although the majority of campers came from within the CRD, a number were from elsewhere in British Columbia, Canada, and internationally. Figure 5 below shows the approximate breakdown of campground visitors by place of origin in 2012 based on completed campground comment cards.

### Figure 5. Island View Beach Regional Park Campsite 2012 Visitation Summary (Based on Completed Comment Cards)



### 2.3.4 Dog Management

Island View Beach Regional Park is a favorite destination for dog owners and commercial dog walking service providers. These park visitors highly value the ability to walk their dogs along an easily accessible stretch of beach and on park trails. They also value the easy opportunities to socialize their dogs and to visit with each other. However, dog owners, service providers, and other visitors also recognize the need for responsible dog ownership. Inappropriately managed dogs can result in environmental disturbance, negative impacts to migrating shorebirds, habitat/species decline, and disturbance to other park visitors.

There is strong public support for the development of a dog management strategy that reinforces the need for responsible dog ownership and enhanced park stewardship. This work will be undertaken during the interim park management plan period and the results will contribute to completion of a final park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.



Commercial dog walking service provider utilizing an Island View Beach Regional Park trail.

## 2.4 Park Infrastructure

### 2.4.1 Infrastructure for Park Visitors

The park provides a variety of infrastructure to support park visitors. Infrastructure includes roads owned and managed by the District of Central Saanich (Island View Road and Homathko Road), several parking lots located primarily at the south end of the park, a network of graded and ungraded park trails, two restrooms, a group picnic shelter, a park information kiosk, interpretive signs, and garbage bins. A seasonal RV and tent campground is also provided. A coastal berm and system of drainage ditches is located in the park; these are described in more detail below.

### 2.4.2 Drainage System

In 1936 a system of ditches was constructed in what is now Island View Beach at the request of farmers to drain the wetland area to remove standing water that provided preferred breeding habitat to salt water mosquitos, and also to improve the land for agriculture and livestock.

The current drainage system drains both private and public lands through a flap gate and ocean outfall system located on the Lamont Road right-of-way. The District of Central Saanich maintains the flap gate and ocean outfall and the ditch located on Island View Municipal Park, while the CRD maintains the system of ditches running throughout the park.

During the First World War, the military ditched and drained the Tsawout Reserve for troop training. The ditch extended from their southern property border to their northern boundary where the land meets the tidal channel mudflats. There is no apparent connection between the two ditch systems.

In July 2011, the Parks Committee gave the following direction regarding the ditch system:

- a. Maintain the existing berm and as part of policy direction (d) examine the implications of extending the berm to the north and maintaining the existing berm;*
- b. Maintain the existing drainage ditch system and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquito habitat and its effect on the coastal wetland ecosystem;*
- c. Continue the mosquito abatement program and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquitos;*



- d. Examine possible actions to protect and restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem; and*
- e. Develop a trail through the coastal wetland ecosystem.*

The implication of the ditching system on the surrounding landscape and associated ecosystems and species is still unknown. It is likely that reducing the amount and timing of water within the wetland ecosystem will alter its hydrological functioning, which will result in the introduction of non-native species and a gradual shift in species composition and ecosystem functioning. This will likely cause unknown cascading effects in the wetland. In order to better understand and respond to ecosystem and species changes, Regional Parks needs research and on-going monitoring in the park.

### 2.4.3 Coastal Berm

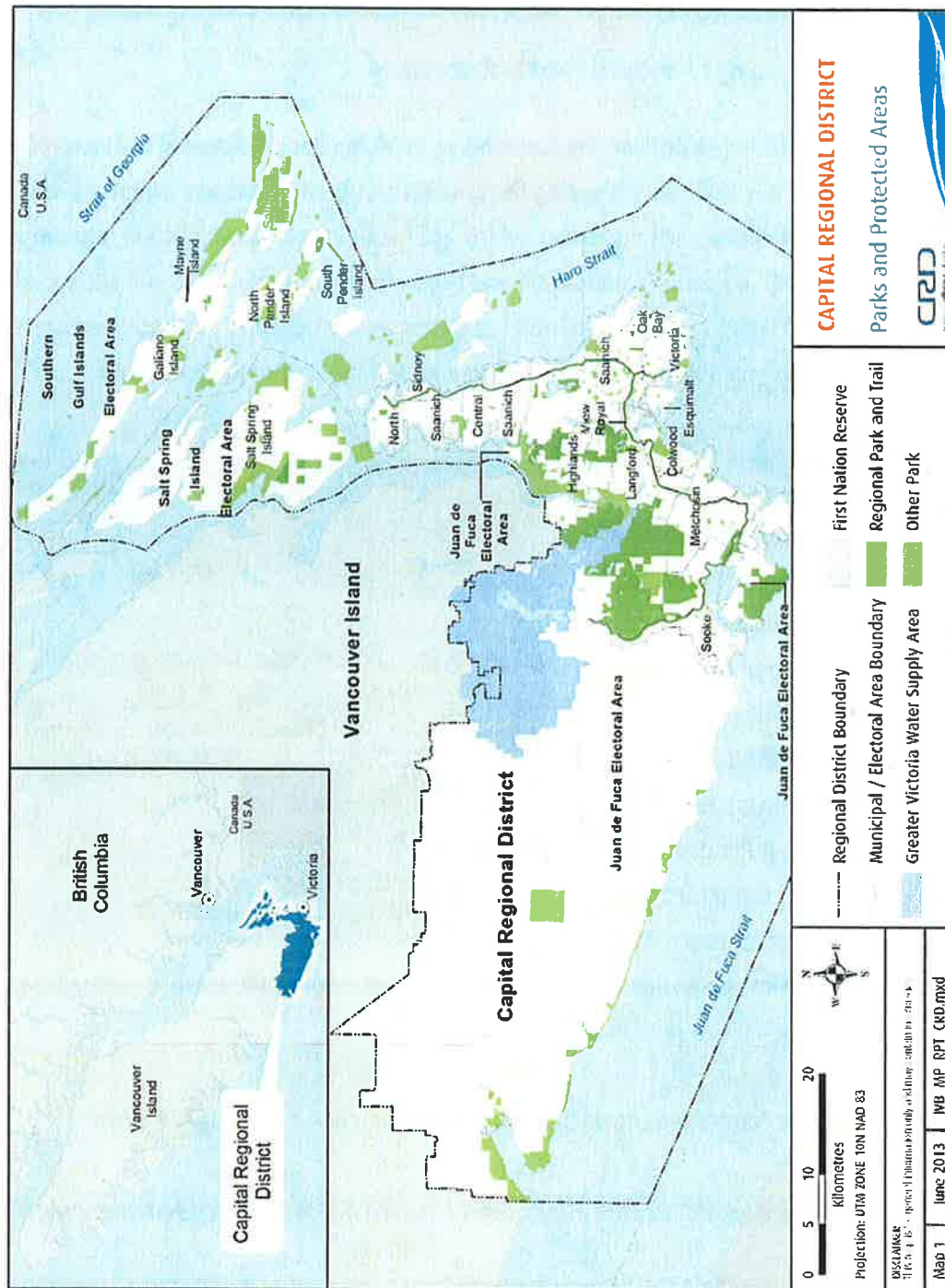
A man made berm constructed by previous land owners extends along the coastline for almost the entire length of the park (approximately 1km) [see photo of berm at right]. The berm stops approximately .3km south of the border with the Tsawout First Nation. The berm was constructed to prevent storm surges from flooding the land. Regional Parks has completed repairs to the berm over the past 25 years. Regional Parks examined the possible extension of the berm and maintenance of the existing berm and the implications of this to the coastal sand dune ecosystem.



In March 2013, the Parks Committee provided the following direction regarding the berm:

- 1. Draft the Island View Beach draft Park Management Plan to include a policy statement regarding the berm to:*
  - a. Maintain the coastal berm in its current state and reassess its function as part of the coastal dune ecosystem restoration work; and*
  - b. If the berm is breached, to repair it to its existing form, and do not upgrade or extend it.*

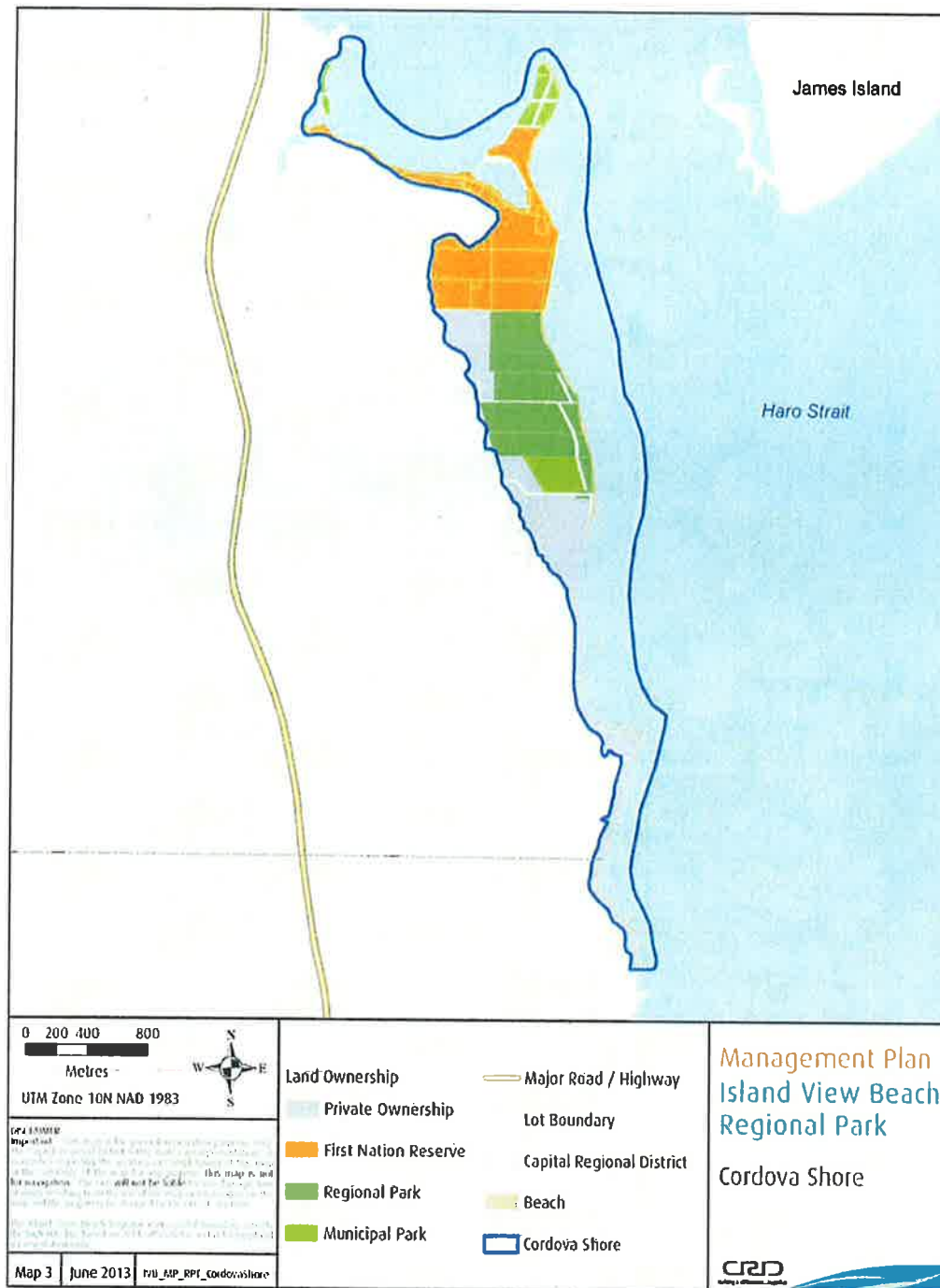
This direction will guide management actions during the life of this park management plan.



Map 1. CRD Parks and Protected Areas.

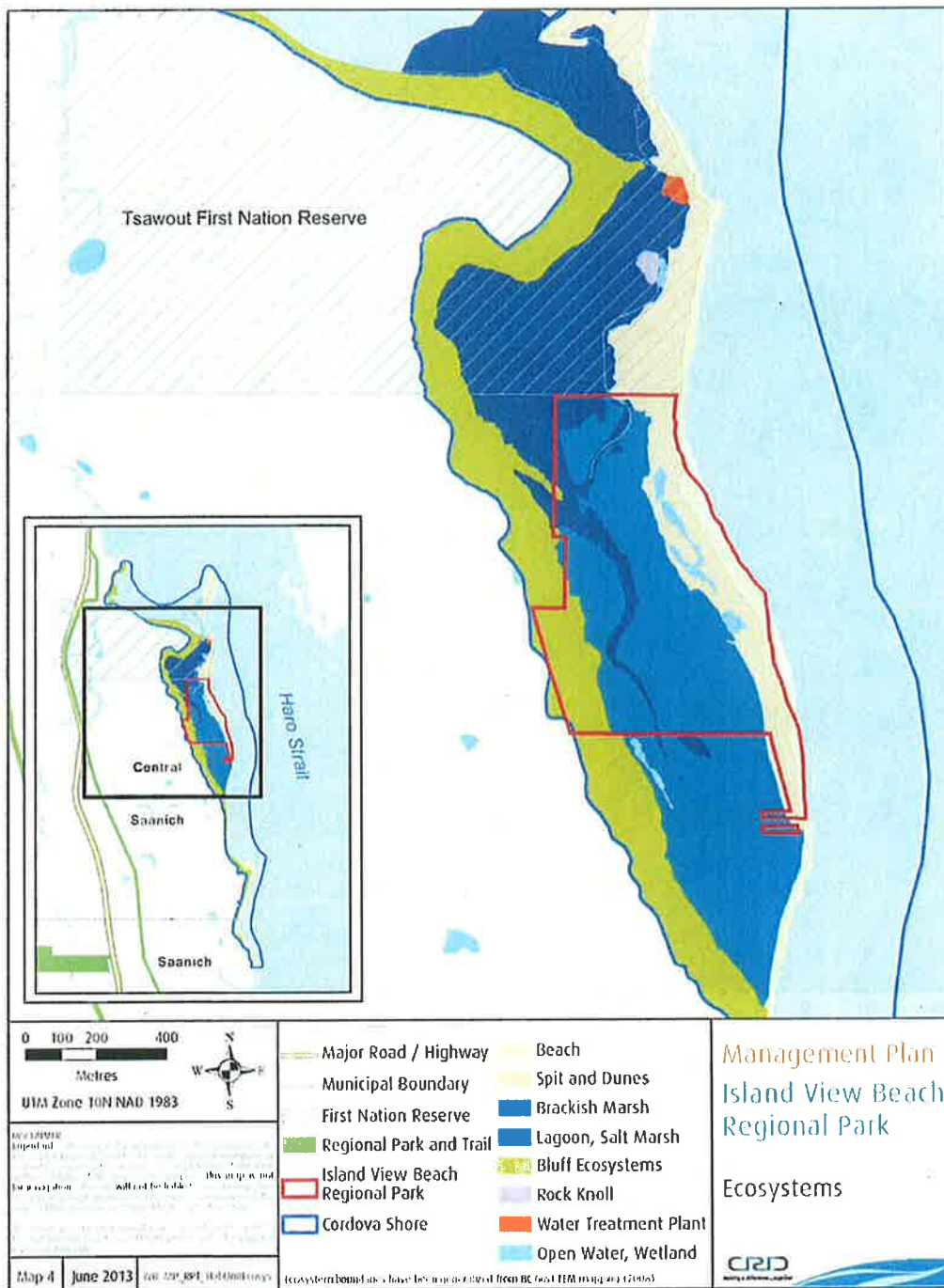


Map 2. Island View Beach Regional Park – Location.



Map 3. Island View Beach Regional Park – Cordova Shore.

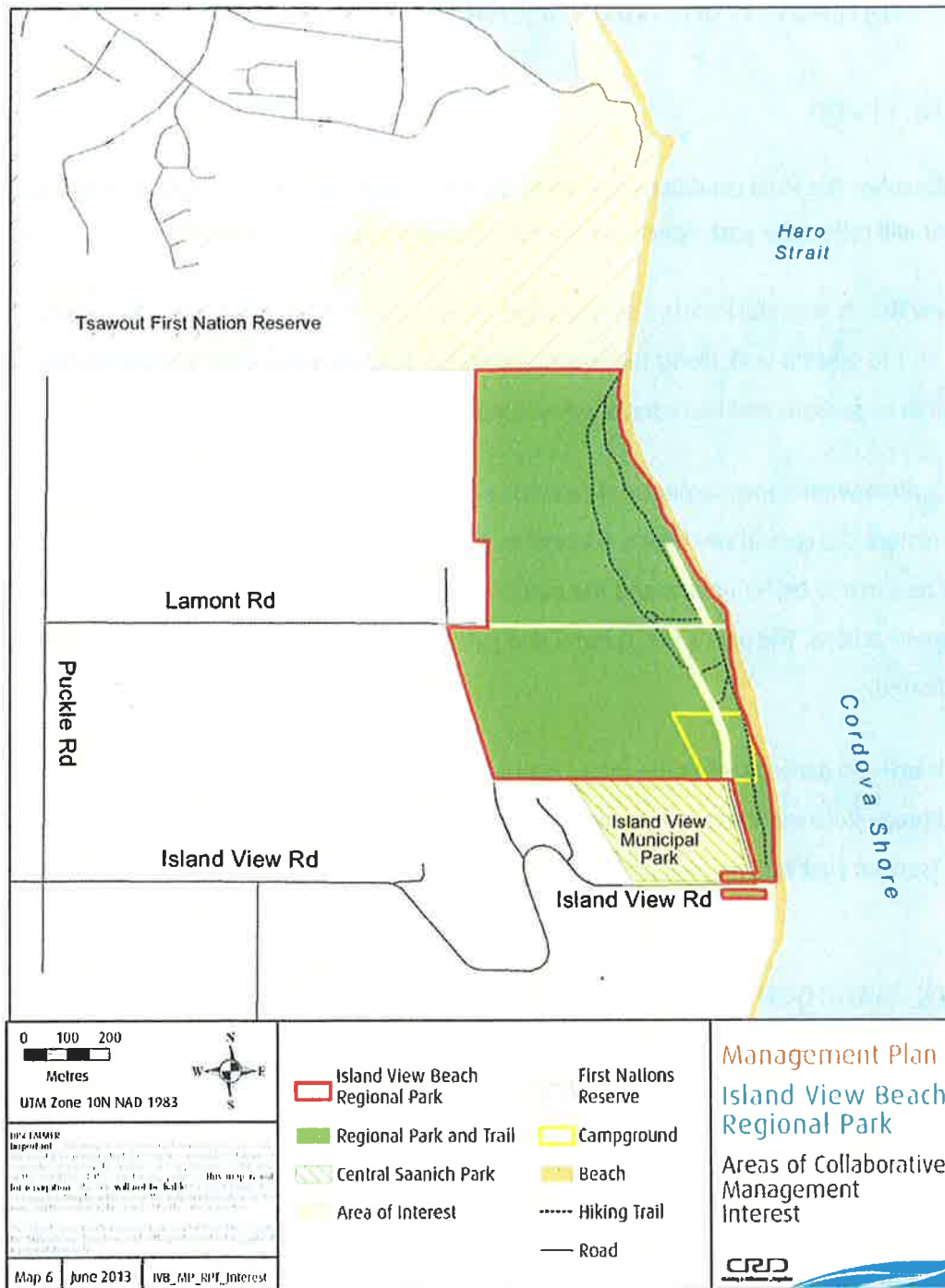




Map 4. Island View Beach Regional Park – Ecosystems.



Map 5. Island View Beach Regional Park – Park Detail.



Map 6. Island View Beach Regional Park – Collaborative Management Interest.



## PART 3 INTERIM PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 3.1 Park Vision

This vision describes the ideal conditions that Regional Parks will strive for. All decisions about park management will reflect the park vision and the park classification. The park vision is:

Island View Beach Regional Park is a special place where people from throughout the region come to visit to enjoy a walk along the beach, or to camp with family and friends, experience the ocean in all seasons and feel connected with nature.

It is also a place where environmental stewardship guides park management. Actions are taken to restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem, protect ecosystems and species at risk and carry out research to better understand the natural environment and the implications of management actions. The park's rich cultural and paleontological heritage is well-protected and celebrated.

The public actively participates in the many interpretive, volunteer and stewardship programs offered through Regional Parks. All of this is done in collaboration with the District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation, park neighbors, visitors, and interest groups.

### 3.2 Park Management Principles

The following park management principles have been used to guide the development of the Draft Interim Park Management Plan:

- Regional Parks comprise a system of protected areas. The system provides for a diversity of ecosystems and outdoor recreation opportunities. As such, not all types of allowable uses are appropriate to individual parks.
- Regional Parks are established in perpetuity so that the ecological systems they encompass can continue to evolve with minimal interruption. Active management may be allowed when it is the best approach to maintaining or restoring ecological health.

- Use of Regional Parks is encouraged in order to realize the multiple benefits that protected areas can provide. All uses must be assessed in relation to their impacts on ecological systems, key cultural and recreational values, and effects on other users.
- Development within CRD Regional Parks will be fully compatible with the principle of protecting the natural environment. Development will complement the purpose, objectives and role of the particular park.
- All decisions about park management will consider the park classification and park vision and will take a long-term perspective regarding responsible park stewardship.
- Regional Parks will work collaboratively with the Tsawout First Nation with respect to their interest in the Cordova Shore and Island View Beach Regional Park.
- CRD Regional Parks will engage the District of Central Saanich, adjacent landowners, public, partners, stakeholders, and interest groups in Island View Beach Regional Park planning and management issues.

### 3.3 Park Classification

CRD Regional Parks are classified by their predominant purpose and characteristics. Classification helps determine the most appropriate activities for each park and guides park management planning. A park classification system is important because the natural environment in each regional park is unique, has its own degree of sensitivity, and can only sustain a certain level and type of human impact without incurring irreversible damage.

Island View Beach Regional Park is classified as a **Regional Conservation Area**. The primary purpose of a Regional Conservation Area is protection of regionally significant natural environments that contain rare or endangered plant and wildlife species, and sensitive and threatened ecosystems. The size of a Regional Conservation Area should be sufficient to ensure that its natural features can be protected and remain viable over the long term.

Island View Beach Regional Park is well qualified for classification as a Regional Conservation Area. According to the B.C. Ministry of Environment,<sup>20</sup> it:

*...contains remnants of rare coastal sand dunes and estuarine ecosystems. Both are habitats of great conservation interest. These are special ecosystems, maintained by specialized site conditions and adapted to survive in small scale, cyclical disturbance regimes. In addition to protecting the coastal environment by absorbing energy from wind, tide and wave action, these dunes and estuaries are a unique and fragile environment that offers habitat to a number of plants and animals that are at-risk in British Columbia.*

Outdoor activities are permitted in a Regional Conservation Area, provided they have minimal impact on the natural environment. In most cases, the main activity is walking, although at Island View Beach Regional Park, other types of compatible, low-impact activities such as sunbathing, bird-watching, swimming and a self-service campground are also supported. Regional Conservation Areas generally have basic facilities, such as trails, parking areas, toilets and signage.

### 3.4 Park Zoning

CRD Regional Parks has established park zoning guidelines for six zone types (see Appendix 1). The guidelines define zone objectives, environmental values associated with the zone, typical visitor experience and activities supported by the zone, and typical infrastructure in the zone.

Island View Beach Regional Park utilizes three of the guideline's six zones (see Map 7). The three zones and their primary objectives are:

- Environmental Protection Zone: to protect and restore ecologically significant areas within CRD Regional Parks through long-term science-based land stewardship.
- Natural Environment Zone: to provide easily-accessible natural areas within parks, and to provide areas within parks that can be used for more active recreational pursuits without the need for major facilities.
- Outdoor Recreation Zone: to provide areas within a regional park that can accommodate concentrated recreation use.

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<sup>20</sup> Stacey, J. and D. S. Filatow (2009). *Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of TIXEN/Cordova Shore, Final Report – August 2009*. BC Ministry of Environment, p. 1.

Zone	Area (hectares)	Percent of Park
Environmental Protection Zone	33.60	69%
Natural Environment Zone	11.03	23%
Outdoor Recreation Zone	4.05	8%
TOTAL	48.68	100%

Figure 6. Distribution of park zones within Island View Beach Regional Park.

In addition, areas or features within the park may be designated a Cultural Heritage Protection Zone if particular areas of interest are identified throughout the life of the park management plan. This zone's primary objective is:

- Cultural Heritage Protection Zone: to protect culturally significant areas and features through a long-term cultural resource management strategy.

Areas needing the highest degree of protection are designated as an Environmental Protection Zone or Cultural Heritage Protection Zone, depending upon their predominant values. **These two zones take precedent over other park zones.**

The criteria for designating an *Environmental Protection Zone* include the following:

- Area, feature, or species is rare or endangered
- Area, feature, or species is very sensitive to human disturbance
- Area or feature provides important plant or wildlife habitat

Examples of ecosystem features in this zone include:

- Sand dunes;
- Freshwater bodies;
- Intertidal zone;
- Riparian and wetland areas.

The criteria for designating a *Cultural Heritage Protection Zone* include the following:

- Area has been identified as having high archaeological potential;
- Area or feature has been identified as having significant historical interest;
- Area or feature has been identified by a relevant First Nation as having sacred or traditional use significance.



Examples of cultural heritage features in this zone include, but are not limited to:

- Identified archaeological sites and features;
- Identified aboriginal sacred and/or traditional use areas;
- Identified historic sites, structures, and artifacts.

The criteria for designating a *Natural Environment Zone* include the following:

- Area is not as ecologically sensitive or diverse as is found in an Environmental Protection Zone, although it may contain some sensitive and threatened ecosystems and species.
- Area can accommodate some outdoor activities and facilities in conjunction with the protection of natural features.

Examples of the type of activities that may be accommodated in this zone include, but are not limited to:

- Hiking, walking, beach activities, swimming, bird watching, nature study.

The criteria for designating an *Outdoor Recreation Zone* include the following:

- Area contains outstanding recreation features;
- Area can accommodate concentrated recreation use;
- Area accommodates the widest range of activities allowed in the park.

Examples of the type of activities that may be accommodated in this zone include, but are not limited to:

- Hiking, walking, beach activities, swimming, wind and water sports, special events.

Not all areas or features that potentially could receive protection under the Environmental Protection Zone or the Cultural Heritage Protection Zone have been identified. More detailed ground-based assessments and additional consultations may be necessary during the interim plan phase. These assessments and consultations would allow for determination of particular environmentally sensitive areas and/or cultural heritage resource sites. Once identified, these areas may receive enhanced protection under the appropriate zoning designation.

### 3.5 Development Concept

The development concept for Island View Beach Regional Park is to keep the park natural and undeveloped and to ensure minimal visitor impacts to the park environment while maintaining a compatible, high-quality visitor experience. Park development will be concentrated in the southern part of the park, in conformance with current conditions (see Map 8).

The trail system will be assessed to identify opportunities for improving the current configuration. Changes to the trail system may be made to improve the visitor experience and to protect sensitive environmental features, such as the coastal sand dune ecosystem. A trail will be developed through the coastal wetland portion of the park after an environmental assessment of the proposed route is completed. Special consideration will be given to improving beach access along the foreshore.

The self-contained campground will continue in the current location and scale during the interim plan period. The long-term location, lay-out, and servicing of the campground will be considered during the development of the final park management plan and any proposed changes will be part of a comprehensive site development plan. Overnight parking will be provided for kayakers in an appropriate location. The north restroom facility will be maintained during the interim plan period.

Regular facility maintenance will be continued to safeguard park assets and ensure visitor safety and comfort. Replacement of the group picnic shelter with saltwater-resistant materials is a priority action. Any proposed major capital improvements must be supported by Regional Parks' strategic priorities, be compatible with this park management plan, and be subject to a transparent decision-making process.



Open space area in the park's southern portion featuring an information kiosk, group picnic shelter, and washroom.

## 3.6 Park Management Direction

### 3.6.1 Park Management Goals

The vision for Island View Beach Regional Park is for the long-term and the interim park management plan is intended to direct park management and operations until a final park management plan is completed. Thus, identified goals are “stepping stones” leading to realization of the long-term vision while providing direction around park management in the shorter-term.

The first requirement in the short-term is to gain a better understanding of the park’s sand dune and wetland ecosystems in relation to protection and restoration possibilities, cultural heritage management needs, and evolving visitor experience opportunities. The focus of the draft interim park management plan is on providing direction around those day-to-day management needs it can address now, while also addressing critical information needs to move to the development of a final park management plan. A key focus of the final park management plan will be on restoring the coastal sand dune ecosystem and protecting species at risk in the park.

CRD Regional Parks will strive to achieve the following goals for Island View Beach Regional Park:

1. Gain a better understanding of the park’s ecological, cultural heritage, and visitor experience values and conditions, and manage the park so that these critical values and conditions contribute to Island View Beach’s overall purpose and vision.
2. Maintain the park’s ecosystems in as healthy a state as possible and undertake work to restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem and protect species at risk.
3. Prepare and provide interpretive information to develop public understanding of the park’s significant natural and cultural values, and nurture appropriate expectations and behaviours.
4. Nurture a positive working relationship with the Tsawout First Nation to ensure on-going park management is respectful of the interests and needs of both parties.
5. Collaborate on the management of Island View Beach Regional Park and the Cordova Shore with the District of Central Saanich, senior levels of government, adjacent land owners, academia, key stakeholders, and the public.

### 3.6.2 Direction Statements, Management Objectives and Actions

The following sections present the Direction Statements, and Management Objectives and Actions for Environmental Conservation, Cultural Heritage Management, Visitor Experience, and Park Operations.

Together, these sections provide guidance around the day-to-day and longer term management decisions affecting the park during the life of this plan.

#### 3.6.2.1 Environmental Conservation

##### *Environmental Conservation -- Direction Statement*

Maintaining and protecting the natural environment and ecological processes of Island View Beach Regional Park is the park management plan's overarching priority. To achieve this, collaboration with the District of Central Saanich, senior levels of government, Tsawout First Nation, adjacent landowners, environmental non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders will be necessary to successfully maintain critical ecological processes and species within and beyond park boundaries. Effective outreach and education will be essential to realizing this aim.

##### *Environmental Conservation -- Objectives*

- To work collaboratively to protect the park's environmental values.
- To recognize the importance of physical and ecological connections.
- To restore as much as possible the sand dune ecosystem's ecological and physical processes.
- To understand and manage mosquito populations in relation to environmental and public health values.
- To effectively manage invasive plant and animal species.
- To address impacts to the park from adjacent land uses.
- To protect ecosystems and species at risk and actively contribute to their recovery.

## *Environmental Conservation -- Actions*

### **1. Manage Collaboratively**

- Build on the Cordova Shore Conservation Partnership between the Tsawout First Nation, CRD Regional Parks, the District of Central Saanich, the Canadian Wildlife Service, academia, and other partners.
- Involve adjacent landowners in conservation initiatives through informal discussions and direct consultation.
- Engage with educational institutions in research efforts to further understanding of the park.
- Collect and distribute resource materials (cultural information, GIS data, ecosystem mapping, species at risk reports, etc.) to assist in research and planning by interested parties.

### **2. Recognize Ecological Boundaries**

- Recognize the physical and ecological connections between biophysical systems including the movement of sand from Cowichan Head and tidal circulation through the wetland complex.
- Contribute to improved coordination of landscape-scale conservation planning within the Sidney Island-James Island-Cordova Shore conservation unit.

### **3. Protect and Restore Ecological and Physical Processes**

- Manage vegetation in the coastal sand ecosystem and wetland complex succession caused by invasive plants, reduced coastal sediment transport, and reduced seasonal flooding.
- Examine possible actions to protect and restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem.
- Invite Ducks Unlimited and the Canadian Wildlife Service waterfowl and wetland experts to participate in the Cordova Shore Conservation Partnership.
- Investigate the potential establishment of a provincial Wildlife Management Area, with the associated development of ecologically-appropriate regulations, in the intertidal zone.

### **4. Coastal Berm**

- Maintain the coastal berm in the current state and reassess its function as part of the coastal dune ecosystem restoration work. If the berm is breached, repair it to its existing form, but do not upgrade or extend it.

### **5. Drainage Ditches**

- Maintain the existing drainage ditch system and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquito habitat and its effect on the coastal wetland ecosystem.



## **6. Mosquito Control**

- Continue the mosquito control program and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquitos.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the mosquito control program in the context of wetland conservation and the effects of larvicide on the wetland's food web.
- Conduct larval surveys to identify specific wetland habitats in the wetland complex which support associated mosquito species.

## **7. Control Invasive Plants**

- Survey the distribution of invasive plants in the park and develop an invasive plant management plan to guide control and restoration activities.
- Restore invasive plant management sites with native plants, including species of conservation concern and cultural value to the Tsawout First Nation.
- Involve the Tsawout, local residents, volunteers, stewardship groups, and others to participate in the invasive plant management program.

## **8. Address Impacts from Adjacent Lands**

- Support the District of Central Saanich, District of Saanich, and coastal landowners in maintaining natural rates of bluff erosion at Cowichan Head.
- Support ecologically-sensitive development planning to protect actively eroding bluffs at Cowichan Head and prevent infilling of the wetland complex.
- Collaborate with surrounding landowners and conservation partners to protect key ecosystems contiguous with the park.

## **9. Contribute to Ecosystems and Species at Risk Recovery**

- Support collaborative management of species at risk in the broader Sidney Island-James Island-Cordova Shore conservation unit.
- Implement recovery activities outlined in the recovery strategies for nationally listed species at risk.
- Support or undertake surveys to identify additional species at risk such as Edward's beach moth, ground-based arthropods, and bryophytes.
- Encourage relevant agencies and organizations to use the Cordova Shore for breeding bird surveys and/or bird monitoring programs to improve knowledge about bird species at risk.

### 3.6.2.2 Cultural Heritage Management

#### *Cultural Heritage Management -- Direction Statement*

Island View Beach Regional Park has a rich paleontological, aboriginal, and post contact history. Cultural heritage management in the context of this park management plan will explore and celebrate this multi-faceted history, as well as ongoing cultural connections between people and the natural environment. Island View Beach's exciting cultural heritage will be documented, protected, and celebrated through community outreach, partnerships, research, interpretation, and special events.

#### *Cultural Heritage Management -- Objectives*

- To assess and protect the park's cultural heritage resources.
- To increase visitor awareness of the park's cultural heritage resources.

#### *Cultural Heritage Management -- Actions*

##### **1. Assess and Protect Cultural Heritage Resources**

- If research identifies new cultural or paleontological heritage resources, assess them as soon as possible and implement appropriate management measures.
- Work cooperatively with the Tsawout First Nation to identify key areas for protection, recognizing that it may not be possible to protect, stabilize, or maintain all identified areas.
- Develop positive and cooperative relationships with adjacent landowners in order to avoid potential damage to known cultural heritage sites or features in the park.

##### **2. Increase Public Awareness**

- Provide training to staff to increase their awareness and understanding of the park's cultural and paleontological heritage and associated management implications.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the park's cultural heritage.
- Develop a broad public understanding of the various cultural connections between the Tsawout First Nation and the park's natural environment.

### 3.6.2.3 Visitor Experience

#### *Visitor Experience -- Direction Statement*

Island View Beach Regional Park is one of the region's most beloved and visited parks. People come to the park to enjoy an easily accessible encounter with the natural environment through participation in compatible, sustainable, nature-based activities. Park services provide the appropriate level of support to add to the enjoyment of the park without changing the nature of the visitor experience. The aim is to create an enjoyable and relaxing experience where visitors can come away feeling inspired, refreshed, and connected to the park's natural features.

#### *Visitor Experience -- Objectives*

- To appropriately manage recreational activities and access.
- To develop and implement a dog management strategy.
- To continue to offer camping on a seasonal basis for tents and RVs.
- To provide overnight parking for kayakers in an appropriate location.
- To align commercial services and park use permits with the park purpose and vision.
- To promote public education and involvement in park activities.

#### *Visitor Experience -- Actions*

##### **1. Recreation and Access Management**

- Gather information on the potential ecological impacts of visitor use and identify appropriate management techniques to address those impacts.
- In the context of conservation objectives, undertake trail planning to provide improved access within the park.
- Develop a trail through the coastal wetland ecosystem taking into account visitor experience and conservation objectives.
- Consider creating additional beach access points at key locations. It may be necessary to move some driftwood to open up and maintain access points to the beach.
- Work with the District of Central Saanich to develop legal overnight parking spaces for small boaters (e.g. kayaks, canoes) in the park.

- Work collaboratively with Central Saanich and the Province on **upkeep of the public boat launch** if this is determined to be a shared responsibility.

## **2. Dog Management**

- Develop dog management policies in collaboration with dog owners and other park visitors and interest groups. The dog management policies will address responsible dog behavior with respect to the effects of dogs on other park visitors, wildlife, ecosystems, and, particularly on shorebirds, waterfowl, and ground-nesting birds.
- Strengthen dog management regulations and enforcement to protect native ecosystems and species from trampling, harassment, and fouling.
- Require park use permits for professional dog walkers.

## **3. Camping**

- Conduct an assessment of the campground that addresses service levels, size and location of the campground, fee structure, municipal zoning bylaws, and demand for service.
- Consider the location and design of the campground in the context of environmental conservation goals and adjust management approach as necessary.
- Undertake appropriate campground site improvements to improve the visitor experience and natural resource protection.

## **4. Commercial Operations, Park Use Permits, and Legacy Gifts**

- Require all commercial businesses operating within the park to have a valid park permit which incorporates environmental, operational, and other management requirements.
- Address commercial use permits on a case-by-case basis using the criteria of compatibility with park classification and zoning.
- Permit a single food vendor during the summer months if visitor demand warrants it.
- Consider park use permits for special events on a case-by-case basis, with the goal of safeguarding park values. The permit should:
  - require that the proposed activity have no net impact on the natural environment;
  - limit the location of the activity to the Outdoor Recreation Zone where possible;
  - limit the impact of the activity on other park visitors;
  - require the event to be non-motorized and non-amplified;
  - require activity organizers to leave no trace of their activity;

- require the activity to be limited to a “reasonable” number of participants.
- Assess legacy gifts and initiatives on a case-by-case basis with the requirement that all gifts should support the park vision, goals and objectives.

#### 5. Promote Education and Research

- Enhance communications and interpretive services to educate park visitors about the park’s ecological and cultural resources.
  - General themes for public awareness and understanding should relate to CRD Regional Parks; the Cordova Shore and associated ecological systems, species, and impacts; the Tsawout First Nation’ connection to the area; the settler history; visitor opportunities within the park; and specific management issues and programs.
  - Develop a variety of public information and interpretive materials. Use these materials to build an understanding of the relationship between people and the park to deepen the public’s understanding about park values and purpose.

#### 6. Public Involvement in Park Management and Programs

- Work cooperatively with the Tsawout First Nation to provide opportunities for Tsawout individuals to be involved in park management projects.
- Provide opportunities for the public to be involved with park management projects to increase public awareness and support.
- Work cooperatively with the District of Central Saanich, NGO’s, surrounding landowners, academia, and other levels of government on research and management initiatives.
- Use a variety of methods to tell the story of the park. Consider photography contests, artist workshops, and similar activities to celebrate the park’s cultural and ecological uniqueness.

#### 3.6.2.4 Park Operations

##### *Park Operations -- Direction Statement*

The public values Island View Beach for its outstanding undeveloped environment and doesn’t want this to change. Park operations and development will support this direction. The few structures will remain in the park’s southern end, and will be designed and serviced at levels appropriate to a Regional Conservation Area. Trail development will support conservation objectives. A key aim is to



sustainably support high visitor use levels while remaining operationally flexible and minimally impacting the natural environment and the visual landscape.

*Park Operations -- Objectives*

- To address facility siting and development issues.
- To comprehensively address access and parking issues in relation to other park values.
- To address enforcement and compliance issues.

*Park Operations -- Actions*

**1. Facility Siting and Development**

- Work with the District of Central Saanich on the future land administration of parcels owned by the District within or directly adjacent to the park.
- Repair or replace the group picnic shelter with materials resistant to salt water degradation.
- Monitor the condition of the north restroom building and repair as necessary.

**2. Access and Parking**

- Assess the parking lots and access roads to determine long-term needs and develop options for addressing those needs with the District of Central Saanich.
- Consider the need for more beach access sites by working cooperatively with key stakeholder groups (e.g. wind and water sports enthusiasts).

**3. Compliance and Enforcement**

- Clearly outline park rules and regulations on park signs.

### 3.7 Reviewing and Amending the Interim Park Management Plan

The purpose of the draft interim park management plan is to provide direction for the operation and management of Island View Beach Regional Park during the time that a final park management plan is being developed. However, CRD Regional Parks supports adaptive management<sup>21</sup>, and in that light, it may periodically review the interim park management plan to determine if any significant new information exists that would require a change to the policy direction or actions contained in the interim plan.

If the interim park management plan requires a *significant* change in direction, Regional Parks will provide opportunities for public comment before making the changes. Similarly, if new issues arise over the interim plan period that the interim plan cannot adequately address, Regional Parks may develop additional guidelines as an addendum to the interim plan. In such a case, Regional Parks will provide opportunities for public input on the proposed guidelines before making the changes. The intent of the interim park management plan is to move steadily towards the development of a final park management plan by committing the resources and expertise necessary to address outstanding issues and high priority actions.



Island View Beach Regional Park intertidal zone. Photo credit Nick Page.

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<sup>21</sup> Adaptive management is defined as the cyclical process of systematically testing assumptions, generating learning by evaluating the results of such testing, and further improving management practices.

## 3.8 Implementation Strategy

### 3.8.1 Strategic Priorities

Although all of the actions listed under the Objectives and Actions section are important and should be considered, listed below are the four key strategic priorities which need to be undertaken on a priority basis to complete a final park management plan.<sup>22</sup> Additional strategic priorities are listed as High, Medium, Low, and Ongoing actions which will need to be addressed during the life of this plan.

These strategic priorities provide guidance to Regional Parks for setting the Regional Parks business, capital and annual work plans. Implementation of the interim park management plan's strategic priorities will be contingent on available financial and staff resources and considered alongside management priorities of other regional parks and trails and Regional Parks' strategic priorities identified in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

#### Key Strategic Priorities to Complete the Park Management Plan

- (1) Complete a restoration plan for the sand dune ecosystem: develop a program to address protection and restoration of the coastal sand dune ecosystem and associated species at risk.
- (2) Prepare policies regarding dog management: develop dog management policies through a collaborative process and implement as a pilot project to encourage responsible behaviour.
- (3) Complete an assessment of the campground: complete a campground assessment that takes into consideration size, design, and location of the campground, fee structure, service levels, municipal zoning bylaws, and demand for service.
- (4) Determine future land administration of parcels owned by the District of Central Saanich: enter into discussions with the District of Central Saanich to determine the future of land parcels owned by the District that are located within the park boundaries.

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<sup>22</sup> The key actions are tied to the list of Interim Objectives and Actions, and are coded as: EC = Environmental Conservation; CH = Cultural Heritage; VI = Visitor Experience; PO = Park Operations.

### High Priority

- (VI) Assess the trail network and close, reroute, or fence trails which conflict with conservation objectives.
- (VI) Work with the District of Central Saanich to develop legal overnight parking spaces for kayakers in the park.
- (VI) Undertake site planning and build a trail through the coastal wetland portion of the park.
- (PO) Consider repairing or replacing the group picnic shelter with materials resistant to salt water degradation

### Medium Priority

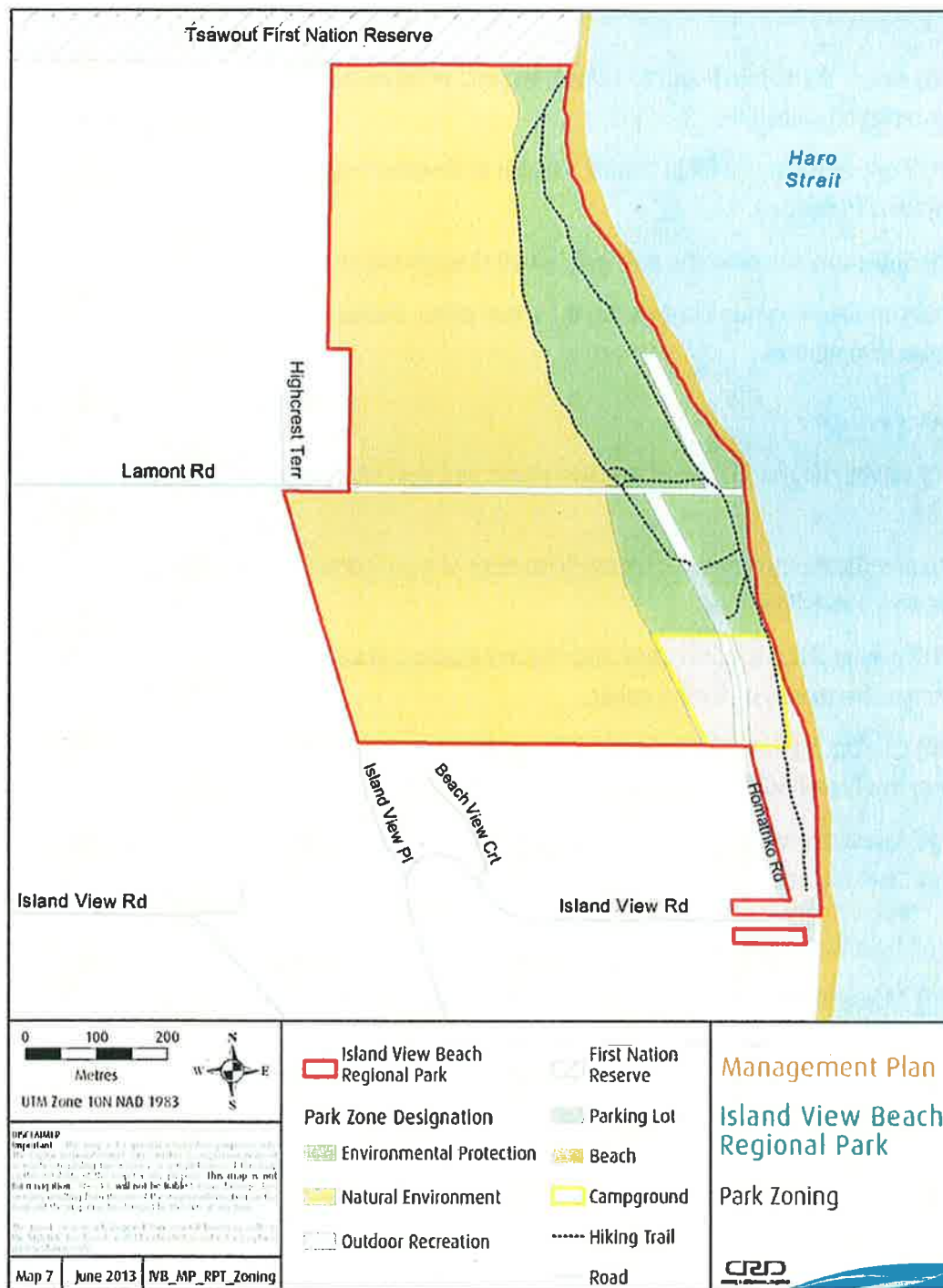
- (EC) Survey the distribution of invasive plants and develop an invasive plant management plan.
- (VI) Investigate the potential for establishment of a provincial Wildlife Management Area in the park's intertidal zone.
- (VI) Develop interim interpretive and communications plans to establish theme details and interpretive materials for the public.
- (PO) Conduct interim assessments of the parking lots and access roads to determine long-term needs and options.
- (PO) Assess ownership and responsibility for the public boat launch in conjunction with other park assessments.

### Lowest Priority

- (PO) Assess the feasibility of providing more beach access sites and implement as warranted.

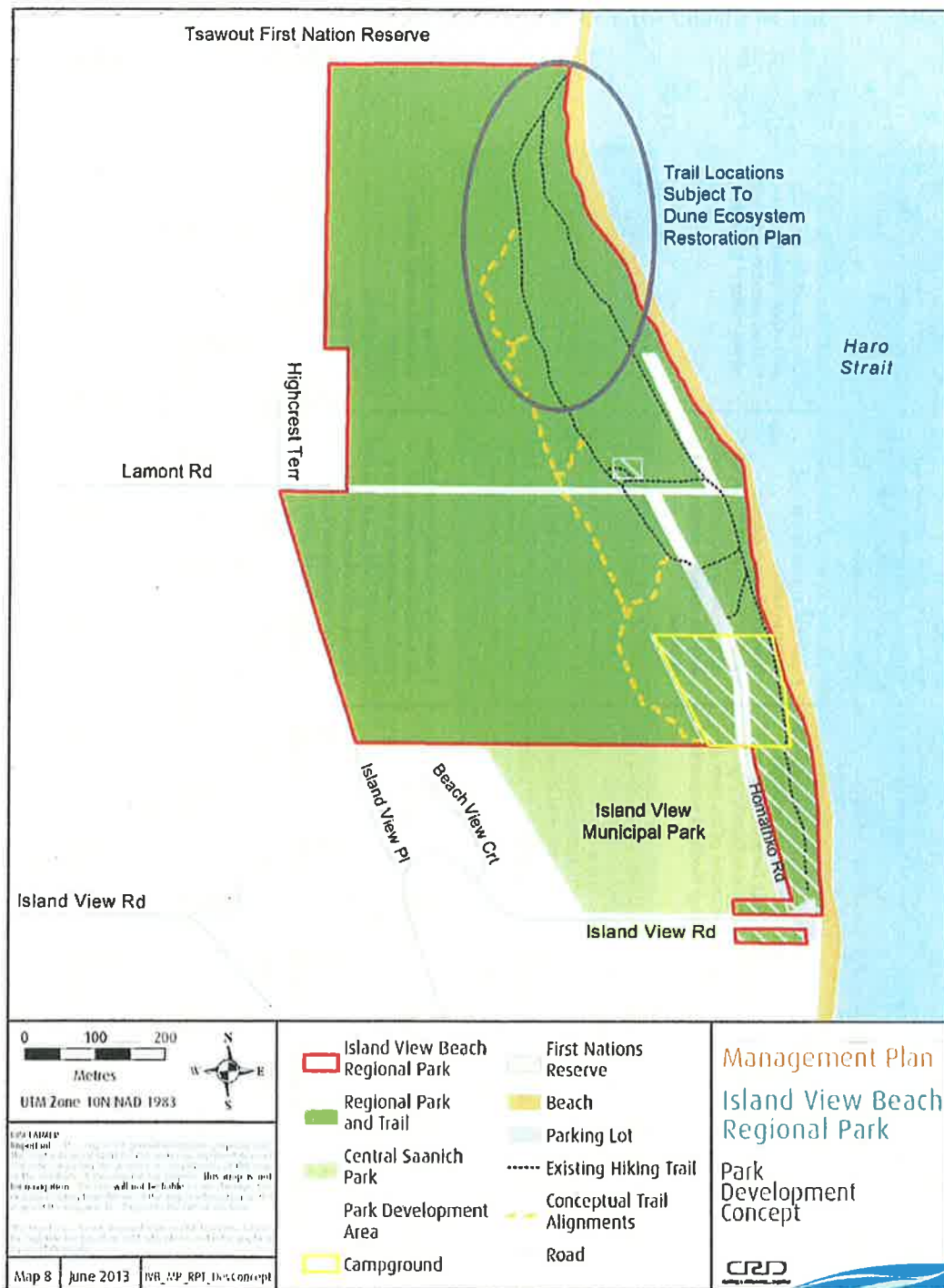
### On-Going

- (EC) Collaborate with surrounding land owners and partners to identify and protect important conservation areas utilizing various strategies and approaches.
- (EC) Implement recovery activities for nationally-listed ecosystems and species at risk.
- (CH) Increase public awareness and understanding of the park's environmental and cultural values.
- (VE) Assess legacy gifts and initiatives on a case-by-case basis with the requirement that all gifts should support the park vision, goals and objectives and be approved by management.
- (PO) Promote the "leave no trace" philosophy through park information channels.



Map 7. Island View Beach Regional Park – Zoning.





Map 8. Island View Beach Regional Park – Development Concept.

# Appendix 1 – Definition of Park Zones

Management Zones	Objectives	Environmental Values	Visitor Experience and Activities	Typical Infrastructure
<b>Environmental Protection Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect ecologically significant areas within regional parks through long term science-based land stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas with rare or endangered species and ecosystems needing the highest degree of ecological protection</li> <li>In some areas, visitor access may be restricted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature study</li> <li>Environmental interpretation</li> <li>Visitor experience is centered around appreciation of natural features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-impact nature trails and other infrastructure that enhance appreciation of the natural feature(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage Protection Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect culturally significant areas and features through a long term cultural resource management strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological features associated with culturally significant sites may be protected as part of the culturally significant features of the park or trail (e.g. heritage orchards)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural appreciation and interpretation</li> <li>Historical appreciation</li> <li>Visitor experience is one of appreciating and understanding the cultural context of the feature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-impact nature trails and other infrastructure that enhance appreciation of the cultural feature(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Wilderness Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To keep large natural systems functioning and provide a regional wilderness experience for park visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contiguous land areas large enough to protect the natural values</li> <li>Areas with outstanding natural features that create a memorable visitor experience</li> <li>Ecosystems are functioning in a sustainable fashion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities dispersed over a wide area</li> <li>Some backcountry areas could be available for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding</li> <li>Visitor experience is one of being in a wilderness setting</li> <li>Backcountry camping may be permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long distance hiking, equestrian and cycling trails</li> <li>Trails to viewpoints</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Environment Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide easily-accessible natural areas within the parks</li> <li>To provide areas within the parks that can be used for more active recreational pursuits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas where outdoor activities take place in conjunction with protection of natural features</li> <li>Less remote than wilderness</li> <li>Can act as a buffer between wilderness and recreation zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities less dispersed than in a wilderness zone, and more accessible to visitors</li> <li>Horseback riding, cycling and hiking, shoreline activities</li> <li>Visitor experience is one of participating in outdoor activities in a natural setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking, walking, equestrian and cycling trails</li> <li>Viewpoints</li> <li>Pathways</li> <li>Picnic areas</li> <li>Open fields</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Recreation Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide areas within a regional park that can accommodate concentrated recreation use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding recreation features</li> <li>Natural values may be compromised to allow higher level of activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities more concentrated- e.g., beach activities, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, multi-use trails, group picnic areas</li> <li>Visitor experience includes active participation in outdoor recreation activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change rooms</li> <li>Concessions</li> <li>Boat launch sites</li> <li>Beaches</li> <li>Group picnic shelters</li> <li>Nature houses</li> </ul>
<b>Park Services Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide areas within a park needed to support park services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural values secondary to park service needs</li> <li>Considerable landscape modification allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor-oriented and park operation services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking lots</li> <li>Storage areas</li> <li>Washroom buildings</li> <li>Park operations buildings</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 2 Select Species Identified at Island View Beach<sup>23</sup>



Baird's Sandpiper at Island View Beach Regional Park. Photo credit Dave Appleton.

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<sup>23</sup> From: Page, N. (2010). Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy - Appendices



## 2.1 Potential Species of Conservation Significance at Cordova Shore

Common Name	Scientific Name	Global Rank <sup>1</sup>	Subnational (Provincial) Rank <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	BC Status <sup>4</sup>
<b>Plants</b>					
yellow sand-verbena	<i>Abronia latifolia</i>	G5	S3		Blue
contorted-pod evening-primrose	<i>Camissonia contorta</i>	G5	S1	E (Apr 2006)	Red
beach morning glory	<i>Convolvulus soldanella</i>	G5	S3		Blue
American glehnia	<i>Glehnia littoralis</i> ssp. <i>leiocarpa</i>	G5T5	S3		Blue
grey beach peavine	<i>Lathyrus littoralis</i>	G5	S2	Under Assess	Red
black knotweed	<i>Polygonum paronychia</i>	G5	S3		Blue
large-headed sedge	<i>Carex macrocephala</i>	G5	S3S4		Yellow
beach bluegrass	<i>Poa confinis</i>	G5	S3S4		Yellow
hybrid wildrye	<i>Leymus x vancooverensis</i>	GNA	S3S4		Yellow
fleshy jaumea	<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	G4G5	S2S3		Blue
Howell's trileleia	<i>Trileleia howellii</i>	G3G3	S1	E (2003)	Red
<b>Invertebrates</b>					
Pacific Slideband	<i>Monadenia fidelis</i> <i>Callophrys</i>	G4G5	S3S4		Blue
Moss' Elf, <i>mossii</i> subspecies	<i>mossii</i> <i>mossii</i> <i>Coenonympha</i>	G4T4	S2S3		Blue
Common Ringlet, <i>insulana</i> ssp	<i>tullia insulana</i> <i>Hesperia</i>	G5T3T4	S1		Red
Western Branded Skipper, <i>oregonia</i> ssp	<i>colorado oregonia</i> <i>Euphyes</i>	G5T3T4	S2S3	T (Nov 2000)	Blue
Dun Skipper	<i>vestris</i>	G5	S3		Blue
Blue Dasher	<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	G5	S3S4		Blue
Georgia Basin Bog Spider	<i>Gnaphosa snohomish</i>	not ranked	not ranked	Under Assess	nr
Sand-verbena Moth	<i>Copablepharon fuscum</i>	G1G2	S1	E (Nov 2003)	Red
Edward's Beach Moth	<i>Anarta edwardsii</i>	G3?	S1	E (May 2009)	Red
<b>Vertebrates</b>					
Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> ssp	<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>	G5T2	S2B	T (Nov 2000)	Red
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> ssp	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	G5T4	S2S3B,S4N	SC (Mar 2008)	Blue
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	G5	S3B,S2N	SC (Mar 2008)	Blue
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	G4	S3B		Blue
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	G5	S3S4B		Blue
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	G5	S4B	T (Apr 2007)	Yellow
Peregrine Falcon, <i>anatum</i> ssp	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	G4T4	S2B	SC (Apr 2007)	Red
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	G5	S5B,S5N	NAR (May 1984)	Yellow
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	G5	S3S4B		Blue
Casplan Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	G5	S3B	NAR (May 1999)	Blue
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	G4	S3S4B	SC (Nov 2008)	Blue
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	G5	S3B	NAR (May 1978)	Blue
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	G5	S1B,S4N		Red
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	G3G4	S2B, S4N	T (2000)	Red
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i> <i>Bufo</i>	G5	S2B,S4N		Red
Western Toad	<i>boreas</i> <i>Contia</i>	G4	S4	SC (Nov 2002)	Yellow
Sharp-tailed Snake	<i>tenuis</i> <i>Elgaria</i>	G5	S1	E (May 1999)	Red
Northern Alligator Lizard	<i>coerulea</i> <i>Myotis</i>	G5	S4S5	NAR (May 2002)	Yellow
Keen's Myotis	<i>keenii</i>	G2G3	S1S3	DD (Nov 2003)	Red
Cutthroat Trout, <i>clarkii</i> ssp	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	G4T4	S3S4		Blue
Coho Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	G4	S4	E (May 2002)	Yellow
Red-legged Frog	<i>Rana aurora</i>	G4	S3S4	SC (Nov 2004)	Blue

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Global rank defines the conservation status across the entire range of the species: G1 (Critically Imperiled); G2 (Imperiled); G3 (Vulnerable).

<sup>2</sup> Subnational (provincial) rank defines the conservation status in BC: S1 (Critically Imperiled); S2 (Imperiled); S3 (Vulnerable).

<sup>3</sup>SARA (Species at Risk Act) designations and date of listing: Endangered (E): a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction; Threatened (T): a wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction;

Special Concern (SC): a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of biological characteristics and identified threats. "DD" indicates not designated because of deficient data and "NAR" is not at risk.

<sup>4</sup> BC Red and Blue List: Red-listed species are Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened in British Columbia. Blue-listed species are of Special Concern.