



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-695

From: Corporate Administration

Date: March 19, 2026

Subject: Regional Parks Conversion Bylaw

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board give Regional Parks Conversion and Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2601, 2026, which converts the regional parks authority from a service authorized by Supplementary Letters Patent to service authorized by bylaw and amends the service to add the authority to remove aquatic vegetation and expands the scope of regional parks to include trails and other recreational amenities and infrastructure, first three readings.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On February 26, 2026, the following resolution was passed by the Regional Board:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board receive the report "Aquatic Harvester Program Business Case Approval, ENVBRD-261" and approve the attached 'Revised 2026 Aquatic Harvester Program Business Case' which proposes that a Regional Parks Service Conversion Bylaw be drafted that expands the scope of the Regional Parks service to include the authority for aquatic harvesting activities in regional lakes to allow the program to be funded through Function 200 – Regional Parks.

The Regional Parks service (Function 200) was originally established as a region wide service with all member municipalities (which includes Electoral Areas) as participants via Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP) #23 issued on March 31, 1976. This SLP also granted the Regional District the authority for the function of recreational programs, community services, and control of noxious weeds and other growths. The services of Recreational Programs and Community Services, as described in the SLP, were no longer/not in use in the year 2000, nor were they converted, so are deemed extinguished. The Regional District no longer has the authority to undertake those two services. The service of control of noxious weeds and other growths was previously converted out of the SLP via "Invasive Plan Control Service Establishment Conversion Bylaw No. 2120, 2014". The only remaining authority in the March 31, 1976 SLP is the authority for regional parks. The authority for regional parks granted by the SLP was stated as follows: "The regional district may acquire, develop, operate and maintain regional parks, and for this purpose, the provisions of the Regional Parks Act apply."

The conversion bylaw provides continued authority for the Regional District to acquire, develop, operate and maintain regional parks with an expanded definition of what a regional park is, including trails, recreation amenities and infrastructure of a regional significance. The bylaw also provides the authority for the Regional Board to designate, by way of resolution or bylaw, properties and locations as regionally significant parks and trails, thereby making such locations eligible for funding and

management by the Regional District, through direct or indirect (contracted) means. The bylaw further notes that these properties are not required to be owned by the Regional District. The designation of regionally significant parks under this bylaw is a separate and distinct process from the legislated authority relative to parks found in the *Community Charter* s. 30 [Reservation and Dedication of Municipal Property].

In 2025, the North Peace Regional Park (otherwise known as the North Peace Fall Fairgrounds), by Board resolution, was transitioned from a Regional Park to Community Park to authorize that costs for development, maintenance, and operations be paid for using the Community Parks function.

The proposed maximum annual requisition for the Regional Parks service is the greater of \$1,296,075 or \$0.0660 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This bylaw carries forward the existing maximum specified in BC. Regulation 149/84 for this service. Using assessed value date available for 2026, the tax rate equivalent to .25/mill from the SLP equates to a maximum requisition of approximately \$1,296,075 when applied to improvement only in the service area.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management
- Identify Funding and Investment Strategies

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The 2026 Draft Regional Parks budget was presented to the Regional Board on February 25, 2026 and was approved for inclusion in the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw scheduled for presentation to the Regional Board on March 19, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

If approved by the Board, the Conversion and Service Establishing Bylaw will be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Attachment(s):

1. Regional Parks Conversion and Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2601, 2026
2. Supplementary Letters Patent 23 – Regional Parks

External Links:

1. [Aquatic Harvester Program Business Case Approval, ENV-BRD-261](#) – See Item 8.14 on the Regional Board Meeting Agenda dated February 26, 2026.