

5. TRAIL NETWORK

Goal: Provide a variety of trail experiences for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.



TRAIL NETWORK: The trail network has expanded over the past few decades. The existing system meets user needs and is manageable with existing resources. User-created trails developed without involvement of park committees and agencies may not meet ecological and safety standards and may put pressure on trail maintenance budgets.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Provide safe and enjoyable recreational experiences while ensuring that trail maintenance is sustainable and sensitive environments are respected.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on maintaining existing trail system rather than expansion. 2. If new trails are needed, use environmental, safety and connectivity criteria to evaluate options. 3. Decommission and sign user created trails that require closure. 4. If suitable route can be found, consider building trail between Shingle Spit Trail and upper trails.

MAPS AND SIGNS: Many visitors commented on the lack of signage and confusing direction within the trail network. However, users cautioned against “over signing” and wanted to see Mount Geoffrey’s natural character and “sense of place” maintained.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Enhance visitor safety and experience by improving maps and signage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update trail map (underway) – see map poster. 2. Work with parks committees to improve orientation within the trail system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested routes of varying distances • Maps at key entrances and junctions • Signage and/or orientation symbols marking trail routes. 3. Maintain natural character (e.g. local names, non-obtrusive signage, etc.).



6. RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Goal: Maintain positive recreational experiences in a natural setting.



RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE: Generally, interactions between park users are positive and trails are not overcrowded. The multi-use nature of the trail system requires users to be respectful of each other to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment. Potential concerns include motorized activities, interactions with dogs off leash and interactions between walkers and bikers on steep/narrow trails.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Maintain a safe and quality experience for all park users.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm trail designations on updated trail map (hiking only, hiking and biking, multi-use). 2. Reinforce existing culture of respect with park information materials. 3. Maintain restrictions on motorized use. 4. Continue to require dogs on-leash in provincial park and allow dogs off-leash in regional park and Crown lands except where trails approach the provincial park. 5. Monitor interactions between dogs and users in regional park. Consider leashing rule on busier trails or during fawning/bird nesting if needed in future.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Improving maps and signs is important to park users. Outhouses and picnic tables are low priorities and parking was not seen as an issue. Most users want minimal changes and keep the park natural.

Objective	Draft Strategies
Make minimal improvements that respect the natural character of Mount Geoffrey.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priorities for park improvements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain/upgrade the existing trails – see map • Improve signage and maps – see map. 2. Minimize picnic tables and benches. 3. Monitor park use and the need for outhouses and additional parking. If they are required, work with park committees to identify appropriate locations.

