

2020 Annual Report



OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 31, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gratitude. If we had only one word to sum our experience with regional parks for the past year it would be gratitude. COVID-19 has caused global upheavals, shutting down schools, theatres and other community spaces. In the face of many unknowns, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks leadership had the vision and the courage to keep regional parks open for everyone. Park staff took on new challenges – working hard to keep visitors safe and finding creative ways to educate park visitors on new rules.

Through it all, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks welcomed an unprecedented surge of visitors looking for tranquility and a way to safely connect with each other. Getting into nature is a proven way to stay physically healthy and boost our immune system.

In addition to the obvious enjoyment people get from our regional parks, science also shows that there are significant benefits to both mental and physical health from regular interactions with nature. What we have learned through this last year is the vital role that regional parks play in making Metro Vancouver a resilient and healthy community.

With this fresh reminder of the importance of regional parks, this year the board engaged in a strategic planning process and communication with our donors, park partners and other stakeholders - leading to a renewed commitment to raising funds and supporting projects that help protect nature, connect people to nature and expand parklands.

Thank you to our donors, volunteers and other supporters. We are grateful to be working with you to make Metro Vancouver Regional Parks the best they can be.

Sincerely,



Kevin O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Janet Antonio
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

As Chair of the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Committee, I serve as a non-voting member of the Pacific Parklands Foundation as a liaison from the Board of Metro Vancouver. I believe in the Foundation and feel that it has a very important role to play in supporting Metro Vancouver's regional parks and enriching the experiences of our visitors.

The majority of our Regional Parks budget is derived from property tax levies, but like many organizations, we see philanthropy as a way of achieving value added benefits for all residents of the region. Over the past 20 years, the Foundation has raised awareness and funding to support public programs, stewardship activities, volunteers, land acquisition and capital projects that enhance the parks services we provide for the region.

During 2020, our regional parks served over 16.4m visitors – many looking to find ways to maintain physical and mental health during the pandemic. For many people, going for walks in nature (including regional parks) has become vital. As a region, we all benefit from the natural areas that are protected within our regional parks.

As the importance of our regional parks system grows, so too should our connection to those who may contribute funding to its enhanced sustainability.

Sincerely,



John McEwen
REPRESENTATIVE | MAYOR, VILLAGE OF ANMORE

Strategic Plan

This year, our 20th, we took time to examine our goals. We refined and focused our role in establishing and maintaining a healthy, dynamic regional park system that is protected and enhanced for future generations.

Our Themes

Refine our Purpose and our Brand

We will refine and focus our role in establishing and maintaining a healthy, dynamic regional park system that is protected and enhanced for future generations, in particular by clarifying our relationship with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

Focus our Fundraising Efforts

We will have a fully resourced fund development operation that successfully launches a fundraising plan to fund identified projects, allowing us to be successful at fulfilling our role.

Strengthen our Partnerships

We will enhance our impact and reach within the community by intentionally building and strengthening purposeful, inclusive and sustainable partnerships with organizations that will assist in fulfilling our purpose.

Build our Engagement, Capacity and Diversity

We will have a plan to address the engagement of every board member in the work of PPF as well as the gaps and opportunities in our mix of resources to realise our full potential in meeting our goals.

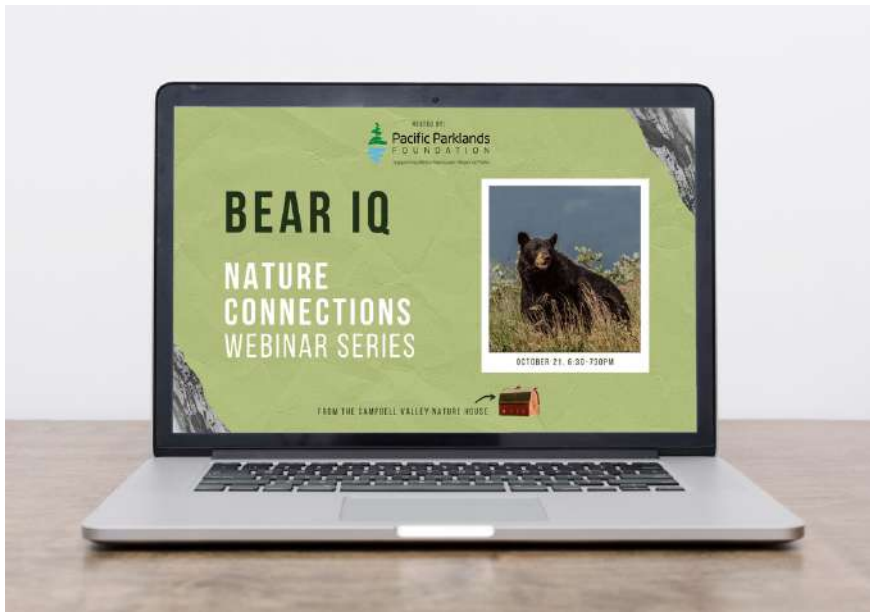


COVID-19 Impact

Like many organizations, COVID-19 affected our revenue, plans and events. During this time regional parks became a refuge for exercise, self-care and normalcy. We also found new opportunities to connect our community with nature and each other.

PARKS ARE HERE FOR YOU

A huge win from 2020 was that Metro Vancouver Regional Parks stayed open. They became a refuge to millions of visitors, and provided a place to exercise, clear our heads, socialize with our loved ones and keep us connected to nature and each other. It would be an understatement to say that the community relied heavily on regional parks to get us through these unprecedented times.



STAYING CONNECTED

While we could not gather in person, we were still determined to stay connected with our supporters.

This meant making events in the regional parks virtual. Our Nature Connections Webinar Series, in partnership with Campbell Valley Nature House, was a huge success and allowed us to continue our mission of connecting people with nature.



16.5
million regional park visitors.

2020 Awards

Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award

Gordon Smith was an exceptional man, dedicated to serving people and the environment. He was passionate about stream and wetland stewardship and very active in conservation projects in Langley and Delta.

To inspire others to follow his path, his friends, family and colleagues at Metro Vancouver Regional Parks initiated the “Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award” fund.

Each year nominations are invited for the Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Award, which provides a bursary for youth age 12-19 who have contributed to environmental stewardship through their volunteer efforts. The 2020 recipients demonstrate leadership in conservation and inspire other young people to get involved in environmental work.

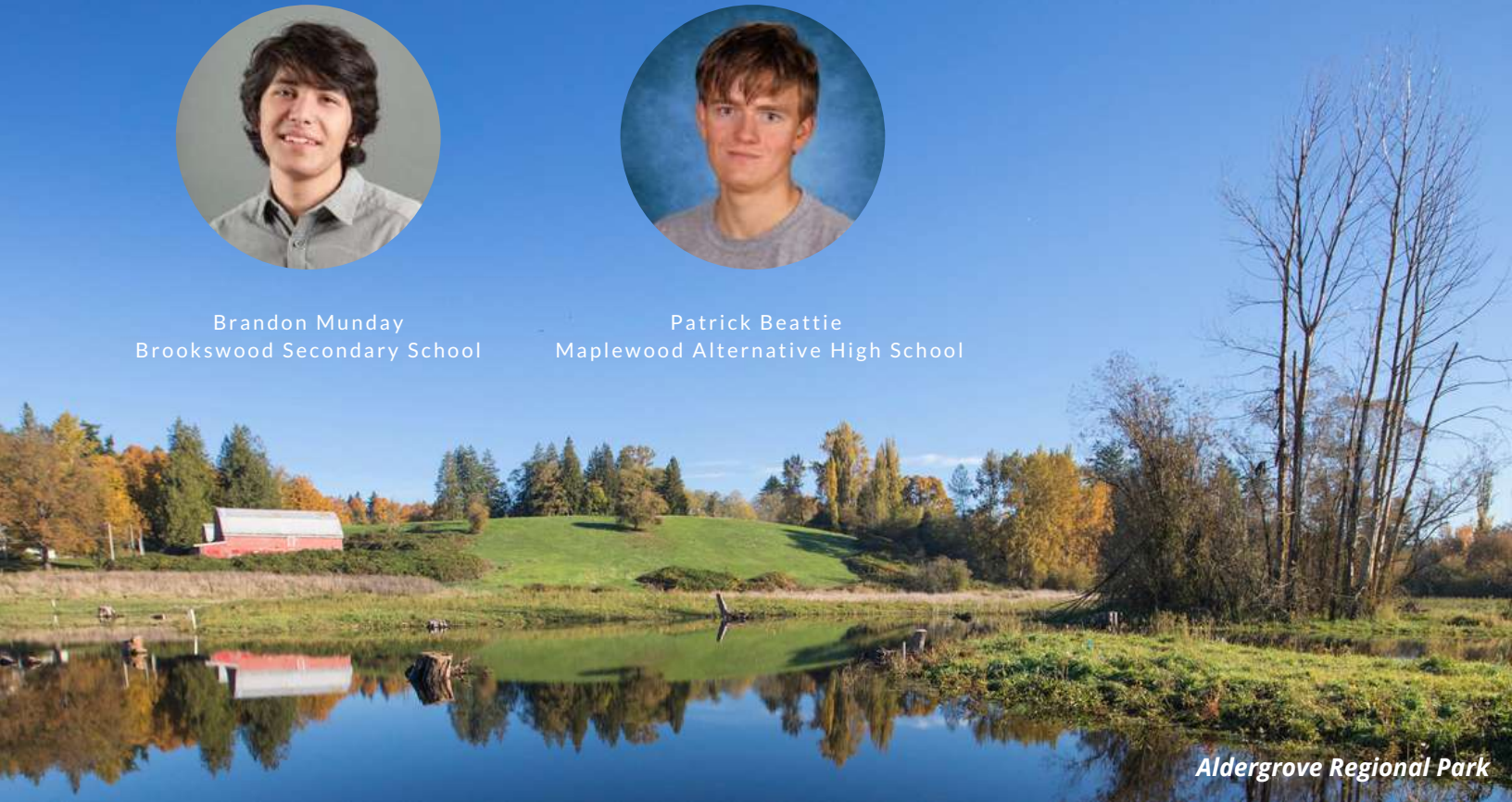
2020 Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award Winners



Brandon Munday
Brookwood Secondary School



Patrick Beattie
Maplewood Alternative High School



CAPILANO RIVER REGIONAL PARK

CTS Youth Society

With the generous support from our donors, Pacific Parklands continues our longterm partnerships with CTS Youth Society. CTS provides youth with the opportunity to get outdoors, engage with the community, and develop leadership skills.

In 2020, the provincial government cancelled all overnight camps in the province of BC due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

Although unable to offer overnight camping, CTS developed new programs and connections with youth. CTS knew that young people had to get outside more than ever. Staff and volunteers worked hard to develop opportunities for youth to safely get outside and enjoy the beautiful regional parks. Through socially distanced hikes, bog walks, eco walks, online games and webinars, and an unshakeable sense of community, CTS Youth Society had another successful year of empowering the leaders of today and tomorrow.

CONNECT

CTS connects youth with each other, nature, and their community. They help youth make lasting connections while camping and exploring in the regional parks.

TEACH

Whether it's their stewardship activities or nature walks, they are always creating opportunities for knowledge sharing. Participants, Peer Leaders, Supervisors, and program partners alike all have something to share and to learn; CTS helps facilitate all this.

SUSTAIN

CTS believes that the best way to conserve the beautiful natural world that we live in is to connect people to their environment. All of their programs focus on how best to be environmental stewards in our ever increasing urban landscape.

"CTS was an opportunity for a kid who grew up in the city to start a love for nature that has never stopped growing."

- RAFA NARCISO,
PROGRAM COORDINATOR & CTS PARTICIPANT

Community Supporters

These organizations are what helped keep the Pacific Parklands Foundation's momentum going in 2020. They helped bring community projects from dreams to a reality. Through their generous donations, they demonstrated their commitment to their community and the environment.

These visionaries support the Pacific Parklands Foundation in all that it does to increase the stewardship of parks across Metro Vancouver: nurturing nature, protecting parks and connecting people with the outdoors.

You too, can help. Protect the Metro Vancouver regional parks you love by donating today.



metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

Sim
Studios | Camera | Lighting • Grip | Post

 **TELUS**



Visionaries

Wendy DaDalt
Stephan Lawson
Shelley Booth
Margaret Davies

Alyce Harper
Richard McMullen
Judith Rithaler
Sharon Valero

The Figures

FUNDS

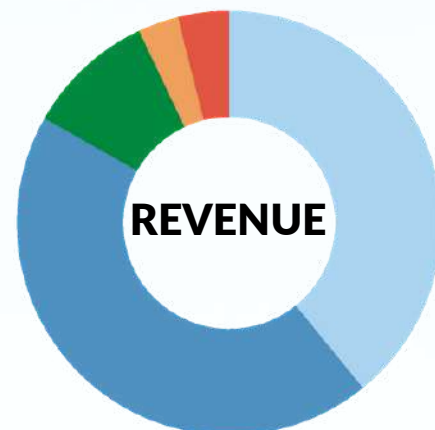
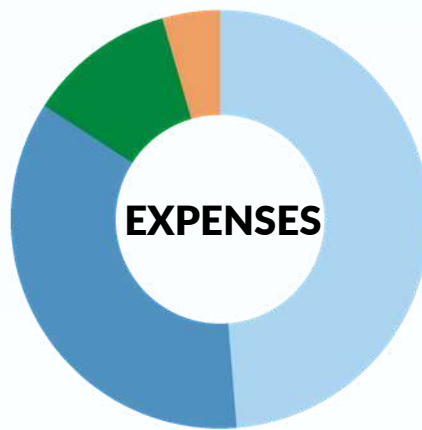
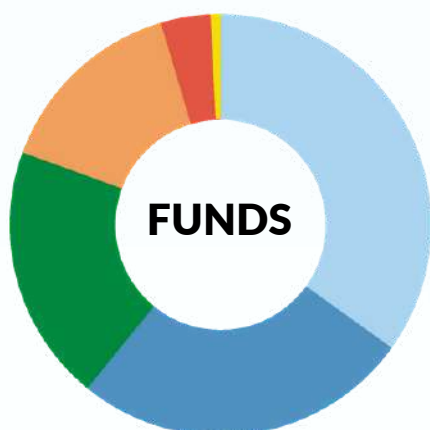
Property	\$666,000
General Funds	\$493,446
Programs & Projects	\$375,977
Endowment	\$282,570
Dr. M. Wosk Fund	\$72,441
Gordon Smith Fund	\$15,279
Total:	\$1,905,713

EXPENSES

Administration	\$163,524
Projects	\$119,022
Programs & Awards	\$38,064
Communications & Public Relations	\$15,055
Total:	\$335,665

REVENUE

Designated	\$159,284
Government Grants	\$179,578
Commemorative	\$39,907
Income	\$12,604
Undesignated	\$15,951
Total:	\$407,324



Our operating costs are covered by a generous operating grant from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, ensuring our donors' gifts can make the greatest possible impact on programs and projects in regional parks.



Approved Grants

Pacific Parklands Foundation funds many grants, big and small. Here are some of the exciting projects we helped bring to fruition in 2020.



BAT CONDOS

These condos will support local bat species, including two maternal colonies that are found in Colony Farm Regional Park and Minnehada Regional Park – the little brown bat (*Myotis Lucifugus*) and the Yuma bat (*Yuma Myotis*). Project leaders are hopeful that the new bat condo will support 1,500+ bats and attract new bat species to the colonies.



FAIRY SHRIMP

Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) received a grant to create and restore habitat for the Oregon Fairy Shrimp (*Eubbranchipus Oregonus*; OFS). Due to development, almost 90% of the OFS population has been wiped out. Pacific Spirit Regional Park is one of the few known locations where they can survive.

Photo Credit: Thalia Grant



WATER QUALITY AT PSPS

We also supported Pacific Spirit Park Society to conduct water quality monitoring by collecting samples and attributing data from Spanish Creek. This data is shared with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, Pacific Stream Keepers and Fisheries and Oceans Canada for ongoing monitoring of this rare urban salmon spawning stream.



Approved Grants



WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE

Ducks Unlimited replaced a water control structure at Derby Reach Regional Park that acts as a reservoir to release a slow and steady stream of water downstream to wetland habitats. This allows them to draw down water in summer months to help manage the invasive aquatic plants and bullfrog populations, thus protecting Western Toad habitat – a species of Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act.



VARC FACILITY UPGRADE

Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) received an eco-friendly facility upgrade, including an incinerating toilet, so that they can continue to safeguard birds and their habitats to ensure their long-term survival and conservation.



FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

The Fraser Valley Conservancy received a Monitoring Tool for Gordon's Brook in Aldergrove Regional Park. This tool enables community groups to monitor the long-term health of wetland restoration sites within Aldergrove Regional Park.



EcoBlitz

9
days

13
regional parks

555
volunteers

1,439
volunteer hours

5,489
native plants planted

610kg
of invasive plants removed

In our sixth annual October EcoBlitz, the Park Associations at Pacific Spirit, Minnekhada, Kanaka Creek and Burnaby Lake worked alongside community groups such as Girl Guides Canada, TD Friends of the Environment, Take A Hike Foundation, the West Coast Fish 'n' Chicks, Tugo, Vantage Point, the Sea Kayak Association of BC and the BC Geocaching Association to help restore the ecosystems within the regional parks.

Planned Gifts

You don't have to be wealthy to create a legacy for the future of our parks. After you have cared for your loved ones, your gift – regardless of size – will help protect and preserve our regional parks for years to come.

Leaving a gift that helps to build a better world is the power of Legacy Giving and it is much easier than you think. Choosing what legacy you want to leave is a unique opportunity for you to express your values and to make a significant mark upon the future.

Moreover, legacy gifts have the added benefit of reducing income tax during your lifetime or through your estate.

One of the simplest ways to create a powerful legacy is through a bequest in your will to Pacific Parklands Foundation.

We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations."

-David Brower



Our Leadership

2020 Board Members

Kevin O'Callaghan
President

Sarah Marsh
Vice President

David Pohl
Past President

Lindsey Fryett Jerke
Secretary

Terri Van Sleuwen
Treasurer

Ryan Lee
Director at Large

Directors

Adam Heffey
Mark van der Zalm
Richard Hankin
Steve Hnatiuk
Eleanor O'Connor
John Scott

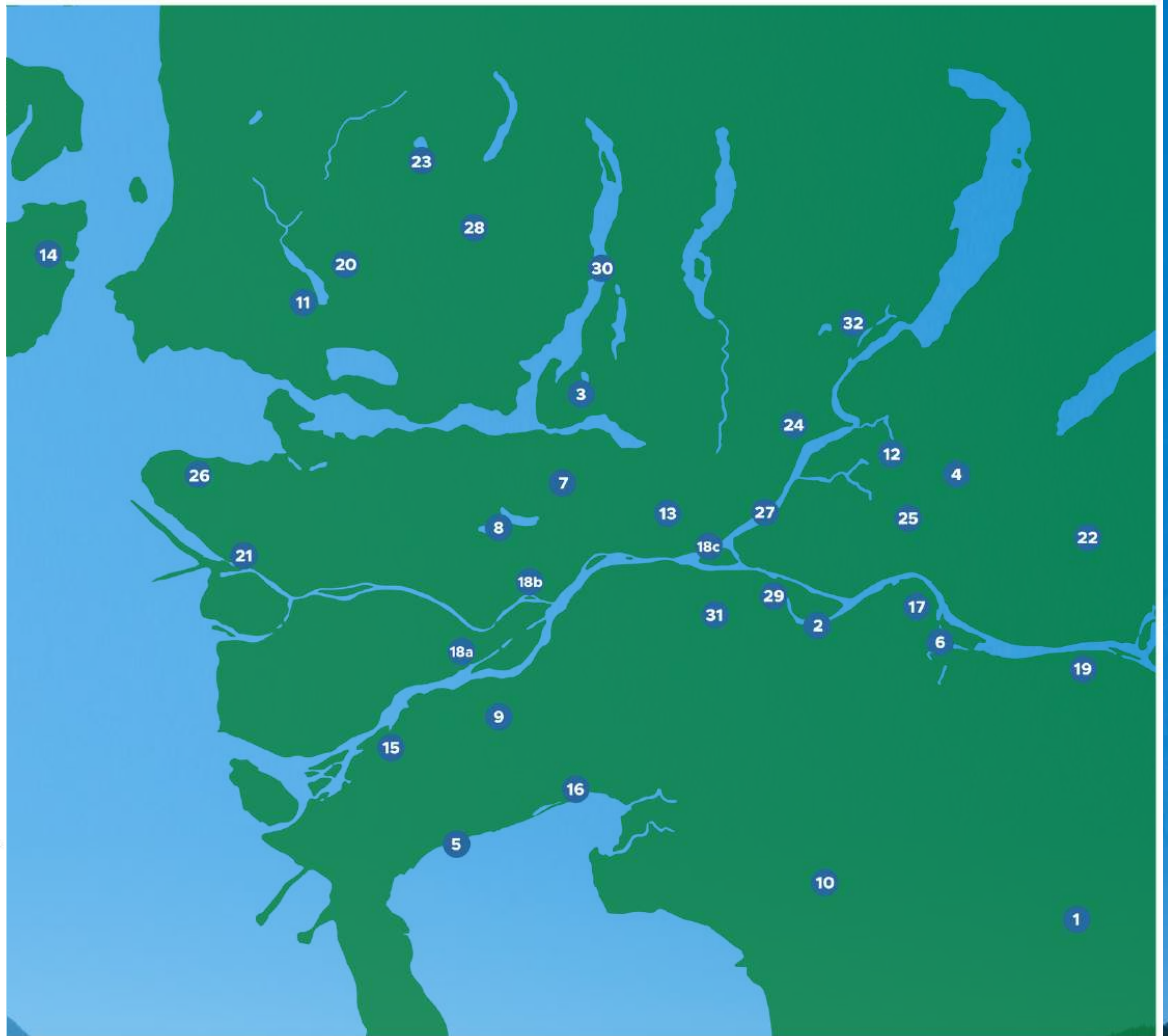
Non Voting

John McEwen
Ron McLaughlin
Mike Redpath

Supporting a regional park near you.

Regional Parks:

- 1 Aldergrove Regional Park:
Aldergrove Discovery Trail and Wetland
Restoration Project
- 2 Barnston Island Regional Park
Picnic table
- 3 Belcarra Regional Park
Playground
- 4 Blaney Bog Regional Park Reserve
- 5 Boundary Bay Regional Park
- 6 Brae Island Regional Park
1km extension to Tavistock Trail
- 7 Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway
- 8 Burnaby Lake Regional Park
Viewing tower
- 9 Burns Bog Ecological
Conservancy Area
- 10 Campbell Valley Regional Park
1km of trees at Campbell
valley regional park
Nature Connection Webinar Series
- 11 Capilano River Regional Park
Wheelchair lift for pool
- 12 Codd Wetland Ecological
Conservancy Area
- 13 Colony Farm Regional Park
Eco Outhouse
- 14 Crippen Regional Park
- 15 Deas Island Regional Park
- 16 Delta-South Surrey
Regional Greenway
- 17 Derby Reach Regional Park
Houston Trail Viewing Tower
- 18 Fraser Islands Regional Park Reserves
- 18a 18b 18c
- 19 Glen Valley Regional Park
- 20 Grouse Mountain Regional Park
Designed custom face masks
- 21 Iona Beach Regional Park
- 22 Kanaka Creek Regional Park
Kanaka Creek watershed stewardship
centre (classroom)
- 23 Lynn Headwaters Regional Park
- 24 Minnehaha Regional Park
Bat Condo
- 25 North Alouette Greenway
- 26 Pacific Spirit Regional Park
Nightquest - an annual lantern-lit event that
offers the experience of interacting with
nature at night
- 27 Pitt River Regional Greenway
- 28 Seymour River Regional Greenway
- 29 Surrey Bend Regional Park
- 30 Thwaytes Landing Regional Park
- 31 Tynehead Regional Park
Tynehead hatchery
- 32 Widgeon Marsh Regional Park



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Registered Charity Number:
889353017RR0001