



Burnaby Lake Regional Park

Draft Management Plan 2026

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations: i   (Katzie),         (Kwantlen), k           (Kwikwetlem), m       (Matsqui), x             (Musqueam), i      (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, Sk                 (Squamish), sc         m         (Tsawwassen), and s           (Tsleil-Waututh).

Burnaby Lake Regional Draft Park Management Plan May 2026

Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

metrovanancouver.org

COVER PHOTO: PIPER SPIT BOARDWALK AND VIEWING TOWER, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK



BIRDING AT BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Executive Summary

A management plan process for Burnaby Lake Regional Park began in 2025. The plan expresses a long-term vision to guide the park over a 20-year horizon. The process included research, analysis, and engagement with the public, stakeholders, agencies, and First Nations. Throughout the process, Metro Vancouver worked closely with the City of Burnaby staff advisory team, whose local knowledge and technical expertise helped inform and shape the draft management plan.

The management plan focuses on protecting and restoring park ecosystems, supporting existing uses, improving park facilities, and providing opportunities for park visitors to learn about nature. The park concept plan enhances the park's three main activity areas, and includes additional trails, a canoe/kayak launch, and a new nature education centre.





BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

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BRUNETTE HEADWATERS TRAIL, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

1. Introduction

Burnaby Lake Regional Park protects 137 hectares of wetland and lowland forest surrounding Burnaby Lake in the City of Burnaby, and within the shared territories of kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation), xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). Located at the centre of the Brunette River watershed, it provides an important refuge for people and wildlife within a highly urbanized area. The park encompasses wetlands, riparian habitats, and a mix of deciduous and coniferous forests, including pockets of mature forest. As a key stopover along the Pacific Flyway, it supports migratory and overwintering birds. Wildlife ranges from wood ducks, beavers, and bears to species at risk, such as western painted turtle and snowshoe hare. A pedestrian trail encircles the lake, complemented by boardwalks, loop trails, and equestrian and cycling opportunities. The Burnaby Lake Nature House, viewing structures, and picnic areas offer visitors opportunities to learn about and connect with nature.

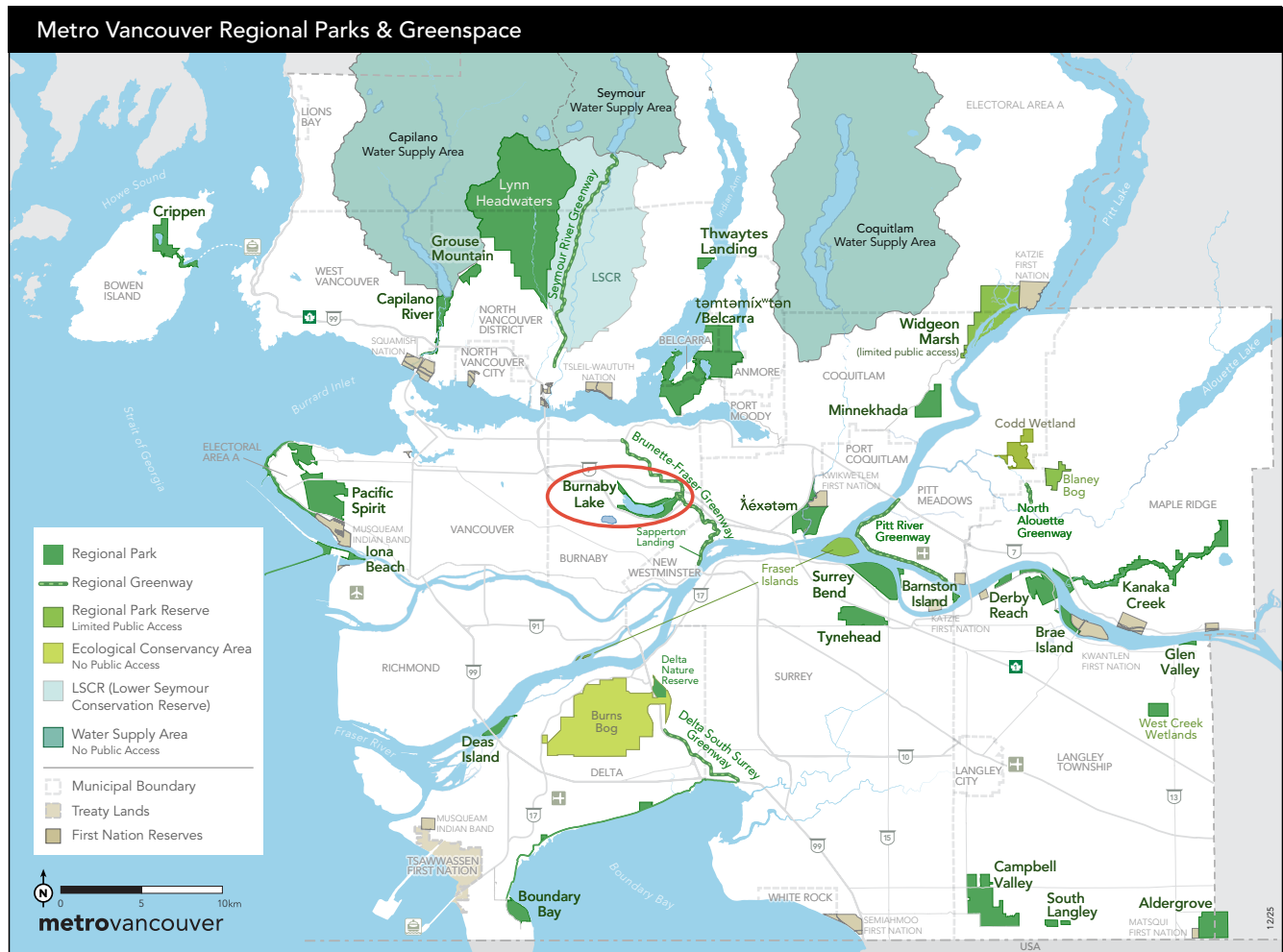


FIGURE 1: REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENWAYS SYSTEM MAP

2. Process and Context

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is part of the regional parks system managed by Metro Vancouver, including 24 regional parks, five regional greenways, two ecological conservancy areas and two regional park reserves (Figure 1).

2.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Burnaby Lake Regional Park management plan is to set program, services, development, and conservation priorities. The plan expresses a 20-year vision for the park and may be adjusted as necessary to respond to changing conditions over the lifespan of the plan. Management strategies contained in the plan include natural area protection, management and development of facilities, and nature education opportunities.

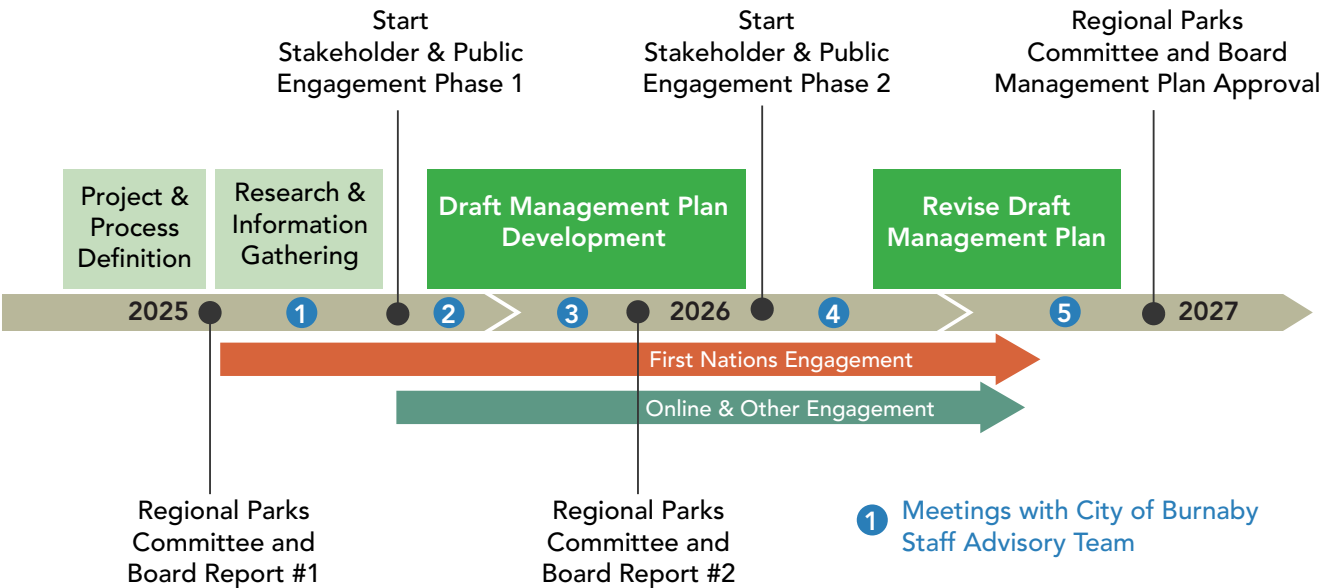


FIGURE 2: MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

2.2 Planning Process

The planning process (Figure 2) focused on project planning and a first phase of engagement. Metro Vancouver gathered insight and feedback through engagement with First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Engagement results informed the development of the draft management plan. The draft plan will be tested and refined through the second phase of outreach and engagement during summer 2026.

2.3 Metro Vancouver Policy Context

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also monitors and regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable rental housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is made up of four separate legal entities, each governed by its own Board of Directors. Board directors are elected officials from member jurisdictions.

The regional parks system currently protects approximately 13,900 hectares of land. The Regional Parks Plan is Metro Vancouver’s management plan for the regional parks system. It provides a framework for the development of management plans for individual parks. The vision for the regional parks system is that regional parks are protected and resilient, connecting people to nature with benefits for all.

2.4 First Nations Context

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is located within the shared traditional territories of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation), xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh úxwumíxw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). These Nations and their ancestors have lived on, cared for, and maintained cultural and ecological connection with this land since time immemorial. Metro Vancouver has engaged with these First Nations in the planning process of this management plan, and their knowledge and perspectives continue to inform the care and future of this area.

2.5 Park Formation

Burnaby Lake Regional Park was established as a regional park in 1978. Approximately 65 per cent of the park is owned by the City of Burnaby and leased to Metro Vancouver. In February 2024, Metro Vancouver and the City of Burnaby signed a new lease agreement with a 25-year term, including an option to renew for an additional 25 years. A key condition of the lease is the development of a management plan for Burnaby Lake Regional Park within five years of the agreement's signing. In addition to the City of Burnaby lands, Metro Vancouver owns 29 hectares of parkland and has a license for 22 hectares of additional parkland from Public Works Canada.

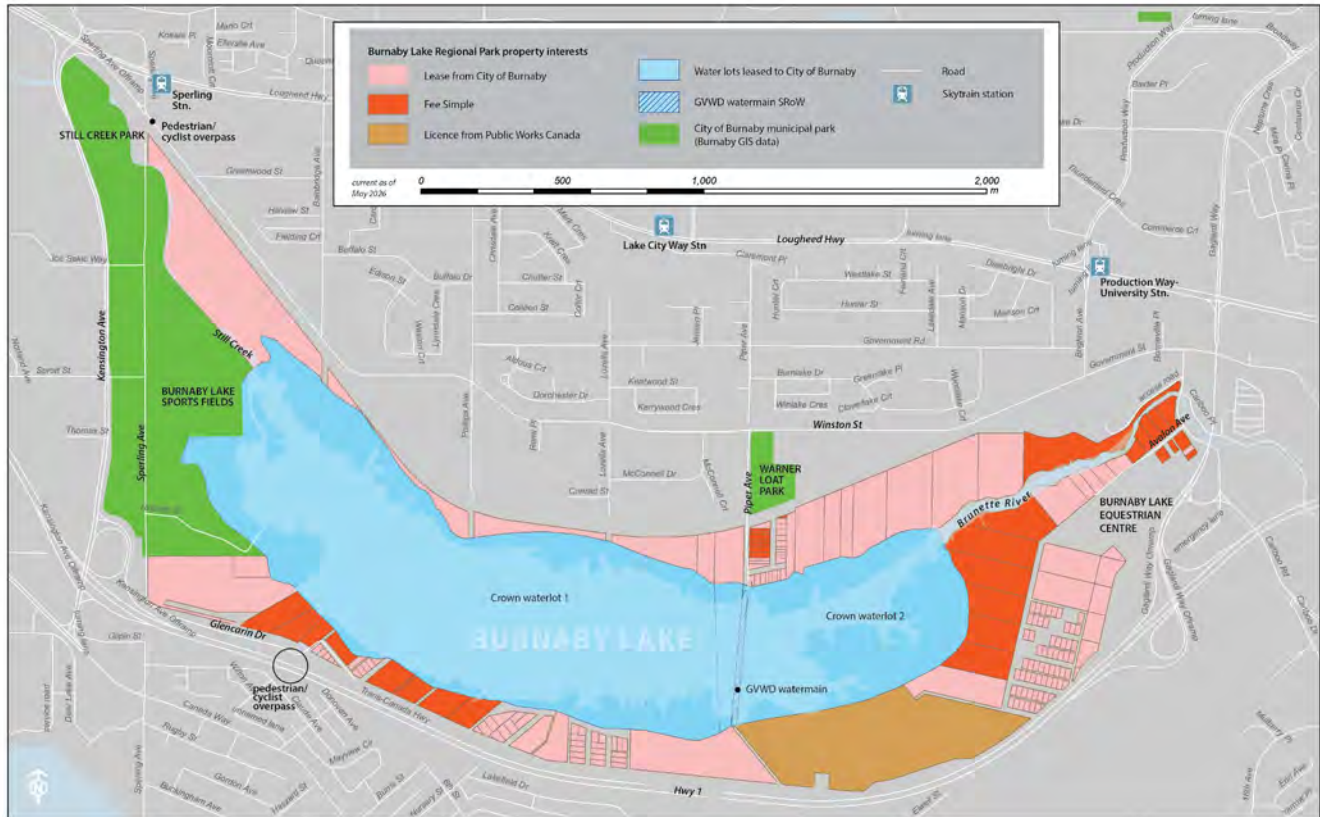


FIGURE 3: PROPERTIES STATUS AS OF MAY 2026 – BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

2.6 Local Context

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is in the centre of the City of Burnaby, near the City of Vancouver to the west, City of New Westminster to the south, and City of Coquitlam to the east.

City of Burnaby

The City of Burnaby is the third most populated urban centre in the Metro Vancouver Region, after Vancouver and Surrey, with a population just under 300,000 (Metro Vancouver, 2025). It is a major regional centre with large natural parks and a network of vibrant town centres. It is home to a growing, diverse, and increasingly urban population.



LOOKING TOWARDS LOUGHEED TOWN CENTRE, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

2.7 Landscape Context

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is situated within the urban landscape of the Metro Vancouver region and is surrounded by residential neighbourhoods, Deer Lake municipal park, industrial areas, transportation corridors, and active recreation facilities at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex. Despite its urban context, the park functions as one of the region's most significant lowland wetland and lake systems. Its size, connectivity, and protected status allow it to provide critical ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities within a highly developed area.

Watershed Context and Wetland System

Burnaby Lake occupies a central position within the Brunette River watershed. The lake's tributaries include Still Creek, Eagle Creek, and Deer Lake Brook along with other multiple urban and upland streams. The lake then discharges eastward through the Brunette River to the Fraser River. As a watershed feature, Burnaby Lake moderates stormwater flows, captures sediment, and improves downstream water quality. Its role is particularly important given the extent of impervious surfaces in the surrounding catchment. Ongoing watershed stewardship is critical to maintaining these functions in the face of urban development and climate change.

Burnaby Lake is a shallow freshwater lake surrounded by wetlands, riparian areas, and forested uplands. The lake and its associated wetlands form one of the largest remaining freshwater wetland complexes in the urban Lower Mainland. These habitats support high levels of biological productivity and provide important ecosystem services, including flood attenuation, water quality improvement, carbon storage, and urban climate moderation.

The wetland complex is characterized by emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation, seasonally flooded areas, and softsediment lake margins that support a wide range of aquatic invertebrates, fish, amphibians, and birds. Ecological conditions within the lake are influenced by managed water levels at Cariboo Dam and tributary inflows.

Wildlife Corridors and Migration Significance

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is a regionally significant wildlife area, particularly for waterfowl and migratory birds. The lake and surrounding wetlands provide feeding, nesting, and staging habitat for numerous species along the Pacific Flyway. These wetlands and adjacent forested areas and riparian corridors also support resident wildlife and provide safe movement routes through an otherwise fragmented urban landscape.

Burnaby Lake and its tributaries provide important fish habitat. These waterways support salmon returning to spawn, with passage facilitated by the fishway at Cariboo Dam. The park's aquatic and terrestrial habitats together form an important refuge for wildlife within the heavily urbanized Brunette River watershed. Black bear and bobcat are regular visitors to the park as they move through the urban environment along riparian corridors from Burnaby Mountain to the Fraser River.

Regional Setting and Visual Context

While largely surrounded by urban development, Burnaby Lake Regional Park maintains strong visual connections to the broader geographic and urban context of the region. Views across the lake and wetlands create a sense of openness and immersion in nature that contrasts with nearby residential, commercial, and transportation corridors. From sections of the South Shore Trail and elevated areas along the park's southern edge, visitors experience expansive views toward the North Shore mountains and Burnaby Mountain, reinforcing the park's connection to the regional landscape.

The park also offers visual connections to Burnaby's urban centres, with views toward Metrotown and the Lougheed Mall towers from select locations around the lake. These foreground-background relationships highlight the juxtaposition of natural systems within a highly urbanized setting and reinforce Burnaby Lake Regional Park's role as a green and blue core within the city.

Transportation infrastructure, including Highway 1 and adjacent rail corridors, frames portions of the park, creating both access opportunities and environmental challenges such as noise and fragmentation. Recent and planned multiuse connections, including a pedestrian overpass over Highway 1, enhance regional access and strengthen the park's role within the broader greenway and active transportation network.

2.8 Historical and Cultural Context

From Time Immemorial

[content in below paragraph is a placeholder only, and is to be developed in collaboration with First Nations]

The Central Valley area includes Deer Lake, Burnaby Lake, and the Brunette River. It was an intensively used resource area. hə́ŋqəmiḥə́h and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh ancestors lived in long-term villages at the mouth of the Brunette River, in what is now New Westminster and Surrey, and near Deer Lake at the present site of Burnaby Village Museum. There were also many seasonal village sites — places where specific hə́ŋqəmiḥə́h and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh families lived at different times of the year for food harvesting. (City of Burnaby, 2019)

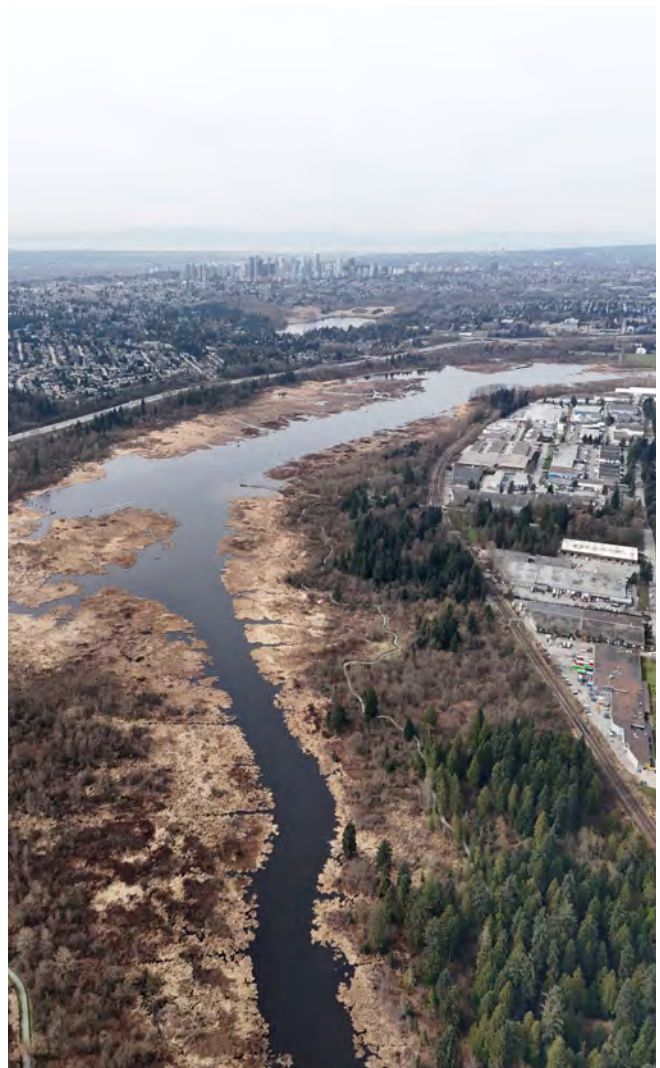
Early Settler Use

The Royal Engineers of British Columbia arrived at Burnaby Lake in 1859 (Fraser River Action Plan, 1997 - citing Allison, 1993). Within 15 years, three sawmills were constructed surrounding the lake, and most of the area around the lake was logged by 1892. Although the previously logged areas have since revegetated, visible evidence of past logging is seen through the tracts of deciduous forest in the park, which originally had been coniferous forest.

2.9 Park Beginnings and Partners

In 1972, the Committee of 10 — later incorporated as the Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) — initiated the development of trails around Burnaby Lake, laying the foundation for long standing community stewardship within the park. From early efforts to clean the lake environment and establish the perimeter trail, to ongoing activities such as habitat restoration, nest box monitoring, invasive species removal, and public education, the BLPA continues to play a key role in caring for Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC (WRA) was established in 1979 to provide rescue and rehabilitation for wildlife affected by urbanization. The organization has also historically delivered public education programs and children's camps. Originally operating from The Burnaby Lake Nature House, WRA relocated in 1987 to its current location at the Glencarin Drive Entrance. The organization continues to operate a year round wildlife hospital, contributing to wildlife protection and stewardship within the park and across the region.



AERIAL VIEW LOOKING WEST TOWARD DEER LAKE AND METROTOWN, WINTER VIEW

The Aintree House, a designated heritage building at the north east corner of the park, provides an example of middle-class residential life from a century ago. The Aintree House was gutted by a fire in 2003, later restored and formally recognized on the Canadian Heritage Register in 2004. It is owned by Metro Vancouver and currently provides space for the CTS Youth Society (Connect.Teach.Sustain), the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, and the Stream of Dreams eco-education program.



BUS STOP, PARK ENTRANCE ON CARIBOO ROAD, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

2.10 Park Access and Connectivity

Located centrally within the region, Burnaby Lake Regional Park can be accessed by foot, transit, bike, or personal vehicle. Burnaby Lake Regional Park is bordered by CN Railway to the north and Highway 1 to the south, both of which serve as barriers, limiting park entrance opportunities and connectivity to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Park entrances are located on the west and east sides of the park, along with the Piper Spit, the most popular entrance, at the centre north edge of the park.

Transit Access

It is one of the most transit accessible regional parks, with three skytrain stops a short distance, 15- to 20-minute walk from its perimeter. In addition, three bus routes provide more direct access to the park with very short walks to park entrances, at Still Creek (five-minute walk), Piper Spit (10-minute walk) and Cariboo/Avalon (one-minute walk).

Cycling Connections and Overpasses

Recent investments in active transportation have improved access to Burnaby Lake Regional Park, including the completion of the Burnaby Lake Overpass across Highway 1 that creates a safe, accessible north-south crossing between key regional trail networks and destinations in Burnaby.

Although cycling is not permitted within much of the regional park, the Brunette Fraser Greenway and the Central Valley Greenway provide access to the park. The Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway arrives on the eastern edge of the park, connecting the park north to Squint Lake Park and, ultimately, Burnaby Mountain, as well as connecting the park south-east to Hume Park and ultimately, Sapperton Landing in New Westminster. The Central Valley Greenway runs north of the park – along Winston Street – and connects cyclists with the park in the northwest corner via the multi-use overpass near Sperling-Burnaby Lake Skytrain Station. The Central Valley Greenway connects the park westward into Vancouver and eastward to New Westminster. A trail shared by cyclists and other users connects Sperling Avenue and Glencarin Avenue at the west to Avalon Trail and Avalon Avenue to the east.

Parking

Despite the high transit accessibility, over three-quarters of visitors still arrive by personal vehicle (Justason Market Intelligence Inc, 2024). Vehicle parking is available at Piper Avenue, Avalon Avenue, and Glencarin Trailhead Entrances. Adjacent to the park, Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion and Sports Complex both provide parking near park access points. On sunny weekend days, parking demand often exceeds capacity at Piper Avenue while Avalon Avenue usually has excess capacity. Parking is also available at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex, a short walk from the park.

Park Access and Connectivity

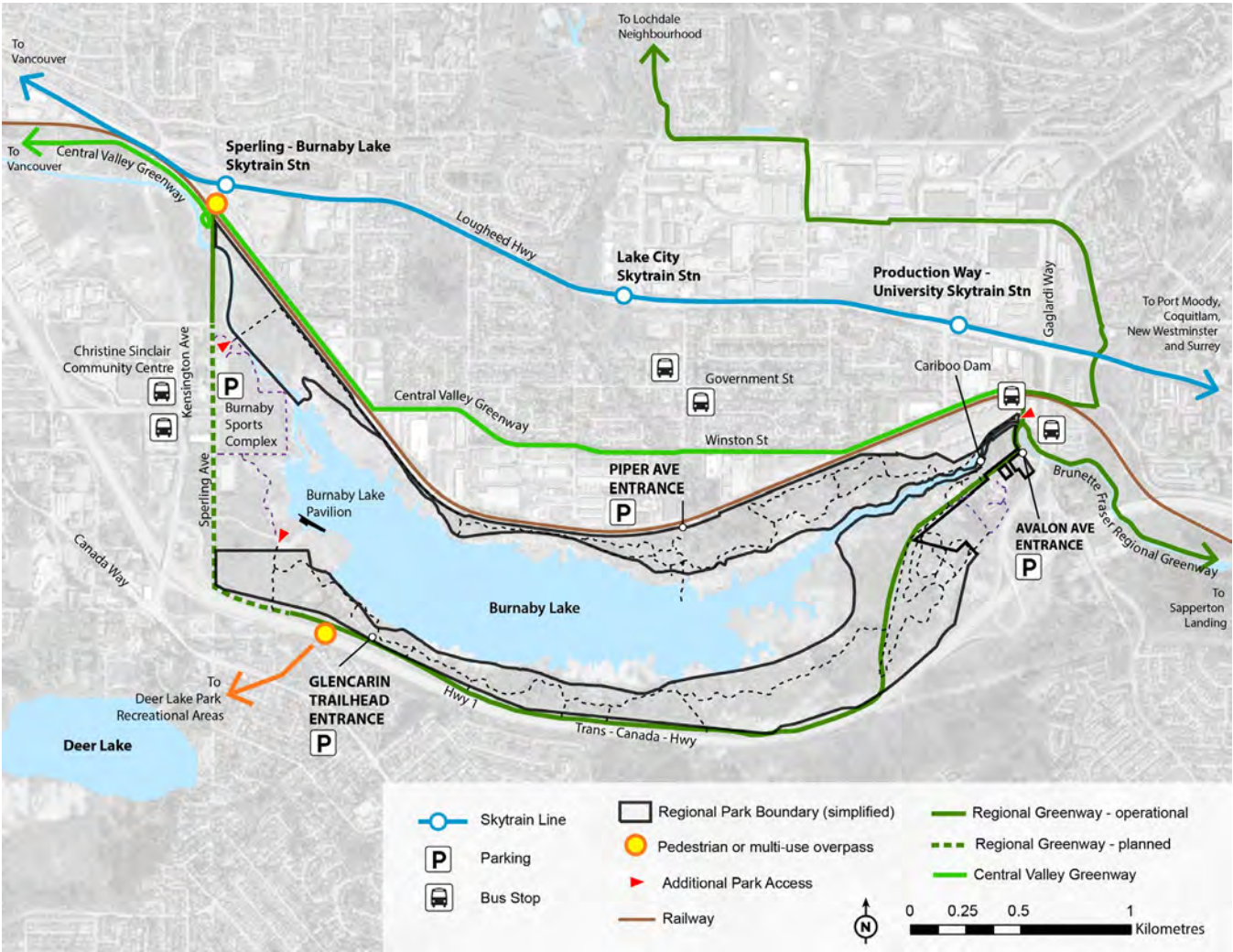


FIGURE 4: TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

3. Existing Conditions

3.1 Overview

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is situated at the bottom of the Still Creek-Brunette River Valley (Central Valley) which separates the northern and southern ridges of the Burrard Peninsula. The park is relatively flat with only slight variations in elevation above sea level from east to west. The park encircles Burnaby Lake, with view and lake access points being key to the park's recreational experience. Adjacent to Burnaby Lake are wetland ecosystems, which transition to wetland forests, and finally mixed coniferous and deciduous forests as distance to the lake and elevation increases. Visitation estimates have risen since the park's opening, and in 2025 the annual visitation was an estimated 422,900 visits.



PIPER SPIT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

3.2 Park Purpose

Burnaby Lake Regional Park provides a refuge in the middle of a highly urbanized watershed, protecting forest and wetland habitats, and the numerous wildlife species that depend upon them. It also offers park users opportunities for mental and physical restoration through passive recreational uses around the lake.

The current purpose of Burnaby Lake Regional Park is to:

- Support regional biodiversity by conserving and managing one of the largest urban non-swimming lakes and wetlands in the region
- Conserve and enhance a diversity of habitats around the lake including the lake's margins, adjacent marshes, and lowland forests
- Provide recreational opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with nature through trails, views, water access, picnicking, and nature learning
- Act as a hub for environmental education, easily accessible to many users

3.3 Hydrology

Burnaby Lake lies at the centre of the Brunette River watershed, which drains approximately 7,200 hectares of predominantly urbanized land across Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Moody, and New Westminster. Still Creek is the primary inflow to the lake, entering from the west, while the Brunette River drains the lake at its eastern end and flows onward to the Fraser River. Several tributaries flow into Burnaby Lake from both the north and south. Key northern tributaries include Eagle Creek, which enters the lake near Piper Spit, as well as Skid Creek, Salamander Creek, and Silver Creek. From the south, tributaries include Deer Lake Brook, which drains Deer Lake into Burnaby Lake, Ramsay Creek, and various smaller streams.

As a low point in the watershed, Burnaby Lake functions as a settling area for sediments and materials transported by upstream creeks. Accumulation of fine sediments, organic matter, and aquatic vegetation contributes to the lake's shallow depth and limits some recreational uses, including swimming. The shallow nature of the lake also presents challenges for onwater recreation, particularly for maintaining canoe/kayak launch areas at Piper Spit.

History of Changes to Burnaby Lake Hydrology

Beginning in the late 1800s, settler activity increasingly altered the lake's hydrology. Logging operations established along the lakeshore constructed temporary dams at the eastern outlet to raise water levels and facilitate log transport down the Brunette River to the Fraser River. In the early twentieth century, widespread deforestation in the surrounding watershed contributed to increased runoff, sedimentation, and recurring flooding. This prompted the formation of regional drainage authorities and the construction of the first permanent dam at Cariboo Road in 1915. Cariboo Dam, completed in 1935 and later upgraded in 1987 for remote operation, continues to regulate water levels in the lake. Today, Metro Vancouver's Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District manages the hydrology of Burnaby Lake and the Brunette Basin.

Extensive dredging of Burnaby Lake, Still Creek, and the Brunette River occurred through the mid-1900s to improve drainage and manage flooding, with further dredging undertaken in the 1970s to create a world-class rowing course. In 2011, the Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation Project removed a substantial volume of accumulated sediments from the lake. This work increased areas of deeper open water for recreation purposes, improved water quality conditions, enhanced fish habitat, and improved conditions for fish migration in some tributary creeks.

Ongoing hydrologic management focuses on balancing flood protection, ecological health, sediment and vegetation management, and recreational use within the lake and its contributing waterways. Sedimentation in Burnaby Lake's tributaries is ongoing, with significant infilling – particularly at the mouth of Eagle Creek – impacting water recreation opportunities and fish habitat.

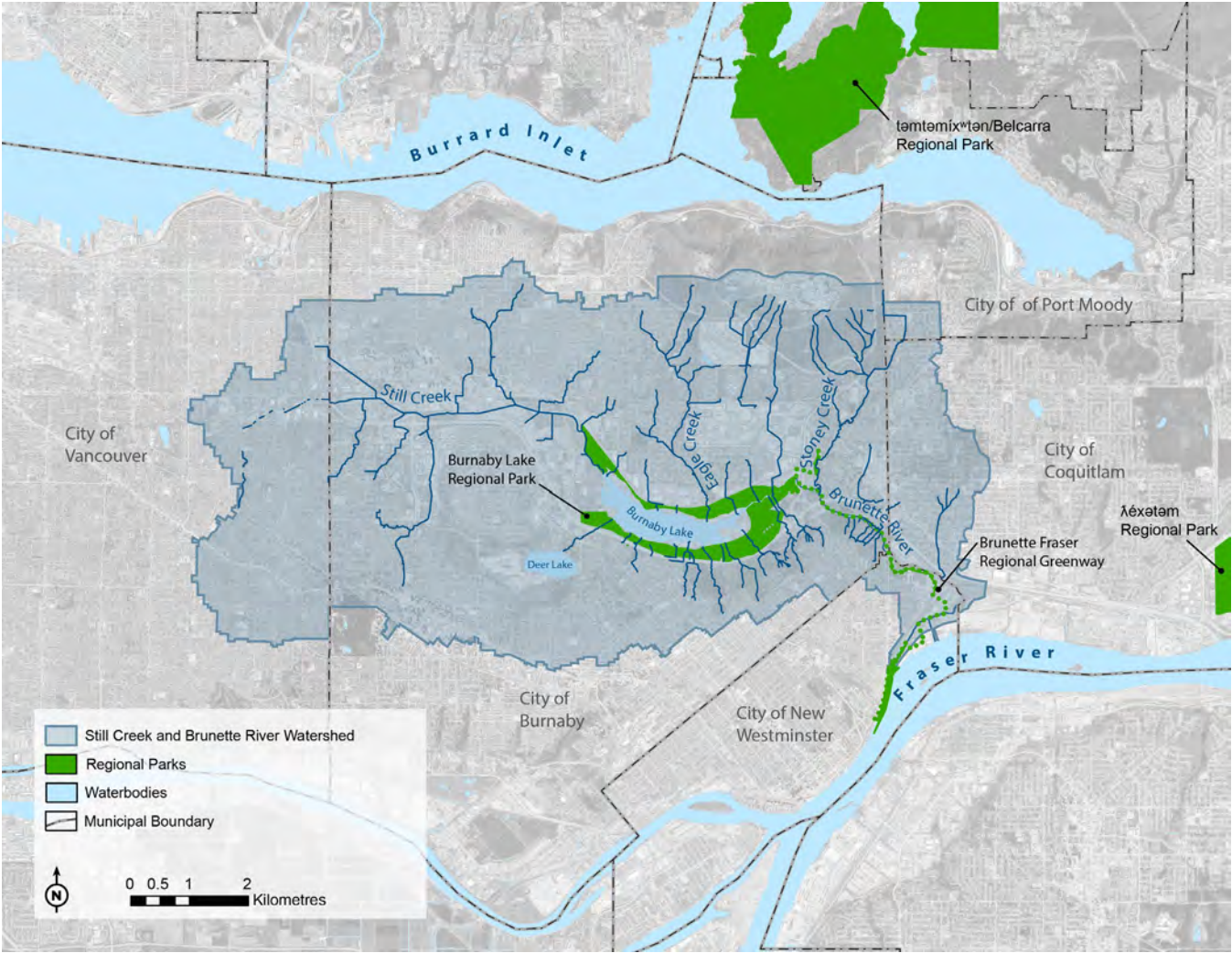


FIGURE 5: BRUNETTE RIVER WATERSHED

3.4 Ecosystems

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is a rich mosaic of wetland and forest ecosystem characteristic of lowland coastal habitats. This diversity of species is attributed to the park's transition from lake to wet peaty soils, to relatively dry mineral soils.

Sensitive and Modified Ecosystems

A Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) has been conducted for the entire region. The inventory contains ecosystems that are at risk, rare, ecologically fragile, or ecologically important because of the diversity of species they support (figure 5). Included in the inventory are sensitive ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, mature forest) and modified ecosystems (i.e. human-modified but with significant ecological and biological value). Modified ecosystems are particularly important in landscapes where there has been a loss of sensitive ecosystems. Young forests and old fields are examples of modified ecosystems.

Historic logging and human activity within the watershed have significantly altered the surroundings of Burnaby Lake since the arrival of Europeans in the mid-1800s. The lake would have been shallow with deep, peaty substrates, and the open water surrounded by abundant marsh vegetation. On the highest and driest slopes within the watershed, a dense climax forest would have covered most of the area.

Today, the regional park's 137 hectares contain 96 hectares of sensitive ecosystems and 20 hectares of modified ecosystems, including wetland, mature coniferous forest, young broadleaf forest, and river, and riparian areas, based on 2020 inventory data.

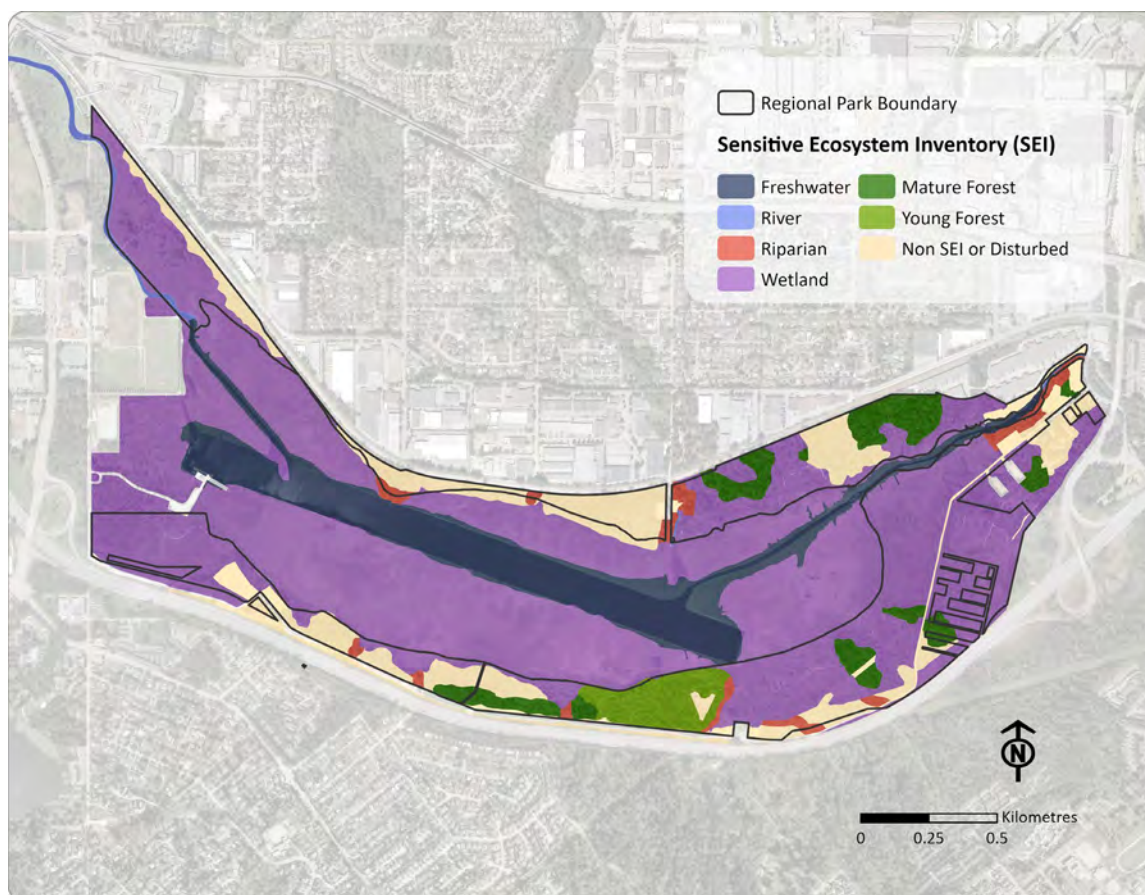


FIGURE 6: SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM INVENTORY, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Wetland and Aquatic Ecosystems

Burnaby Lake Regional Park's land base is almost 60 per cent wetland and is surrounded by large areas of marsh and tall shrub swamp. A third of the park's wetlands are tall shrub swamp, and its non-forested wetland ecosystems include hardhack swamp, marsh, and reed canarygrass marsh. The marsh and mudflat areas are occupied by grass and sedge communities. Twenty-three per cent of the wetlands are forested, split fairly evenly between the paper birch hardhack ecosystem and western red cedar/Sitka spruce ecosystem.

Shrubs in these wetland ecosystems vary depending primarily on soil moisture conditions. Some areas are dominated by hardhack while others contain salmonberry, Pacific willow, shrubby red alder, red osier dogwood, twinberry, sweet gale, and a variety of other species.

Historically, there were extensive cranberry marshes along the western edge of Burnaby Lake. Fall cranberry harvesting in wetlands areas has been a traditional food source for Indigenous peoples since time out of mind (Burnaby, 2019). *[these details are placeholder only; content to be developed in collaboration with First Nations.]*

Some of the open water areas are maintained without floating vegetation for much of the year, whereas shallower areas around the rowing course are dominated by fragrant water lily, an introduced

species, which has largely displaced the native yellow pond lily. Yellow flag iris, a non-native invasive plant species, is also increasingly prevalent along the lake margins.

Forest Ecosystems

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is part of the Eastern Very Dry Maritime Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (CWHxm1), and just over a third of its ecosystems are classified as forest. Most of the forest surrounding Burnaby Lake was logged, resulting in a varied forest age structure and tracts of deciduous forest. Dominant tree species include red alder and black cottonwood. Other trees species include bigleaf maple, paper birch, bitter cherry, western hemlock, and western red cedar.

The shrub layer in the alder and birch forests is varied, with salmonberry, red elderberry, vine maple, osoberry, hardhack, and red-osier dogwood. Various fern species, false lily-of-the-valley, and sedges are often found in the herb layer.

An overview of stand age shows that the majority of forests in the park are young (30-80 years old), with some areas of very young forest, less than 30 years old. Mature forest patches (80-120 years) containing western hemlock, western red cedar, and Sitka spruce can be found north and south of the lake, mostly on the eastern side of the park.

Ecological Communities at Risk

CDC Listing	BEC Zone & Variant	Ecological Community
Red-listed (endangered or threatened)	CHWxm1/01	western hemlock – Douglas-fir/Oregon beaked-moss
	CHWxm1/06	western hemlock – western red cedar/deer fern
Blue-listed (special concern)	CHWxm1/07	western red cedar/three-leaved foamflower Very Dry Maritime
	CHWxm1/12	western red cedar/sword fern – skunk cabbage

Burnaby Lake Regional Park contains two red-listed ecological communities that are at risk of being extirpated, endangered, or threatened, and two blue-listed ecosystems which are of special concern. There are mature forest patches of both CHWxm01/06 (red-listed) and CHWxm1/07 (blue-listed), mostly located in the eastern half of the park. There are larger areas of young forest in all four communities which are valuable for conservation as they grow into mature forests.

3.5 Wildlife

Burnaby Lake Regional Park contains a range of wetland and forest ecosystems, providing habitat for a wide variety of migratory and year-round resident wildlife.

Fish, Reptile and Amphibian Species

Burnaby Lake provides habitat for a range of fish, among them coho, chum, and cutthroat trout, many of which are passing through Burnaby Lake to smaller tributaries for spawning and rearing. Other aquatic species include species at risk such as the western painted turtle and Pacific water shrew. A critical habitat area for Nooksack dace is located immediately downstream of Cariboo Dam and a constructed nesting habitat of western painted turtle is located just upstream of the dam near the Brunette Headwaters trail (Metro Vancouver, 2020). The western painted turtle, the only native freshwater turtle in BC, is a culturally and ecologically important species for First Nations.

Sixteen reptile or amphibian species have been recorded for Burnaby Lake Regional Park. They include the blue-listed northern red-legged frog, and native northwestern salamander, Pacific tree frog, and several species of garter snake. Invasive red-eared slider turtles, bullfrog, and green frog are unfortunately also prevalent.

Birds

The park provides wintering and breeding habitat for a diversity of bird species. More than 200 species of birds have been observed in Burnaby Lake Regional Park in the last 25 years. There is at least one nesting pair of bald eagles in the park, but there is adequate habitat for a variety of nesting raptor species.

Great blue herons feed in the park and are likely part of the large breeding colony at nearby Deer Lake. Shorebirds have increasingly been using the mudflats at the outlet of Eagle Creek and other areas around the park.

Numerous year-round resident birds, such as waterfowl and woodpeckers, live in the park because of the abundance of foraging and breeding habitat. Breeding sandhill cranes have taken up residence around Piper Spit in the last several years. Band-tailed pigeons, green heron, and barn swallow (all species at risk) have been documented breeding in or near the park. Many tree swallow, purple martin, and wood duck nest boxes have been installed around the lake and provide additional habitat for those species.

Other Species

Thirty-two mammal species have been observed in the park, including resident beavers, coyote, mink, northern flying squirrel, black bear, bobcat, river otter, muskrat, and the red-listed Washington Snowshoe hare. Other small mammals include the coast mole, shrew mole, northern Pacific jumping mouse, and masked shrew. Little brown bat, Yuma myotis, and big brown bat have also been documented.

Other biodiversity includes over 188 documented native invertebrate species. First Nations traditionally hunted ducks, elk, deer, and beaver, as well as fished for salmon and trout on these lands (Burnaby, 2019).

Species at Risk

The lake and surrounding habitats are an important refuge for several locally rare species and species at risk including a Pacific Coast population of western painted turtle, Washington snowshoe hare, Oregon forest snail, Nooksack dace, and Pacific water shrew. American bittern, barn owl, common nighthawk, evening grosbeak, and Henderson's checker-mallow have also been found in the park. For many of these species the region and this park represent their last stronghold, thereby placing a priority on habitat conservation in the park.

At least 32 species at risk (fish, amphibian, reptile, birds, small mammals) have been documented as using Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Another 13 species have not yet been recorded but could possibly be present since there is suitable habitat available for these; however, more surveys would be needed to confirm their presence in the park.



COASTAL PAINTED TURTLE, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

3.6 Habitat Sensitivity Analysis

Metro Vancouver has undertaken a standardized conservation value mapping (habitat sensitivity) analysis across the regional park system to quantify the relative conservation values of park ecosystems. The sensitivity analysis (Figure 7) identifies atrisk, fragile, and ecologically important ecosystems, and incorporates species information, surrounding landscape context, and habitat condition to rank ecosystem patches from high to low conservation value. In this mapping, darker areas represent higher conservation value, while lighter areas indicate lower value.

At Burnaby Lake Regional Park, the analysis indicates that wetlands adjacent to the lake have the highest conservation values. Areas with lower conservation values include patches of young forest regenerating from past logging, former building sites, and some small, lower quality patches of mature forest. Habitat restoration and enhancement activities have the potential to increase the conservation value of some of these disturbed ecosystems, while other lower value areas may provide opportunities for park access and connection to nature.

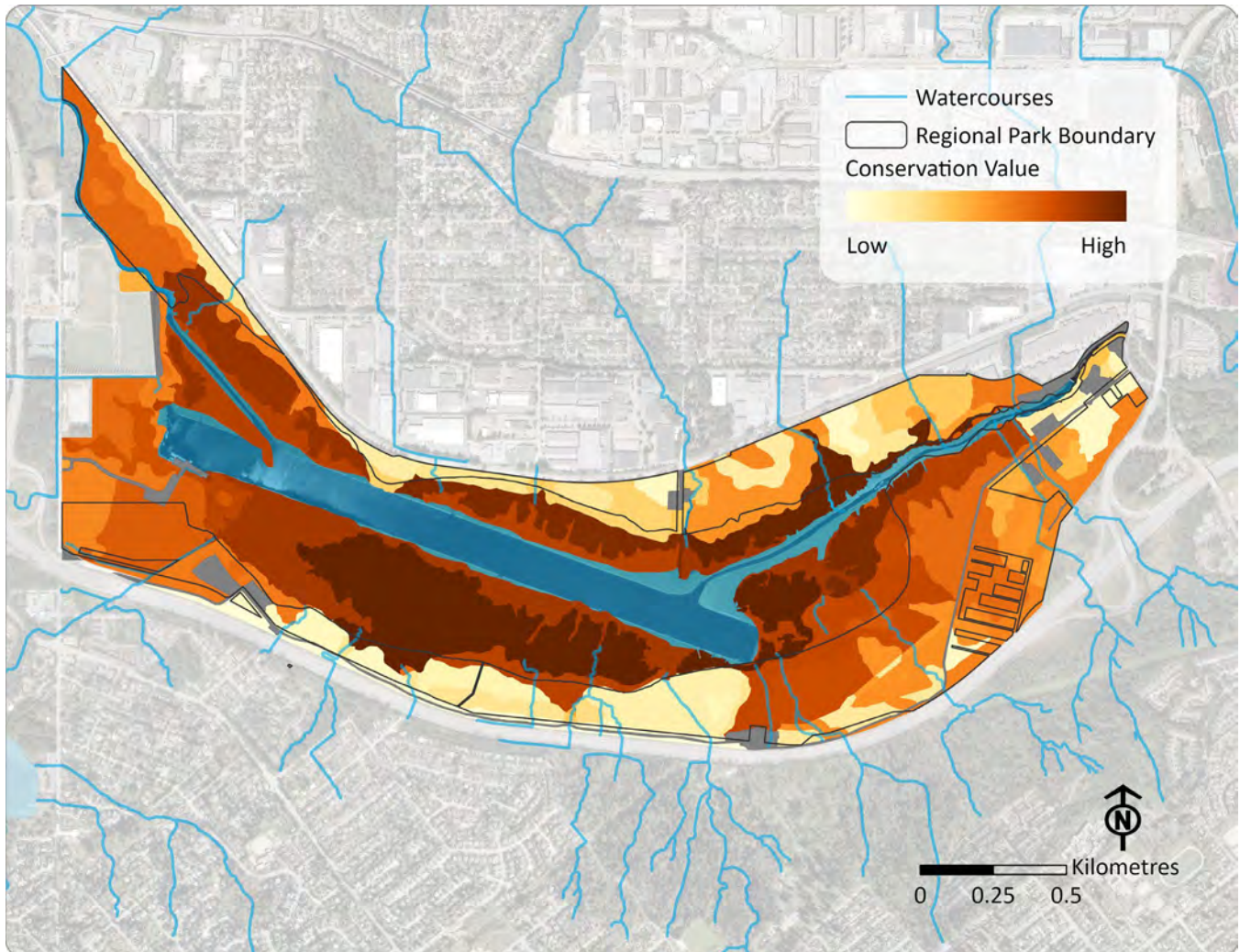


FIGURE 7: HABITAT SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

3.7 Climate Change

Climate change will have implications for all aspects of park management at Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Temperatures in Metro Vancouver are warming. Global climate models project an average increase of approximately 3°C and a summer rainfall decline of almost 20 per cent by the 2050s (Metro Vancouver, 2016). Effects such as long-term changes in weather patterns, including temperature and precipitation, will be felt throughout the region. These changes will result in sea level rise and more rain in fall, winter, and spring, which will lead to increased flooding, warmer summers and droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events. The ecosystems within the park are complex and dynamic and provide ecosystem services that support climate change adaptation such as clean air and water, flood attenuation, and carbon storage and sequestration.

Warmer Summers and Droughts

Warmer, drier summers with more frequent droughts and heat waves will increase wildfire risk and decrease stream flows, causing stress and impacts to park ecosystems and species. Waterways in the Brunette River watershed will see increased temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen levels in the summer, impacting fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other species. Warmer water, lower summer flows, and more sediment loading will lead to poorer water quality. Lower water levels for a longer amount of time in the summer will likely result in wetland stress and impacts on wildlife. Climate change will lead to changes to plant species diversity and distribution over time.

Extreme Weather Events

Climate change will result in increased extreme weather events, including heavy rainstorms. Heavy rainstorms can lead to flooding and an increased potential for soil erosion in forests. Forest health monitoring has shown that the park's red alder stands in some areas of the park have already been affected by increased flooding (BA Blackwell and Associates Ltd, 2024). Heavy rainstorms will also bring increased sedimentation and contamination from upstream waterways into Burnaby Lake.

Invasive Species

Climate change and biological invasions will continue to affect ecosystems. Changes may include the establishment of new invasive species, altered impacts or distribution of existing species, and changes in the effectiveness of control strategies. Warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons are expected to favour invasive aquatic plants. For instance, invasive pond lily will likely benefit from warmer waters, a longer growing season, and increased nutrient availability. Effective management of invasive species will therefore require increased monitoring to support adaptive management and timely adjustments to control strategies.

Impacts on Park Visitors

Summer droughts and high temperatures could lead to altered park visitation patterns and visitor impacts. Where, when, and how many people visit parks is likely to change with continued warming. Warmer temperatures are likely to increase park visitation, and as a result, parking congestion, except in the very warmest of weather (Fisichelli et al., 2015). Climate change could increase the potential for human-wildlife conflict as limited food availability make wildlife more likely to forage in human landscapes and become habituated to human food sources. Safety hazards from extreme weather events could result in trail and road erosion, hazardous trees, and wildfires, causing increased operating costs and temporary park closures for maintenance of affected areas.



PIPER SPIT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

3.8 Existing Park Uses

Walking, hiking, and nature viewing are the most popular activities at Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Dog walking, running/jogging, horse riding, cycling, and picnicking are also popular. The trail system is oriented towards Burnaby Lake, providing a 10-kilometre trail loop around the lake, connecting viewpoints, and day-use areas through wetland and forest landscapes. The loop is frequented by runners and hosts several races throughout the year.

In addition to the lake loop, there are boardwalks along South Shore Trail and many shorter trail loops, such as Piper Mill Trail and Conifer Loop Trail. The park provides 19 kilometres of pedestrian trails, 6.2 kilometres of equestrian/pedestrian trails and 3.5 kilometres of cyclist/pedestrian trails, totalling 28.7 kilometres of trail.

Burnaby Lake Regional Park's main **day-use area** is Piper Spit. There is a concentration of amenities here, with a picnic area, the Burnaby Lake Nature House, washroom, viewing tower, and a low boardwalk extending out into the water for scenic lake views and bird watching. Cariboo Dam provides a secondary, lesser used picnic area, with some basic amenities nearby at the Avalon Avenue entrance.

Burnaby Lake Regional Park is a significant site for **public programming** in the regional parks system. The Nature House and surrounding landscape are used for school and group programs, events, and also hosts a drop-in program in summer. The Nature House connects people to nature, using interactive learning techniques and interpretive displays, and enhances visitor experience and safety through on-site orientation.

Water access is provided adjacent to the park at the rowing pavilion, home to the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club as well as the Burnaby Canoe and Kayak Club. There is a former kayak/canoe launch at the Piper Spit boardwalk that can no longer be used due to siltation.

The Burnaby Horsemen's Association's equestrian facility is adjacent to the eastern edge of the park and equestrians from this site access shared pedestrian/equestrian trails in the southeast and southern edge of the park.



FALL FUNDAY EVENT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

4. Park Sub-Areas

Within the park, nine park sub-areas have been identified based on biophysical resources, visual character, and a range of existing and new opportunities for park visitors.

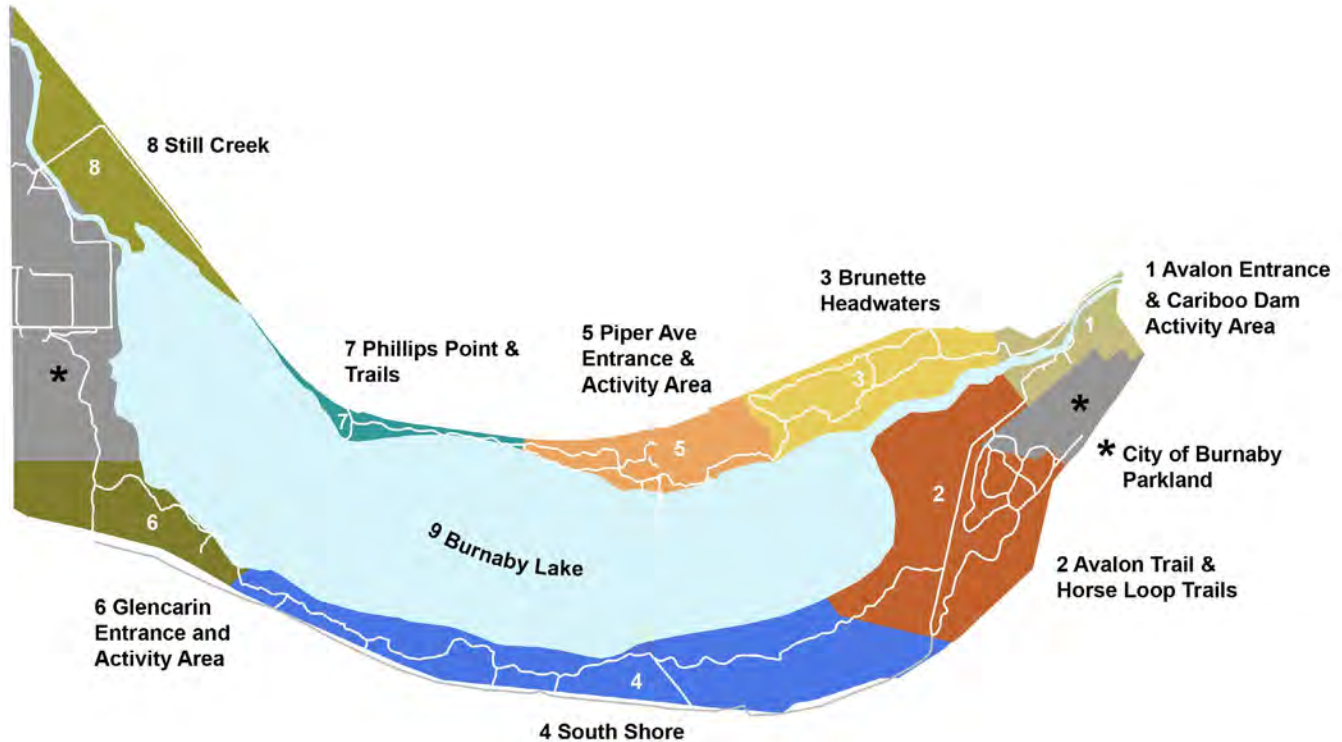


FIGURE 8: PARK SUB-AREAS, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

1 Avalon Entrance and Cariboo Dam Activity Area

The Avalon Entrance is located at the eastern end of the park and provides access from Cariboo Road for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians. Public amenities include trails, the Cariboo Dam crossing, a picnic area along Brunette Headwaters Trail, and a gravel parking lot. The Avalon Entrance parking lot was designed to accommodate horse trailers, however few horses are trailered to the park. There is opportunity in this sub-area to improve vehicle circulation, adjust parking capacity, and enhance picnic amenities, trail connections, and accessibility. Habitat enhancement projects are planned within forested areas west of the Aintree House and Cariboo Road. This area has an active snowshoe hare population and has critical habitat for Nooksack dace below the dam.

2 Avalon Trail and Horse Loop Trails

This sub-area is characterized by deciduous broadleaf wetland habitats dominated by willows, alders, and redosier dogwood west of Avalon Trail, as well as patches of young birch and mature coniferous forest within the Horse Loop trails area. Avalon Trail is a multiuse trail open to pedestrian, equestrian, and cycling use, while the Horse Loop trails are limited to pedestrian and equestrian use. A significant portion of the Horse Loop trails experience seasonal flooding, which affects trail accessibility and patterns of use.

3 Brunette Headwaters

The Brunette Headwaters sub-area is characterized by a mix of young and mature coniferous forests and provides opportunities for visitors to experience a larger, contiguous forested area within the park. It contains the Conifer Loop and Spruce Loop trails, as well as much of the Brunette Headwaters Trail. Salamander Creek and Skid Creek flow through this area, contributing to local hydrological and ecological functions. Silver Creek's southern reach passes nearby the picnic area.

4 South Shore

This sub-area includes the South Shore Trail, which passes through areas of mature, young, and regenerating coniferous forest. Several creeks flow through the sub-area on their way to Burnaby Lake. A trail segment along Ramsay Creek once provided a viewpoint to the lake but has since become overgrown with vegetation. The Freeway Trail, while not in the park, functions as a regional connection between Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, and New Westminster and is used by multiple user groups. Further investigation, including tenure and design considerations, is required to safely accommodate and manage multi-use over the long term.

5 Piper Avenue Entrance and Activity Area

Piper Avenue is the northern access point to the park and supports the highest level of daily visitor use. Facilities include a paved parking lot, picnic tables, the Nature House, washrooms, a pollinator garden, a viewing tower, and multiple trail connections. Piper Mill Trail serves as an accessible interpretive trail, with the Burnaby Lake Nature House acting as the orientation point for Metro Vancouver interpretive programming and stewardship initiatives delivered by the Burnaby Lake Park Association. The area also provides access to the Piper Spit boardwalk, which extends into Burnaby Lake and, together with Eagle Creek, represents one of the park's most significant wildlife viewing areas, particularly for waterfowl, migratory birds, and snowshoe hare.

Opportunities exist to renew facilities and improve the arrival experience, wayfinding, accessibility, and connections between amenities, while managing overlapping and not always compatible uses. Consideration should be given to the development of a comprehensive habitat restoration and enhancement plan for Eagle Creek.

6 Glencarin Drive Entrance and Activity Area

The southwestern portion of the park currently has few public facilities but presents an opportunity for site improvements and enhanced visitor amenities; however, highway noise impacts may place some limitations on the nature and extent of improvements. The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC has been located in this area since 1987 and is a well-known organization that provides services to the public and conservation agencies across the region to receive and rehabilitate injured wildlife.

Higher elevations within this sub-area offer views of Burnaby Lake. The intersection with the new Highway 1 overpass, proximity to the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex, and the presence of some existing site services make this area well suited to a comprehensive redesign. Opportunities include improved trailhead visibility, day-use facilities, expanded parking, and joint programming with the Wildlife Rescue Association. Several habitat enhancement projects may be feasible.

7 Phillips Point and Trails

This sub-area is located along the northern shoreline of Burnaby Lake and includes Phillips Point, an important lake viewing location. The area is characterized by lakeshore wetlands and adjacent forested habitats that support a high diversity of bird species, particularly during migration and overwintering periods. Public access is limited and managed to protect sensitive habitat, with viewing opportunities provided from designated trails and observation areas. Opportunity exists to explore formalizing fishing at Phillips Point.

8 Still Creek

The Still Creek corridor at the northwestern end of the park includes Cottonwood Trail, and adjacent wetland habitats. It plays an important ecological role as fish habitat and as a wildlife movement corridor. Public use is currently limited to trails and a designated creek crossing. Due to its proximity to the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex, the Central Valley Greenway, and the Bainbridge Village development area, consideration should be given to improving access opportunities while balancing increased public use with environmental protection.

9 Burnaby Lake

This sub-area encompasses Burnaby Lake itself, as well as its main tributaries and outlet within the Brunette River watershed. The lake supports onwater recreation, including canoeing, kayaking, and rowing, with organized use by the Burnaby Canoe and Kayak Club and the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club based at the Burnaby Lake Pavilion. Management considerations include maintaining water quality and aquatic habitat, managing invasive aquatic vegetation, and maintaining the lake surface to keep the designated rowing course and canoe/kayaking routes clear while balancing ecological and recreational values.

Burnaby Lake is not currently in the park boundaries. However, Metro Vancouver and City of Burnaby are working collaboratively to enter into new joint water lot tenures from the Province, and once that is complete the park boundaries will be adjusted to include the lake.



CANOEING, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

TABLE 1: PARK FEATURES & NATURAL RESOURCES

PARK SUB-AREA	ECOLOGICAL FEATURES	EXISTING FACILITIES/ PROGRAMS	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
1. Avalon Entrance & Cariboo Dam Activity Area	• Riparian and wetland habitats • Blue-listed young coniferous forest • Red-listed mature coniferous forest • Western painted turtle habitat beach • Known snowshoe hare residence • Critical habitat for Nooksack dace (downstream of the dam)	• Picnic tables • Drinking water • River crossing with fish ladder and opportunity for lake, river and wildlife viewing (Cariboo Dam) • Large parking lot sized for horse unloading • Regional Parks Central Area Office (administrative Centre) • Service Yard • Aintree Heritage House (no public access)	• Arrival experience at Avalon Ave entrance • Park interface and connectivity across Cariboo Rd • Lack of accessibility across Cariboo Dam • Unsanctioned cycling use on pedestrian-only trails • Unsanctioned off-leash dog use • Connections to municipal water and sewer • Invasive vegetation	• Improve vehicle access and egress • Enhance park entrance experience • Optimize use of Avalon parking lot space • Connect north and south shore near parking lot • Enhance picnic area • Special events/ group activities • Provide accessible kayak/canoe launch and storage facilities • Provide pit toilets • Restore snowshoe hare habitat • Interpretive signage
2. Avalon Trail/Loop Trails	• Riparian and wetland habitats • Blue-listed young and mature coniferous forest • Red-listed young coniferous forest • Species at risk habitat	• Avalon Trail (pedestrian, horseback riding and cycling) • South Shore Trails (pedestrian-only) • Horse Loop Trails (pedestrian/ equestrian)	• Seasonal flooding • Forest health issues due beaver habitat and seasonal flooding • User conflict on Avalon Trail	• Improve drainage • Provide alternate routes for pedestrians
3. Brunette Headwaters	• Riparian and wetland habitats • Red-listed mature coniferous forest • Blue-listed mature coniferous forest	• Conifer Loop Trails • Spruce Loop Trail	• Forest health issues	• Improve wayfinding

PARK SUB-AREA	ECOLOGICAL FEATURES	EXISTING FACILITIES/ PROGRAMS	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
4. South Shore	• Riparian and wetland habitats • Blue-listed young coniferous forest • Red-listed mature coniferous forest • Young coniferous forest	• South Shore Trails (pedestrian-only) • Freeway Trail (pedestrian, horseback riding, and cycling) • Lake viewpoint • Ramsay Creek	• Views of lake obscured by vegetation • Seasonal flooding • Invasive vegetation • Western hemlock looper	• Enhance views of the lake through vegetation management and provision of lookout platforms
5. Piper Ave Entrance & Activity Area	• Riparian and wetland habitats • Red-listed young and mature forest • Eagle Creek • Known snowshoe hare residence	• Nature House • Flush washrooms (2) • Picnic tables • Pollinator garden • Piper Spit boardwalk • Viewing Tower • Parking • Canoe storage shed • Piper Mill accessible interpretive trail • Pedestrian trails	• Arrival experience at park entrance • High visitor use area • Parking capacity • User conflict (parking lot, boardwalk, Piper Mill Trail) • Park access after hours due to lack of gate at parking entrance • Nature House building outdated and inefficient • Piper Spit boat launch unusable due to creek/lake sedimentation • Eagle Creek: invasive vegetation, riverbank erosion, and creek/lake sedimentation • Existing soundscape (CN railway)	• Provide dedicated, fully accessible interpretive loop trail • Interpretive signage • New nature education centre, including new public washrooms • Boardwalk renewal • Improve picnic area • Renew pollinator garden • Expand and optimize parking • Improve wayfinding

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PARK SUB-AREA	ECOLOGICAL FEATURES	EXISTING FACILITIES/ PROGRAMS	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
6. Glencarin Entrance & Activity Area	- Riparian and wetland habitats - Deer Lake Brook	- Southshore trail and boardwalk (pedestrian-only) - Kiosk and gate (on Freeway Trail side) - Deer Lake Brook Bridge	- Limited parking - Multi-use path leads across existing parking lot - Highway 1 noise impacts - Wildlife Rescue Association infrastructure at end of life/spatial limitations - Lack of amenities - Additional visitor traffic due to new Highway 1 overpass - Invasive vegetation	- Capitalize on existing lake views - Enhance park entrance - Provide day-use facilities and interpretive features and signage - Provide parking - Provide washrooms, bike racks, water fountain - Existing municipal water and sewer lines - Proximity to new Highway 1 multi-use overpass - Provide western painted turtle beach along Deer Lake Brook - Deer Lake Brook Bridge replacement - Former/current house sites provide disturbed areas for locating facilities
7. Philips Point	Riparian and wetland habitats	Informal viewpoint and fishing area	Formal seating opportunities removed due to activities that conflict with park use bylaws	- Lake views - Formalize as designated fishing area

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PARK SUB-AREA	ECOLOGICAL FEATURES	EXISTING FACILITIES/ PROGRAMS	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
8. Still Creek Bridge Area	Riparian and wetland habitats	- Cottonwood Trail (pedestrian only) - Still Creek Bridge	- Seasonal flooding - Unsanctioned cycling use on pedestrian-only trails - Invasive vegetation	Trail connection to create loop
9. Burnaby Lake	Regionally significant wetland habitat	- Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion - Flatwater rowing course maintained within a designated open water corridor - Cariboo Dam regulates lake levels, provides fish ladder and views upstream and downstream of the Brunette River	- Continuous infilling with sediment resulting in shallowness that hinders water-based recreation activities - Water quality - Invasive aquatic vegetation	Ongoing stewardship to balance habitat function and recreational use



5. Park Vision and Goals

The vision describes the desired future for the regional park, including the protection of important natural areas, intended visitor experience, and opportunities to connect with nature.



BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK WITH METROTOWN TOWERS VISIBLE IN THE DISTANCE

5.1 Park Vision

Burnaby Lake Regional Park protects forest, wetland, and aquatic habitats, providing a refuge for wildlife and people in the urban heart of the Brunette River watershed. Water views and accessible trails are nestled among trees and along the water in a familiar place that still astonishes. The park is a hub for nature-based learning, stewardship, and active community participation, welcoming people of all ages and abilities and inspiring deep and enduring connection.

5.2 Park Goals

The goals are informed by the vision and provide an overarching framework to guide this management plan. They were developed and refined through engagement with First Nations, City of Burnaby, other government agencies, stakeholders, and the public, as well as research and analysis.

Protect and Enhance the Park's Diverse Ecological Values:

Develop approaches for ongoing monitoring, protection, enhancement, and adaptive management of the park's ecosystems and habitats to ensure long-term resilience of forests, streams, and riparian areas.

Connect Visitors to the Park's Natural Values and Cultural Heritage:

Enhance the park visitor experience by providing opportunities to learn about the park's natural values and cultural heritage through public programming, facilities, and interpretive elements.

Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage:

Provide facilities, including trails and day-use areas to offer a variety of opportunities for visitors to connect with nature, while protecting the integrity and resilience of the regional park's ecosystems and protecting archaeological resources from impacts, as well as other resources of cultural importance to First Nations.

Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community:

Provide opportunities for community involvement through learning, stewardship and engagement.



SOUTH SHORE BOARDWALK, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

6. Areas of Focus

Through the management planning and engagement process, six areas of focus were identified. Strategies, tied to park goals, were developed for each area of focus to provide guidance for park development, programming, ongoing operations, and resource management.

6.1 Visitor Facilities

Burnaby Lake Regional Park has a range of visitor facilities that support park use, including the lake loop and ancillary trails, the Burnaby Lake Nature House, Piper Spit, and a viewing tower. As neighbourhoods around the park grow, these facilities will continue to experience capacity issues, while aging facilities require replacement. Strategies are needed to support the development of new park facilities, and improvements to existing facilities to accommodate existing and future park visitation.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Connect Visitors to the Park’s Natural Values and Cultural Heritage	• Provide additional trail segments and loops of varying distances and connectivity to suit a diversity of users and activities. • Construct shelter structures that can be used for picnicking, group events, and programming. • Provide lake and watershed views (e.g. decks, viewing towers), that allow visitors to experience the scope of the watershed and how the park acts as a refuge. • Improve and maintain trails and facilities to provide universal accessibility, including rest areas and pullouts for interpretive purposes. Provide an “All Persons Trail” which, in addition to being universally accessible and providing a range of rest opportunities, includes tactile features and other multi-sensory elements that create multiple ways of interacting with the natural environment. • Provide canoe/kayak launch. • Improve existing parking facilities and provide an appropriate amount of parking at activity areas. • Improve park entrances to better welcome and orient visitors to the park. • Work with City of Burnaby to improve connectivity between the regional park and City of Burnaby facilities. • Explore opportunities for nature play areas in disturbed areas. • Review and enhance park wayfinding. • Build a new nature education centre to provide spaces for nature education, nature interpretation, and community partnerships. • Explore opportunities for increasing First Nations cultural visibility, such as by integrating artwork, interpretive signage, language, and stories into visitor facilities.

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GOALS	STRATEGIES
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage	• Manage vegetation at designated viewpoints to ensure those views are protected over time. • Maintain quiet, pedestrian-focused opportunities for nature viewing and connection to nature. • Manage cycling, equestrian, and pedestrian opportunities to be ecologically appropriate and minimize user conflict. • Consider cycling opportunities in locations that can safely accommodate multi-use without significant ecosystem disturbance, or tree or vegetation removal. • Design facilities to provide public access while protecting ecological values, including by using boardwalks in more sensitive areas. • Continue to follow the corporate archaeological policy in the maintenance, enhancement, and development of facilities to ensure protection of archaeological resources and culturally sensitive areas.
Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community	• Develop a nature education centre, including multi-purpose spaces for community. • Provide space for the Wildlife Rescue Association to continue wildlife rehabilitation and explore opportunities to incorporate/collaborate on educational programming. • Explore including dedicated space in new facilities to support community involvement in stewardship and education efforts.

6.2 Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

The ecosystem protection and enhancement area of focus provides strategies to create conditions for ecological diversity and resilience over the long term. Key to this is the management of invasive species in the park, supporting the park's ability to provide valuable ecosystem services and maintaining conditions that support rich biodiversity. This area of focus will inspire learning through community science and volunteer stewardship programs.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Protect and Enhance the Park's Ecological Values	• Remediate ecologically compromised areas not identified for park facility improvements. • Continue to monitor and manage invasive species in priority areas. • In collaboration with the City of Burnaby and First Nations, develop a comprehensive restoration and enhancement plan to address invasive species management and sedimentation issues affecting Eagle Creek. • Continue to conduct baseline studies and ongoing monitoring for key species of interest. • Employ mitigation strategies based on established environmental policy, guidelines, and best management practices to protect the environment during all new construction and park facility upgrades. • Work with First Nations to identify culturally significant species for preservation and planting.
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage	• Site new facilities to minimize habitat fragmentation and disturbance to sensitive ecosystems and areas identified as high conservation value. • Consider species at risk recovery strategies and improve habitat requirements in step with park visitor improvements. • Plan new park improvements to avoid creating future human-wildlife conflict areas. • Incorporate education values and opportunities in restoration plans. • Deliver interpretive programs and elements, including signage, that highlight successes and communicate the value of protecting natural spaces. • Work with First Nations to identify and advance opportunities for traditional use of and cultural connections to parklands.
Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community	• Enhance opportunities for First Nations and the public to support natural resource management through current and new partnerships and stewardship activities. • Continue to work with the Burnaby Lake Park Association to deliver regular stewardship programs in priority areas of the park. • Continue to support community groups and academic institutions (including BCIT and SFU) on habitat stewardship, community science, and research projects. Work with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and local Streamkeeper groups to aid in salmon migration into the watershed and protect salmon habitat in the park. • Continue to collaborate with the Coastal Painted Turtle Project and First Nations to protect and enhance western painted turtle populations and habitat.

6.3 Programming and Nature Interpretation

This area of focus provides strategies to create learning and emotional connections to the park through interpretive programs and elements. Central to this focus is a vibrant nature education centre that welcomes and orients visitors to Regional Parks. Through year-round immersive experiences and inclusive trails, first-time and returning visitors alike will discover new perspectives and find a deeper connection to nature.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Protect and Enhance the Park's Ecological Values	• Expand community science efforts with specifically designed programming. • Activate reimagined butterfly/pollinator garden at the new nature education centre.
Connect Visitors to the Park's Cultural and Natural Heritage	• Develop an interpretation plan specific to Burnaby Lake Regional Park. • Create an interpretive loop trail adjacent to the new nature education centre. • Incorporate interpretive elements in the "All Persons Trail." • Provide design elements that facilitate programming such as trail pull-offs, group learning spaces, access to water and wetlands. • Design facilities with programming in mind (adequate parking, provision of water or power, event space). • Explore options for the nature education centre to be open year round. • Deliver programming (including group and public programs, and events) and interpretive elements (including signs and other features, such as art) throughout the park. • Re-introduce opportunities for water-based nature education (e.g. canoeing). • Develop an interpretive enhancement plan (including signage) for the park. • Collaborate with GVS&DD to enhance programming and interpretation opportunities at Cariboo Dam.
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage	• Support visitor use management through roving interpreters and education displays (e.g. bears, dogs, etc.)
Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community	• Support volunteer involvement in the nature education centre. • Consider opportunities for educational partnerships. • Continue to collaborate with the City of Burnaby to connect the public with programming. • Work with First Nations to identify opportunities to increase cultural visibility and highlight First Nations connection to the area through programming and interpretive elements.

6.4 Visitor Use Management

The visitor use management area of focus highlights key issues of visitor use and their impacts on park ecosystems and the visitor experience. It includes strategies for managing visitor volumes and vehicle congestion, as well as strategies to deal with safe integration of multiple recreation modes (ex. pedestrian, cycling, equestrian) on trails, visitors not following park rules (for example, dogs off leash, bird feeding, unauthorized plant harvesting, etc.). Visitor use management includes monitoring and adaptive management.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Connect Visitors to the Park's Cultural and Natural Heritage	• Develop a trail user code of conduct and education program for shared trails. • Work with City of Burnaby to develop a water user code of conduct (including responsible water recreation and paddling safety), route, and schedule to manage an anticipated increase in use, and shared activities on the lake. • Conduct monitoring of trail and facility use, and user conflict. • Continue to enforce dogs on-leash only. • Consider strategies for encouraging users to access Burnaby Lake through entrances other than Piper Spit and/or to arrive by sustainable transportation (bus, bike, foot, carpool, etc.) • Work with the City of Burnaby to manage vehicle congestion on Piper Avenue north of CN railway line.
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Resources	• Conduct monitoring of park visitation patterns and impacts to ecosystems. • Enforce "no wildlife feeding" in the entire park, with a focus on Piper Spit, through education and enforcement protocols. • Identify appropriate fishing locations and limit fishing where there are concurrent incompatible uses. • Maintain Piper Spit and new interpretive loop trail as no-domestic animals and maintain pedestrian-only designation at Piper Spit.
Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community	• Work with partner and community groups to align messaging related to education/awareness around safety and visitor use issues. • Engage community organizations that represent user types (e.g. cyclists, equestrians, fishing, running, paddlers, etc.) in identifying solutions and reinforcing Regional Parks messaging.



COTTONWOOD TRAIL, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

6.5 Climate Change

This area of focus provides approaches that support ecosystems and visitors while adapting to climate change. Mitigation and adaptation strategies will be used at Burnaby Lake Regional Park to make ecosystems resilient and ensure a safe, comfortable visitor experience.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Protect and Enhance the Park's Diverse Ecological Values	• Continue to monitor forest health and improve forest resilience through adaptive management practice. • Continue to inventory and manage invasive species in the park using the Regional Parks Invasive Species Integrated Pest Management Plan. • Collaborate with First Nations, the City of Burnaby, provincial and federal governments, academic institutions, and community partners to conduct monitoring to measure ecological trends and impacts of climate change.
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage	• Provide public amenities (picnic shelters) to provide protection from more extreme weather events. • Use corporately adopted best practices to guide forest fuel management activities.

6.6 Lake Management

This area of focus provides strategies that guide the management of Burnaby Lake and its tributaries that fall within the park boundary.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Protect and Enhance the Park's Diverse Ecological Values	• Explore management of lake levels in collaboration with the City of Burnaby and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District. • Explore opportunities to manage creek sedimentation in conjunction with the City of Burnaby. • Explore opportunities for management of aquatic invasive species in collaboration with First Nations, federal and provincial government agencies, and the City of Burnaby.
Connect Visitors to the Park's Cultural and Natural Heritage	• Collaborate with the City of Burnaby on maintenance of rowing lanes. • In collaboration with the City of Burnaby, explore opportunities to develop recreational paddling routes around the perimeter of the lake.
Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Heritage	• Ensure water-based recreation is managed to minimize impact to wildlife and sensitive ecosystems. • Explore locations in the lake to support fishing.
Foster Relationships and Collaborate with the Park's Community	• Work with municipalities, First Nations, and agencies to support management of climate change impacts within the Brunette River watershed.



BRUNETTE HEADWATERS TRAIL AND PICNIC AREA, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

7. Concept and Program

The regional park program and concept plan provide a long-range vision for the park, including a trails plan and conceptual designs for activity areas.

The concept plans and program for Burnaby Lake Regional Park build on the park's role as a regionally significant natural area supporting recreation, environmental education, and wildlife habitat within an urban setting. The concept reinforces existing visitor experiences while enhancing access, facilities, and connections throughout the park. Improvements focus on renewing and expanding key entrance and activity areas, strengthening trail and greenway linkages, supporting education and stewardship, and protecting the ecological functions of Burnaby Lake and its surrounding wetlands and forests.

A key objective of the overall approach is to more evenly distribute visitor activities that are currently concentrated at the Piper Avenue Entrance and Activity Area. This is intended to:

- Improve visitor experience
- Reduce localized pressure on facilities and adjacent natural areas
- Make better use of underused infrastructure, such as the Avalon Avenue parking lot
- Respond to new and emerging access opportunities, including the recently completed Highway 1 multiuse overpass connecting surrounding neighbourhoods to the park

The existing 10 kilometre pedestrian trail encircling Burnaby Lake will also be enhanced by improving continuity and accessibility, including the removal of barriers to accessibility at Deer Lake Brook Bridge and proposing an accessible alternative crossing to Cariboo Dam (which currently includes stairs).



SOUTH SHORE TRAIL LOOKOUT RENDERING

Piper Avenue Entrance and Activity Area remain the primary activity hub for the park, supporting the highest level of visitor use and public programming. This area still functions as a major gateway to the park, providing parking, washrooms, a picnic area, a dedicated nature interpretation trail, a new nature education centre, and access to key wildlife viewing areas such as Piper Spit and the Burnaby Lake viewing tower. The concept plan supports improvements to the arrival experience, accessibility, wayfinding, and renewal of facilities, while continuing to prioritize nature education, stewardship programming, and habitat protection and enhancement in nearby natural areas such as Eagle Creek.

The Avalon Avenue Entrance and Cariboo Dam Activity Area serve as important eastern gateways to the park, accommodating access for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, and equestrians. This area provides connections to the Brunette River corridor, the Cariboo Dam crossing and fish ladder, and surrounding trail network. The concept plan identifies opportunities to improve parking and circulation, enhance picnic and trailhead amenities, and add lake access and a new accessible crossing, while supporting planned habitat enhancement projects in adjacent forested areas.

A new day-use and activity area at the Glencarin Drive Entrance is proposed to address growing demand and to respond to the new pedestrian overpass connection with communities south of Highway 1. This area will support enhanced park access, additional parking, and day-use amenities and interpretive features, while integrating with existing trails. The concept plan emphasizes a balanced approach that enhances visitor experience and access while incorporating views of the lake and supporting habitat enhancement opportunities along the lakeshore and Deer Lake Brook.



BLUE HERON

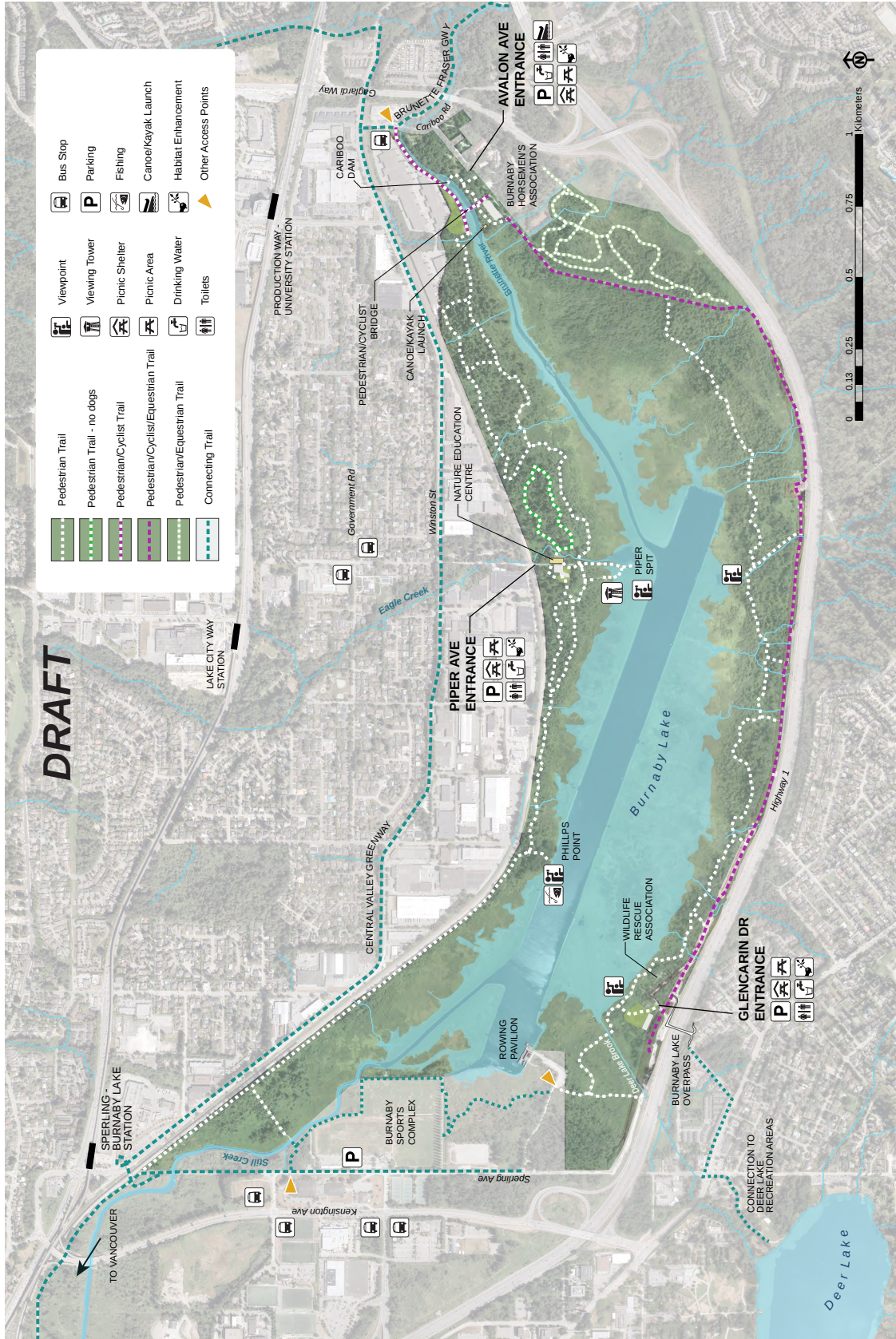


FIGURE 12 GLENCARIN AVE ENTRANCE & ACTIVITY AREA



AVALON AVE ENTRANCE & CARIBOO DAM ACTIVITY AREA



AVALON AVE ENTRANCE & CARIBOO DAM ACTIVITY AREA RENDERING



PIPER AVE ENTRANCE & ACTIVITY AREA



PIPER AVE ENTRANCE & ACTIVITY AREA RENDERING



GLENCARIN AVE ENTRANCE & ACTIVITY AREA



GLENCARIN DRIVE ENTRANCE & ACTIVITY AREA RENDERING

7.1 Site Objectives and Elements

The table below outlines site objectives, planned facilities and elements by park sub-area.

PARK SUB-AREA	SITE OBJECTIVE	FACILITIES & ELEMENTS
1. Avalon Entrance & Cariboo Dam Activity Area	• Create opportunities for lake/river views and water contact • Create opportunities for launching kayaks/canoes • Expand/reconfigure group picnicking opportunities • Improve trail connectivity and integration of sub-area with park • Improve vehicle access and optimize parking lot • Carry out habitat restoration and enhancement	• Enhanced park entrance and signage • Reconfigured and paved parking lot • Two-way traffic on Avalon Avenue • Amenities (pit toilets, drinking water, kiosk, waste receptacles, bike rack, picnic tables, picnic shelter, seating) • Enlarged and improved picnic area • Kayak/canoe launch/dock • Pedestrian/cyclist bridge • Protection for turtle beach from water side
2. Avalon Trail/Loop Trails	• Improve trail connectivity and provide alternative to using Avalon trail • Mitigate user conflicts on Avalon trail • Manage seasonal flooding • Manage beaver habitat	• Additional trail connection in loop trails area • Signage with shared trail etiquette messaging
3. Brunette Headwaters	• Provide lake viewpoint and manage vegetation	• Structures and signage to limit access to sensitive areas • Potential viewing platform and access trail
4. South Shore	• Manage vegetation at dedicated lake viewpoints • Manage flooding • Address forest health issues	• Accessible viewing platform
5. Piper Ave Entrance & Activity Area	• Create dedicated nature interpretation trails and prohibit dogs from accessing • Replace and expand nature education facility and pollinator garden • Improve trail connectivity • Develop comprehensive restoration plan for Eagle Creek	• Enhanced park entrance and wayfinding • Improved parking circulation, expanded parking, and reconfigured picnic area including visitor shelter • New nature interpretation loop trail • Nature education centre — replacement for aging Burnaby Lake Nature House • New pedestrian bridge crossing over Eagle Creek

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PARK SUB-AREA	SITE OBJECTIVE	FACILITIES & ELEMENTS
6. Glencarin Entrance & Activity Area	• Improve arrival experience, access, and wayfinding • Provide day-use and group activity area • Provide opportunities to experience views of the lake • Explore optimization of infrastructure and spatial configuration with Wildlife Rescue Society • Carry out habitat restoration and enhancement	• Reconfigured park entrance and enhanced wayfinding • Gravel parking lot • Amenities (washroom, drinking water, kiosk, bike rack, waste receptacles, bike rack, picnic tables, visitor shelter, seating) • Accessible bridge across Deer Lake Brook • Vegetated buffer between day-use area and Glencarin Drive/Highway 1 • Nesting beach for western painted turtle • Riparian corridor restoration at Deer Lake Brook
7. Phillips Point & Trails	• Provide dedicated fishing area • Manage vegetation to maintain lake views	• Shared space for nature viewing, resting, and fishing
8. Still Creek	• Improve trail connections to municipal trails and provide better access to Sperling-Burnaby Lake Skytrain Station/overpass • Carry out habitat restoration and enhancement	• Formalized pedestrian trail along CN railway line to close the loop to Central Valley Greenway
9. Burnaby Lake	• Balance access and recreational activities with habitat protection and enhancement goals	• Kayaking/canoeing/paddleboarding routes • Infrastructure to protect sensitive habitat areas from public access





PIPER SPIT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

8. Operational Statement

Burnaby Lake Regional Park provides facilities, including trails and day-use areas, to offer a variety of opportunities for visitors to connect with nature, while protecting the integrity and resilience of the park's ecosystems. The regional park has a dedicated operations staff, supported by the larger Regional Parks team. Service levels will continue to target maintaining facilities to current levels and design standards, protection of sensitive ecosystems, and visitor safety.

Operational commitments include:

- Continuing to provide park operations from the existing service yard within the park to support daily operations, including bylaw compliance, risk management, vegetation management, maintenance, small-scale construction, and repairs
- Supporting interpretive programming, natural resource management stewardship projects, and bookings and events
- Developing event, race, and special use guidelines for the park
- Assessing additional operational needs as park improvements occur

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