
REGIONAL PARKS ROLE IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURE

Effective Date: July 31, 2015

Approved By: GVRD Board

Policy No. PK-003

PURPOSE

To establish by policy the role of the Regional Parks Service in promoting agriculture.

DEFINITIONS

“Agricultural Lands” Lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR); and

“Regional Park Lands” All properties held by the GVRD as Regional Preserves, Regional Nature Parks, Regional Multi-Use Parks and Regional Trails.

POLICY

In regional parks GVRD may support agricultural initiatives, demonstration projects, themed events and other similar agricultural uses that enhance public use, advance ecological objectives, educate the public and/or provide interpretive value. Such uses must not undermine the primary purpose of the host regional park, and must be consistent with the relevant regional park management plan in place.

GVRD will phase out agricultural operations that do not meet the terms noted above. GVRD will also phase out agricultural uses when lands are required for development as regional park land.

GVRD will not grant a commercial agricultural operation the exclusive use of regional park land.

GVRD may use agriculture as a land management tool to achieve ecological, stewardship, operational and other park objectives to the extent that such objectives are compatible with and support the public's use and enjoyment of the host regional park.

Where a regional park is located in an agricultural neighbourhood, GVRD will work with local farmers to minimize the regional park's impact on local agriculture. Steps taken by the GVRD may include the application of careful site planning, the introduction of appropriate park management, the use of buffer zones and signage, and the establishment of codes of conduct for visitors.

Agricultural operations that are situated on regional park land must be bound by a non-exclusive license agreement. The terms of the agreement may include the development of an environmental farm plan, or a requirement for sustainable or organic practices.