

Regional Parks Committee

Terms of Reference

The Regional Parks Committee is the standing committee of the Metro Vancouver Board that provides advice and recommendations on policies, plans, programs, budgets, and issues related to the Regional Parks service.

Committee Responsibilities

Within the scope of the *Board Strategic Plan*, *Regional Parks Plan*, *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050*, and *Metro Vancouver Financial Plan*, the Committee provides guidance and oversight to staff on the implementation of annual work plans and business plans that guide the Regional Parks service delivery with the goal of protecting the region's important natural areas and connecting people to nature. Specific Committee responsibilities include:

- Guiding the implementation of the *Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050* strategy and making recommendations to the MVRD Board to secure land for future regional park use, centered on protection of the region's important natural areas and connecting people to them.
- Overseeing the ongoing implementation of the Regional Parks Capital Program, operating budget implementation to ensure the provision of safe, clean, and well maintained facilities for park visitors.
- Guiding policy, strategic direction, and analysis aimed at managing Regional Parks to ensure the protection and enhancement of natural areas.
- Providing strategic direction to guide the development of interpretive, educational and stewardship programs to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment that increase opportunities for people to connect with, enjoy and be active in nature.
- Reviewing and endorsing partnership/contribution agreements for MVRD Board approval with the Pacific Parklands Foundation, park associations and other stakeholders.
- Recommending to the MVRD Board amendments to the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw that governs the Regional Parks service, including the setting of annual fees and charges to promote positive visitor experiences.
- Providing strategic direction in program delivery, community engagement and provision of special facilities or programs to support the regional parks system.
- Guiding and participating in engagement with member municipalities, First Nations, stakeholders, and the public on Regional Parks' plans, policies and programs.

Committee Membership and Meetings

The Chair, Vice Chair and members are appointed annually by the Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board. The Committee meets monthly, except for August and December, and holds special meetings as required. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

Committee Management

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, is the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. For high profile issues the role of spokesperson rests with the Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair. On technical matters or in cases where an initiative is still at the staff proposal level, the Chief Administrative Officer or a senior staff member is the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, Committee Chair and Chief Administrative Officer confer to determine the most appropriate representative to speak.

The Chief Administrative Officer assigns a Committee Manager for the Committee. The Committee Manager is responsible for coordinating agendas and serves as the principal point of contact for Committee members.