



Pacific Parklands  
FOUNDATION  
Supporting Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

# 2021 Annual Report

OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 31, 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An early morning group of volunteers gather, stomping their feet to keep warm, trying on work gloves and learning about the trees that they will plant later that day. It isn't an easy task. Lifting heavy plants onto wheelbarrows that take two people to push, digging holes filled with rocks and roots, before finally planting their tree and carefully tamping dirt around the roots. This is just one of the volunteer-driven projects the Foundation has funded this year. We also supported small teams of volunteers pulling invasive species, removing trash, restoring wetlands, sampling water, planting pollinator gardens and getting their hands dirty on other projects in the parks.

Zoom has also become a regular meeting place for some of the parks' most loyal volunteers, who serve on committees and boards of park associations and other park partners. They work alongside Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff, whose workplaces include the park trails and office desks, with a common passion for connecting people with nature and making regional parks the best they can be.

This year, volunteers from the BC Film industry raised \$164,000 in the first ever Reel Earth Day Challenge. Led by Creative BC and Reel Green, funds raised supported 7 projects and leveraged a further 1,000+ volunteer hours, 3,720kg of invasive plant removal and the planting of 5,529 trees and plants (and counting!).

We are grateful to the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Committee, staff and all our volunteers. Your service and commitment enriches our parks, improves our lives and inspires us all.

Sincerely,



**Kevin O'Callaghan**  
PRESIDENT



**Janet Antonio**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## MESSAGE FROM METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

As Chair of the Regional Parks Committee, I am happy to be the Metro Vancouver appointed liaison to the Pacific Parklands Foundation. Over the past 20 years, the Pacific Parklands Foundation has raised awareness and funding to support public programs, stewardship activities, volunteers, land acquisition and capital projects that enhance the park services we provide for the region.

During 2021, our regional parks saw over 16 million visitors. Regional parks and greenways are vital places for people to connect with nature, with each other, and directly contribute to improved physical and mental health for our region's residents. As a region, we all benefit from the 13,824 hectares that are protected within our regional parks system.

In 2022, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks will be completing an update of the Regional Parks Plan. The updated plan will provide strategic direction to guide our work, identify how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged. Our focus will include addressing climate change, ensuring resiliency, and developing an action plan to address priorities looking towards 2050.

Looking towards the future, continued collaboration with the Pacific Parklands Foundation will help to ensure that Metro Vancouver's Regional Park and Greenway system remains protected and accessible for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



**John McEwen**  
REPRESENTATIVE | MAYOR, VILLAGE OF ANMORE

# Cheers to Volunteers

This year, Pacific Parklands Foundation would like to recognize the passion, dedication and hard work of the volunteers that continue to inspire us. These individuals continue to strengthen our communities and ignite change by helping us execute projects that will benefit nature, wildlife and park users within their communities. From protecting endangered frogs to planting native trees, volunteers work with the Foundation to bring projects in the regional parks to fruition.

The Foundation works with seven park associations that support our efforts in a variety of ways. Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association, Pacific Spirit Park Society, Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society, Burnaby Lake Park Association, Minnekhada Park Association, Colony Farm Park Association and Boundary Bay Park Association have proven time and time again that they are a key pillar to our success in the Regional Parks system, increasing the impact of every dollar we raise.

The Foundation is also governed by a board of volunteer directors who give generously of their time, expertise, and skills. This year, two outstanding volunteers retired from the Pacific Parklands board, having completed their maximum terms. David Pohl was a founding board member and the Foundation's first Vice Chair (2000-2007). As Chair from 2008-2020 and Past Chair for the last two years, David has been a tireless fundraiser and advocate for parks. Rich Hankin drove the creation of the Foundation, as a staff member at the Greater Vancouver Regional District and joined the Foundation board in 2005 after his retirement. It has been an honour to serve alongside David and Rich who have inspired us all with their selfless and generous service to enrich our community and provide opportunities for others. Our deepest appreciation to both.

We attribute our success to volunteers in the many forms they come. They shape the places and spaces where they live, work, and play. Their value goes long beyond the many hours they put into nurturing nature; they leave a legacy within their communities that is felt forever.

With sincere gratitude,

*President Kevin O'Callaghan, the Board of Directors & the Staff Team*

# 2021 Awards

## Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award

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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 2021 recipients demonstrate leadership in conservation and inspire other young people to get involved in environmental work.

## 2021 Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

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Rachel Dong  
Eric Hamber Secondary School



Catherine Pryer  
University of British Columbia



# CTS Youth Society

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

In 2021, our donors helped CTS Youth Society:

- Relaunch overnight camping programs post-pandemic
- Put smiles on 252 campers faces
- Equip youth with leadership and outdoor skills
- Connect young people with nature and their community
- Connect 112 households with nature
- Fuel campers with free, healthy meals as well as the supplies and training they need to explore the beauty of the regional parks and come home safe
- Log 466 volunteer hours in regional parks

CTS Youth Society was also able to try out some new programs, such as exploring the "Birds of Burnaby Lake," courses in how to "Survive Outside," and repurposing their items in a "T-shirts to Tote Bags" up-cycling class.

We treasure the opportunity to play a role in giving youth the best summer of their life and show them just how amazing and capable they are.

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*"CTS pushed me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to be independent and brave in my first time away from home. This program connected me with youth from all over Metro Vancouver, gave me the opportunity to make a difference in the parks around me, and so much more!"*

**-PATRICIA HO, PEER LEADER & CTS PARTICIPANT**

# Community Supporters

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

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TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation

creativeBC

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# Park Partners

- Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association
- Pacific Spirit Park Society
- Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society
- Burnaby Lake Park Association
- Minnekhada Park Association
- Colony Farm Park Association
- Boundary Bay Park Association

# The Figures

## FUNDS

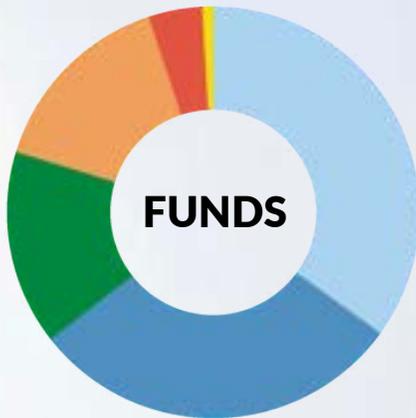
Property	\$666,000
General Funds	\$561,852
Programs & Projects	\$290,786
Endowment	\$288,768
Dr. M. Wosk Fund	\$80,485
Gordon Smith Fund	\$16,976
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,904,867</b>

## EXPENSES

Administration	\$207,349
Projects	\$236,794
Programs & Awards	\$117,023
Communications & Public Relations	\$5,712
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$566,878</b>

## REVENUE

Designated	\$223,271
Government Grants	\$183,854
Commemorative	\$61,520
Income	\$25,904
Undesignated	\$57,200
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$551,749</b>



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 brought to fruition in 2021.



## POLLINATOR GARDEN

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The Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association built a raised-bed pollinator garden with native flowering plants and a mason bee house in the Heritage Orchard. Volunteers utilized plants our local pollinators love, such as red columbine, nodding onion, Douglas' aster, goldenrod, and pearly everlasting.



## INTERPRETIVE ART MURAL

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Kanaka Creek Regional Park is a hot spot for conducting education programs about salmon and the “fish fence” installed in the creek each fall to obtain broodstock for the nearby Bell-Irving Hatchery. The mural will tell the story of the salmon lifecycle, their connection to our ecosystem, and the importance of habitat preservation and conservation, all while adding dynamic colour to the site.



## BARN OWL NESTS

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Boundary Bay Park Association was able to build barn owls (a threatened species) their own nest boxes at the Delta Air Park. The best part? As shown in this photo, they already have tenants!



# Approved Grants



## LANGLEY BOG CLEANUP

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BCIT, along with Derby Reach Brae Island Park Associations, were able to cleanup and restore the park by removing 16 industrial tires from the bog wetlands and bringing them up and out of the bog area to higher ground where debris was being collected for pickup. This was followed up with a moss transplant project.



## EQUESTRIAN RING RESTORED

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The Bowen Island Horse Owners and Riders Association were provided a grant to replacing the footing in the riding ring at Crippen Regional Park. This project will ensure the safety of riders and horses during events, shows and pleasure riding. It will also benefit all of the islanders and visitors who come to the shows and events and use the facility to play disc sports, have outdoor gym class activities, and other outdoor activities.



## NATURE BROCHURES

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Delta Naturalists Society were able to add to their collection of brochures that spotlight local nature and wildlife in Delta. Adding to the *Birds of Delta* resources, the new titles are: *Animals in Delta*, *Bugs in Delta*, and *Intertidal Life in Delta*.



# REEL Earth Day Challenge

In 2021, the first ever REEL Earth Day Challenge was presented by Creative BC's Reel Green™ program and industry partners, Pacific Parklands Foundation and Earth Day Canada.

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

'The Scriptures' team were declared our first ever challenge champion! Thank you to all participants, donors, and industry supporters who took part in the challenge. Because of you, we raised over \$164,000 to restore and protect Metro Vancouver regional parks.

## Together, we:

- Planted trees in Aldergrove Regional Park
- Created a pollinator meadow in Pacific Spirit Regional Park
- Removed invasive plants at Capilano River Regional Park
- Helped a wetland thrive in Crippen Regional Park
- Replanted forests in Kanaka Creek & Tynehead Regional Parks
- Restored native species at Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway
- Protected rare coastal ecosystems in Boundary Bay Regional Park

35mm FILM





# Bus Grant Program

Do you remember how much fun the “field trip” was when you were in school? Do you recall that it was even more fun if the trip was to a natural space like a park? Did you know that this experience is not available to many youth today? Every year thousands of students, seniors and people with financial barriers are not able to visit our regional parks. Why? Because there is no funding to charter a bus.

We are working to change this through our bus grant program. With your help, in 2021 we connected even more groups to the beauty of nature found in Metro Vancouver regional parks. One \$500 donation makes the dream of a chartered bus a reality. Your donation can and has made a difference.

From October 1, 2020 to September 31, 2021, we approved 15 bus grants, resulting in 495 individuals receiving the necessary but otherwise unattainable opportunity to connect with nature.



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*"The park was so beautiful, the air was fresh, the physical exercise and the nature mentors' kindness and sense of humour all contributed to such a joyful experience."*

*"My child usually has challenging behaviour 80% of the time. Today is only 50%. It's a good day."*

*"The nature mentors set a great example that you can be active and contribute at retirement age."*

**-SHARE SOCIETY'S (SERVING NEWCOMERS AND REFUGEE FAMILIES) TRIP TO MINNEKHADA REGIONAL PARK, WHERE 8 FAMILIES ATTENDED A NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT.**



# 2021 Events

## Nature Connections Webinar Series

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2021 was another year of finding new ways to experience nature – online!

Usually, the Nature House in Campbell Valley Regional Park features guest presenters throughout the summer as part of the drop-in programming. But when the pandemic hit, park staff came up with a new way to provide park visitors with fun, fascinating ways to learn about nature in the park: the Nature Connections Webinar Series.

The Foundation was proud to support another year of free one-hour webinars which touched on a range of topics, including owls, frogs, turtles, butterflies, bears, pond life, urban wildlife, bird-banding, backyard birding, species at risk and biodiversity.

## Bedtime Nature Stories Webinar Series

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In an effort to connect young children with their local nature, Metro Vancouver park interpreters logged online to share their nature knowledge and a special nature bedtime story with the community (from the comfort of their own home). With the Foundation's support, each night began with a nature knowledge segment including interactive quizzes and finished with a fun bedtime story about nature that got local little ones settled in bed.

## Regional Parks Snap & Share

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In the Spring of 2021, we partnered with Metro Vancouver to encourage locals to explore Metro Vancouver's regional parks and greenways through the iNaturalist app. This led participants to pay attention to plants and wildlife they may not have noticed before by snapping photos of what they discovered and sharing their photos with the iNaturalist online community. With public health orders in place, this was a fun outdoor activity for all, whether on their own or with their bubble. With a ton of fun prizes up for grabs, 6,444 observations were made, 1,035 species were observed, and 639 identifiers participated.

## Art's Nursery Scarecrow Stroll

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The Foundation was humbled to be a beneficiary of this exciting autumnal event, which involved a pumpkin patch, scavenger hunt, and dozens of creepy, cool and creative scarecrows. Alongside the flowers and food trucks, Art's Nursery invited local businesses to promote their company or organization during this popular family fundraiser in support of charity. A special thanks to the CTS Youth for the creation of a camper scarecrow, which represented both CTS Youth Society and Pacific Parklands Foundation at the nursery.

# Planned Gifts

Leaving a gift in your will to the Foundation turns the ordinary park user into an extraordinary philanthropist.

With a gift in your will to the Pacific Parklands Foundation, you can create a healthier future for your community and the beloved wildlife and natural spaces within it. It's a statement of your values and commitment to protecting the environment.

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

We invite you to name Pacific Parklands Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate plan and create a legacy as a Regional Park Visionary. A healthy, thriving natural environment is the most important gift we can hand off to the next generation.

*"This land, this water, this air, this planet –  
this is our legacy to our young."*

*-Paul Tsongas*



# Our Leadership

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## 2021 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  
Eleanor O'Connor  
John Scott

### **Non Voting**

John McEwen - Mayor of Anmore  
Ron McLaughlin - Mayor of Lions Bay  
Mike Redpath - Director, MVRP

# Supporting a regional park near you.



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