

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

BYLAW NO. 884

Being a bylaw to adopt an Official Regional Park Plan for the Regional District of Central Okanagan

WHEREAS the Supplementary Letters Patent for the function of Regional Parks was issued to the Regional District of Central Okanagan on the 25th day of October, 1974, amended by Supplementary Letters Patent on the 19th day of December, 1986 and established as an extended service under the provisions of Part 24 of the Municipal Act and cited as "Regional Parks Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 410, 1990" on the 5th day of March, 1990 with the Electoral Areas A, G, H, and I as electoral participating areas and the City of Kelowna and the Corporation of the District of Peachland as municipal participating areas;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the Park (Regional) Act R.S. Chapter 354 apply to this extended service;

AND WHEREAS, the Regional Board is required by Section 16 of the Park (Regional) Act, R.S. Chapter 345, to designate a Regional Park Plan as an Official Regional Park Plan;

AND WHEREAS, Section 16(2) of the Park (Regional) Act requires that plans may be expressed in "maps, plans, reports or by other means, and may be general in scheme, without specific detail, indicating present and projected regional parks".

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The "Our Regional Parks – The Central Okanagan's Plan for the Regional Park System", marked Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this Bylaw is hereby designated for the purposes of the Park (Regional) Act as an "Official Regional Park Plan of the Regional District of Central Okanagan".
2. This bylaw may be cited as the "Official Regional Park Plan Designation Bylaw No. 884, 2000".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 10th DAY OF JULY, 2000.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 10th DAY OF JULY, 2000.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 10th DAY OF JULY, 2000.

RECEIVED APPROVAL BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS
THIS 14th DAY OF September, 2000.

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THIS

20th DAY OF November, 2000.



CHAIRPERSON



DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 884 cited as the "Official Regional Park Plan Designation Bylaw No. 884, 2000" as read a third time by the Regional Board on the 10th day of July, 2000.

Dated at Kelowna, B.C. this
12th day of July, 2000.

for

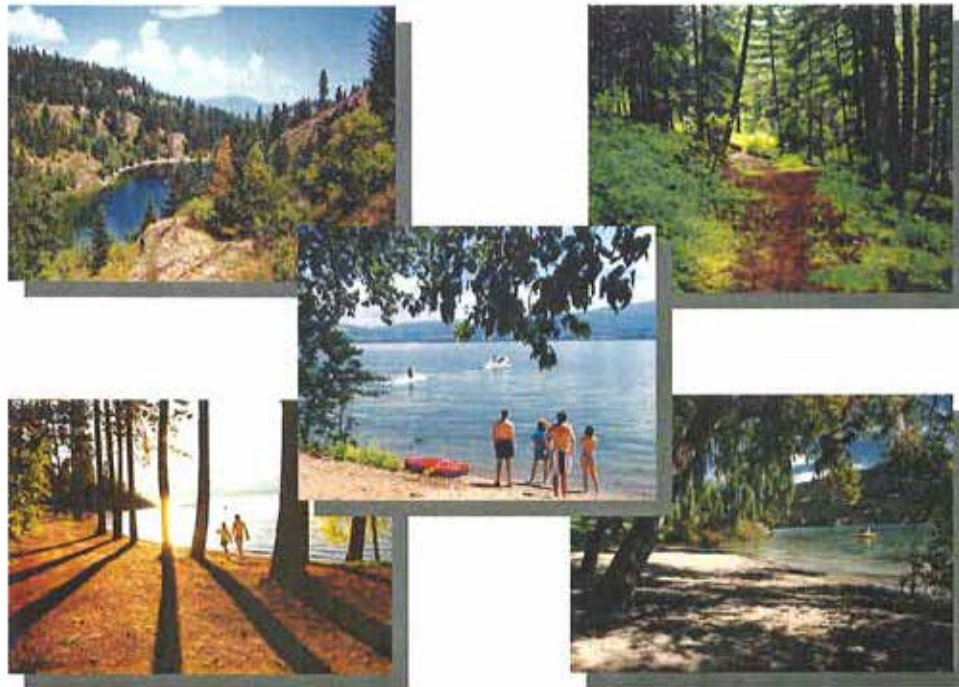

 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 884 cited as the "Official Regional Park Plan Designation Bylaw No. 884, 2000" as adopted by the Regional Board on the 20th day of November, 2000.

Dated at Kelowna, B.C. this
22nd day of November, 2000.



DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES



Our Regional Parks

The Central Okanagan's Official Plan for the Regional Park System "SCHEDULE A"

Prepared by:

Residents and Enthusiastic Park Users of the Central Okanagan
with the
Assistance of the
Parks & Recreation Department
Regional District of Central Okanagan

November 2000

Our Regional Parks
The Official Regional Parks Plan for the Central Okanagan

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The Central Okanagan's Official Regional Parks Plan



1.1 Introduction

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) can be counted as one of the most beautiful areas in the world to live. Rivers and creeks meander down from mountains and rocky hilltops spilling into one of the regions many lakes. As well as providing us with wonderful setting in which to live, the magnificent diversity in physical landscape creates a rich natural environment for a great number of species. This rare combination is what attracts visitors and new residents from all corners of the globe.

Your regional parks system plays a significant role in protecting natural habitats and providing outdoor recreation opportunities within the spectacular Okanagan Valley. For over 25 years, residents and elected representatives of the RDCO have been working to create a regional parks system that provides outstanding opportunities for both residents and visitors to learn about and experience

the region's ecological diversity and spectacular landscapes.

The RDCO's 24 regional parks are places where residents and visitors can experience nature. Opportunities for swimming, hiking, biking and other passive recreation are provided within a setting where nature is encouraged to flourish and evolve.

With the coordination of RDCO Parks, the municipalities, electoral areas, residents, interest groups and First Nations work together to help make regional parks and trails possible.

1.2 Purpose of the RDCO Official Regional Parks Plan

The Official Regional Parks Plan (ORPP) is a document that will provide a vision for our system of regional parks in the Central Okanagan. The ORPP will give direction towards protecting the natural environment, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, setting regional park priorities, and providing environmental education opportunities to park users. How to Use the RDCO's Official Regional Parks Plan

The Official Regional Parks Plan is divided into six sections.

Section 1: RDCO Official Regional Parks Plan

The first section of the ORPP provides a brief overview of RDCO Parks and the purpose of the Official Regional Parks Plan. As well as a guide to the use of the Official Regional Parks Plan's use, key concepts are also included in Section 1 of the plan.

Section 2: Background Information

Background information important to understanding the Official Regional Parks Plan is provided in this section. An overview of the Parks (Regional) Act, the role of Regional Parks in relation to other park systems in the area, Regional Growth Management Strategy policies related to the Regional Parks system, the Official Regional Parks Plan planning process, and public involvement in the research and writing of this document.

Section 3: Our Regional Parks System History

The Central Okanagan Regional Parks system was initiated in 1974 and has grown to 24 parks consisting of over 800 Ha (2000 acres) of land. This section describes the history of regional park development and outlines "gaps" in the existing inventory.



Section 4: Population Growth in the Central Okanagan (2000 – 2020)

The diversity of economy and the pleasant climate make the Central Okanagan one of the more popular locations to move to in the province. Net inflows of interprovincial migrants (largely retirees) and natural increase will continue to result in strong population growth for the area. This section describes population projections over the next 25 years, with "conservative" population growth estimates advising that an additional 100,000 residents will be serviced by a Regional Parks system.

Section 5: A Community 2020 Vision for the Regional Parks & Trails System

This section sets the direction for the Official Regional Parks Plan and outlines the community vision for regional parks and regional trails.



Section 6: Regional Parks & Trails Stewardship Policies

This section gives detail as to how regional parks and regional trails will be acquired, managed and operated. Included in this section are strategic policies regarding park land acquisition criteria, financing of regional park acquisitions, and general policies concerning management of both the natural processes and human use within regional parks and regional trails.

1.3 Key Concepts

In order to understand the Official Regional Parks Plan there are several key concepts users should understand. The following key concepts provide a foundation for the direction set out by the Official Regional Parks Plan.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is an interacting unit of all the natural elements and living organisms (air, water, soils, plants and animals) in a given area, plus all the non-living physical and chemical factors of their environment. Ecosystems vary greatly in size from a small pond to an entire forest but it always functions as a whole unit. Although an ecosystem may cover many kilometres with several different natural environments and a countless number of species, they are generally described according to their major type of vegetation and land form (See BC Biogeoclimatic Classification system below).

Ecological Integrity

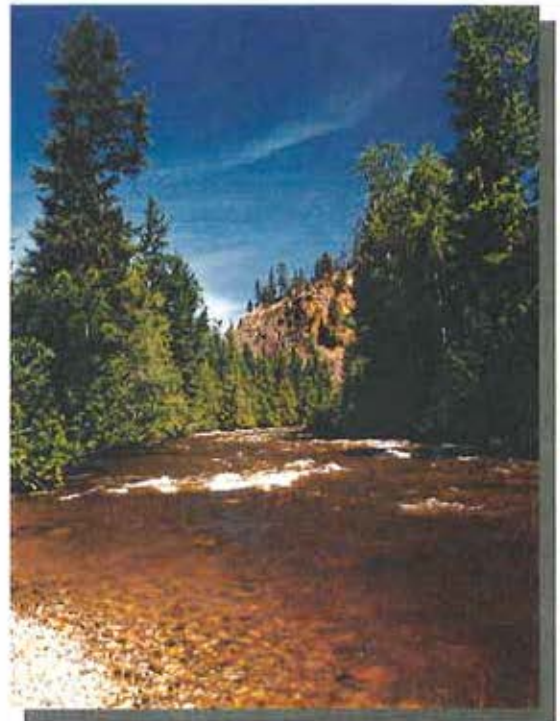
Ecological integrity is defined as a state of ecosystem development that is optimized for its geographic location. For regional Parks, this optimal state is referred to by such terms as natural, naturally evolving, pristine, and untouched. It implies that ecosystem structures and functions are unimpaired by human-caused stresses and that native species are present at viable population levels. Ecological integrity is important to regional parks for four primary reasons:

It is the foundation for a park's ability to sustain biodiversity in healthy ecosystems and natural habitat

Healthy ecosystems provide an environmental scale against which changes on the rest of the landscape can be measured.

It contributes to the experience of nature for park visitors

RDCO Parks' goal is to pass on to future generations a legacy of intact, healthy, evolving ecosystems.



Ecosystem-based Management

In the establishment and management of regional parks, the Regional District of Central Okanagan will strive to maintain ecological integrity. Achievement of this goal will require the cooperation of residents and other government agencies in ecosystem management beyond the park boundaries. Decision making associated with the protection of park ecosystems will be scientifically based on provincially and nationally accepted principles and concepts

of conservation biology. Ecosystem based management requires that regional parks be managed with minimal interference to natural processes unless the structure or function of an ecosystem has been seriously altered. In this event, manipulation of the naturally occurring processes can occur using techniques that duplicate natural processes as closely as possible.

British Columbia's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification System (BEC)

The BEC system is a hierarchical ecosystem classification scheme with three levels of integration:

Regional
Local and;
Chronological.

Coupled with this, BEC combines three classifications:

Climatic (or zonal)
Vegetation and;
Site

At the regional level, the vegetation/soil relationships are used to infer the regional

climate; this climatic or zonal classification defines biogeoclimatic units. At the local level, ecosystems are classified using vegetation and soils information, into vegetation and site units. At the chronological level, ecosystems are organized according to site specific chronosequences. To do this, the vegetation units recognized for a particular site unit are arranged according to site history and successional status.

The classification system organizes our knowledge of ecosystems and serves as a framework within which to manage the terrestrial land base. This classification system can form the basis for the selection and establishment of natural areas or conservation parklands.

Regionally Significant

Regionally Significant means:
Natural areas that exemplify landscapes from the region and are important to the residents of the region. These areas provide opportunities for appropriate outdoor activities that will attract people from throughout the Central Okanagan

2

Background Information



2.1 Parks (Regional) Act

Regional districts within British Columbia assume the regional park function through the Park (Regional) Act. Regional Parks are an extended service provided to both municipalities and unincorporated areas (electoral areas) by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (a Regional Park District). A Regional District is authorized, by provincial legislation, to provide this service and must adhere to the legislative provisions outlined in the Parks (Regional) Act.

The Parks (Regional) Act states that a regional district that has a regional parks function shall prepare an *Official Regional*

Parks Plan which must be approved by the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks.

The Parks (Regional) Act provides direction regarding, among other topics, the powers of the district, terms of leases and agreements, requisition amounts, borrowing powers, expenditures for parks, grants, and approval of bylaws.

Under the Park (Regional) Act, Regional Park means:

"Any area of land set aside and dedicated as a park under this act or as a municipal park transferred under section 7".

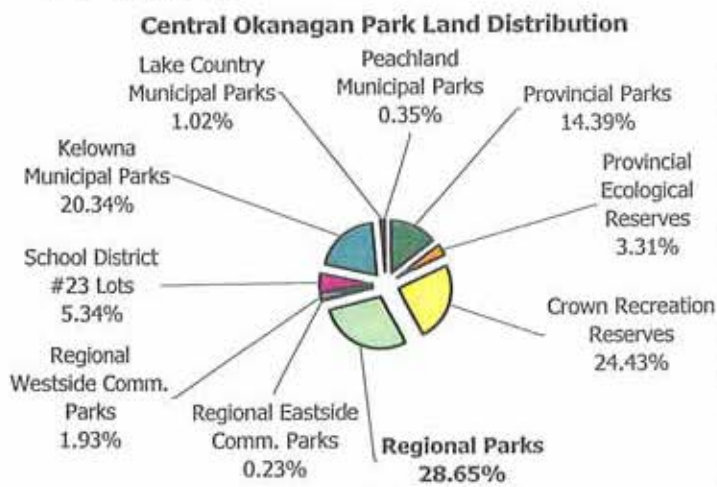
Regional Trail means:

"Any footpath, trail or area of land held in fee simple or as a registered easement or right of way by a regional district and dedicated as a regional trail under this Act".

2.2 Role of Regional Parks and Trails

The regional parks system does not exist in isolation but compliments parklands held by other jurisdictions. A corresponding set of park systems exists with park lands held by municipalities, school district, and provincial government in addition to regional parks in our area. In general terms, key factors that

distinguish these different jurisdictional systems include their legal mandate, location, accessibility, activities and level of development.



The Regional District of Central Okanagan appears to have abundant protected lands and outdoor recreational opportunities. However, with a land base of over 295,000 Ha within the boundary of the Regional District of Central Okanagan, park land accounts for a mere 1.27%. In fact, the Regional District of Central Okanagan is characterized by a land base that is predominantly administered and managed by the Provincial Government in conjunction with resource industries.

The public has been fortunate to have informal access to many of the area's valued site and features. The Okanagan – Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has recently been challenged with the task of reaching consensus among all resource stakeholders regarding nomination of expanded provincial park lands. The LRMP process has identified a number of candidate provincial park areas that, if approved by provincial government, will significantly increase the Central Okanagan's existing compliment of 3745 Ha of park land to over 30,000 Ha of parkland (10.17% of RDCO land base).

2.3 Regional Growth Management Strategy

The adoption of an Official Regional Park Plan will also provide required input into the RDCO Regional Growth Strategy. Section 942.12 of the Growth Strategies Statutes Amendment Act states that a regional district growth strategy **must include**, among other topics, actions proposed for the regional district to provide for the needs of the projected population in relation to **parks and natural areas**.

The Growth Management Strategy for the Regional District of Central Okanagan establishes a regional growth management vision and a set of common regional statements (goals), growth management objectives, and general growth management policies to be considered and reflected in the future decisions made by the Municipal Councils and the Regional Board. The Growth Management Strategy is an agreement among governments and agencies to work together on common issues to find common solutions with respect to housing, transportation, regional services, parks and natural areas and economic development.

In the 20/20 Vision Statement the Central Okanagan was identified as "...a region that protects and respects its natural attributes. The region's green spaces and water resources are managed to ensure their long-term health and sustainability." Furthermore, the 20/20 Vision Statement went on to describe this area as "a centre for arts, culture, tourism and recreation." Continuing, "our parks, trail systems, recreation areas and sports venues are extensive and attract thousands of visitors a year." Furthermore, the following two

objectives were identified as two of the 10 Major Growth Management Objectives:

"Improve the quality of life through enhancement of the arts, culture, tourism, and recreation opportunities within the region"

and...

"Protect the scenic quality of the region and preserve significant features, open space and cultural heritage resources".

These objectives reflect a commitment to protecting the environment and significant natural features of this region. These statements also highlight the importance of parks and open space in providing for recreation opportunities for residents of the region as well as the value of these resources in attracting visitors from all over the world.

2.4 Regional Park Plan Public Involvement Process

In an effort to obtain representative feedback from a breadth of residents and stakeholders in the Central Okanagan throughout the planning process, several advisory groups were formed, public open houses were held throughout the Central Okanagan, and several consultation workshops were also conducted involving both elected officials and NGO partner groups.

Public Advisory Group (P.A.G.)

Members of the public from each of the municipalities and electoral areas were selected to form our Public Advisory Group.

This group was formed with the following purpose in mind:

To assemble a diverse group of people from throughout the RDCO, who represent a broad range of outdoor recreation interests, in order to contribute local resident perspectives regarding RDCO Regional Parks to the RDCO Parks Committee.

Several meetings with P.A.G. were held throughout the planning process to ensure that the public was represented in all areas of the regional district. These meetings helped ensure region specific issues, or issues pertinent to the entire region, were heard.

Technical Advisory Group (T.A.G.)

In order to obtain professional advice, staff from both Municipal Parks departments and BC Parks assisted in the development of the Official Regional Parks Plan. A Technical Advisory Group (T.A.G.) was formed in 1999 with the primary purpose as follows:

To assemble staff from both local municipal parks departments and BC Provincial Parks to discuss the contemporary issues facing Central Okanagan parks systems.

Meetings were held throughout the planning process to ensure that all agencies were working together to form an overall "integrated" and "complimentary" park system that would meet the needs of the Central Okanagan.

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Random telephone survey conducted by Okanagan University College.

Random survey and mail-in questionnaire distributed to over 49,000 homes in the Central Okanagan.

Two open houses at each of the following three locations (6 Open House Meetings total):

Mission Creek EECO Centre (Kelowna);
District of Lake Country (Municipal Offices);
Mt. Boucherie Community Centre
(Westbank).

In addition, the following public consultation events were conducted:
Community presentation at Joe Rich Ratepayers Association Meeting;
Central Okanagan Alliance Group (NGO's) Workshop;
Display set up and staffed at Orchard Park Mall (Fall 1999);
Display set up at RDCO Office on KLO Rd;
RDCO Web site information and "downloadable" version of draft Official Regional Parks Plan for public comment.

RDCO "Think Tank" Groups

This group was comprised of RDCO Park's & Recreation Department staff assembled on three occasions with a mandate of providing "on the ground" comments regarding the proposed park land classification system, management policies, and to also shed insight as to matters raised by members of the public who contact RDCO staff regarding use of regional parks.

3

Our Regional Parks System History

3.1 The Central Okanagan Parks System

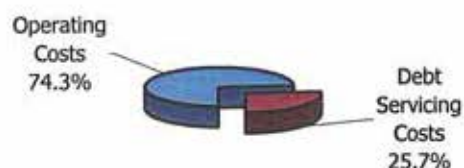
On July 21, 1971 Director J. Stuart, Chairman of the Regional Parks and Recreation Committee presented a report entitled "A Regional Parks Plan" to the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The report contained the synthesis of years of work and provided strategic recommendations for the establishment of a "*Regional Parks System*". After several years of debate and discussion between the Regional Board and member municipalities, a Regional Park function was granted to the Regional District by supplementary Letters Patent issued on October 25, 1974 and amended on December 19, 1986. The Regional Parks "function" was converted to an "extended service" on January 22, 1990 through the adoption of Bylaw #410.



3.2 Funding Structure for Regional Parks

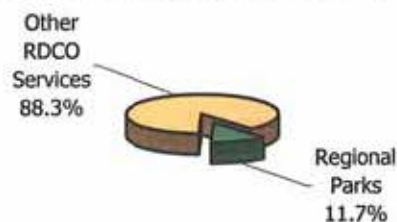
The RDCO Regional Park Budget is approximately \$1,500,000 / year. Nearly 26% of this total was spent servicing debt on previously purchased land (25.7%), while the remaining 74% was spent on operational costs (74.3%).

Regional Parks Expenditure Budget



Operating costs include everything from maintenance of parkland and providing environmental education to advertising park locations to providing staff salaries.

RDCO Tax Requisition Summary



RDCO Regional Parks Budget Sources of Revenue



In total, approximately 1.1% of a homeowner's total property tax went to Regional Parks. This means that a home with an assessed value of \$150,000 paid approximately \$20.00 in property taxes for Regional Park services.

4

Population Growth in the Central Okanagan (2000 – 2020)

In 1999 the population of the Regional District of Central Okanagan was 150,000 making it the 4th most populous Regional District in the province. Seventy-five percent of the region's population live in its three municipalities: the City of Kelowna (98,130 people – 65% of the region's population); the District Municipality of Lake Country (9,934 people – 7 % of the region's population) and the District Municipality of Peachland (4,958 people – 3% of the region's population). The remaining 25% of the population live within three electoral areas within the region's boundaries.

4.1 Existing Population Base and Demographics

The Regional District of Central Okanagan 1999 population age distribution, with about one-third (30%) of its residents between 30 and 49 years old, demonstrates a typical Baby Boom generation structure. Due to the presence of a large retirement base, the median age of the population is significantly higher than the provincial median.

4.2 Population Demographic Forecast

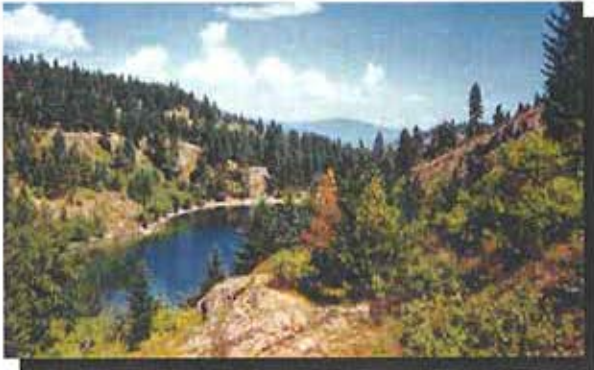
While growth will impact the overall size of the Regional District of Central Okanagan's population, aging will change its structure. The number of people in the 30 – 49 age groups will steadily increase in absolute terms, however their overall share of the population will drop slightly from the current 30% to 28% by 2020.

Area	1999 Population
City of Kelowna	98,130
Peachland DM	4,958
Lake Country DM	9,934
Electoral Area I (Joe Rich - Ellison)	4,041
Electoral Areas G & H (Westside)	25,183
Reserves (IR 9,10 and Duck Lake Reserve)	7,754
RDCO	150,000

5

A Community 2020 Vision for the Regional Parks System

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has an exceptionally valuable resource in the park lands presently existing within the region. Both the amount and the quality of these natural environments are a significant valued asset for all residents of the community.



The continued purpose of the Regional Park System is:

To establish and conserve a network of regional parks and trails in perpetuity which represent the complete range of regionally significant natural environments that are within the Okanagan Valley.

Regional Parks will provide opportunities for outdoor experiences and activities that encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the region's natural and cultural landscapes while ensuring the long term ecological and commemorative integrity of each park or trail.

The existing Regional Parks system is shown on Map 1 (back leaf). In addition, potential new regional park and trail "interest" areas are identified. The intention of the Regional Park Plan is not to set site-specific goals for land acquisition, but instead highlight the needs of the residents of this region, which have been identified to include the provision of increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and the protection of representative landscapes. More specifically, the proposed regional parks and trails system is designed to assist:

establish new regional parks that protect natural environments that are under-represented in the existing system (i.e. biogeoclimatic zone "gaps" in upland habitat);

establish new regional parks that protect regionally significant natural landscape features;

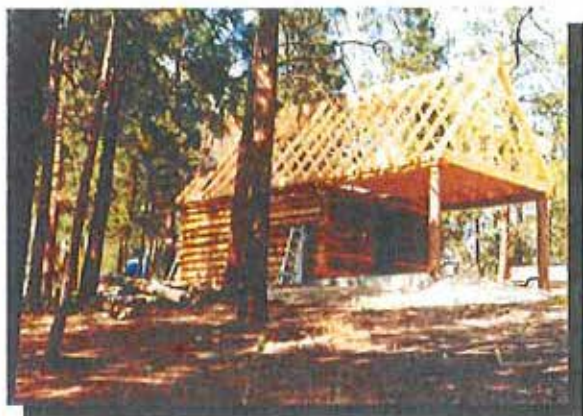
establish new regional parks that highlight regionally significant recreational features in proximity of natural lakes and watercourses;

establish new regional parks that assist in the conservation of the regionally significant cultural landscape of the Central Okanagan;

collaborate with municipal and provincial park systems in the development of a regional trails (greenways) system that provides both recreational and habitat links to provincial, regional or major municipal parks (i.e. Mission Creek Greenway, Powers Creek, Trepanier Creek, Kettle Valley Railway, etc.);

add to the boundaries of existing regional parks to improve ecological health.

It is important to note that as time goes by new opportunities, challenges and information may induce a change in the proposed objectives of the regional park system. The process outlined will require co-operation, innovation and partnerships with all stakeholders. Most importantly, completing the process is heavily dependent upon financial resources and time. Direction from the RDCO Board, establishing partnerships, opportunities to purchase land, gaining public opinion, and learning about federal, provincial, regional, and municipal planning initiatives are all vital to the success of our regional parks and trails system; however, all these processes will take time to happen and will require money to be spent.



5.1 Regional Parks System

The proposed regional parks system is based on 4 key goals.

- Addressing the Entire Regional Parks System
- To assemble a regional park system that works to complement the existing provincial, regional and municipal park systems and protected areas.
- To meet the present and anticipated future needs of the residents of this region.
- To establish regional parks that are accessible to all residents of the RDCO.

Protecting the Natural Environment

- To protect and maintain natural environments in existing regional parks.
- To protect areas containing rare and critically endangered viable ecosystems.
- To protect natural environments which are either regionally significant or under-represented in regional parks or protected areas within the RDCO.
- To link existing regional parks and protected areas by natural area corridors.

Providing Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education

To assemble a regional park system that will provide a range of outdoor recreation experiences, as well as opportunities for environmental education

Adding to the Boundaries of Existing Regional Parks

- To use ecological or watershed boundaries for making decisions about park boundaries.
- To provide adequate buffers from activities on adjacent lands.
- To protect natural environments adjacent to regional parks, in order to consolidate ecosystems bisected by park boundaries.

As the population of this region continues to grow, natural areas will be lost to development and changes in land use therefore opportunities to acquire natural areas for park and open space will also decrease. As a result, the Official Regional Parks Plan takes a long term view toward meeting to goals and objectives of the regional park system.

5.2 Regional Trails System

Despite the Mission Creek Greenway being one of RDCO's most popular form of regional park, the Regional Parks System has not previously designated "regional



trails" within the Regional Park District. The idea of establishing regional trails in the Central Okanagan dates back to the mid 1970's and was included in the original Regional Parks System report presented in 1971, the RDCO Board has continued to be supportive of initiatives like the Mission Creek Greenway.

With overwhelming support from the community, the Official Regional Parks Plan proposes that a regional trails system be established. The following purpose of the regional trails system has been identified:

To create, where feasible, non-motorized and multiple-use trails in a natural setting to link the region's communities and major parks and to connect communities to other parts of the Okanagan Valley.

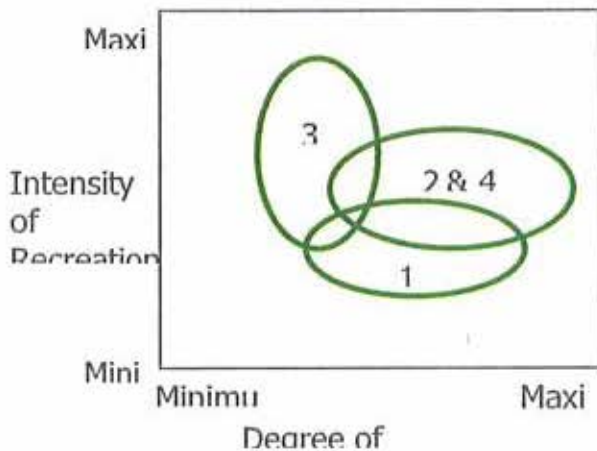
The Official Regional Park Plan proposes that a enhanced regional trail system be based on the following objectives:

- To connect regional parks to other provincial and major municipal parks and trails, key points of interest, major community facilities, transportation facilities and commercial centres.
- To encourage a reduction in pollution by offering alternative modes of transportation
- To connect urban, suburban, and rural parts of the region

As proposed, the regional trails system will extend through existing parks and connect parks with other trails and communities. Due to the comprehensive nature of this trail system, partnerships with public landowners, interest groups, other levels of government and business will be critical to its success.

5.3 The Regional Parks and Trails Management Classification System

The park management classification system is composed of four primary park classes: (1) Conservation, (2) Natural, (3) Recreation / Cultural / Waterfront, and (4) Trails (Greenways).



These classes are separated primarily by the degree of protection afforded to the environment and the intensity of recreation use. Although most regional parks and proposed park areas will contain a mixture of these characteristics, the park class in which they are categorized will reflect the primary management focus of the park as shown in Table 1.

5.3.1 Regional Conservation Parks

General Description

Regional Conservation Parks are managed for the protection or enhancement of habitat values of vegetation and wildlife. The provision of recreation may occur but is subordinate to habitat values. Natural processes may take their natural course

and management practices may occur at the detriment of aesthetics or public access.

Size Criteria

The practical limit of hectares set aside within this classification lies in the resource quality, availability, community development considerations, and acquisition costs.

Development Parameters

Although Regional Conservation Parks are resource rather than user based, they can provide some passive recreation opportunities. Most notable are nature viewing and studying. They can also function as greenways and development should be kept to a level that preserves the integrity of the resource.

5.3.2 Regional Natural Area Park

General Description

Regional Natural Area Parks provide opportunities for increasing awareness and knowledge of the natural environment of the Okanagan Valley. These areas must contain regionally significant features of geology, physiography, vegetation communities, or wildlife habitat.

Size Criteria

Feature availability and community interest are the primary determinants of a Regional Natural Area Park. Although an optimal size for a Regional Natural Area Park is greater than 40 hectares, its actual size should be based on the land area needed to conserve and protect the regionally significant feature while affording

opportunities for public access and education.

Development Parameters

Regional Natural Area development will be limited to a menu of potential passive recreation facilities including internal trails, general open space, unique landscape feature interpretive facilities, and nature study areas. User facilities must adhere to sound environmentally appropriate design. Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate user access. Park lighting should be used only for security, safety and lighting facilities with minimal environmental impact.

5.3.3 Regional Recreation / Cultural / Waterfront Park

General Description

Regional Recreation/ Cultural/Waterfront Parks provide varied forms of more active recreation. These parks primarily focus on meeting the aquatic recreation needs of the region and/or preserve unique cultural landscapes. The management emphasis within Regional Recreation / Cultural Parks will be intensive outdoor or interpretive program day use.

Size Criteria

Although an optimal size for a Regional Recreation/Cultural/Waterfront Park is between 5 and 10 hectares, its actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. In an effort to provide regionally significant access for aquatic recreation, a minimum of 200 metres of water frontage is required. Cultural sites should be of regional significance and optimal size is dependant

on conservation requirements associated with the site feature(s).

Development Parameters

A Regional Recreation/Cultural/Waterfront Park will provide for an extensive assortment of outdoor experiences, activities and events, and will be managed to accommodate a relatively high number of visitors. Facilities will be developed to support this level of use and the area must lend itself to development for a variety of uses that meet recreational needs and be able to withstand intensive public use.

Potential recreation facilities include active swimming areas, swimming docks, fishing wharfs, boat launch facilities, large play structures and / or creative play attractions, informal sport fields, etc. Passive activity facilities include extensive internal trails, individual and group picnic / sitting areas, general open space and unique landscape features, and nature study areas. Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate user access. Park lighting should be used for security, safety and lighting facilities as appropriate.

5.3.4 Regional Trail (Greenways)

General Description

Regional Trails will be established to link provincial, regional and major municipal parks throughout the Central Okanagan. Development of the Regional Trail System will require collaboration with municipal and provincial park partners as well as non-government organizations in the acquisition and development of "greenway" systems that provide both recreational and habitat links to other open spaces.

Size Criteria

The Regional Trail corridor must be of sufficient width to allow simultaneous multiple use access of different non-motorized recreation. A Regional Trail is also intended to provide adequate habitat (width) to successfully support a viable ecological corridor for vegetation and wildlife species.

Development Parameters

The actual trail alignment and type of use will be determined through detailed planning; **not all trails will be multiple-use**. Facility development will be limited to environmentally appropriate designed structures providing services for interpretation and passive human use.

Table 1: Classification of Regional Parks by Management Class

Regional Park	Management Classification			
	Conservation	Natural	Recreation (R) / Cultural ©/ Waterfront (W)	Trails (Greenways)
Antlers Beach / Hardy Falls			• (R&W)	
Bertram Creek			• (R&W)	
Cedar Mountain		•		
Gellatly Heritage Park			• ©	
Glen Canyon				•
Kalamoair		•		
Kaloya			• (R&W)	
Kopje			• (R/W&©)	
McCulloch			• (R&©)	
Mill Creek		•		
Mission Creek		•		
Mission Creek Greenway				•
Mount Boucherie	•			
Okanagan Centre Safe Harbour			• (R&W)	
Raymer Bay			• (R&W)	
Robert Lake	•			
Reisweg			• (R&W)	
Rose Valley	•			
Scenic Canyon		•		
Shannon Lake			• (R&W)	
Stevens Coyote Ridge	•			
Traders Cove			• (R&W)	
Woodhaven		•		

5.4 The Regional Parks and Trails Natural Environment Classification System

Utilizing the Province of British Columbia's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification System (BEC), Regional Parks are distinguished by the type of natural environment they represent.

The BEC classification system organizes our knowledge of ecosystems and serves as another frame of reference within which to manage the Regional Parks System land base. The natural environment classification system is proposed to form the basis for the selection and establishment of natural areas or conservation parklands.

There are 5 distinct biogeoclimatic zones within the Regional District of Central Okanagan:

- Ponderosa Pine (PP)
- Interior Douglas-Fir (IDF)
- Montane Spruce (MS)
- Interior Cedar-Hemlock
- Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir

Classification of Regional Parks using the natural environment (BEC) system provides residents with an indication of the types of natural environments that have been historically considered of interest to the community as well as indicates which environments are under-represented in the existing Regional Parks System model as shown in the following map and Table 2.

5.5 Gaps in the Existing Regional Parks System

Designing the ideal regional parks system is a complex task. Many factors require consideration – the population of the region, the recreational needs and expectations, the region's economy, the existing park systems, and the potential parkland. An important part of the Official Regional Parks Plan is to identify areas of interest for future park purposes. To assess any potential park land areas, it is necessary to review at "gaps" in the current regional parks system in light of the two classification systems:

- Management Classification System.
- Natural Environment (BEC) Classification System.

5.5.1 Management Classification

The significant gaps identified within the management classification analysis include:

- Conservation Area parks such as Stevens Coyote Ridge and Rose Valley that focus on providing representative natural landscapes with accompanying passive forms of recreation and environmental education facilities;
- Regionally significant waterfront park access is considered essential to the residents of the Central Okanagan because of the magnitude of this type landscape and pressure for alternative land uses within this area;
- Regional Trails that link the region's communities and major parks. The recent success of the Mission Creek Greenway project illustrates the communities strong desire to see this as

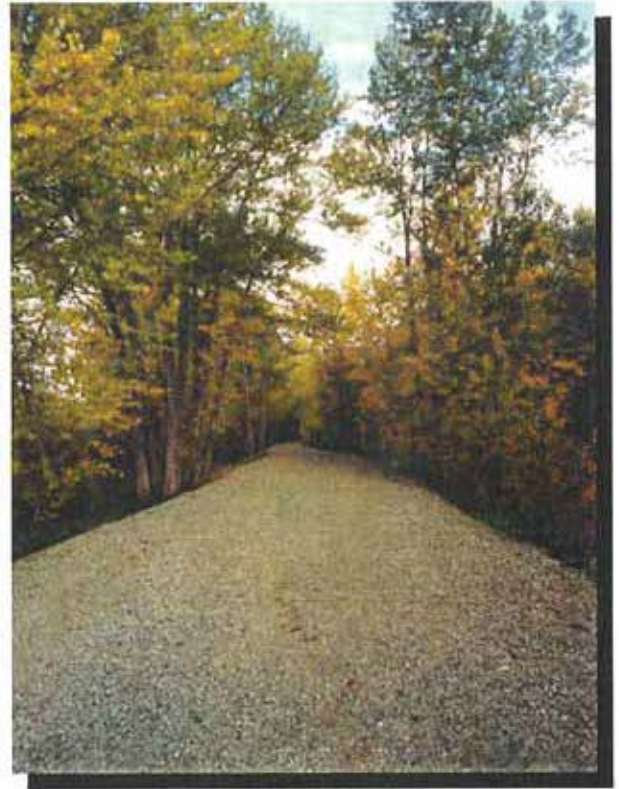
a priority management focus for RDCO Parks.

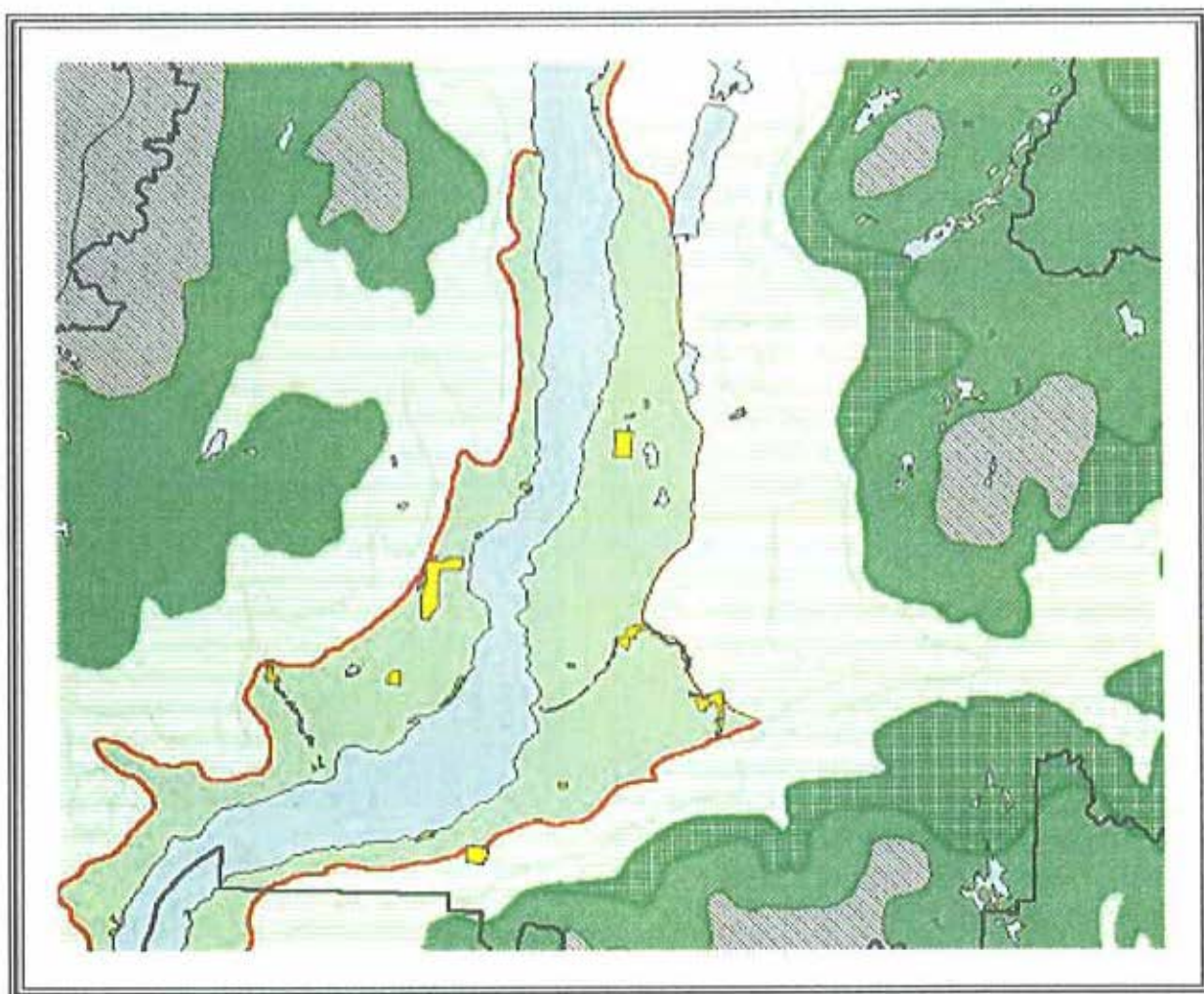
5.5.2 Natural Environment Classification

As Table 2 illustrates, there are three classes of natural environment that are under-represented in the current regional parks system:

- Montane Spruce (MS)
- Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH)
- Engelmann Spruce / Subalpine-Fir (ESSF)

Regional Parks and trails do not exist in isolation. Other levels of government also protect the region's natural environment and provide areas for outdoor recreation. In addition to major municipal parks, provincial parks and ecological reserves, the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has identified over 27,000 hectares of "candidate" provincial park areas from the crown land base in the Central Okanagan. If approved, many of these areas will encompass the above natural environment classes.





- RDCO Regional Parks**
- RDCO Boundary**
- Lakes**
- Biogeoclimatic Zones**
- Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir**
- Interior Cedar Hemlock**
- Interior Douglas Fir**
- Montane Spruce**
- Ponderosa Pine**

Table 2: Classification of Regional Parks by Natural Environment (BEC)

Regional Park	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)				
	Ponderosa Pine	Interior Douglas-Fir	Montane Spruce	Interior Cedar Hemlock	Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir
Antlers Beach / Hardy Falls	•				
Bertram Creek	•				
Cedar Mountain	•	•			
Gellatly Heritage Park	•				
Glen Canyon	•				
Kalamoir	•				
Kaloya	•	•			
Kopje	•				
McCulloch	•		•	•	
Mill Creek	•	•			
Mission Creek	•				
Mission Creek Greenway	•				
Mount Boucherie	•				
Okanagan Centre Safe Harbour	•				
Raymer Bay	•				
Robert Lake	•				
Reisweg	•	•			
Rose Valley	•	•			
Scenic Canyon	•	•			
Shannon Lake	•				
Stevens Coyote Ridge	•				
Traders Cove	•				
Woodhaven	•				

6

Regional Parks & Trails Stewardship Policies

Stewardship Policies

The successful representation of the landscape characteristics of the region and the provision of a diverse and equitable spectrum of educational and recreational opportunities for the public can only result from careful planning and management. An ongoing commitment to a sound planning process for the regional park system will help to ensure long-term benefits of these natural areas for present residents and for their children.

6.1 Systems Planning

- 6.1.1 A system plan will be prepared by the Parks Department and approved by the RDCO Board. The plan will address such topics as the park system's purpose, goals, and objectives, program and operational policies, potential park land, acquisition and implementation priorities, and funding.
- 6.1.2 The system plan will be reviewed and up-dated every five years.
- 6.1.3 Opportunities will be provided for public review of the system plan.

6.2 Park Classification and Names

- 6.2.1 All regional parks will be managed in accordance with an approved classification system. The classes which are used will reflect natural features and recreational activities as follows:
 - 1. Conservation Area Parks,
 - 2. Natural Area Parks,
 - 3. Recreational / Cultural / Waterfront Parks,
 - 4. Regional Trails (Greenways).
- 6.2.2 Within each park class five management park zones will also be identified according to the predominant nature of the landscape. The park management zones are as follows:
 - 1. Special Preservation
 - 2. Ecosystem
 - 3. Natural Environment
 - 4. Outdoor Recreation
 - 5. Park Services
- 6.2.3 In selecting the name for a Regional Park and/or park features, consideration will be given to local geography, history and tradition, and to natural features. Names of persons will not normally be used. Where acknowledgement of donations or significant individual contributions to parks and

conservation is considered important, other means such as a plaque or cairn should be used.

6.3 Regional Trails

Trails and associated linear parks will be established as "regional trails" under the regional park system.

6.3.1 The system of natural "greenways" will be established to link major parks within the municipal, regional, and provincial park system as well as any other significant points of interest throughout the Regional District.

6.3.2 General public use through a variety of non-motorized means of travel will be encouraged along the Park Corridor system.

6.3.3 The Regional Trail System may be supplemented with a coordinated network of trails administered by local jurisdictions.

6.3.4 Efforts will be made to coordinate with initiatives of the Regional District of North Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen in developing links between the regional trail systems of our neighboring two regional districts.

6.4 Selecting Regional Park Land

Potential park area will offer features that are regionally significant for nature appreciation, recreation, or wilderness experiences.

6.4.1 The presence of cultural heritage resources within the potential park area will enhance its value as park land, however, sites with cultural heritage value will not, in themselves, constitute candidate parks for the regional park system.

6.4.2 The parks system will be representative of the Central Okanagan geography and vegetation, emphasizing the dominance of the freshwater shoreline while illustrating the diversity of upland forest and freshwater ecology.

6.4.3 The regional park system will contain sufficient park lands so that there exists a ratio in excess of 12 hectares of park land per 1000 people of resident population.

6.5 Master Plans

6.5.1 All lands and facilities administered by the Parks Department will be managed in accordance with an approved master plan for each park. The plan will address such topics as programs and facilities, land acquisition, park classification, recreational activities, interpretation, maintenance, staffing, funding, and interest group agreements.

6.5.2 Each master plan will be reviewed and updated as required.

6.5.3 From the initial stage; of planning, opportunities will be provided for public review of master plans and programs.

- 6.5.4 Each master plan will be approved by RDCO Board.

6.6 Land Acquisition

- 6.6.1 Additional parklands will be acquired by purchase, gift or transfer in accordance with the park system plan or specific park master plan.
- 6.6.2 In evaluating the suitability of a candidate property for park purposes, consideration will be given to: size and configuration; proximity to regional residents; accessibility; recreation and/or interpretive potential; adjacent land uses; gaps and deficiencies within the existing parks system; costs of acquisition and management.
- 6.6.3 The criteria for assessing additional parkland will be used to assess both potential additions to existing parks as well as any site/property which could be considered as a potential new park but which is not included in the park system plan.
- 6.6.4 Priority will be given to the acquisition of natural landscapes threatened by development that are acknowledged as integral to the completed regional park system.
- 6.6.5 Careful consideration will be given to the most appropriate means of disposal for lands which are no longer required for park purposes.

6.7 Resource Management

In a province which is increasingly dominated by resource exploitation, man-made landscapes and urbanization, the regional parks are important sanctuaries of nature and recreation for RDCO residents. The regional parks perform an important and invaluable role in protecting representative examples of regional landscapes, including local flora and fauna. Sound ecologically based management policies are required to ensure long-term protection of the natural values of regional parks. Maintaining these natural environments is a goal that is widely supported by public opinion within the RDCO.

6.8 Resource Protection

- 6.8.1 Natural resources within regional parks will be given a high degree of protection, and will be managed with minimal interference to natural processes.
- 6.8.2 Measures to control or direct visitor use so as to avoid the need for active resource management, will be undertaken where appropriate. These will include: the installation of gates and barriers; the erection of signs; and the enforcement of fire restrictions and park closures.
- 6.8.3 Exploitation, extraction or development of natural resources will not be permitted in regional parks, except as required for purposes of park management.
- 6.8.4 Community infrastructure and facilities such as reservoirs, communications facilities, etc. will

not be developed in regional parks except as provided for below.

- 6.8.5 In special situations non-related facilities may be developed if all of the following conditions are not:
- absolutely no other site outside a regional park is available or feasible;
 - the development of the facility will not jeopardize the ability of the park to fulfill its purpose;
 - the development is located and undertaken with a sensitivity to the park resources and the experience of the park visitor; and
 - the development avoids key park resources and focal points of use.

6.9 Management Strategies

- 6.9.1 An integrated natural resource data base will be developed and maintained for each regional park.
- 6.9.2 The highest degree of protection will be given to those specific areas which contain or support unique, rare or endangered features, or the best examples of natural features.
- 6.9.3 Specific park features requiring special protection, and the appropriate means for achieving that level of protection, will be identified in the park master plan.
- 6.9.4 Individual park master plans will specify the types and extent of terrain or landscape modification that will be permitted within the park. Such modification will reflect the classification of the individual park, with lower levels of modification being acceptable in conservation and natural area parks

of terrain or landscape modification that will be permitted within the park. Such modification will reflect the classification of the individual park, with lower levels of modification being acceptable in wilderness and nature appreciation parks than in recreation parks.

- 6.9.5 Terrain or landscape modification may take place in order to:
- protect or enhance opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment;
 - construct essential park facilities;
 - provide for access within a park;
 - maintain the vista from a designated viewpoint;
 - control exotic species, weeds, etc.;
 - ensure an acceptable level of visitor safety; or
 - protect or enhance habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.
- 6.9.6 Certain vegetation modification programs are considered appropriate within regional parks. These include:
- knapweed control;
 - aquatic weed harvesting in beach and other high use areas of lakes within recreation parks;
 - vegetation control (mowing grass and maintaining open fields in designated use areas such as park entry areas and picnic and play areas); and
 - removal of hazardous trees in designated visitor use areas

6.10 Research

The Parks Department will encourage and conduct research regarding the natural phenomena, public needs, visitor use and impacts so as to contribute directly to the protection, development, interpretation,

planning and management of regional parks.

6.10.1 Research activities within regional parks will be controlled by the Parks Department so as to protect natural resources and recreation opportunities.

6.10.2 The Parks Department will seek to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with active environmental and parks research groups, such as relevant Departments of the Okanagan University College, who may have an interest in the protection and management challenges of the regional park system.

6.10.3 Research activities within Regional Parks will be directed by the Parks Department so as to provide the most relevant and high priority research data required by the department for the management and operation of its parks.

6.10.4 The results of all approved research will be submitted to the Parks Department for its unqualified use.

6.11 Resource Management and Adjacent Lands

The Parks Department will endeavor to be a "good neighbor" with adjacent land owners. Park staff will ensure that adjacent land owners are made aware of the goals and objectives of the regional parks, and will seek their cooperation in this regard.

6.11.1 In special circumstances, park staff may take action to protect adjacent lands from natural processes (eg.

falling trees) which could be damaging to private property. However, the Parks Department will not be responsible for damage to private property associated with normal management practices or natural processes on park lands.

6.12 Visitor Use

The Central Okanagan's Regional Parks have a long history of use by individuals, families and organized groups. Individuals and families enjoy swimming, walking, boating, hiking, picnics, running, horseback riding, and nature appreciation. Groups with special interests have frequently organized nature outings and special events and/or constructed facilities for more specialized activities such as nature appreciation, rowing, dog training, and horseback riding. Sound management policies and practices will help to ensure that a variety of appropriate activities and increasing numbers of people can continue to be accommodated up to capacity limits within the regional parks.

6.13 Appropriate Activities

6.13.1 Those recreational activities which are considered to be appropriate will be encouraged. An appropriate recreational activity is one which:

- is dependent upon a natural setting; and
- encourages an appreciation and enjoyment of the natural environment, and
- is compatible with other park uses.

6.13.2 Those activities which are considered to be inappropriate will be

discouraged or prohibited. An inappropriate activity is one which:

- interferes with the enjoyment or activities of other visitors;
- causes excessive noise;
- involves the use of motorized vehicles or equipment;
- causes a significant impact to the natural environment;
- or is prohibited by law, bylaw or regulation.

6.13.3 Day use recreational activities will be encouraged in most Regional Parks. No camping will be permitted in the park system other than in Regional Parks designated for camping.

6.13.4 Certain recreational activities will be allowed only in designated parks or in designated areas because of the facilities they require, their impact on the environment, or the degree of influence on other recreational pursuits. Such activities include: horseback riding, orienteering, bicycle riding and group events.

6.13.5 The recreational activity opportunities and restrictions addressed above, will be identified in detail in the master plan for each park.

6.13.6 The carrying capacity of each park, and high use areas within the park, will be designated within the master plan for the park.

6.13.7 The carrying capacity will identify the levels and locations of visitor use of the park to the extent possible. A standard system of data collection

and recording will be developed and regularly implemented.

6.14 Commercial Services

6.14.1 Commercial facilities will not be permitted in regional parks.

6.14.2 Commercial services will not be permitted in regional parks unless they are program oriented, personal services such as guided programs or recreational activity training. In such exceptional cases, each proposed service will be assessed according to the criteria identified below.

6.14.3 In special situations commercial services may be permitted to operate within a regional park if all of the following conditions are met:

- the service and/or activity is 'appropriate', as defined above;
- the service is not able to be operated effectively outside the park boundary;
- the business has demonstrated previous, successful operation and have a proven record and credentials for safety, insurance, etc.;
- all business licences and standards required by the municipality are up-to-date;
- a minimum of environmental impact will result from continued service;
- the location used is selected with a sensitivity to the park resources and the experience of park visitors; and
- no facilities, permanent or temporary, are associated with the service or activity.

6.14.3 Non-profit societies with approved facilities within regional parks may

also provide associated public services in accordance with the conditions identified in their license of occupation.

6.14.4 Additional facilities for the sole purpose of commercial enterprises will not be acceptable.

6.14.5 Commercial services and non-profit society services will only be allowed in designated areas in designated parks because of their impact on the environment, or the degree of influence on other recreational pursuits. Specific limitations on the area of use will be identified in the park use permit or license of occupation.

6.14.6 The recreational activity opportunities and restrictions addressed above, will be identified in detail in the master plan for each park. Any request for additional commercial services or new non-profit group agreements must be reviewed in the context of a master plan review for the park.

6.14.7 Parks Department staff may cooperate with adjacent commercial enterprises that provide services and facilities which enhance existing opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of regional parks. Provisions for the management of visitor activities both inside and outside the park, including access to and from the park, signage, garbage disposal facilities, etc., may be cooperatively planned and executed.

6.15 Special Events and Organized Groups

The Parks Department may provide opportunities for organized non-profit groups to use park lands to construct and operate special facilities and conduct special events in conjunction with appropriate recreational activities where a need for regional parkland can be demonstrated to the RDCO Parks Committee. This type of use will be administered by license of occupation.

6.15.1 A license of occupation will be accompanied by a fee or rent based on the nature of the facility, the location and extent of the area being used, the facility use levels, the effect of the facility on park use, etc.

6.15.2 A license of occupation, referred to above, will specify terms and conditions of use. The following terms and conditions will normally apply:

- the general public shall not be denied access to any facility;
- the financing, construction, operation and maintenance of a special facility will be the responsibility of the organized group, not the Parks Department;
- the group will be required to submit an annual report and financial statement;
- the group will be required to submit by November 30, a schedule of activities for the following calendar year;
- fund-raising events will be permitted only if the central focus of the event
- is an appropriate activity as defined above;

- where a group fails to conform to the standards and guidelines of the Parks Department or maintain their site or facility in a condition satisfactory to the Parks Administrator, as specified in the permit, license agreement or lease, the site or facility may be transferred to another group or reverted to general public use. In such cases, the group may be responsible for the removal of their facilities and any site restoration deemed necessary by the Parks Administration; where a group fails to conduct any of their affairs according to the policies of the RDCO Parks Department and the terms of the permit, license, agreement or lease, the permit, license, agreement or lease will be terminated and future applications from said group will not be considered.

6.15.3 The Parks Department may provide opportunities for organized non-profit groups to use park lands for special events involving appropriate recreational activities as defined above. This type of use will be administered by permit and will include a fee designated for each occasion of use.

6.15.4 The permit referred to above will specify terms and conditions of use. The following terms and conditions will normally apply:

- the event will be limited to the area and times designated in the permit;
- the operation of the event (including any additional temporary support facilities) and clean-up of the site will be the responsibility of the

organized group, not the Parks Department; and

- where a group fails to conduct their affairs according to the policies of the RDCO Parks Department and the terms of the permit, the permit will be terminated and future applications from said group will not be considered.

6.15.5 Competitions will be considered as special events and be subject to all the appropriate policies described above which control the type of activity, location, duration, conditions of the permit, etc.

6.16 Visitor Safety

6.16.1 Each visitor is responsible for his/her own health and safety while using park lands or facilities.

6.16.2 The amount, kind, time and location of outdoor recreation activities will be controlled to contribute to visitor safety and enjoyment, and to protect park resources. The Parks Department will determine the most appropriate form of control based on the nature of the resources and the visitor risk. Examples of actions that may be utilized include: signage, park closures, gates, and activity restrictions.

6.17 Regulations

6.17.1 Park visitors will be made aware of relevant rules and regulations through personal contact with parks staff, and through park signing and publications.

6.17.2 The Parks Department will encourage the establishment of a

common set of municipal by-laws associated with park management issues throughout the Regional District.

- 6.17.3 All parks staff and designated volunteers will encourage visitors to comply with rules and regulations and all relevant regulations will be enforced as required. Parks staff will maintain an ongoing liaison with the RCMP to ensure their cooperation in this regard.
- 6.17.4 Wherever possible designated employees will be granted legal enforcement status (e.g. Peace Officer) to facilitate the effectiveness of their enforcement.
- 6.17.5 Enforcement of park regulations will be undertaken according to the procedures outlined in the Parks Department Regulations Enforcement Manual.

6.18 Information and Interpretation

One of the greatest assets of such an extensive system of natural parklands within the region is the opportunity to provide visitors with an appreciation for the diversity and character of the environment in which we live. Educating park visitors about natural systems and processes will help to ensure wise use and public support for the establishment and protection of park lands. The efforts made by the Parks Department to show people how to enjoy and benefit from the parks in ways that are consistent with such protection will contribute greatly to the regional parks reaching their potential with the desirable balance between recreation and protection.

6.19 Information and Marketing

- 6.19.1 Accurate information about regional parks will be made available to all regional residents and to park visitors so as to encourage and assist them to appreciate and enjoy regional parks.
- 6.19.2 The Parks Department will provide information to make visitors aware of the opportunities for the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of each regional park, including programs and facilities, rules and regulations, equipment and natural hazards.
- 6.19.3 Efforts will be made to encourage local residents to visit the regional parks, and to inform them about the parks, using appropriate advertising techniques (e.g. announcements on radio and television, displays in shopping malls, participation in community events, etc.).
- 6.19.4 Efforts will be made to ensure that information about the parks which is dispensed by local tourism agencies and other organizations is accurate, up-to-date, and appropriate. Assistance may be provided to such organizations to assist them in providing a quality information concerning the park system.

6.20 Interpretation

- 6.20.1 Interpretation will be provided in all regional parks to promote understanding and appreciation of each park's natural and cultural values. In some parks, this will simply consist of providing signs and

publications. In others, more elaborate opportunities will be possible including the presence of an interpretive facility and the availability of regular on-site programs.

6.20.2 The general extent of interpretation in each park will be identified in the park master plan and will be based on the following factors:

- the nature of the park resources;
- the suitability of the resources for on-site interpretation; and
- the present number of visitors in the park, or the potential of the park to attract and withstand visitors.

6.20.3 An interpretive plan will be prepared for each regional park. Priority will be given to regional parks in the Natural Area class. In addition, priorities will be established based on the direction provided in the master plans for the parks. The plan will address goals and objectives, interpretive themes and messages, audience, programming, media, facilities, staff, and volunteers. The plan will recognize and be consistent with the master plan for the park.

6.20.4 Children, seniors, special needs groups and school groups will be considered as special target groups for interpretive programs.

6.20.5 Along with other government agencies and local schools, the Parks Department will deliver outdoor education programs in the RDCO. The primary role of the Parks Department in this regard is to conduct on-site nature interpretive

programs within the parks. A secondary role is to respond to requests for information about the parks and their ecosystems from teachers, educators and special interest groups.

6.20.6 Interpretive programs will not be conducted outside regional parks.

6.21 Publications

6.21.1 Publications will be produced for all major parks, and for the RDCO park system, in accordance with approved guidelines. Guidelines will be prepared and will address such topics as purpose and objectives, messages, distribution, production standards and specifications, and funding.

6.21.2 Park publications will be distributed to RDCO residents as a first priority, and to visitors as budgets permit.

6.21.3 Efforts will be made to recover part of the costs associated with producing park publications.

6.22 Park Facilities

The Parks Department encourages all residents of the Central Okanagan to appreciate, enjoy and benefit from the regional parks. To do this, the Parks Department must continue to provide and maintain appropriate, high-quality facilities. Park facilities which are carefully designed and well maintained can serve to protect park resources, to reduce vandalism, to project a distinctive and attractive image of the regional parks, to enhance recreational opportunities and to ensure visitor safety.

6.23 Facility Types

The Parks Department will provide those facilities essential for public appreciation and enjoyment of the regional parks. This will include (but not necessarily be limited to) trails, parking lots and roads, litter barrels, toilet facilities, picnic tables and/or shelters, and signs.

6.24 Site Plans

6.24.1 All facilities, whether provided by the Parks Department or other groups, will be constructed in accordance with specifications as set forth in an approved site plan.

6.24.2 The site plan will recognize and be consistent with the master plan for the park, and the interpretive plan where appropriate.

6.24.3 The site plan must be approved by the Manager of Park Planning & Design in advance of any construction or pre-construction site preparation.

6.25 Facility Standards

6.25.1 Facility standards and designs will be developed for all Parks Department facilities.

6.25.2 All facilities will be constructed and maintained to an appropriate standard, as defined in the Parks Department Maintenance Management System.

6.25.3 All park facilities will be designed and constructed so as to project an image that is distinctive, unique and

appropriate to the regional parks. Local, natural materials will be used wherever appropriate.

6.25.4 All facilities will be designed, constructed and maintained so as ensure a high degree of visitor safety.

6.25.5 Efforts will be made to protect park property, and that of visitors, from acts of vandalism and theft. Suitable measures will be taken at each stage of the design, location and construction of facilities.

6.25.6 All park signing will be in accordance with approved guidelines provided in the proposed Parks Department Sign Manual.

6.26 Administration

6.26.1 While financial resources have been adequate in the early years of development of the park system, the high personal commitment and resourcefulness of the staff have been instrumental in achieving the level of park services and programming visitors now appreciate.

6.26.2 Maintenance of existing facilities, provision of new facilities and continued delivery of visitor services and programs will require an on-going commitment to adequate levels of staffing, maintenance of staff incentives and adequate financial resources for the Parks Department.

6.27 Staffing

- 6.27.1 The Parks Department will hire sufficient staff to adequately develop, administer and manage the regional parks and associated programs and services.
- 6.27.2 A staffing plan that is consistent with the approved system plan will be prepared and implemented. Such a plan will be up-dated as required by the review and revision of the system plan.
- 6.27.3 Additional staff beyond the scope of the staffing plan will be hired on a temporary basis from time to time to undertake special projects and to respond to extra demands of special public events.
- 6.27.4 All staff will receive training, as required, to improve their on-the-job effectiveness and performance. This will include training in relevant professional and technical duties, public relations, law enforcement, and first aid.

6.28 Volunteers

- 6.28.1 The Parks Department will provide opportunities for local residents to volunteer their services in such areas as interpretation, maintenance, enforcement, and facility and trail construction.
- 6.28.2 All volunteers will be readily identifiable as such, and the basic resources required to support each volunteer will be provided by the Parks Department.

6.28.3 The system of volunteer recognition will be designed and implemented to make the general public aware of the volunteer contributions made to the system and the opportunities to be involved.

6.28.4 Recognition of the role of volunteers, and the importance of organization and effort on the part of the Parks Department to create an effective system, will be reflected in the staffing plan identified above.











6.28.5 The Parks Department will also encourage and respond to initiatives of organized groups of volunteers to work cooperatively with the Department in the on-going planning, development and operation of the parks. Long-term relationships and agreements may result from such initiatives.

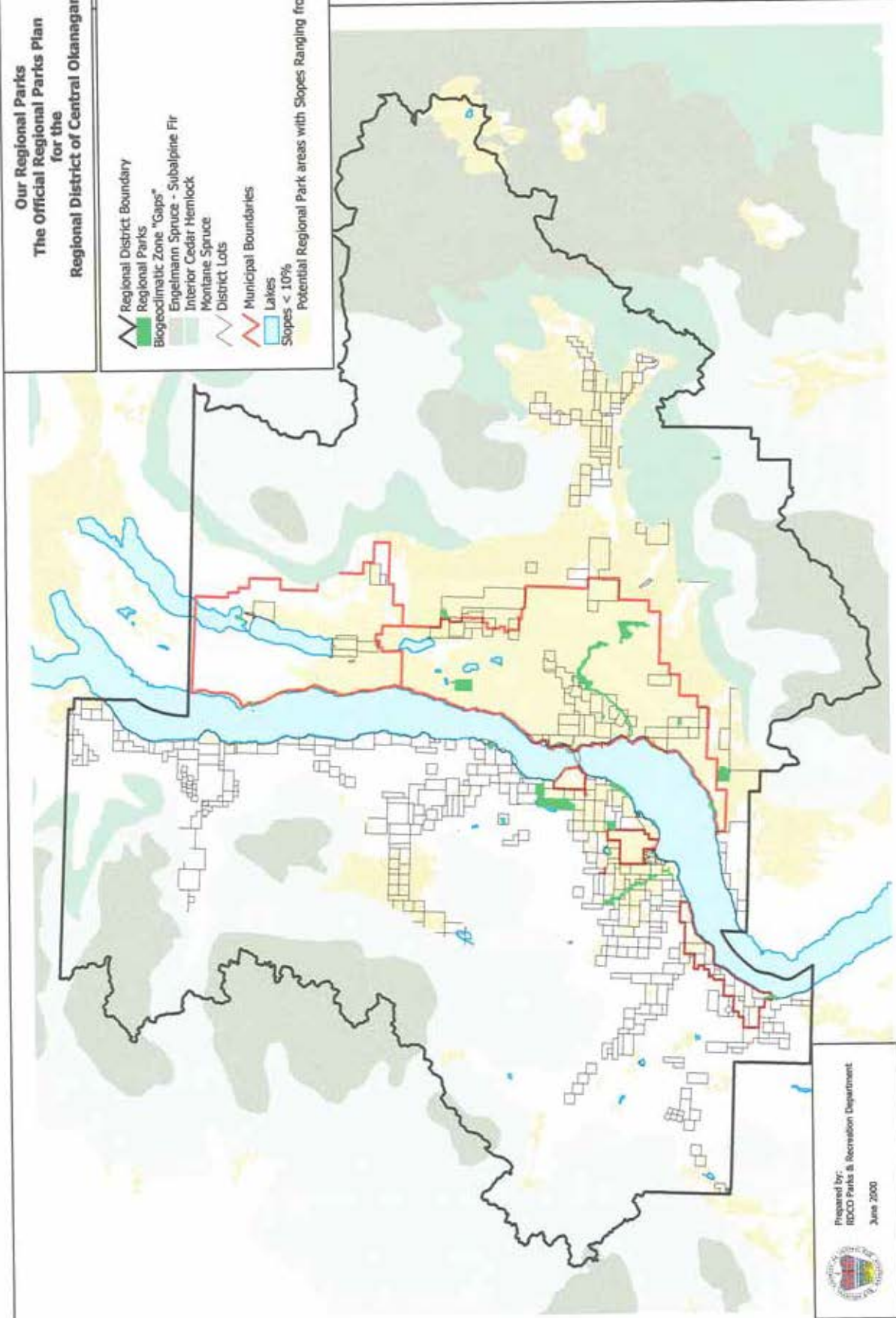
6.29 Financial Management

6.29.1 Efforts will be made to recover operating costs associated with programs and/or facilities for organized groups or special-interest groups.

6.29.2 Private citizens, local businesses and organized groups will be encouraged to contribute towards the costs associated with the regional park system. A special regional parks fund, and fundraising events, may be organized to assist in this regard.

**Our Regional Parks
The Official Regional Parks Plan
for the
Regional District of Central Okanagan**

-  Regional District Boundary
-  Regional Parks
-  Biogeoclimatic Zone "Gaps"
-  Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir
-  Interior Cedar Hemlock
-  Montane Spruce
-  District Lots
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Lakes
-  Slopes < 10%
-  Potential Regional Park areas with Slopes Ranging from 0 - 10%



Prepared by:
RDCO Parks & Recreation Department
June 2000



APPENDIX A

Resolution #473/00

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Bylaw No. 410 being "Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Parks Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 410, 1990" was adopted March 5, 1990;

AND WHEREAS the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan has consistently set the annual requisition limit for the extended service of regional parks at sixteen (\$0.16) cents per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed desirable to increase the annual requisition limit by three cents (\$0.03) per \$1,000 net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area for each of the years 2002 through 2006 inclusive;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the increase is to assist in the purchase of property commonly called the Gellatly Nut Farm for regional park purposes;

NOW THEREFORE the Regional Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan agrees as follows:

1. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned annually pursuant to Bylaw No. 410 will not exceed sixteen (\$0.16) cents per \$1,000 of net taxable value of land and improvements for Regional District purposes within the service area.
2. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1, the maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned pursuant to Bylaw No. 410 will not exceed nineteen (\$0.19) cents per \$1,000 of net taxable value of land and improvements for Regional District purposes within the service area for each of the years 2002 through 2006 inclusive.
3. A change to this policy will require consent of 2/3 of the participants to the Regional Parks Service as set out and established by Bylaw No. 410. (Participant means and refers to the participating areas of the service area.) Those participating areas are Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland and the Electoral Areas "G", "I", and Westbank. Therefore, consent will be required from 4 of the 6 participants.

I, W.B. d'Easum, Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional District of Central Okanagan do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution which was adopted by the Regional Board at its meeting held the 30th day of October, 2000.

Dated at Kelowna, B.C.
this 22nd day of November, 2000.



W.B. d'Easum, Chief Administrative Officer