

7. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Protect Mount Geoffrey's rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem and its associated ecological communities.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Mount Geoffrey parks were established to provide recreational opportunities and to protect ecological values. Many activities are compatible with protecting ecological values; however, it is sometimes necessary to limit activities. Enhanced understanding of ecological values and the potential to impact those values is a way to protect Mount Geoffrey's environment.

Objectives	Draft Strategies
Build on existing knowledge of natural values	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use local, scientific and cultural knowledge to fill information gaps. 2. Include information on ecological values, sensitive ecosystems and ecological processes in park information materials. 3. Work with parks committees and other partners to develop interpretive/educational materials. 4. If interpretive signs are developed for the park, maintain Mount Geoffrey's natural character.
Protect the Parks' ecological integrity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify, monitor and remove invasive species. 2. Include information on the potential impact of various activities in park information materials, including the ecological impact of removing downed trees and other natural resources from the parks. 3. Consider anticipated effects of climate change and manage parks to facilitate adaptation of vulnerable species. 4. Evaluate the pros and cons of adding the foreshore adjacent to the provincial park (excluding existing tenures/access requirements).
Minimize user impacts on park ecosystems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure best practices in trail construction and maintenance. Coordinate through parks committees and CVRD/BC Parks. 2. Maintain common practice, encouraging visitors to stay on trails.



WILDFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT: The fire risk associated with Hornby Island's long, dry summers is a concern to residents. The hotter and drier summer conditions anticipated because of climate change may further increase the risk of fire on the Gulf Islands. A report from 2006 indicates a high fire risk rating for the Mount Geoffrey area. A more recent assessment of wildfire risk resulted in a moderate risk rating. The moderate rating is partially due to existing management practices aimed at reducing the wildfire risk.

Objectives	Draft Strategies
Minimize risks from wildfire on Mount Geoffrey.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue existing practices to reduce risks (Helicopter landing sites, wide trails, public education, monitor/manage ladder fuels, etc.). 2. Maintain park regulations prohibiting camping and fires. 3. Identify appropriate measures for fire prevention in cooperation with Hornby Island Fire Department and Provincial wildfire prevention authorities.

8. CULTURAL VALUES (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)

Goal: Integrate protection of archaeological and First Nations cultural values into park management.
Goal: Recognize the historical significance of the Ford family orchard and Leaf House.



FIRST NATION CULTURAL VALUES: UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

Preliminary Input provided by K'omoks First Nation (KFN):

- Village at Helliwell was a permanent KFN village site.
- Mount Geoffrey was important as a source of freshwater and monumental cedar.
- KFN is currently conducting a study to compile information about the archaeological and cultural significance of Hornby and Denman Islands.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Protect First Nations Cultural Values	<p><i>UNDER DEVELOPMENT</i></p> <p>Preliminary input provided by the K'omoks First Nation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore opportunities to coordinate any monitoring efforts between CVRD, BC Parks and the KFN Guardian Watchmen. 2. KFN supports a future protected status for Crown lands. 3. Recognize the importance of the area to the KFN on interpretive signs or other public educational materials. 4. Ensure trail construction considers the potential impact on cultural sites and wildlife (fragmentation).

NOTE: Management planning is without prejudice to First Nation Treaty outcomes and/or other self-government initiatives.

ORCHARD AND LEAF HOUSE: There is currently no vision for the orchard or Leaf House, and no dedicated resources for their maintenance. The Leaf House has begun to deteriorate and the orchard is not formally maintained. Given current circumstances, the cultural values presented by these two features may not be preserved.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Develop a vision for the orchard and Leaf House.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Leaf House, orchard trees and grounds will not be maintained unless a suitable partnership is established. 2. BC Parks is open to establishing a partnership with local community groups to develop and implement a vision for the Leaf House, orchard and/or grounds. Proposed activities must be permissible under the <i>Park Act</i>, and the community group may need to take on some maintenance responsibilities.



(K'OMOKS FIRST NATION)

VISION and GUIDING VALUES

GUIDING VALUES

★ COMMIT TO PROTECTING the LANDS and RESOURCES THAT HAVE SUSTAINED US

★ FOSTER RESPONSIBLE SELF-GOVERNMENT THROUGH OPENNESS & TRANSPARENCY

★ PROMOTE a HEALTHY COMMUNITY

★ COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH OUR MEMBERS & OUR NEIGHBOURS

★ ENSURE WE ARE RESPONSIBLE and SELF-SUFFICIENT

★ FOCUS ON FUTURE GENERATIONS and OPTIONS for FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

★ HOLD OURSELVES TO HIGHER STANDARDS

★ REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERYTHING HAS A MONETARY VALUE

VISION

THE K'OMOKS FIRST NATION is a PROSPEROUS and HEALTHY COMMUNITY WHERE EACH MEMBER HAS the RIGHT to SELF-SUFFICIENCY. K'OMOKS MEMBERS MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS and EXERCISE OUR RIGHTS and TITLE WHILE RESPECTING OUR HISTORICAL CONNECTION to OUR LANDS, RESOURCES and to ONE ANOTHER.

ACTIONS

➤ DEVELOP POLITICAL STRATEGY to PURSUE TREATY GOALS

➤ DEVELOP a BETTER SYSTEM for INFORMATION and KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

➤ BUILD RELATIONSHIPS with STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT and LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

➤ PLAN for GREATER CONVERGENCE BETWEEN BAND ADMINISTRATION and TREATY PROCESSES

➤ CREATE an ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY for BAND, BAND-OWNED BUSINESSES and INDIVIDUAL MEMBER BUSINESSES, WHILE STRENGTHENING LINKS WITH OUR PARTNERS

➤ DEVELOP a PROCESS for MAKING COMMUNITY DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY RELATED to LANDS

➤ CONTINUE to LEVERAGE RIGHTS for IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

