

About the Burnaby Mountain Trail Management Plan



Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is a site of cultural significance for the Host Nations. It is also used by many groups who all have different recreation interests. The City of Burnaby is preparing a Trail Management Plan to help balance the needs and interests of everyone who enjoys this special place, while protecting the conservation area for future generations. The creation of a new Trail Management Plan was identified in the Environmental Conditions Assessment completed in 2019.

What will the Trail Management Plan Include?

- » conditions assessment and an environmental report
- » updated vision for the area
- » a new network map
- » policy recommendations
- » a framework for collaborative decision making

The City of Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm and Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim speaking peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to be on this territory.

Project Timeline

We are here.

Phase 1 Summer 2023

Literature review, site analysis, and photo documentation

Phase 2 Spring 2024

Community engagement

Phase 3 Summer 2024

Draft Trail Management Plan

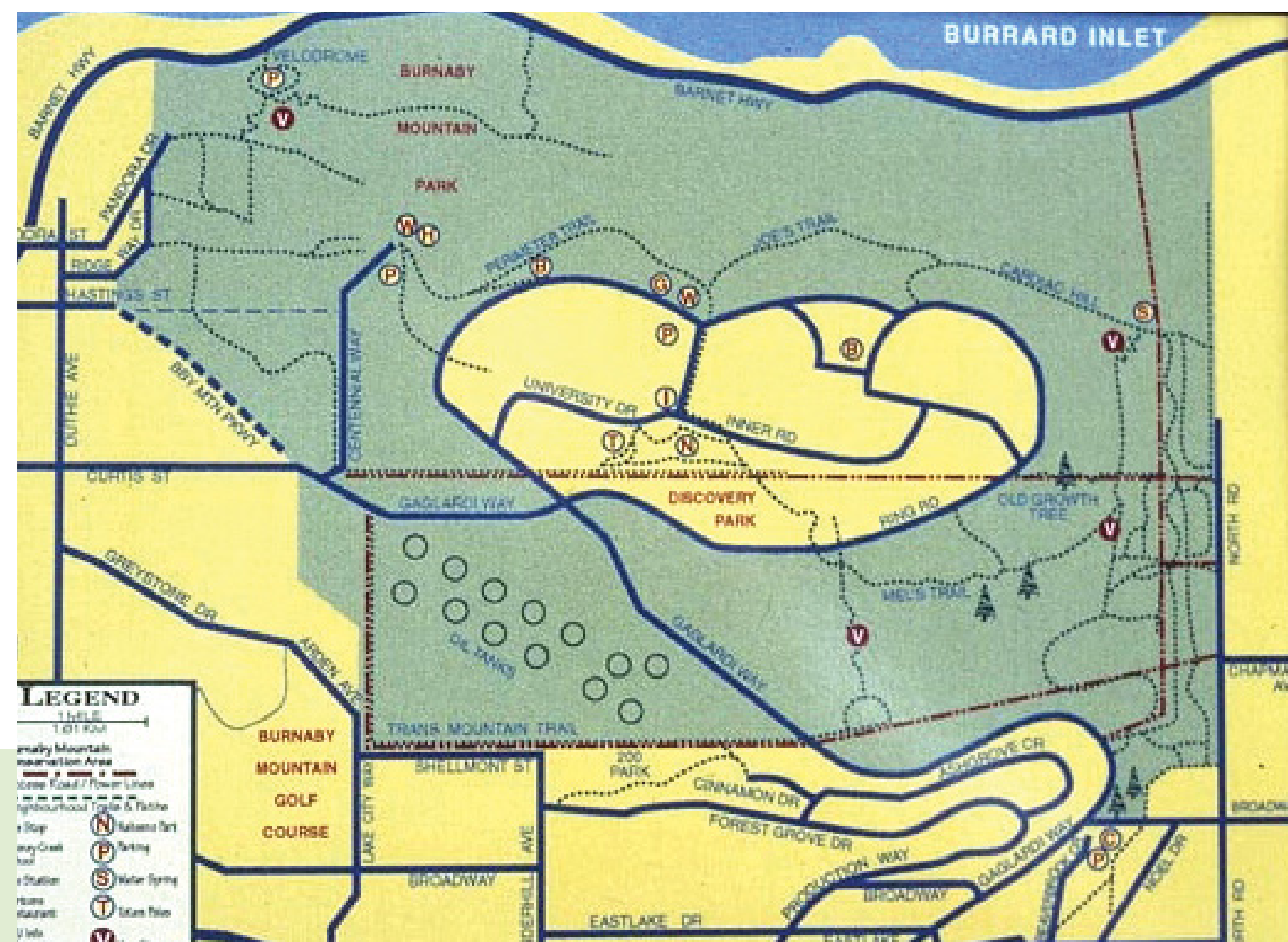
Phase 4 Fall 2025

Final Trail Management Plan with implementation plan

History of Burnaby Mountain

What is now known as Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim speaking peoples. For thousands of years, the area was used for hunting and harvesting bark, berries and medicinal plants.

- » First logged in 1903, the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area became a popular hiking area in the 1920s and an official park and recreation area in 1957.
- » When nearby Simon Fraser University opened in the mid-1960s, it transferred 820 acres of its land to the City to become a municipal park. In 1996, the Province transferred additional land to the City with a restrictive conservation-related covenant. Voters in Burnaby, by referendum, dedicated the area to be preserved as parkland in perpetuity.
- » Today, the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area has been expanded to 1,423 acres of municipal park land and is an important local mountain ecosystem. Additionally, the area hosts the following features:
 - Hiking and mountain biking trails
 - Centennial Rose Garden
 - Trans Mountain Pipeline facilities
 - Mountain Air Bike Skills Course (currently being redesigned)



A Municipal Conservation Area

A unique amenity

- » Most large conservation areas in British Columbia are administered and created by BC Parks. The Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is special because it is one of the only municipal parks with a restrictive conservation-related covenant in the Province.
- » The intent of this covenant is to enhance and protect forests, wildlife, plant life, and water systems. We recognize that the BMCA is an environmentally sensitive area of regional importance, and recreation service provision is continually evolving.
- » The conservation area is a site of significance for Burnaby's Host Nations and is also popular with those who enjoy its natural beauty through bird watching, hiking and mountain biking on the 30 kilometres of recreational trail network.

1996

SFU transferred 820 acres to the City of Burnaby and created the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area (BMCA).

2000

City of Burnaby approved a Management Plan for the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area.

2019

City completed Environmental Conditions Assessment.

2023

City of Burnaby began the process to develop the Burnaby Mountain Trail Management Plan.

Conservation on Burnaby Mountain

Key Terms

Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area - Covenant

The BMCA is a municipal park with an additional conservation-related covenant on the title, which was registered when the Province transferred the land to the City in 1996. The covenant states that the City may only develop the transferred lands to include a public trail system and facilities to support the trail system.

Recreation

Recreation sites and trails provide access and opportunities for many outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, mountain biking, bird watching and picnicking.

Level of protection

Prioritizing the level of protection for a conservation area or portions of a conservation area can vary depending on specific use cases. For example, the construction and maintenance of mountain biking trails may differ from the techniques used to protect sensitive ecosystems.

Restoration

The implementation of maintenance techniques intended to return an area to a desired state, which can differ depending on priority uses.

Invasive species

An invasive species is an organism (animal or plant) that is not indigenous to a particular area. Without proper preventive measures, invasive species can cause great environmental harm to an area.



Environmental Report

Purpose of the review

One of the initial tasks of the Trail Management Plan was to conduct an environmental review to update the previous 2019 Environmental Conditions Assessment. Since 2019, the mountain has seen additional trail maintenance in some areas, while other areas have deteriorated due to higher use during the pandemic. The Environmental Report provides an assessment of the valued components and natural assets that make up the BMCA and helps guide how best to protect and manage the natural habitat. Conservation should be prioritized to sustainably manage the natural assets for years to come.

Soil erosion

Soil erosion was found to be the biggest threat to the identified species at risk and their associated habitats within the park. Soil erosion can damage and have a detrimental knock-on effect on vegetation, wildlife, surface water and public safety.

Species at risk

There are currently 17 species-at-risk found within the park, all of which could be impacted by the trail systems, if left unmaintained.



Environmental Report

Key recommendations

Regular Maintenance

Regular maintenance of trails within the BMCA is crucial for ensuring a safe, enjoyable and sustainable outdoor experience for visitors while minimizing the impact on the surrounding environment. Below are some key aspects of trail maintenance which should be considered:

- » Erosion control
- » Vegetation buffer
- » Bridges and board walks
- » Trail surface maintenance

Invasive Species Management and Eradication

A long-term plan to control the spread of invasives is required to ensure the protection of the conservation area. The presence of species such as knotweed and Himalayan blackberry causes a huge threat to the natural environment, especially as they can be extremely difficult to remove. Short-term invasive species control and a long-term invasive species management plan is needed. The following measures should be considered:

- » Invasive species control
- » Invasive species management plan



Environmental Report

Key recommendations

Increased Fences and Park Presence

Fences in managed forest areas are often used as a conservation tool to preserve habitats and protect sensitive ecosystems. Fences are already found throughout the BMCA. However, we understand park users have previously vandalized them. Because of this, the following measures should be considered:

- » Regular inspections
- » Public outreach and education
- » Water quality protection
- » Trail management
- » Reintroduction programs (Reintroducing previously displaced animal species)
- » Sensitive habitat preservation

Temporary Closure of Trails for Restoration

Sometimes, closing trails can help our ecosystems recover. Trail closures can be implemented for various reasons, including protecting sensitive habitats, promoting natural regeneration and allowing ecosystems to recover from human impact.

- » Nesting and Breeding Protection



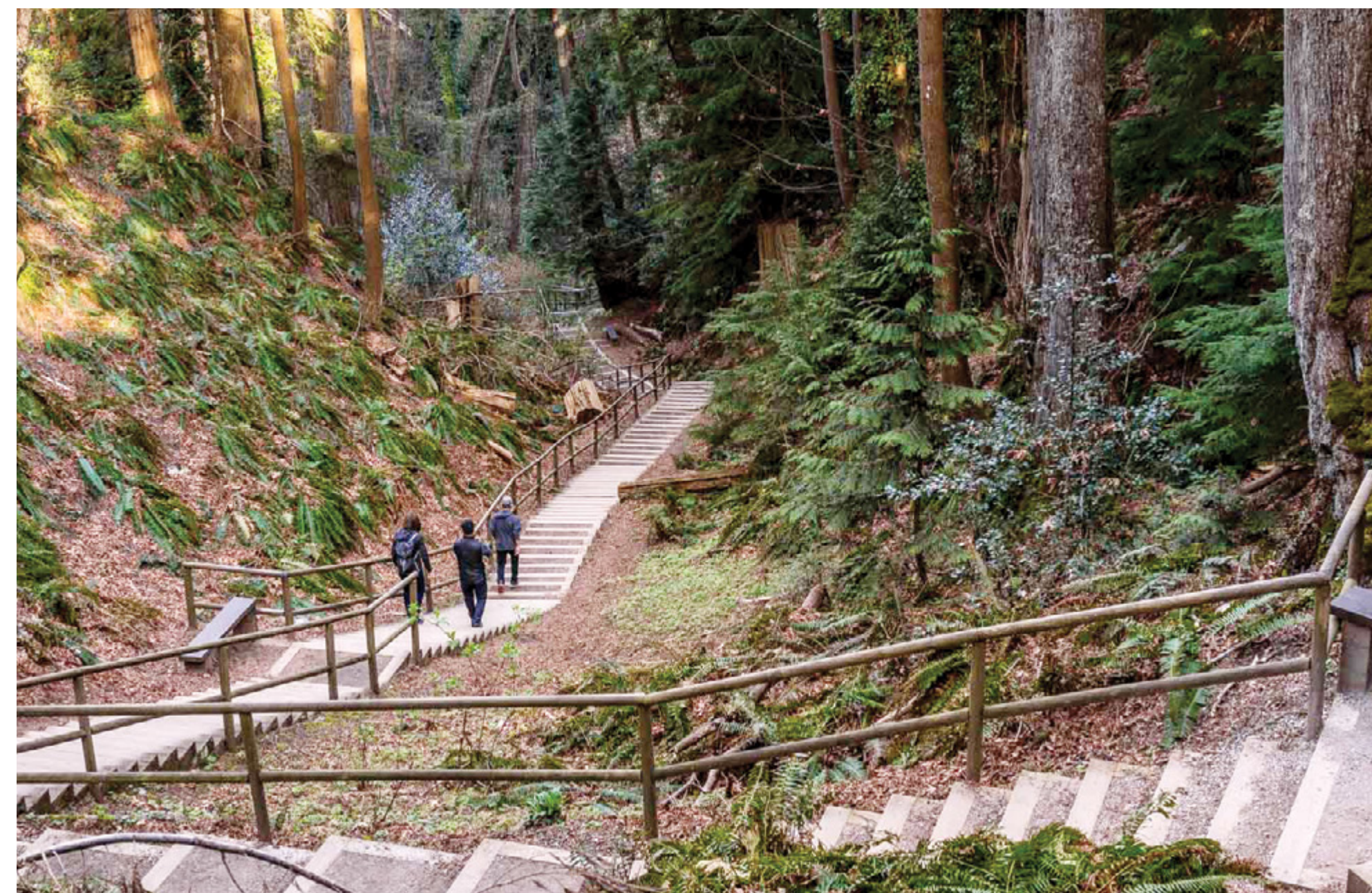
Fencing on Pandora Trail

Proven Approaches

Learning from great places

Pacific Spirit Park | Vancouver, BC

- » Clear multi-use areas
- » Pedestrian-only trails clearly signed with use filtering gates
- » Multi-use trails wide enough to allow passing and clear sight lines to reduce conflicts between user groups
- » Maintenance and restoration of environmental areas



Chilliwack Park Society | Chilliwack, BC

- » Family-oriented mountain bike area
- » Successful volunteer efforts that include all ages
- » First Nations involvement in place naming, stewardship and skill development
- » Provides much-needed skill development area for young/new learners to engage with the sport



Lost Lake Trails | Whistler, BC

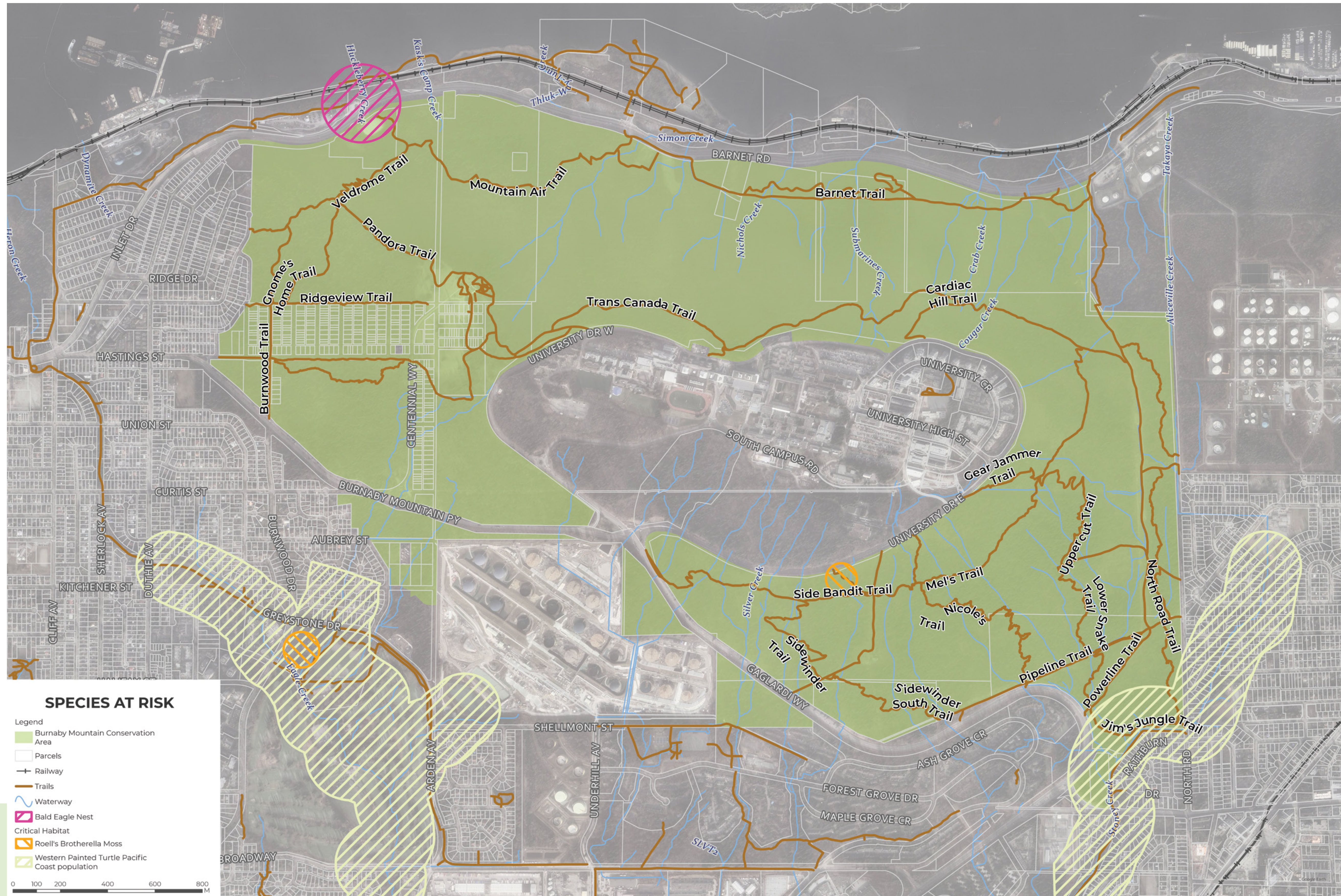
- » Design and signage makes mountain bike trails clear, while not prohibiting pedestrian use
- » Trail design encourages separation of uses
- » Wide multi-use trails that have well defined summer and winter uses
- » Provincial standard for signage
- » Wildlife conservation education and efforts



Environmental Trail Assessment



Species at Risk



Current Visitation

Visitor origin

Visitor Origin	% of total visits
Burnaby (minus SFU)	27%
SFU	23%
Coquitlam	17%
Vancouver	8%
Surrey	7%
Port Moody	4%
New Westminster	3%
Port Coquitlam	2%
North Vancouver	2%
Richmond	1%
Langley	1%
All others	5%
Total	100%

Highlights

- » Centennial Rose Garden sees the highest number of users of any area in the BMCA. There are other pockets of concentrated use in the Velodrome and the Mountain Air Skills Park.
- » Residents of neighbouring areas tend to visit the portions of the BMCA that are closest to them. The Centennial Rose Garden draws in visitors from all over the region.
- » The southeast portion of the Park sees the highest volumes of trail use.

What activities do you participate in while visiting Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area?

Add a sticky dot next to all that apply!

	Commuting	Dog Walking	E-biking <small>(pedal-assist only, no throttle, max speed 32 kph)</small>	Mountain biking	Nature/wildlife viewing	Picnicking	Trail running	Other <small>(please specify)</small>
Yes								
No								

Environmental Report

Add a sticky dot next to all that apply!

How important are each of the following considerations to you when it comes to planning future facilities within the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area?

Consideration	Very Important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important
Equity and inclusivity (available and accessible to all people)				
Environmental protection and conservation				
Recreation (e.g., hiking, mountain biking)				
Education (e.g., information boards on plants and animals)				
Other (please specify)				

Where are there challenges and barriers to access on Burnaby Mountain?



Where are there opportunities for new amenities on Burnaby Mountain?



Where could signage and wayfinding be improved?

