

**Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Electoral Area D**

**Glacier Creek Regional Park  
Purpose and Operations Statement**





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## GLACIER CREEK REGIONAL PARK PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS STATEMENT

### Introduction and Background

This Purpose and Operations Statement (POS) will guide the management of Glacier Creek Regional Park into the foreseeable future.

Glacier Creek park is located along the eastern shores of Duncan Lake, north of Meadow Creek, BC (see Map 1), and is designated a Waterfront Access Park in the RDCK Official Regional Parks Plan. With the exception of roads, campsites, and picnic areas, the site is tree covered (see Map 3). The park is approximately 20.1 hectares in size and, from east to west at its longest distance, is ~200m, and from north to south ~720m. A metes and bounds description of the park is as follows:



*Commencing at a point on the W side of Forest Service Road Project 942-077.01 being 70m S and 140m E of the SE point on the E shore of Duncan Lake; thence in a general W and N direction along the E shore of Duncan Lake to the E bank of Glacier Creek; thence in a generally N and E direction along the E bank of Glacier Creek to the W side of Forest Service Road Project 942-077.01; thence S along the W side of Forest Service Road Project 942-077.01 to the point of commencement.*

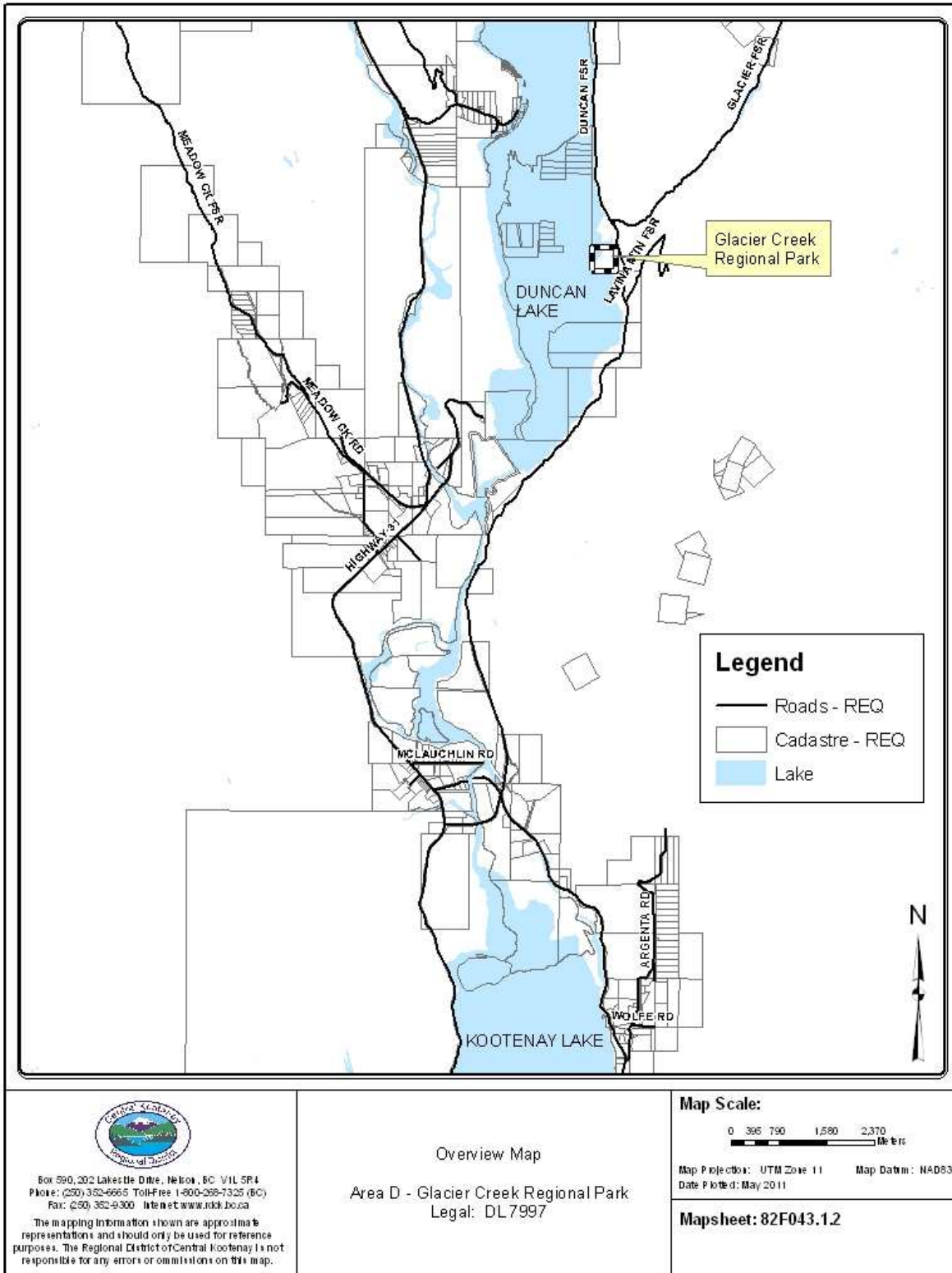
In December 1992, the Ministry of Forests, in response to a request from the RDCK, agreed to cancel the Forest Service Recreation area status for Glacier Creek Park and to transfer the site to the RDCK for a Regional Park. In May 1995, the Ministry of Forests forwarded to the RDCK a completed copy of Special Use Permit S20945, transferring responsibility of the site to the RDCK (expires March 1, 2020). At the same time, the RDCK Board, by resolution designated the Lardeau Valley Community Club as the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission (see Figure 1). Pursuant to the permit, the RDCK is required to prepare a five year management plan for the park, which was completed in June 1996. In February 1997, the Glacier Creek Regional Park Bylaw No. 1210 was enacted, a bylaw to operate and regulate Glacier Creek Regional Park, then subsequently repealed in February 2011 and replaced with the RDCK Park Regulation Bylaw 2173.

This POS provides the direction for the priority management and development of Glacier Creek Regional Park. Implementation of this POS is of an operational nature, with follow-through on an as-needed basis and dependent on the availability of financial and staffing capacity.

## **Park Purpose**

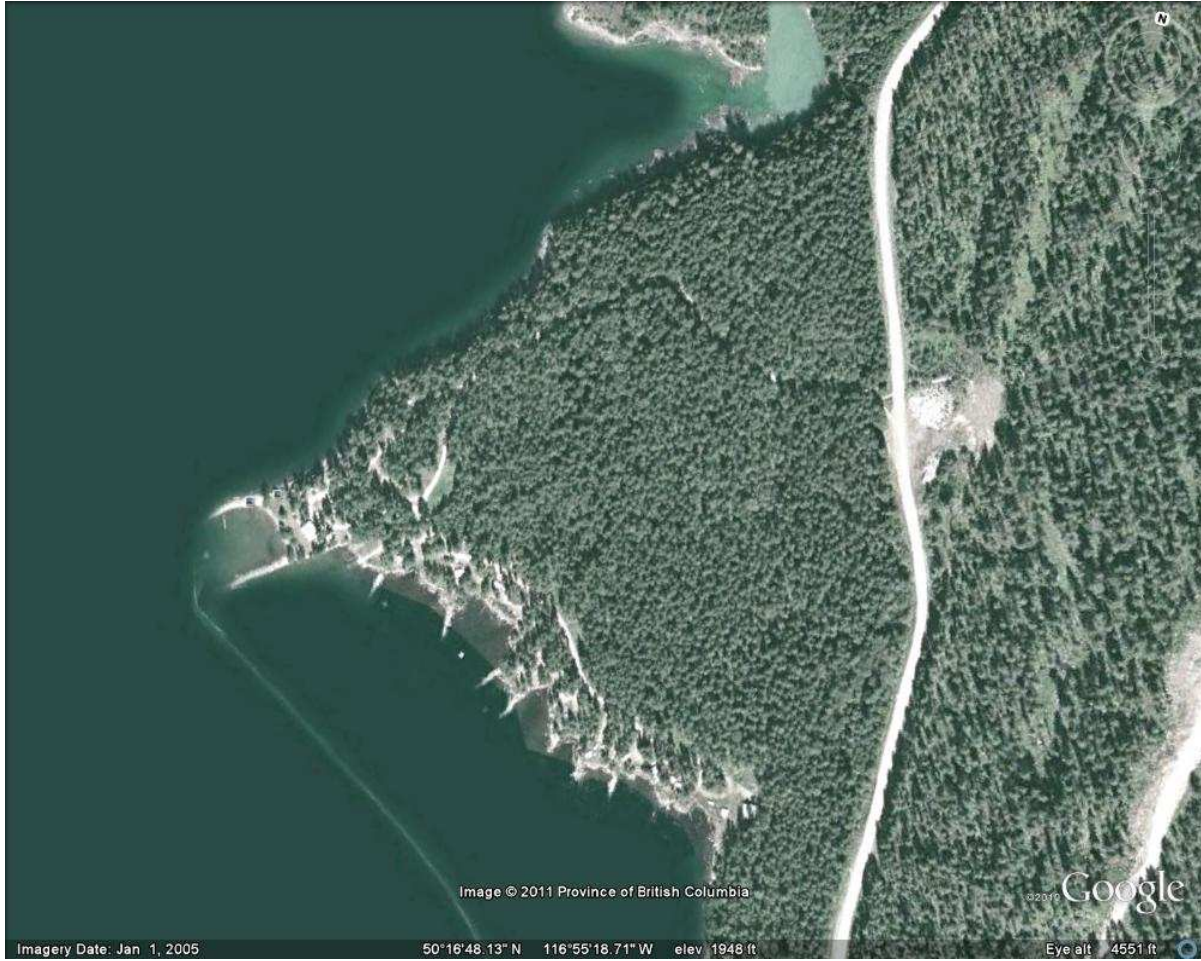
Glacier Creek Regional Park is a holiday destination outdoor recreation opportunities, including camping, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, picnicking, and interpretation.

Map 1: Park Location









Map 3: Google Earth view of Park



Glacier Creek Park Photos (April 2010)



## **Community Significance**

### **Natural Features**

- The park is primarily treed, with the majority of human use concentrated in and around the area identified on Map 4 as Intensive Recreation.
- The park is situated on the shores of Duncan Lake. Duncan Lake is a man-made reservoir lake about 45 km in length, formed by Duncan Dam at the south end. Water fluctuates up to 30 metres (98 feet) in elevation annually, at its lowest point in the fall and winter. The lake is fed by the Duncan River, which forms part of the boundary between the Selkirk Mountains to the west and the Purcell Mountains to the east. Below Duncan Dam is the head of Kootenay Lake.

### **Recreational Features**

- Popular camping location, primarily for both local and regional residents, however this use is gradually expanding beyond regional residents, as yearly use increases.
- Staging area for other local recreation destinations such as Jumbo Pass and Lavina Lookout, as well as numerous roads and trails throughout the area.
- The park includes an entrance road, 34 campsites, 2 picnic areas with a roof, 8 outhouses, a swimming beach, swim float, a log boom, boat ramp, and five rock berms. Majority of use occurs from the beginning of March to mid-November.
- A well was installed in the park and was initially operational in 2011.
- Optional camping user fees were initiated in 2011, with the intent to charge mandatory user fees for the 2012 camping season.
- The Glacier Creek Park Commission is responsible for managing the park and all park facilities, including litter control and road maintenance. Park maintenance and fee collection are handled by a paid on-site park attendant.
- New park signage was installed in 2011.

### **First Nations**

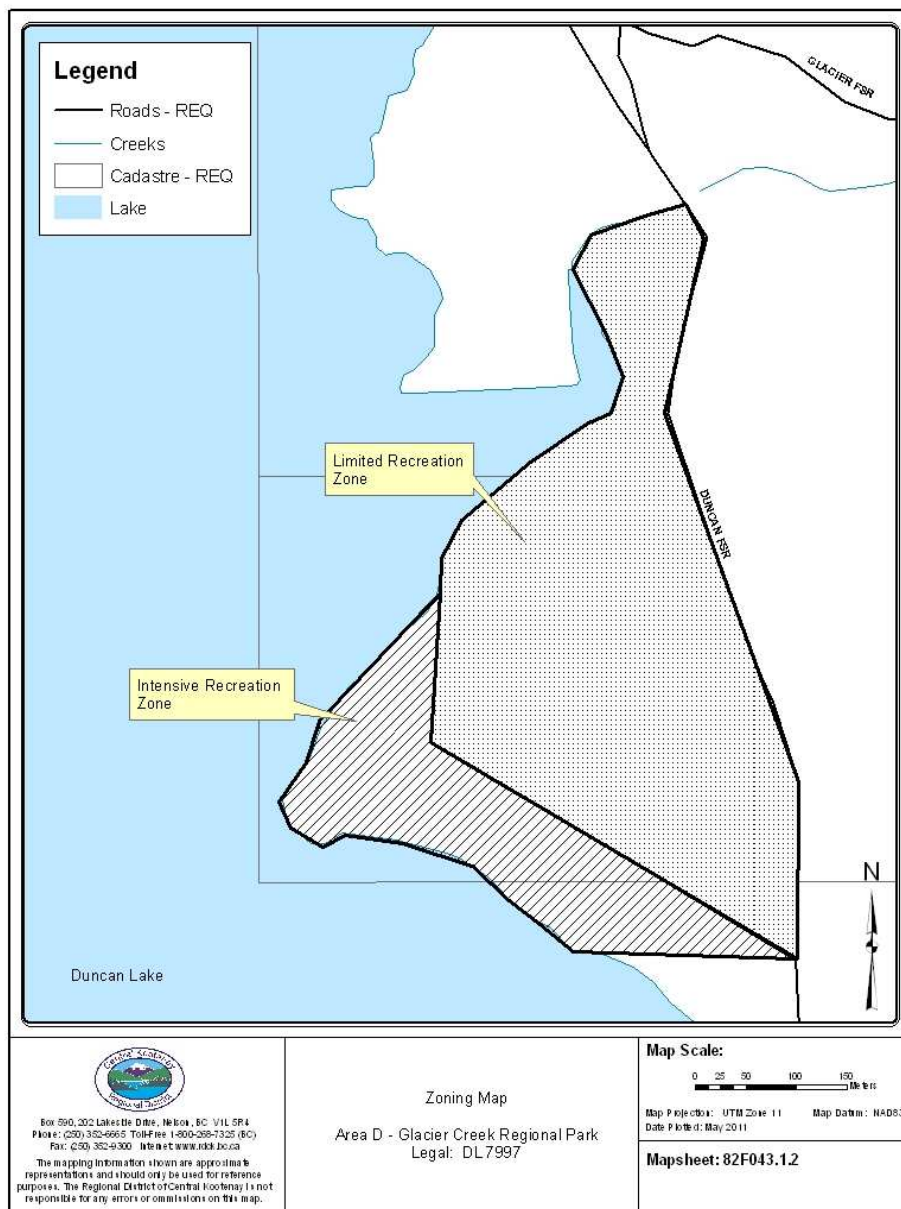
The park is within the asserted traditional First Nation territories of the Akisqnuq First Nation, Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, and Shuswap Indian Band. No site specific archaeological or cultural assessment has been completed to date.



## Zoning

This POS uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park (see Map 4). The majority of the park is zoned Limited Recreation, with the objective of providing basic infrastructure. This area provides basic infrastructure, however may be utilized in future years for campground expansion where required. The remainder of the park is zoned Intensive Recreation where the majority of the public use occurs. This area will continue to be used for intensive camping and day use. Appendix 1 describes the RDCK Regional Parks zoning framework.

Map 4: Zoning

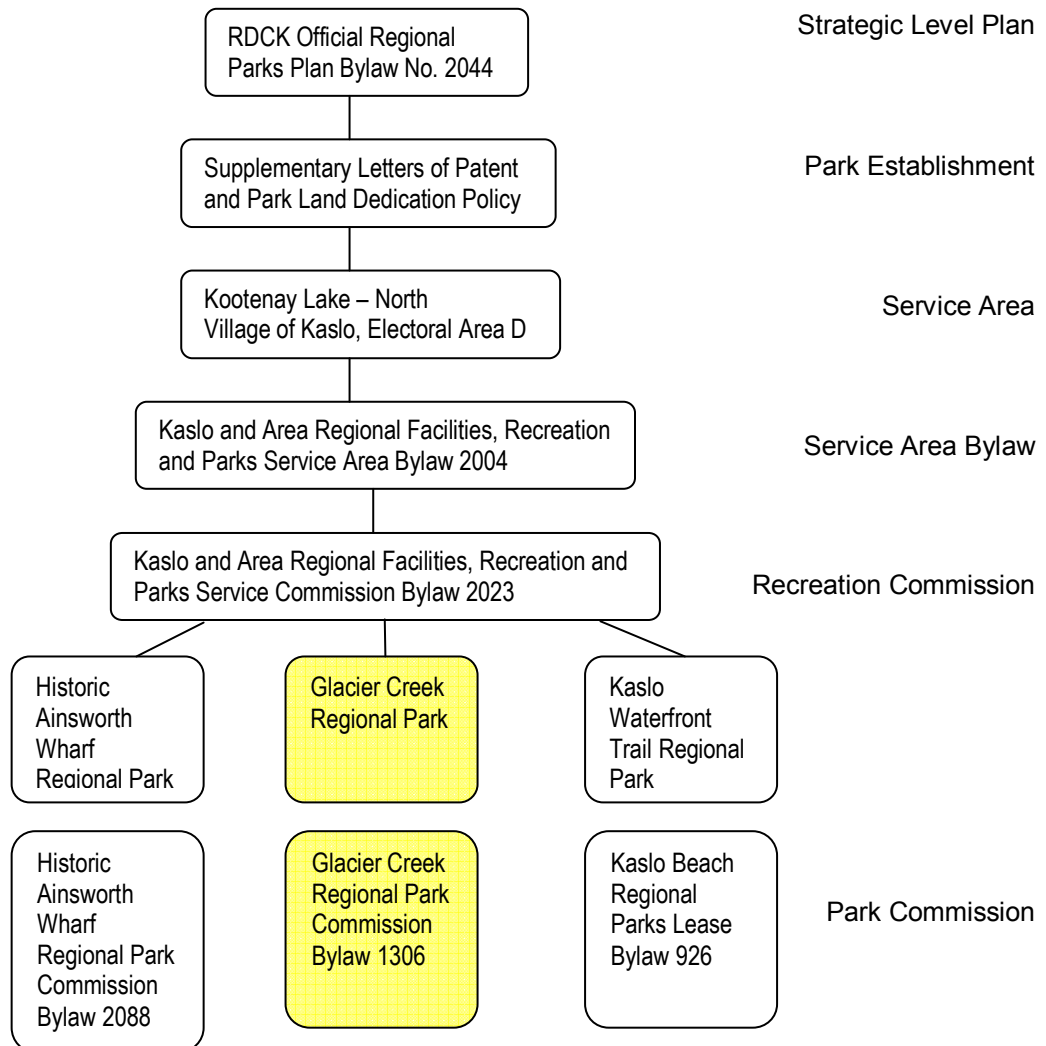


## Operations and Governance

Park operations is an important component in ensuring that the daily experience of park users is enjoyable and safe. Park operations responsibilities include seeing that park regulations are understood and enforced, facilities are maintained and repaired when required, and the day use areas kept clean and accessible. Management of Glacier Creek Regional Park is undertaken jointly by RDCK staff and the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission. The Commission makes recommendations to the RDCK Board. The RDCK Board is the decision making authority for the park budget, policy, and regulations.

The RDCK currently operates and maintains Glacier Creek Park through an on-site maintenance contractor. The work will be carried out by the contractor according to specifications in the contract, and the contractor must supply all equipment necessary to perform the duties and meet the required standards of service.

Figure 1: Glacier Creek Regional Park Governance Structure



## Facilities and Activities

RDCK Regional Park rules and regulations are stated in the RDCK Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 2173.

ACTIVITY	Zone		Comments
	Intensive Recreation	Limited Recreation	
Camping	Y	N	
Day-Use	Y	Y	
Dogs	Y	Y	Leash only
Horses	N	N	
Motorized Use	Y	Y	On existing roads only
Swimming	Y	N/A	
Fishing	Y	N/A	
Boating	Y	N/A	
Fire Mgmt	Y	Y	
Grazing	N	N	
Hunting	N	N	
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	
Bicycles	Y	Y	
Skiing	Y	Y	
<b>FACILITY</b>			
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	N	
Boat Launch	Y	N/A	
Roads & Parking Lots	Y	N	
Trails	Y	N	
Playground	Y	N	
Day-Use Facilities	Y	N	
Toilets	Y	N	
Picnic Shelter	Y	N	
Fire Pits	Y	N	

## **Management Priorities**

This section outlines the immediate park priorities that are to be undertaken over the next five to ten years. It is understood that project proposals may come forward which are not anticipated. These projects may be considered on a case by case basis by the General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Development Services, the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission, and the RDCK Board. The focus of works for the first five years is to maintain current standards and make improvements to assist in ensuring public safety.

The RDCK will be responsible for funding capital works at the park, and intends to prioritize projects listed below. The ability to do any of the projects presented is contingent on revenue and the resources available.

Management priorities include the following:

- Primary management interest is to ensure public safety by identifying potential hazardous features and areas that may pose a liability risk to the RDCK (e.g. illegal structures, snags)
- Enforcing park rules and regulations, pursuant to RDCK Park Regulation Bylaw 2173
- Maintain park infrastructure
- Fostering both public and commercial uses compatible with park values
- Gathering an inventory of natural species, and any potential impacts to those species and the adjacent riparian area
- Protecting and maintaining key park natural and recreational values (e.g. identifying sensitive features, management of cattle grazing that has in the past utilized the park, monitor off-road use)
- Fostering volunteerism and agency relationships that serve to enhance the public recreational experience, as well as preserving park values. Examples include establishing stewardship agreements with local groups, working with agency officials on possible future site expansions, and offering reduced user fees for volunteers.
- Managing commercial activities through a Park Use Permit process
- Identification of any cultural and heritage values



## Projected Cost Analysis

In keeping with its former Provincial Recreation Site designation, Glacier Creek Park will maintain a generally rustic camping experience for park users. However, given its growing popularity over the years, the Park Commission has slowly built additional park infrastructure to meet demand, including the most recent addition of a well. It is anticipated that there will be on-going maintenance and development costs associated with the growing usage of this park.

Glacier Creek Park costs should be prioritized at 1) ensuring public safety, 2) enhancing the user experience, and 3) maintaining park infrastructure. Operating costs will include campsite and infrastructure maintenance, road and trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, and identification and mitigation of any public safety hazards. A range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 can be expected for yearly facility operations, excluding improvement and professional (e.g. tree faller, surveyor, biologist, etc.) costs.

Future development costs for Glacier Creek will vary depending on the types of facilities desired by local residents.

Tax revenues are the current source of base funding for regional parks. Other sources may be used at some point to enhance facilities or services for specific purposes (e.g. camping fees, donations, corporate sponsorship). These sources would have to be studied and recommended by the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission and be approved by the RDCK Regional Board on a case by case basis.

### Maintenance Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Contractor	Yearly	11,000, plus staff administration time
Toilets	On-going	Contractor time
Garbage to dump	Yearly	500-1,000
Supplies	On-going	500-1,000
Hazard Tree removal	Yearly	0-3,000
Facility repair contingency	Yearly	0-1,000

### Operations & Development Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Contractor	Yearly	(see Maintenance Costs)
Projects (signage, day use facilities)	As required	0-500/yr

### Administration Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Office support	On-going	Staff time=250-500/mo
Planning	On-going	Staff time=500-2000/mo
Supplies	On-going	100/yr

### **Other Costs**

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Archaeological & Cultural Investigation	Once, incomplete	500-1000
Ecological Assessment/Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500
Noxious Weed Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500

### **Consultation and Future Planning**

The RDCK Community Services Department and Development Services Department is jointly accountable for the planning, administration, and management of the park through the application of regulations and policies.

Revisions or updating of this POS will be coordinated by RDCK, with involvement of other agencies, including but not limited to the Provincial and Federal Governments, Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission, First Nations, commercial interests, and other stakeholders as required.

## Appendix 1: Regional Park Zoning

	<b>Intensive Recreation</b>	<b>Limited Recreation</b>	<b>Special Feature</b>	<b>Natural Environment</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Provide for a variety of accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities	Protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment	Protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility, and heritage values	Protect undisturbed natural environment, providing limited recreation opportunities
<b>Use Level</b>	Relatively high density and long duration types of use	Relatively low use, but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access	Generally low	Very low use to provide for solitary experiences and protect natural features. Uses may be limited and/or controlled
<b>Access</b>	All weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high	Motorized and non-motorized	Variable, may require special permission	Non-motorized
<b>Location</b>	Contiguous with all weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas	Removed from all-weather roads, but easily accessible on a day-use basis	Determined by location of special resources. May be surrounded by or next to any other zone	Removed from easy access
<b>Boundary Definition</b>	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas	Boundaries consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of special resources	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	Full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities	Limited due to access constraints	Limited to protect special resources	Non-motorized only
<b>Facilities</b>	May be intensely developed for user convenience, e.g. campgrounds, boat launches, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience, e.g. walk-in campsites, docks, small accessory buildings	Interpretive facilities only	Minimal or no facility development
<b>Impacts on Natural Environment</b>	Includes natural resource features in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas	Area where human presence is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.	None	Natural area with little evidence of human presence. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.
<b>Management Guidelines</b>	Oriented to maintaining a high quality recreation experience.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high quality recreation experience.	High level of management protection with on-going monitoring. Oriented to maintaining special resources.	Oriented to protecting the natural environment. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels.
<b>Examples of Zoning</b>	Taghum Beach, Robson Wharf, Bonnington, Pass Creek	Rosebud Lake, Winlaw Nature Park, Roseberry Parklands	Historic Ainsworth Wharf, Brilliant Bridge, Sandon	Portion of Sunshine Bay