

# Park Areas and Natural Assets



## Objectives

- **Supporting Park Access** – To maintain and enhance park access to residents.
- **Environmental Protection** – To ensure the long term health of environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Expanding Urban Forest** – To strengthen Colwood’s forested areas and overall tree canopy.
- **Protected Natural Features** – To protect topographical features and natural character.
- **Protected Shorelines** – To maintain and regenerate the ecological functions of Colwood’s diverse shorelines.

## Policy Directions – Key Examples

- **Stronger Environmental Protection Requirements** – Strengthen the requirements to protect environmentally sensitive areas and natural assets, particularly on hillsides and near shorelines, through site adaptive planning measures and more robust development permit guidelines (see next panel for details).
- **Parks Master Plan** – Create a plan that guides decisions about property acquisitions, planning, development, and design for parks.
- **Greenways and Greenbelts** – Link parks and open spaces to major destinations through greenways and green streets, including to/from regional networks.
- **Connected Ecological Networks** – Protect and restore ecological networks and minimize habitat fragmentation.
- **Protect Natural Character** – Avoid the use of retaining walls, preserve views from public lands, and require that site design complement natural topography.
- **Shoreline Protection** – Protect natural shorelines so they can continue performing ecological functions, including by preventing hard shoreline development, requiring 30m setbacks for marine shorelines, and more.
- **Connected Ecological Networks** – Promote native habitat restoration by planting native species in parks, streetscapes, and other public spaces, and encouraging planting in private developments.

*To review all proposed park areas and natural asset policies, please review the draft OCP available at this event and online at [www.colwood.ca/ocp](http://www.colwood.ca/ocp)*