

REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE REPORT TO HIRRA AGM March 12, 2014

- As of a few days ago the word from Yana, the Parks maintenance contractor was “It’s a mess up there!” The snow and subsequent rain have caused a lot of damage in the parks. There are downed trees, many broken branches, and erosion on several trails from the extreme amount of water. This is all part of the natural flow of a ‘Nature park’ and is a yearly part of the regular maintenance.
- In the fall there was a diversion created on Jessie’s Trail to create a safer trail away from the cliff edge. It has been monitored over the winter.
A new bridge will be constructed over Ford Creek as part of the trail.
- The access to Lea Smith Trail and the Rainforest Loop has been relocated along with the sign kiosk so it is now on park property.
- The Walton and Logging Railroad Trails will be upgraded this spring to contend with water erosion through the use of raised tread and ditching.
- More signage at intersections will be placed. We will occasionally use a temporary sign to indicate a work in progress, or monitoring for water erosion or settling.
- On February 19 the chair of the Parks committee attended a meeting with the CVRD regarding the financial planning for Hornby and Denman services committees.
- The key objectives of that meeting for the Regional Parks was to continue the maintenance from the approved budget, to update the Master Plan for the Mt. Geoffrey Park, Crown Lands, and Beach access parks with involvement of HIRRA and the Provincial Parks.
- CVRD agreed to be available for public consultation re Clamshell Park, and the newly added and surveyed Tralee Pt. and St. John’s Point Rd properties.

- The Parks Committee along with Brian Allaert and the new Parks Manager from CVRD will have an Open House at the end of April for community input and information about the new parks and all of the existing parks. We will advertise this event once the date and location have been firmed up.
- We would like to extend our best wishes to Michael Nihls on his retirement from the CVRD Parks Management position and welcome Doug De Marzo. We enjoyed working with Michael and look forward to working with Doug.
- Gerhard Kozel has been a member of the regional parks committee for many years and has decided to step down but has agreed to offer his brilliant observations and suggestions to us and will continue to walk on the trails that he loves.
- Rusty Harrison has offered to join the committee.
- Other members of the committee who are present as well as Yana Pethick will be happy to answer any questions.