

Appendix A: Community Engagement Summary

Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Master Plan

Appendix A: Community Engagement Summary

The main goal of the public engagement process was to gather community input to determine the public's priorities for the future of the parks, trails and open spaces in Parksville. Through the seven community engagement components the planning team was able to identify some of the needs and values of the community. These needs and values are essential in the recommendations. The community engagement consisted of:

- 1) Parks on the Street;
- 2) Foster Park Spring Mini;
- 3) Splash Park Opening;
- 4) User Group Interviews;
- 5) Comment Boxes;
- 6) Online Survey; and,
- 7) Open House Series.

Parks on the Streets

On Saturday, March 17th, 2018, VIU students were stationed in high-traffic areas around Parksville to ask passers-by three questions:

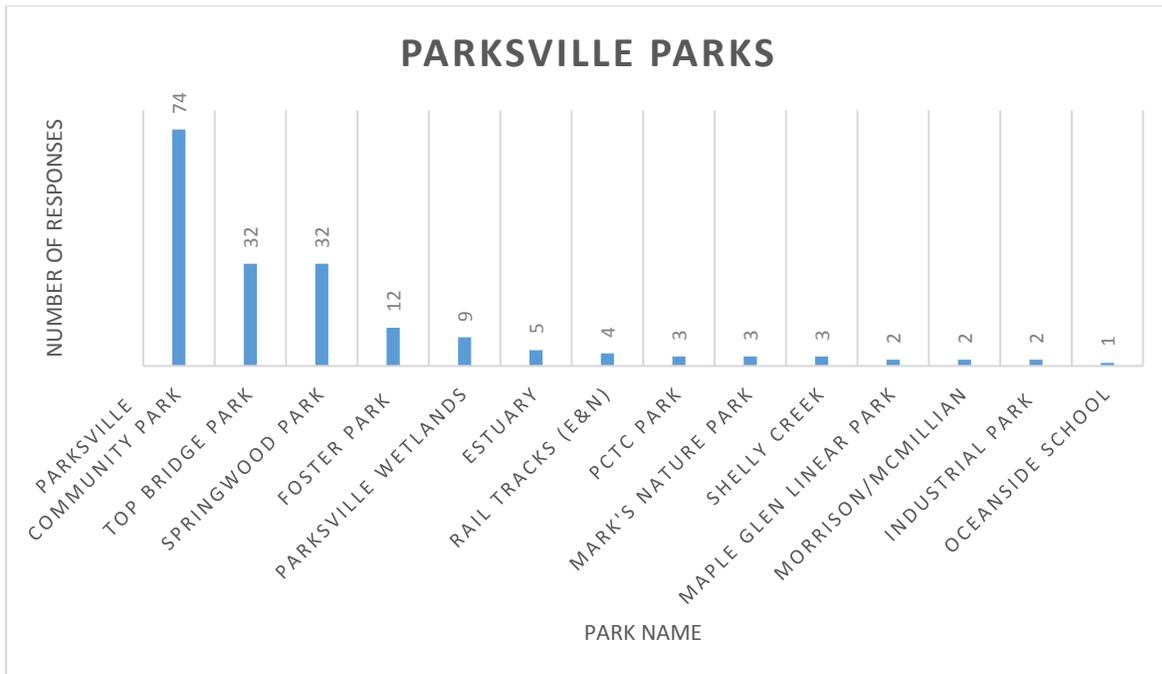
- 1) Apart from the Parksville Community Park, what other parks or open spaces do you use frequently, and why?
- 2) What changes would you like to see in these parks or open spaces?
- 3) What is your favourite trail around Parksville?

The intent of these questions was to gather preliminary data from residents about Parksville's wider park and trail network and to guide residents away from talking just about the Parksville Community Park.

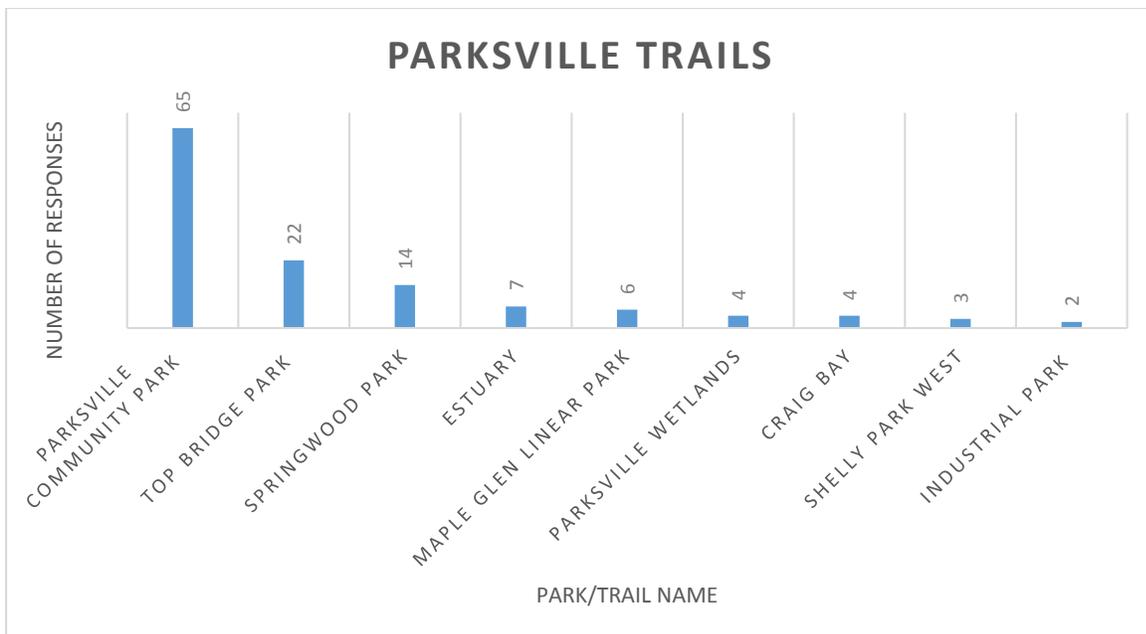
By the end of the day there was a total of 188 responses gathered. For both question 1 and 3 the popular responses were the Parksville Community Park, Springwood Park, and Top Bridge Park, which are the three major parks in the City of Parksville.

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Question 1: Parks or Open Spaces frequently used



Question 2: Favourite Trail around Parksville



Results from question 2 were organized into five main themes: (1) Dogs, (2) Services and Amenities, (3) Connectivity and Future Acquisition, (4) Wildlife, and (5) Accessibility. The results collected in question 2 are similar to the data collected from question 2 and 3 in the previous year's "Parks on the Streets" day for the 2017 Parksville Community Park Master Plan.

Spring Mini

On Saturday, June 9, 2018, VIU students and faculty collaborated with City of Parksville staff and volunteers from Friends of Foster Park to host an event to collect data. The Spring Mini event had three objectives:

- 1) Involve and engage with the citizens of Parksville to collect data on their vision for parks, trails and open spaces in the City;
- 2) Inform the public on the purpose of this project and future development having to do with the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan for the City of Parksville; and,
- 3) Promote future engagement events for this project, including comment boxes that will be placed in all parks on rotation throughout the summer.

An open house was set up at the event with opportunities for community members to provide feedback. Engagement tools included precedent image posters with dotmocracy voting and general comment sheets. The event ran from 11 am until 2 pm and had an estimated 50 participants.

Results

Dotmocracy

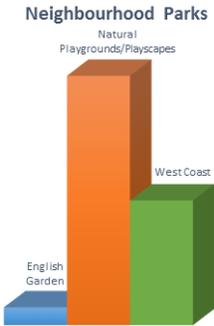
This event had precedent posters with three possible themes each separated into five park classifications: Pocket Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Principal Parks, Greenways/Linear Parks, and Natural Resource Areas. The public had the opportunity to vote for their favourite theme for each park classification by using a dotmocracy voting style. In dot-voting, participants vote on their chosen options using a limited number of stickers. This approach is a form of cumulative voting. The results from the dotmocracy are shown in the following column charts.

Pocket Parks: Participants' favourite theme for Pocket Parks was the Japanese tranquility garden style, indicating residents of Parksville are looking for a simple and minimalist design for their Pocket Parks that promote beauty and relaxation.



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Neighbourhood Parks: The style that had the most votes for Neighbourhood Parks was the theme that incorporated natural playgrounds and play-scapes. These results indicate that park users in Parksville would like their parks to have as little man made components as possible, and instead contain structures that look and feel like the natural environment.



Natural Playgrounds/Playscapes

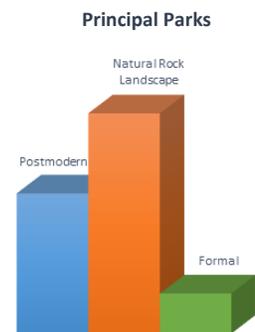
An area that has as little man made components as possible, and that contains structures that look and feel like the natural environment



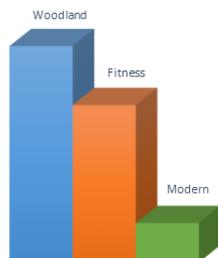
Principal Parks: For the Principal Parks precedent poster, participants voted for the natural rock landscape theme, indicating that Parksville residents may enjoy parks that were designed using natural rock to create elements such as playgrounds, gathering areas and amphitheatres to promote connection to the natural world.

Natural Rock Landscape

Natural rock is used to create elements such as playgrounds, gathering areas and amphitheatres to promote connection to the natural world



Greenways/Linear Parks



Greenways/Linear Parks: Participants indicated that they wanted to see Greenways and Linear Parks that are lined with vegetation and trees, which are more natural and relaxing looking, and which have the added benefit of reducing climate change and providing shelter from wind and rain.

Woodland

A landscape that is natural and relaxing, that can help reduce climate change and that provides shelter from wind and rain



Natural Resource Areas: Participants voted that they would like to see Natural Resource Areas be turned into environmental learning parks. This means additional built features in the parks for the purpose of educating and connecting community members to the surrounding natural environment with minimal environmental effects.

Environmental Learning Park

Additional built features for the purpose of educating and connecting community members to the surrounding natural environment



Comments

The results from both the comment boxes and the comment sheets overlapped and can be represented in four themes:

- a) **Maintenance:** There was a strong desire for increased maintenance in Foster Park specifically, though increased maintenance in other parks was a common theme. For Foster Park, comments were directed towards the removal of the dead trees and debris in the park. Some suggested increased maintenance of the long grass and trails could improve accessibility for all.
- b) **Mapping:** Community members indicated that there was a lack of awareness of the locations of parks in the City and there was a desire for more maps (online and printed), which provide the location of the parks to visitors and locals. These maps would then increase accessibility and greater utilization of the parks.
- c) **Safety:** A component of the safety theme that overlapped with the maintenance theme was the concern about the dead trees, debris, and long grass in Foster Park. Additionally, due to the bathrooms obstructing the main entrance at Foster Park, there was a shown desire to have the entrance moved. Another component of safety was the traffic on Sanderson Road. Even with speed limit signs of 30 km, traffic has not seen a reduction in speed. Comments were made about adding a speed bump near the entrance of the park or signs indicating that the road is restricted to parks users and local residents only.
- d) **Multi-use:** It was expressed that the parks provided many opportunities for multi-use activities and facilities. Foster Park hosts and encourages many events; however, with a designated dog area the park would be able to provide more uses to the public.

Splash Park Opening

On June 22, three students had an information tent set up at the Splash Park Opening at the Parksville Community Park. Posters at the tent provided community members with information about the purpose of the project and the process – including previous community engagement events. The number of participants for this event was small, around 10, but provided valuable perspectives.

Results:

The same precedent image dotmocracy posters from the Spring Mini event were used at this event. The public had the opportunity to vote for their favourite theme for each park classification by using a dotmocracy voting style.

Park Type	Number of dots
Natural Resource Area	
Environmental learning area	3
Refined	
Rustic	3
Neighbourhood Park	
English Garden	
Natural playscapes	7
West Coast	
Parksville Community Park	
Post Modern	1
Natural Rock Landscape	3
Formal	
Greenways/ Linear Parks	
Woodland	4
Fitness	2
Modern	
Pocket Park	
Japanese Tranquility	1
Community Garden	2
Abstract	

User Group Interviews

Beginning in March (2017) meetings with various user groups in Parksville were held until August 2018. They were initiated as part of the 2017 Parksville Community Park Master Plan, but the discussions from those early meetings reached far beyond the Parksville Community Park and were relevant for this project. A total of 14 user groups were interviewed over this period of time. There were three main objectives for these meetings:

- 1) Understand how groups use the parks and trails;
- 2) Gain general feedback on what groups like about the parks and trails; and,
- 3) Determine what groups needs are for future development of the parks and trails.

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During the meetings, the user groups were asked to detail their current use of the parks and trails in Parksville, how they see their usage changing in the future, and what things they would like changed (or not changed).

Some of the meetings happened at picnic tables, others were in offices, coffee shops, the curling rink, and the arena. A lot of valuable input was attained from the picnic table meetings because conversations could cover a wide variety of topics.

Results:

User groups included:

- Arrowsmith Cycling Club
- Arrowsmith Tennis Club
- Mid Island Distance Running Club
- Oceanside Minor Baseball
- Parksville Royals Baseball
- School District 69
- Oceanside Pickleball
- RDN Recreation
- Oceanside Minor Lacrosse
- Oceanside Minor Softball
- Parksville Lions Club
- Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association
- Oceanside RCMP
- Special Olympics Oceanside.

The meeting transcripts were reviewed and common themes and issues expressed by the user groups were identified:

- A strong need for more fields and courts
- A desire and need for more connections and better linkages between trails and parks
- A desire for more signage and a wayfinding system
- Increased lightning for fields and courts
- Storage spaces at various parks
- Fencing around courts and fields
- Better surfaces for weather (i.e. turf fields and drainage on courts)
- More partnerships to allow for shared usage
- More maintenance.

Comment Boxes

For five weeks, beginning on June 15 and ending on July 20, birdhouses utilized as comment boxes were rotated around all of the parks and trails in Parksville. The comment boxes were an effective way to gain feedback on each individual park from residents who use the parks the most. Additionally, attached to the comment boxes, posters asked which precedent image people like best for their park. There were two main objectives of the comment boxes:

- 1) Gain feedback from residents of Parksville on each individual park regarding what they call the park and give an opportunity for them to record their thoughts about the state of the park; and,
- 2) Add diversity to the responses by reaching out to a variety of demographics by locating comment boxes to be accessible and convenient for individuals who were unable to make it to events.



Figure 1 Trail entrance comment box.

Due to the large volume of parks and trails within Parksville, the comment boxes were rotated each week, on Friday, ensuring that each park had the opportunity for specialized attention. During the Friday rotation, comments were collected and counted. The rotation schedule was present at each open house gathering to allow residents of Parksville to have an opportunity to provide feedback on various parks and trails of their interest.

The comment boxes were an overwhelming success with a total of 548 responses collected throughout the 5 week period. All of this information indicates that the residents of Parksville not only values their park space and trails, but also have strong productive opinions about how the parks and trails should be managed going forward.



Figure 2 Park comment box.

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Results:

Total comment counts per park:

Pocket Parks

Zengel/Aquila/Wedgewood	11
Wedgewood	14
Bradbury	7
Retegno	24
Soriel	9
Wisteria	9
Blenkin	26
Humphrey	14
Allwood - Young	5
Woodland Drive	17
Bridgewater Trails	4
Pheasant	1
Ermineskin Circle	22
Ermineskin Square	6
Sylvan Crescent	16
Bryce Park	9
James - Magnolia	7
Shelly Creek	11
Shelly Creek South	35

Principal Parks

Springwood	7
Craig Heritage Museum	2
PCTC	10
Top Bridge	17

Trails

Top Bridge to Rathtrevor Trail	8
Hirst Connector	14
Springwood/Parksville to Coombs Trail	24

Natural Resource Areas

Temple Park South	5
Temple Park North	13
Franklin's Gull Greenspace	5
Industrial	2
Tigh-na-mara Triangle	5
Tanglewood	4
Sunset Boulevard Greenspace	1
Eagleview	9
Natural Resource Area A Foreshores	3
Natural Resource Area B Foreshores	33

Linear Parks

Ridgefield Church Renz Walkway	17
Wisteria Greenway	5
Rushton Walkway	2
Raffiki	16
Maple Glen North	7
Sutherland Foreshore	5

Neighborhood Parks

Aberdeen	20
Foster	30
Renz	19
Shelley Creek West	11
Mark's Nature Park	15
Nicholls	5

Total overall comments: 548

Precedent Images:

Pocket Parks:

For Pocket Parks the most common theme selected was theme 1, the Japanese Tranquility garden with 100 votes. The Japanese Tranquility garden is a simple and minimalist design that promotes beauty and relaxation. Theme 1 was the most favored theme amongst the respondents as theme 2 had 16 votes and theme 3 had 24 votes. Theme 2 highlighted a Community Garden and theme 3 was Abstract. The Abstract theme included elements of the park being inspired by the shapes and patterns of abstract art and are usually made out of steel, concrete, glass or painted wood. These results show that the respondents would like to keep their small Pocket Parks simple, natural, and attractive.

Neighbourhood Parks:

The number of responses on themes for neighborhood parks were lower than for Pocket Parks, with the highest number of votes being for theme 2 with 10 votes. Theme 2 for this park classification was Natural Playgrounds/Play-scapes, which is considered an area that has little manufactured components as possible, and that contains structures that look and feel like the natural environment. Theme 1 (English Garden) involves a garden that gives a sense of abundance by containing hardy native plants and received three votes. Theme 3 received four votes and is a West Coast theme that has seating and gathering areas that use heavy timber to display the natural resources of the West Coast. With most respondents voting for theme 2 that has few manufactured components, it is apparent that the residents of Parksville prioritize their natural environment and want to be able to interact with it.

Principal Parks:

The top choice for Principal Parks was tied between theme 2, Natural Rock Landscape, and theme 3, Formal, both with three votes. Natural Rock Landscape uses natural rock to create elements to promote connection to the natural world and the Formal theme uses straight geometric lines to determine the shape of park features and to create symmetry. Theme 1 – Postmodern – only received one vote from respondents. The Postmodern theme incorporated layers, deconstructive geometry and rectangles clashing with circles that are intersected by diagonal lines that are used to recreate Russian constructivist paintings. Similar to the results from the Pocket Park themes, these results indicate that the residents of Parksville would prefer to keep their Principal Parks more simple.

Greenways/ Linear Parks:

Greenways/Linear Parks received very few votes overall. Theme 1 and 2 both had one vote each and theme 3 received no votes. Theme 1 was Woodland, which was a landscape that is natural and relaxing and that can help reduce climate change and provides shelter from wind and rain. Theme 2 – Fitness – incorporates equipment that promotes health and exercise for all ages by providing a cost effective and easily accessible outdoor gym. Modern use of glass, steel and reinforced concrete to create the most functional structures possible with an absence of ornamental features represents Theme 3.

Natural Resource Areas:

Respondents favored Theme 3 – Rustic – for the Natural Resource Areas. The Rustic theme has minimal features in the park which look natural and blend in with the organic environment. Twelve respondents voted for the Rustic theme. Theme 1 (Environmental Learning Park) received eight votes and Theme 2

(Refined) received no votes. The Environmental Learning park theme included built in features for the purpose of educating and connecting community members to the surrounding natural environment. Similar to the Rustic theme, the Refined theme incorporated minimal features, however the features would have a modernized look. These votes for the Natural Resource Areas indicate that the residents in Parksville would prefer to leave these areas as natural and untouched as possible.

Parksville Comment Summary by Park Type:

Almost all of the parks received comments, though a few did not receive any. For the purpose of this summary and due to the large volume of 548 responses, the comments have been summarized by park classification.

Pocket Parks:

Overall, one of the most prominent themes amongst all of the Pocket Parks are people’s concerns about leaving the parks as they are. Many individuals showed great concern about only wanting little to be done to the parks as they enjoy them in their current status and love having access to more natural greenspaces. For many respondents the Pocket Parks provide them with a gathering space for friends and family and a place to walk their dog while enjoying nature. However, there were many concerns about maintenance issues within the Pocket Parks. Respondents expressed they want the grass, weeds, invasive plants, and blackberries to be managed and the dead trees clean out.

- MAINTENANCE:**
 - MOWING OF GRASS
 - REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES
 - INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
 - DOG WASTE REMOVAL
 - CONCERNS ABOUT DRYNESS & FIRE TRAPS
- INNOVATIVE IDEAS:**
 - DISCREET LIGHTING
 - CHILDREN’S PLAY STRUCTURES
 - CURVED BENCHES FOR SUPERVISING KIDS
 - BIRD HOUSES

Amenities relating to better maintenance mentioned by respondents are garbage cans, dog bag dispensers, and signage for no dumping. Although many parks were wanted to be left as is, for some parks respondents wanted to add some features such as a basketball hoop, picnic shelters, and children’s play structures. Specifically regarding Blenkin Park, some of the respondents were unaware of it actually being a park. Therefore, they suggested Blenkin Park be left to go back to nature. On the other hand, individuals suggested Blenkin Park should be cleaned up and some amenities (benches and garbage cans) should be added to make it feel more like a park.

Principal Parks:

Responses indicated that, in general, residents enjoy the Principal Parks as they are. However, there were some suggestions on how to improve the parks. Respondents would like to see more benches and picnic tables, as well enhanced maintenance. A desire was also shown for more signage such as no smoking signs and directional signage. Planting more flowerbeds to attract bees and other pollinators was suggested. For Springwood Park, a swing set was mentioned by a couple of respondents.

- MAINTENANCE:**
 - DEAD TREES
 - GRASS NEEDS MOWING
 - DOG AREAS & POOP BAGS
 - GARBAGE CANS
- INNOVATIVE IDEAS:**
 - BENCHES & PICNIC AREAS

Natural Resource Areas:

Even more than the other parks, residents expressed a very strong desire to have the Natural Resource Areas left alone and natural. They also indicated they would like the areas to be used/left as animal sanctuaries and to promote wildlife, such as dragonflies. However, there is still a need for some maintenance of the areas. There was great concern shown about garbage and cigarette butts and needing garbage bins and cigarette containers. A desire for more benches and lighting was also shown. Respondents were divided on wanting the brush cleaned up in the areas, some want the brush cleared and others don't. Individuals are afraid if the brush is cleared then it would encourage youth and individuals to hangout and engage in undesired activities, increasing the amount of garbage laying around and vandalism. On the other hand, individuals expressed a need to have to brush along the paths and handrails be maintained. It was also mentioned for some Natural Resource Areas, the land is being used by residents as their private, personal land. Respondents feel as though this should be addressed and the areas should be used only for parks and Natural Resource Areas. Regarding Natural Resource Area B Foreshores, respondents would like to have a wide landing halfway down the stairs with benches and have the blackberries trimmed and have the beach used as an off leash area. It is important to note that the beach is outside of the City of Parksville's jurisdiction.

MAINTENANCE:

- **MAINTAIN TRAIL SAFETY**

INNOVATIVE IDEAS:

- **PROMOTE SPECIES HABITAT**
- **MORE SEATING**
- **EDUCATIONAL LEARNING**
- **MORE SIGNAGE**
- **DESIGNATE WASHROOM/CHANGE AREAS**
- **SIGNAGE FOR TRAILS**

Linear Parks:

Just like all the other parks, residents responded with things they love about the Linear Parks in Parksville, but also showed concerns. Respondents expressed their love of the nature within the paths, including the native plants and birds. However, comments showed concerns about the amount of development that has been happening around the Linear Parks. The development has resulted in a loss of habitat and residents have noticed there to be less wildlife. Seasonal conditions were also brought up in the comments. During the winter the paths become wet and muddy, making accessibility difficult. Some suggestions from respondents for poor seasonal conditions include snow removal and more gravel being added to the paths. Even in the dry summer months respondents have shown concerns about accessibility. Individuals commented that they would like to see better access for peoples with disabilities, bicycles, and strollers. There was also a shown need for better directional signage, for example residents would like to see signs with maps and marked exits in Maple Glen Linear Park. Accessibility in terms of connectivity was also mentioned, there was a desire to have better connectivity to the rest of Parksville. Maintenance concerns touched on control of invasive species and weeds, as well as animal secure garbage bins.

MAINTENANCE:

- **REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES & WEEDS**

INNOVATIVE IDEAS:

- **ANIMAL SECURE GARBAGE BINS**
- **BENCHES ALONG THE TRAILS**
- **BIRD HAVEN**
- **CONNECTIVITY**

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Neighbourhood Parks:

Comments made about the Neighborhood Parks discuss a variety of issues, yet common themes and issues are apparent among most of the Neighborhood Parks. A prominent theme is a desire to keep the parks natural. Many respondents voiced they like the parks as they are and don't want to see more development in them which would threaten the natural aspect of the parks. However, there is still a concern about safety. Many respondents indicated they are concerned about the dead trees and piles of brush within the parks and they feel as though they should be cleaned out. Residents also mentioned they want the grass to be maintained more as it has been preventing them from accessing the parks the way they want to. Maintenance concerns are not limited to dead trees and grass, however. Individuals mentioned their displeasure about the amount of garbage and cigarette butts laying around. Also there was a desire for activities for children and to bring the community together, especially in Nicholls Park. Residents around Nicholls Park stated that they would like a playground or other activities such as tetherball or a basketball hoop for youth to enjoy. Regarding other playgrounds in other Neighborhood Parks, individuals mentioned using better mulch to soften the ground.

MAINTENANCE:

- GARBAGE EMPTIED MORE OFTEN

INNOVATIVE IDEAS:

- ENCLOSED DOG AREA
- BETTER MULCH OR SOFTENING FOR PLAYGROUNDS
- NEW BENCHES
- BASKETBALL COURT

Trails:

Respondents expressed their love for the trails and nature that is incorporated in the trails, thus there was a strong desire to leave the trails as natural as possible. However, there were a few changes residents of Parksville would like to see within the trails. Many respondents showed a concern for safety and indicated that more and better lighting would help them feel safer. Safety concerns were also related to the path surfaces. Residents mentioned they want safe surfaces for walking and jogging, which include leveling and clearing of the paths and brush around them. Similar to all of the other parks, respondents indicated a

MAINTENANCE:

- MORE GARBAGE BINS
- LEVELING AND CLEARING OF TRAIL SURFACES

INNOVATIVE IDEAS:

- CIRCULAR TRAIL NETWORK
- PUBLIC WASHROOM
- DESIGNATED DOG AREAS
- SIGNAGE

need for garbage bins and dog bag dispensers. It appears the trails are highly used by dog owners, who indicated they would like to have some off leash areas for their dogs. Regarding the trail network, respondents mentioned they would like more trails and circular routes to have more interconnected trails. They also expressed a desire for a map and directional signage.

Conclusion:

The comment boxes received a large volume of positive and informative feedback from the Parksville community. Two main conclusions can be made from the data received from the comment boxes. The first is that the residents of Parksville prioritize nature and want to make sure that their parks and trails remain as natural and simple as possible, while still remaining functional and enjoyable. The second main conclusion is there is a high need for maintenance and amenities related to maintenance (i.e. garbage bins and dog bag dispensers) in most of the parks and trails. Concerns regarding garbage

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collection and grass cutting were expressed in most of the parks, unfortunately these are outside of the scope of the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces engagement goals.

Online Survey

A survey was sent out to the community of Parksville to gain a demographic understanding of the residents in Parksville. The survey was opened online on July 15, 2018 and closed on August 13, 2018. Residents with limited access to technology had the opportunity to fill out the survey in person during the Open House Series at the Parksville – Qualicum Centre and Library. The survey had 3 objectives:

- 1) Gain a demographic understanding of the age of respondents and where they live in Parksville;
- 2) See how often individuals use the parks and trails in Parksville; and
- 3) Gain an understanding of residents perspectives of what parks and trails mean to them.

The survey was designed to gain a better understanding of the people in Parksville who utilize the parks and trails. The survey included 15 questions:

1. How often do you use Parksville's parks?
2. How often do you use Parksville's trails?
3. If you consider the last year, how do you generally travel to access parks?
4. If you consider the last year, how do you generally travel to access trails?
5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (very important) – Parks are important for: the conservation of natural environments; mental well-being; physical well-being; their recreational value; beautifying the City; me to spend time with family and friends; the regional economy; their educational value; attending festivals and special events; and taking my dog.
6. Please rate your level of agreement with the following from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (very important) – Trails are important for: physical well-being; mental well-being; the conservation of natural environments; their recreational values; beautifying the City; me to spend time with family and friends; their educational values; transportation; taking my dog; attending festivals and special events.
7. What types of programming (events and activities) would you like to see in Parksville's parks or on the trails in the future?
8. What types of equipment and amenities (infrastructure) would you like to see added to Parksville's parks or on the trails in the future?
9. Any other changes you would like to see?
10. What should not be changed in Parksville's parks and trails?
11. Where do you live?
12. How old are you?
13. Which parks do you use in Parksville?
14. Which trails have you used in the last year?
15. Are there any other ideas or comments you wish to share?

Questions 11, 13, and 14 provided links and access to maps – in the case of the paper copies there were printed off maps – that allowed a visual representation of the trails, parks, and residential tracts for respondents to answer on. Results from these questions will allow for visual representation of the most

commonly used parks and trails and which ones may be the focal point when developing recommendations.

Overall the survey had a total of 107 responses.

Results:

Demographics

Question 11 (Where do you live?) and 12 (How old are you?) specifically address the demographics of the respondents. For question 11, respondents were provided with a map that outlined the different residential tracts in the City of Parkville (Figure 3). Respondents of the survey were distributed across all of the Tracts, except Tract S. The Tracts with the largest representation are Tract B with 14% of respondents and Tract R with 13%. Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported living in Tract O and 8% live in Tract J. The rest of the Tracts have fairly equal distribution with percentage of respondents ranging from 1% to 6%.

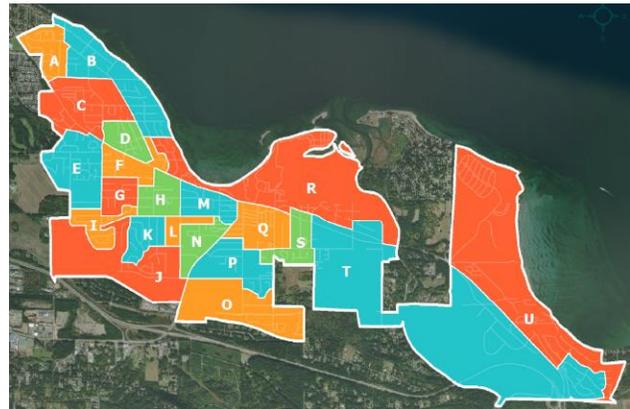
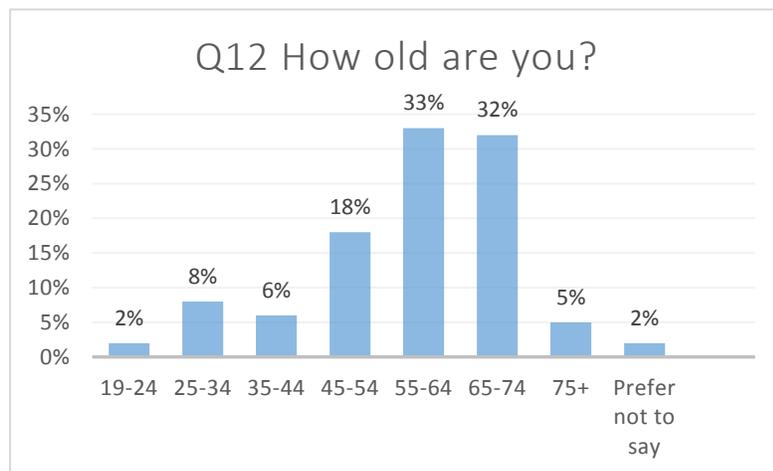


Figure 3 City of Parkville Census Population Tracts.



The respondents' ages reflects Parkville's older age demographic and among the respondents. There are two age groups that represent most of the respondents. These age groups are 55-64 years (33%) and 65-74 years (32%). Individuals aged 45 to 54 years of age made up 18% of respondents. Combining the three younger age groups (19-24, 25-34, and 35-44), these age groups only make up 16% of the total respondents for the survey.

Usage of Parks and Trails

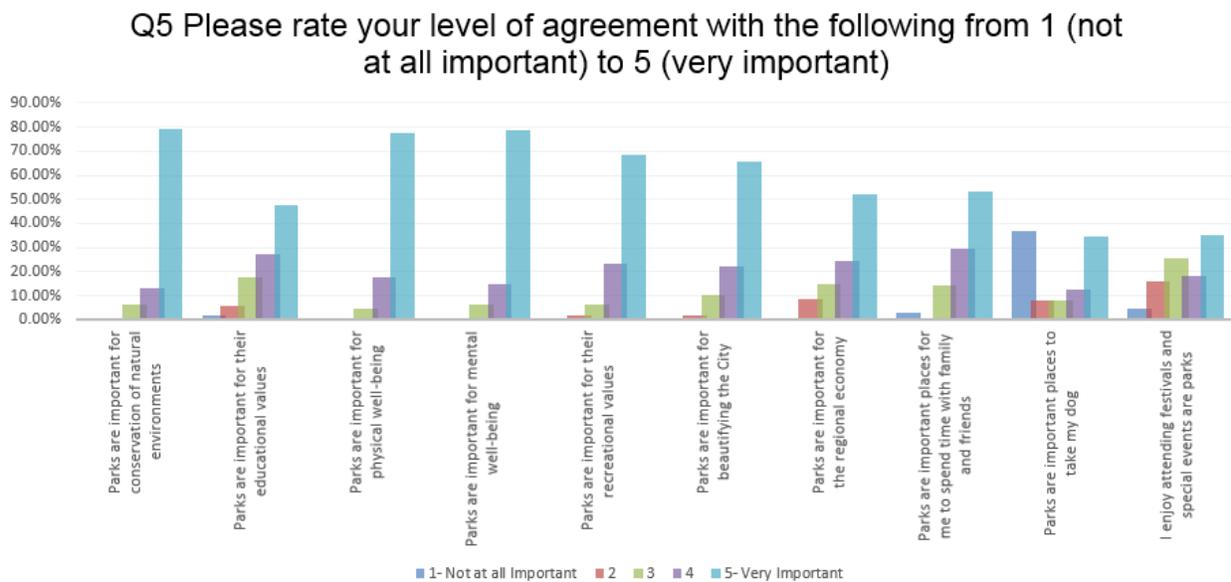
Question 1 and 2 asked respondents how often they used Parkville's parks and trails. Results show that overall residents in Parkville utilize the parks quite often with over half of the respondents (53%) reporting that they use parks between one and six times per week. Eighteen percent (18%) state that they use parks every day and 19% use parks one to three times per month. Very few individuals, about 11%, rarely or never use the parks in Parkville.

In regards to Parksville’s trails, there seems to be less utilization with only 12% of respondents using them every day and 36% using trails one to six times per week. Twenty-five (25%) of respondents said they only use trails several times a year and interestingly, 8% said they never use trails.

What parks and trails mean to residents

One of the most important aspects of the survey was to gain an understanding of what the parks and trails in Parksville mean to the participants. Questions 5 and 6 asked participants to rank the level of their own personal perceived importance of different statements related to the parks and trails. Question 5 asked individuals to rank their level of agreement that parks are important for: the conservation of natural environments; mental well-being; physical well-being; their recreational value; beautifying the City; to spend time with family and friends; the regional economy; their educational value; attending festivals and special events; and taking my dog.

Results showed individuals feel parks are very important for the conservation of natural environments, for mental well-being, and physical well-being as about 78-80% of individuals ranked each of these statements as very important. The statements felt to be of least importance for individuals were the statements that parks were important for festivals and events and for taking their dog, with only 35% of respondents ranking each of these as very important. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents ranked that parks are an important place to take their dogs as not at all important.



Similarly, question 6 asked individuals to rate the level of agreement that trails are important for: physical well-being; mental well-being; the conservation of natural environments; their recreational values; beautifying the City; me to spend time with family and friends; their educational values; transportation; taking my dog; attending festivals and special events.

Results from question 6 are similar to results from question 5, where the top three highly ranked statements are that trails are important for physical well-being, mental well-being, and the conservation

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of natural environments. Between 71% and 75% of respondents ranked each of these as very important. The statements that trails are important places to take their dogs and for festivals and events were considered to be the least important for the respondents. The highest ranked category for each of these two statements was the not at all important category.

Overall, these results show residents in Parksville find their parks and trails to be important for various reasons.

Open House Series

On July 19, 25, and 31, the research team set up an Open House at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. The Open House Series had three objectives:

- 1) To involve and engage with the citizens of Parksville to collect data on what they want to see from the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan;
- 2) Inform the public on the purpose of this project and planning process of the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan; and,
- 3) Assist any individuals wanting to complete the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Online Survey in hard copy form.

The Open House Series was the last public event of the community engagement process for this project, although data collection continued into August through the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces online survey.

The Open House Series collected info on:

- 1) What type of amenities residents want to see in parks (Residents had the opportunity to vote for the amenities they felt were of highest priority);
- 2) Which statements and priorities residents of Parksville felt were the most important to be the guiding principles of the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan;
- 3) Comments and concerns, varying from general remarks on all areas in Parksville, to opinions on what specific parks and locations should look like; and
- 4) User information and attitudes towards Parksville's parks, trails, and open spaces through hard copies of the Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces online survey.

Between the three events, the Open House Series drew in an estimated 80 people.

Results

Dotmocracy – Guiding Principles

These events included a dotmocracy poster inviting the public to use dots to vote for the statement or statements they feel represent Parksville the most. The posters had six statements which completed the sentence "The Citizens of Parksville want a Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan that...":

1. Balances the social, cultural, and economic needs of the community
2. Provides vibrant, diverse recreation options for all ages
3. Preserves and enhances sensitive ecological areas, natural resources and wildlife habitat
4. Provides connection and active transportation options

Appendix A: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

5. Creates social spaces to enhance community connection
6. Sets aside valuable greenspace to build climate resiliency.

Based on the data collected from these posters, the guiding principles for the Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master plan will be representative of the three most popular statements; “Preserves and enhances sensitive ecological areas, natural resources and wildlife habitat”, “Sets aside valuable greenspace to build climate resiliency”, and “Provides connection and active transportation options”.

Dotmocracy – Amenities

These events had a dotmocracy poster set up asking for what amenities community members want to see in Parksville’s parks the most. They were able to vote for multiple amenities they felt were the highest priority.

Based on the data collected from these posters, the recommendations for amenities will be guided towards what the residents of Parksville have chosen as the most important. The highest priority amenities based off these posters are: trails, natural features, bicycle racks, garbage cans, playgrounds, and water fountains.

Comment Sheets:

Due to the broad nature of the comment sheets, the data collected was extremely variable. Comments ranged from explicit amenities needed in specific parks to wide-ranging ideas and suggestions for all of Parksville. For this reason, not all comments were able to be grouped into themes and will instead be used towards recommendations for specific parks, trails, and open spaces. The other comments generally fit three main themes; accessibility, trails and connectivity, and environmental protection. Multiple people commented on the need for parks to be accessible for all ages and physical abilities and that accessibility can be improved through means such as increased maintenance on sidewalks and better public transportation. Trails and connectivity were repeatedly mentioned, especially in relation to bike lanes. From the data collected, it seems that Parksville residents are in need of a city that has better connectivity and gives priority to trails, paths, and bike lanes. Environmental protection was the most mentioned theme on the comment sheets. Parksville residents are concerned about the amount of development that has been going on and are passionate about protecting the natural spaces they have. Environmental protection was brought up several times in relation to specific locations and as needed in Parksville as a whole.

Appendix B: Existing Parks

Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Master Plan

Appendix B: Existing Parks

Principal Parks

Park Name	Size (ha)	Location	Tract	Tract Population (Total)	Tract Population (0-14)	Tract Population (15-64)	Tract Population (65+)
Craig Heritage Museum	0.75	1245 Island Highway E	U	560	10	165	380
Parksville Community Park	17.90	193 Island Highway	R	775	75	440	260
PCTC Park	0.87	240 Craig Street	Q	700	60	295	345
Rotary Peace Park	0.49	1275 Island Highway East	U	560	10	165	380
Springwood Park	10.41	500 Despard Avenue	J	820	80	410	330
Top Bridge Park	21.43	1250 Chattell Road	T	650	30	210	405

Neighbourhood Parks

Park Name	Size (ha)	Location	Tract	Tract Population (Total)	Tract Population (0-14)	Tract Population (15-64)	Tract Population (65+)
Aberdeen Park	0.06	833 Aberdeen Drive	A	525	50	270	200
Foster Park	2.97	625 Pym Street	C	665	35	295	335
Mark's Nature Park	1.09	124 Finholm Street	H	455	70	215	170
Nicholls Park	0.29	703 Newcastle Avenue	E	780	80	405	295
Renz Park	0.77	294 Renz Road	E	780	80	405	295
Shelly Creek West	0.56	497 Corfield Street South	O	655	50	315	290

Appendix B: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

Pocket Parks

Park Name	Size (ha)	Location	Tract	Tract Population (Total)	Tract Population (0-14)	Tract Population (15-64)	Tract Population (65+)
Allwood – Young Park	0.06	362 Young Street	D	325	45	200	85
Aquila Park	0.07	499 Aquila Place	C	665	35	295	335
Blenkin Park	0.04	632 Blenkin Avenue	F	440	40	210	190
Bradbury Park	0.03	769 Bradbury Avenue	C	665	35	295	336
Brice Park	0.13	647 Brice Avenue	F	440	40	210	190
Bridgewater Trails	0.72	100 Bridgewater Lane	O	655	50	315	290
Ermineskin Circle	0.09	690 Ermineskin Avenue	I	525	60	265	200
Ermineskin Square	0.25	754 Ermineskin Avenue	I	525	60	265	200
Humphrey Park	0.64	749 Humphrey Road	E	780	80	405	295
James-Magnolia Park	0.14	229 James Street	K	520	55	270	190
McMillian Street Park	0.03	End of McMillian Street North	R	775	75	440	260
Panorama – Doehle Walkway	0.02	477 Doehle Avenue	B	725	50	355	320
Pheasant Park	0.15	190 Pheasant Place	S	445	35	200	215
Retengo Park	0.19	824 Retengo Avenue	E	780	80	405	295
Shelly Creek South	3.06	266 Hamilton Avenue	O	655	50	315	290
Shelly Road Centre	0.25	186 Shelly Road	T	650	30	210	405
Soriel Park	0.12	774 Soriel Road	C	665	35	295	335
Sylvan Crescent Park	0.12	36 Sylvan Crescent	G	490	90	295	105
Wedgewood Park	0.21	656 Wedgewood Crescent	C	665	35	295	335
Wisteria Park	0.23	443 Wisteria Street	B	725	50	355	320
Woodland Drive Park	0.34	16 Woodland Crescent (Middle of Road)	N	555	45	250	260
Zengel Park	0.01	5.5 Zengel Way	C	665	35	295	335

Appendix B: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

Linear Parks

Park Name	Size (ha)	Location	Tract	Tract Population (Total)	Tract Population (0-14)	Tract Population (15-64)	Tract Population (65+)
Maple Glen Linear Park	1.09	648 Hirst Avenue; Corner of Magnolia	J	820	80	410	330
Raffiki Walkway	0.25	Between Morison and Ermineskin Avenue	I/G	525/490	60/90	265/295	200/105
Ridgefield Church Renz Walkway	1.00	Cedar Ridge	E	780	80	405	295
Rushton Walkway	0.08	355 Vicken Way	D	325	45	200	85
Sutherland Crescent Ravine	0.16	395 Sutherland Place	R	775	75	440	260
Wisteria Greenway	0.04	448 Wisteria Street	B	725	50	355	320

Natural Resource Areas

Park Name	Size (ha)	Location	Tract	Tract Population (Total)	Tract Population (0-14)	Tract Population (15-64)	Tract Population (65+)
Chinook- Willow Foreshore	0.18	East of Willow Street	B	725	50	355	320
Craig Heritage Park	1.47	1061 Franklin's Gull Road	T	650	30	210	405
Doehle Foreshore	0.02	East of Doehle Avenue	B	725	50	255	320
Dogwood – Rushton Foreshore	0.05	East of Rushton Avenue	B	725	50	255	320
Dogwood Foreshore	0.06	East of Dogwood Street	R	775	75	440	260
Duggan Lane Foreshore	0.90	North of Soriel Road	B	725	50	355	320
Eagleview Park	0.70	140 Eagle Park Terrace	P	585	65	300	225
Franklin's Gull Greenspace	0.21	Franklin's Gull Road	U	560	10	165	380
Heather Place Foreshore	0.10	East of Doehle Avenue	B	725	50	355	320
Industrial Park	0.77	1050 Island Highway E	T/U	650/560	30/10	210/165	405/380
Panorama Foreshore	0.12	East of Panorama Place	B	725	50	355	320

Appendix B: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

Parksville Wetlands	12.84	Between Coldwater Road and the train tracks	J	820	80	410	330
Shelly Creek North	0.23	273 Hamilton Avenue	O	655	50	315	290
Shoreline Foreshore	0.15	East of Dogwood Street	R	775	75	440	260
Soriel Foreshore	0.04	North of Panorama Place	B	725	50	355	320
Sunset Boulevard Greenspace	0.10	476 Sunset Boulevard	R	775	75	440	260
Sutherland Foreshore	0.16	End of Sutherland Park	R	775	75	440	260
Tanglewood Park	0.22	1071 Tanglewood Place	U	560	10	165	380
Temple Park North	0.05	769 Temple Street	B	725	50	355	320
Temple Park South	0.12	518 Temple Park Street	B	725	50	355	320
Tigh-na-mara Triangle	0.14	1160 Resort Drive	U	560	10	165	380

Appendix C: Existing Trails

Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Master Plan

Appendix C: Existing Trails

Note: This does not include any trails that are non-city (e.g. Estuary, Rathtrevor, Coombs to Parksville, etc.)

Park Trails

Trail Name	Slope	Surface	Length (m)	Length (km)
Aberdeen Trail	Flat	Asphalt	88.92	0.09
Allwood – Young Trail	Flat	Natural	84.37	0.08
Bridgewater Trail <i>Connector</i>	Flat/ Moderate	Asphalt/ Natural	204.94	0.20
Craig Heritage Museum Trail	Flat	Concrete/ Natural	266.17	0.27
Eagleview Trail	Flat	Gravel	169.27	0.17
Ermineskin Square Trail	Flat	Asphalt	73.06	0.07
Foster Trail	Flat	Natural	910.04	0.91
Franklin’s Gull Trail	Flat	Gravel	93.05	0.09
Humphrey Trail	Flat	Concrete/ Gravel/Natural	264.08	0.26
Maple Glen Trail <i>Greenway</i>	Flat	Asphalt	1057.27	1.06
Mark’s Nature Trail	Flat/ Moderate	Gravel	372.35	0.37
Nicholls Trail	Flat	Concrete	85.49	0.09
Panorama – Doehle Walkway Trail	Flat	Concrete	51.78	0.05
Parksville Community Trail <i>Boardwalk</i>	Flat/ Moderate/ Steep	Asphalt / Board / Concrete / Paving Stone	2678.61	2.68
Parksville Wetlands Trail	Flat/ Moderate	Natural	3755.82	3.76
PCTC Trail <i>Connector</i>	Flat	Concrete	450.71	0.45
Renz Trail <i>Connector</i>	Flat	Asphalt/ Gravel/ Natural	306.27	0.31
Rotary Peace Trail	Flat	Gravel	136.52	0.14
Rushton Walkway	Flat	Asphalt	105.71	0.11
Shelly Creek Trail South <i>Stairs</i>	Flat	Gravel/ Natural/ Wood	737.87	0.74
Shelly Creek Trail West	Flat	Natural	213.35	0.21

Appendix C: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

Shelly Road Trail	Flat	Natural	40.63	0.04
Springwood Park Trail	Flat/ Moderate/ Steep	Concrete/ Gravel/ Natural	1732.45	1.73
Sutherland Beach Access Stairs	Flat/ Steep	Asphalt	84.84	0.08
Sylvan Crescent Trail	Flat	Natural	51.08	0.05
Top Bridge Regional Trail Stairs	Flat/ Moderate/ Steep	Natural/ Stone/ Wood	918.71	0.92
Wisteria Trail	Flat	Asphalt	64.34	0.06
Zengel Trail	Flat	Concrete	31.50	0.03
Total			15029.2	15.02

Connector Trails

Trail Name	Slope	Surface	Length (m)	Length (km)
Bagshaw McVickers Connector	Flat	Asphalt	81.68	0.08
Clarkson Wembley Connector	Flat	Asphalt	37.26	0.04
Corfield Evergreen Bagshaw Connector	Flat	Natural	271.29	0.27
Crabapple Mulberry Connector	Flat	Concrete	101.06	0.10
Crabapple Ponderosa Connector	Flat	Concrete	89.48	0.09
Despard Springwood Connector	Flat	Concrete	31.34	0.03
Edgware Lane Connector	Flat	Asphalt	28.58	0.03
Ermineskin Despard Connector	Flat	Concrete	31.34	0.03
Ermineskin Renz Connector	Flat	Asphalt	41.94	0.04
Field Crescent Wright Connector	Flat	Asphalt	63.05	0.06
Forbes Pym Connector	Flat	Asphalt	104.23	0.10
Foxtail Ironwood Connector	Flat	Asphalt	66.89	0.07
Hampstead Lane Connector	Flat	Asphalt	27.83	0.03
Hampstead Lane South Connector	Flat	Asphalt	27.08	0.03
Hirst Harnish Connector	Flat	Asphalt	385.30	0.39
Kingsley Despard Connector	Flat	Asphalt	36.44	0.04
Lilac Winchelsea Connector	Flat	Asphalt	36.63	0.04
McCarter Jensen Connector North	Flat	Concrete	83.68	0.08
McCarter Jensen Connector South	Flat	Concrete	115.67	0.12
Raffiki Trail	Flat	Asphalt	249.81	0.25
Retegno Renz Connector	Flat	Asphalt	34.61	0.03

Appendix C: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

Retegno Ridgefield Connector	Flat/ Moderate/ Steep	Asphalt / Concrete / Mulch / Natural	312.33	0.31
Retegno Trail	Flat	Concrete	93.68	0.09
Rheumer Church Connector	Flat	Asphalt	105.35	0.11
Ridgefield Church Renz North Connector	Flat	Asphalt	189.23	0.19
Ridgefield Church Renz South Connector	Flat	Asphalt	464.29	0.46
Stanford Park View Connector	Flat	Asphalt	48.70	0.05
Stanford Meadow View Connector	Flat	Asphalt	60.62	0.06
Wedgewood Trail	Flat	Asphalt	69.16	0.07
Wembley Island Highway Connector	Flat	Asphalt	84.03	0.08
Wheeler Rosewood Connector	Flat	Concrete	50.17	0.05
Young Rushton Connector East	Flat	Asphalt	34.10	0.03
Young Rushton Connector West	Flat	Natural	63.26	0.06
Total			3520.11	3.52

Beach Access Trails

Trail Name	Slope	Surface	Length (m)	Length (km)
Bay Beach Access <i>Stairs</i>	Steep	Concrete	49.88	0.05
Craig Bay Trail	Flat/ Moderate	Natural	563.13	0.56
Doehle Beach Access <i>Stairs</i>	Flat/ Very Steep	Concrete	59.05	0.06
Sunray Beach Access	Flat/ Very Steep	Concrete	93.84	0.09
Total			765.9	0.76

Greenway Trails

Trail Name	Slope	Surface	Length (m)	Length (km)
Bagshaw McVickers Greenway	Flat	Natural	37.77	0.04
Hampstead Belson Greenway	Flat	Natural	69.22	0.07
Total			106.99	0.11

Appendix C: Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

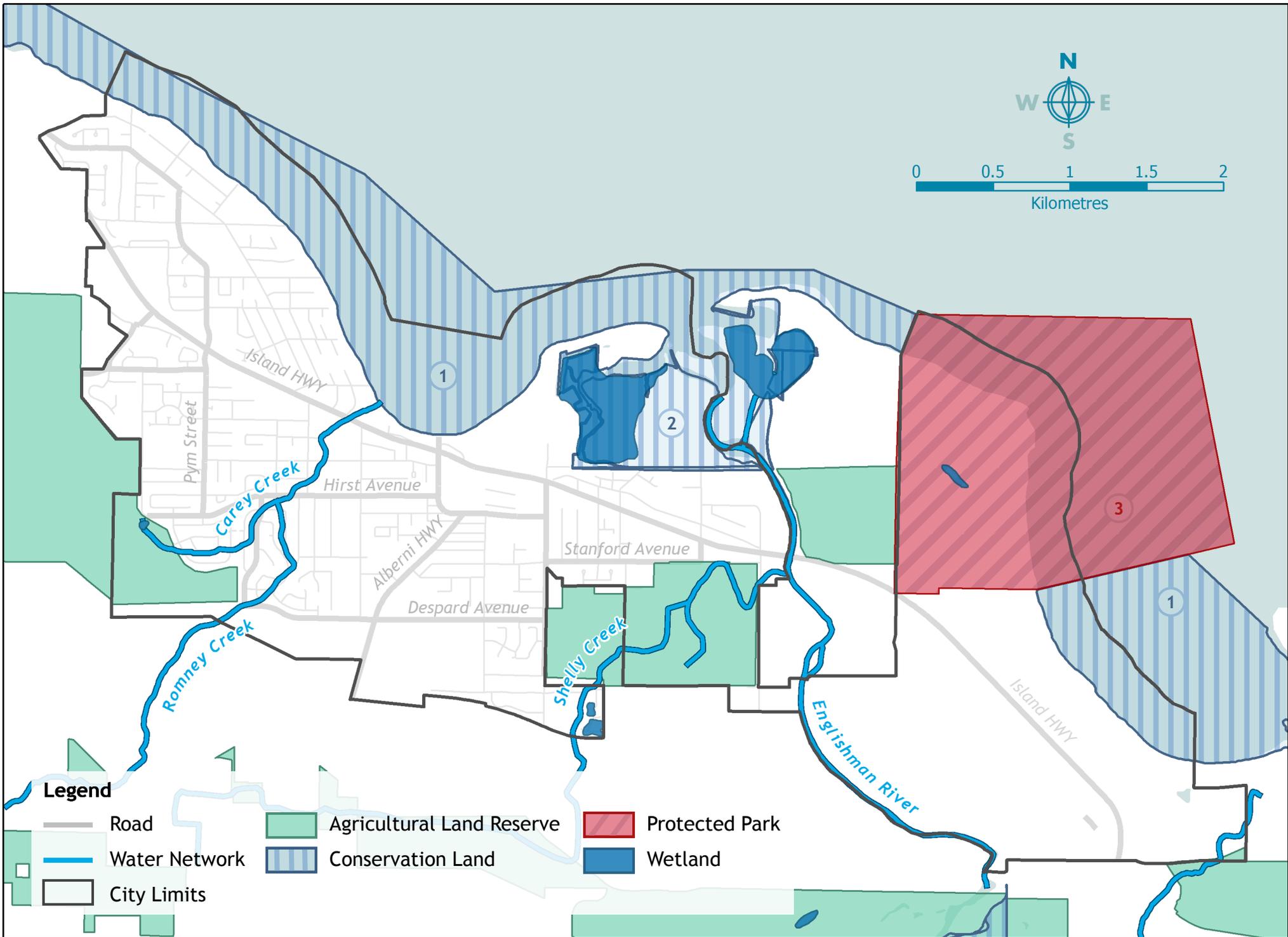
Statistics			
Total Trails	67		
Total Trail Segments	333		
Minimum Length (m)	27.07	Minimum Length (km)	0.03
Maximum Length (m)	3755.82	Maximum Length (km)	3.76
Mean Length (m)	289.88	Mean Length (km)	0.29
Total Length (m)	19422.2	Total Length (km)	19.42

Appendix D: Amenity Inventory

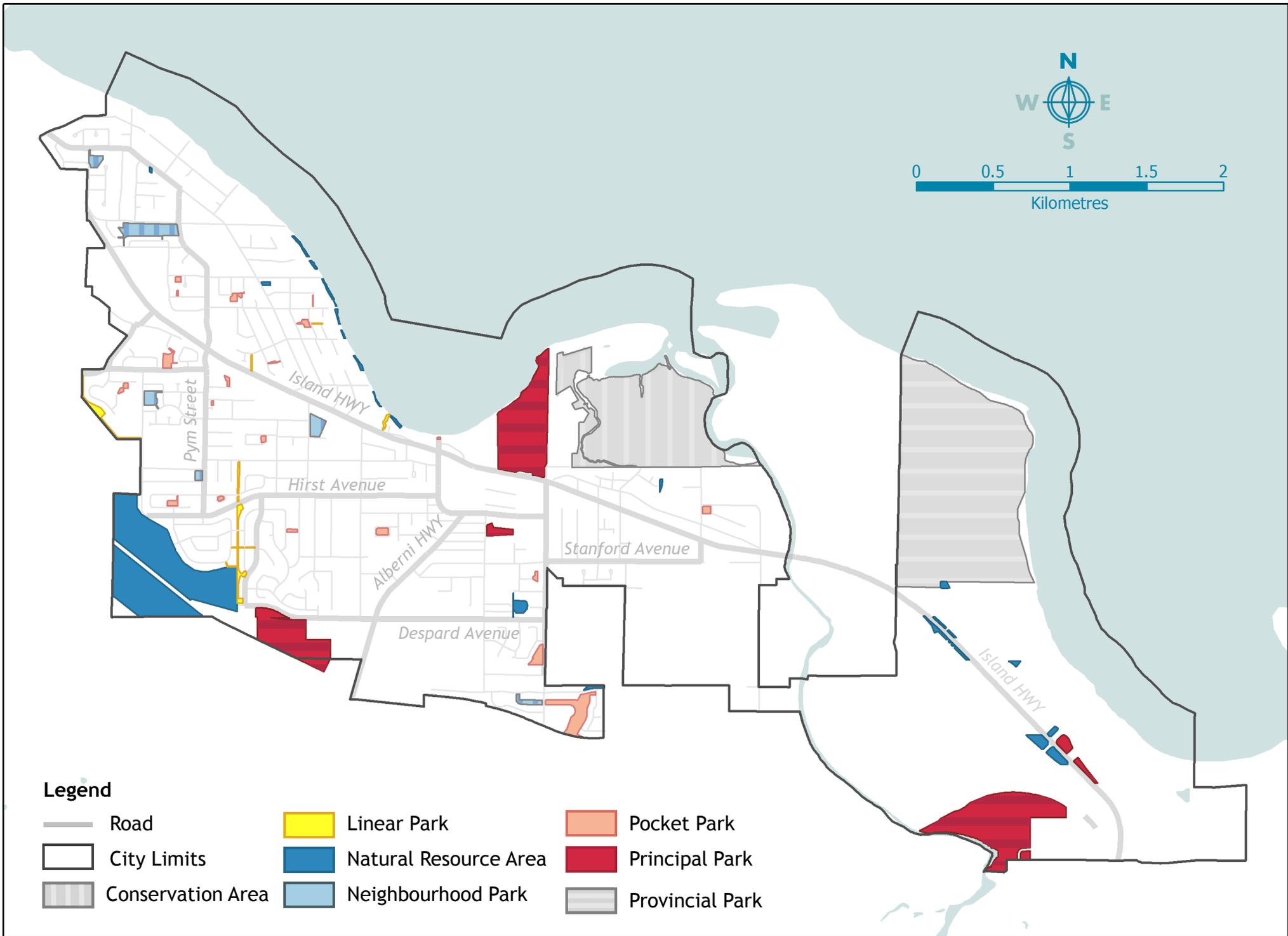
Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Master Plan

Appendix E: Maps

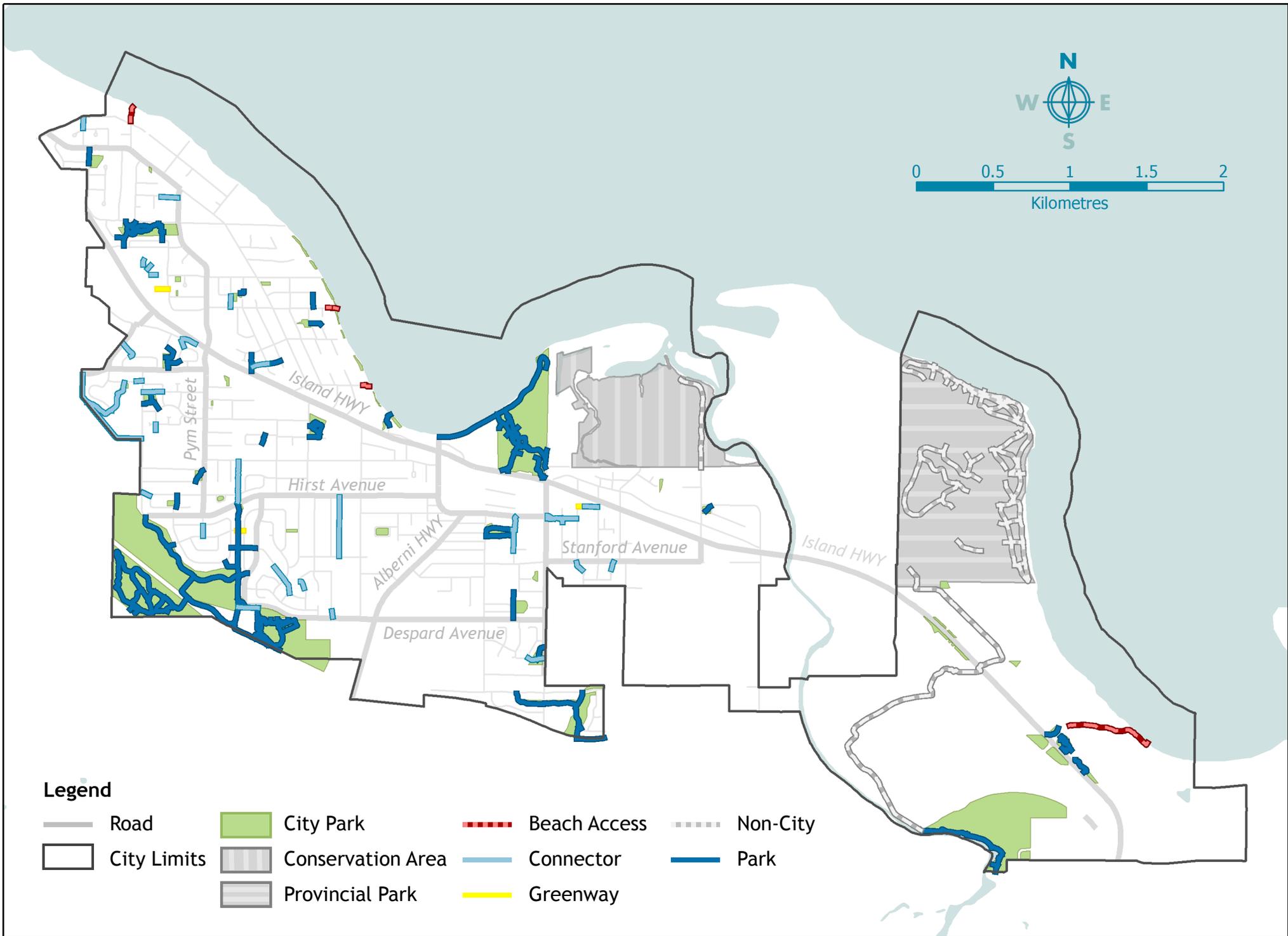
Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Master Plan



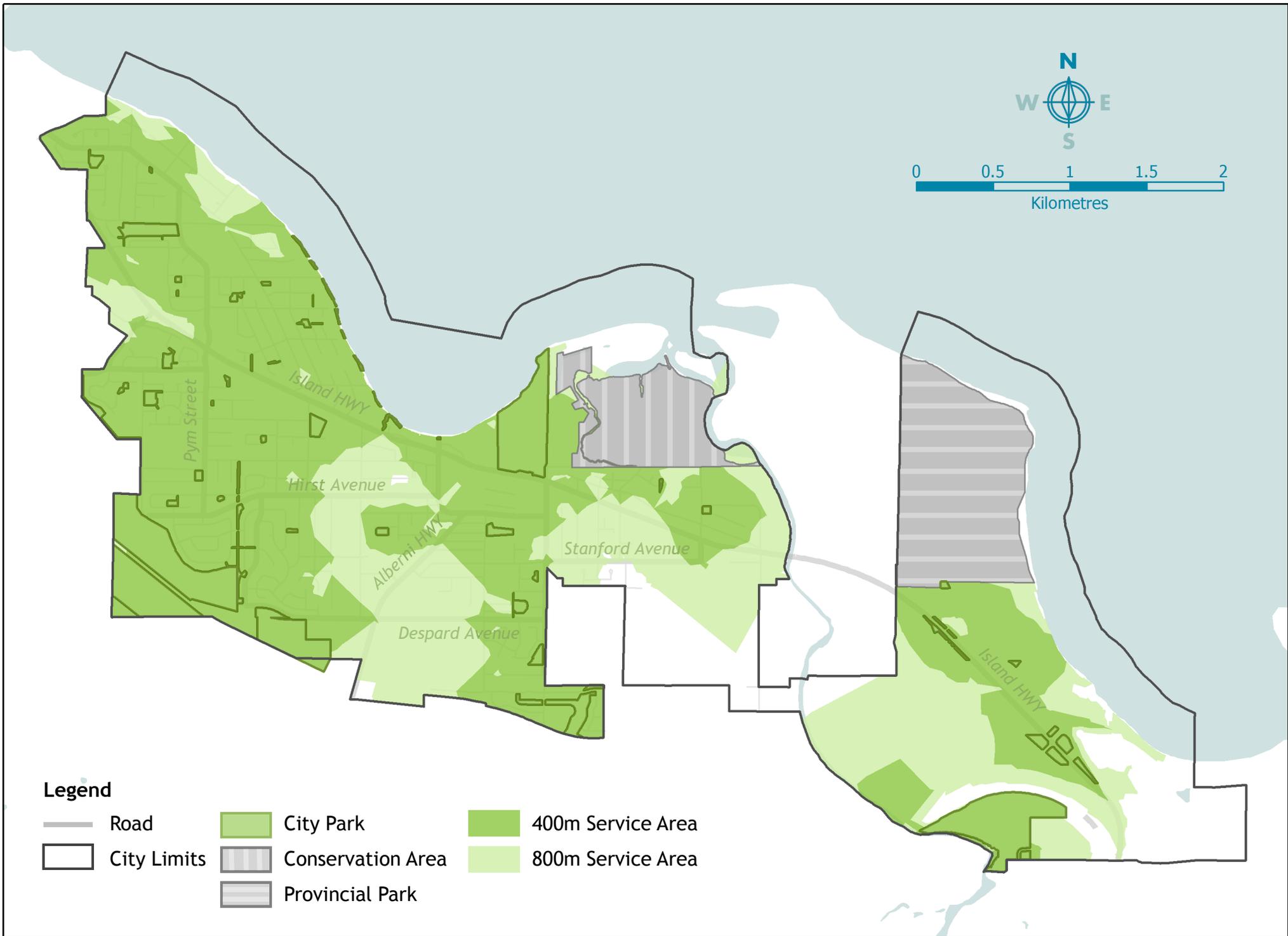
Map 1: Conservation Land and Protected Areas. Conservation Land includes: (1) Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area, and (2) Nature Trust's Englishman River Estuary. Protected Parks include: (3) Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park.



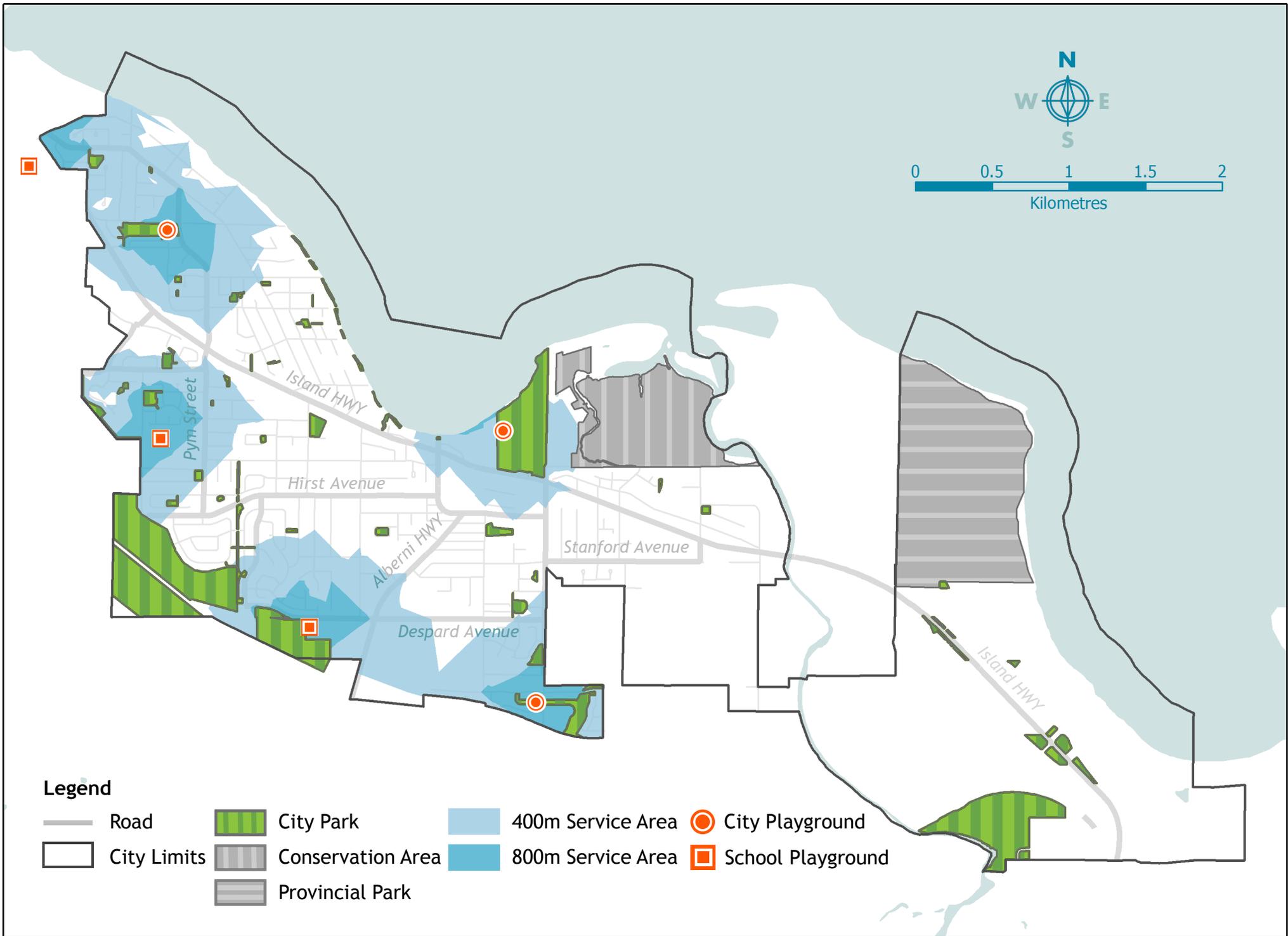
Map 2: Parksville parks organized by classification type.



Map 3: Parksville's trails organized by classification type.



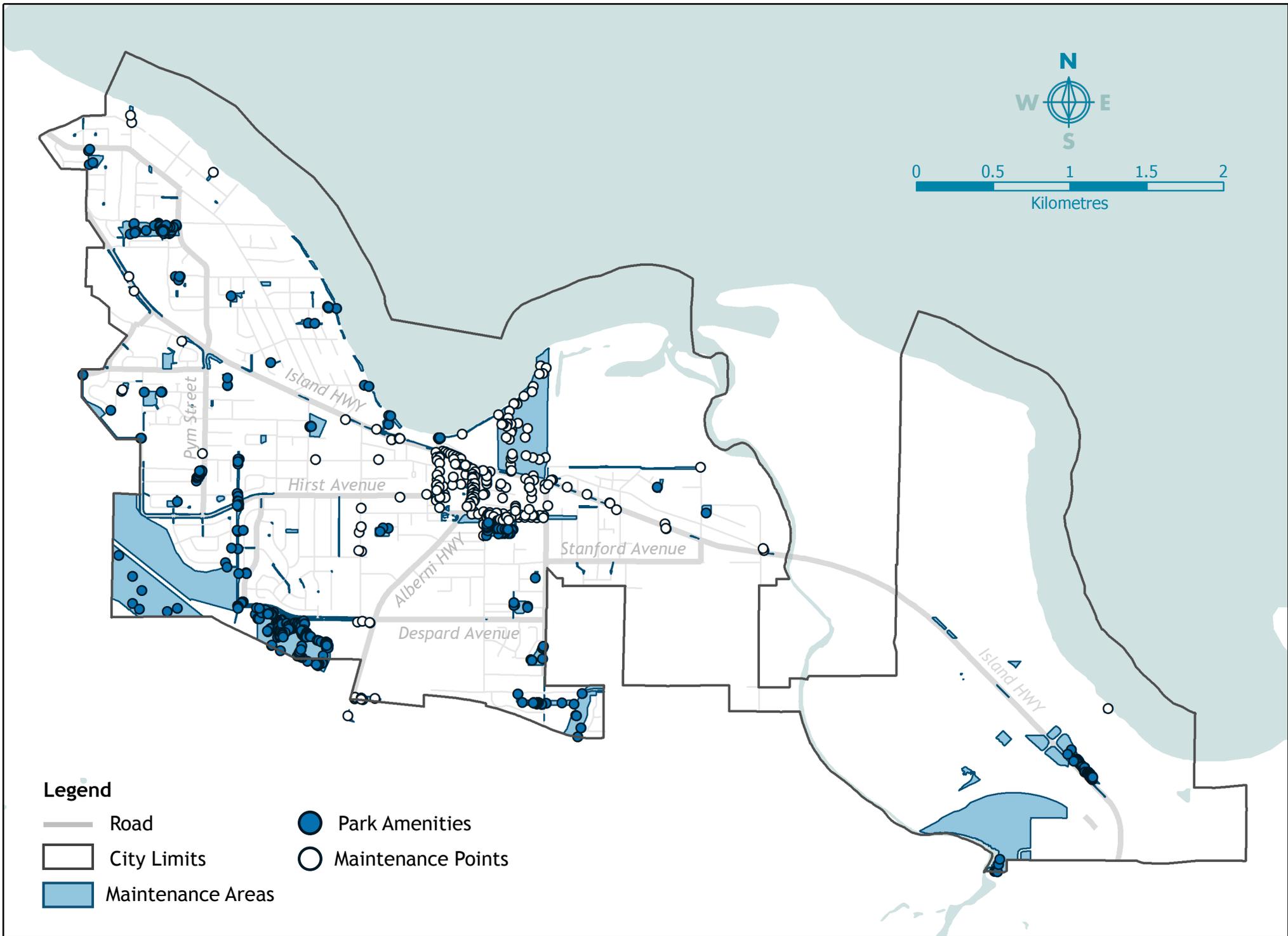
Map 4: Park's within 400m and 800m buffered service areas.



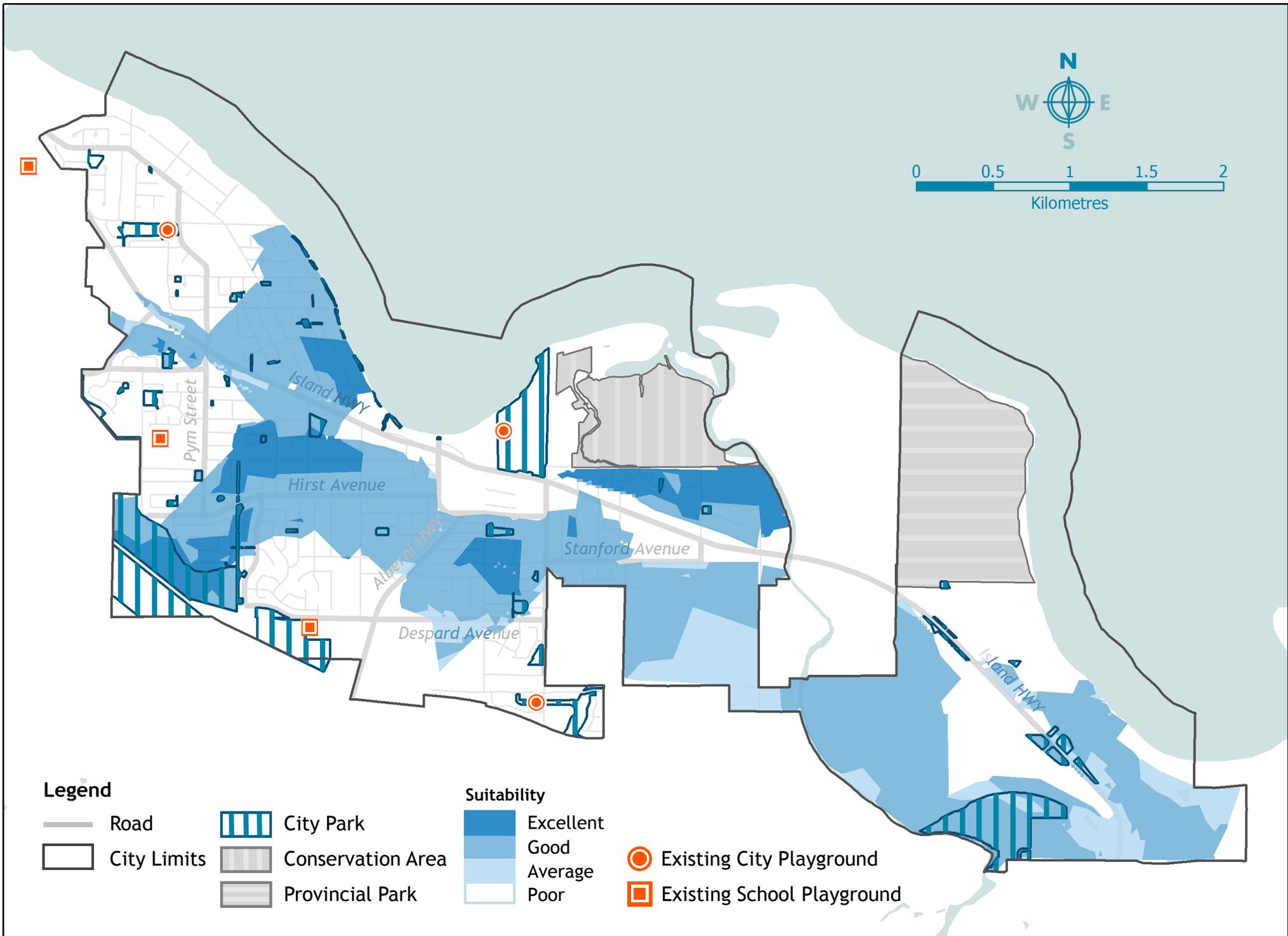
Map 5: Playground service areas with 400m and 800m walking buffers.



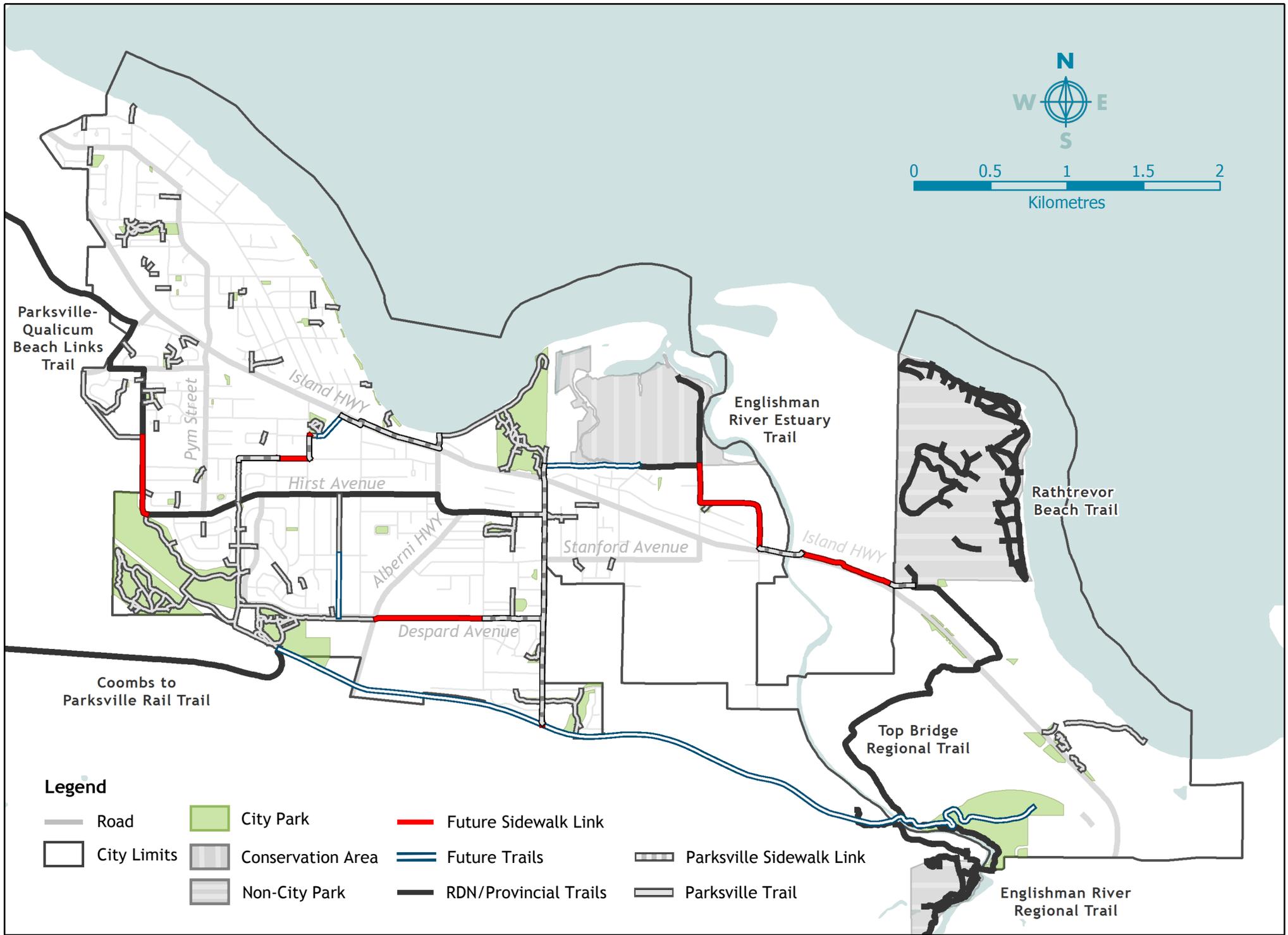
Map 6: Off-leash dog park service areas.



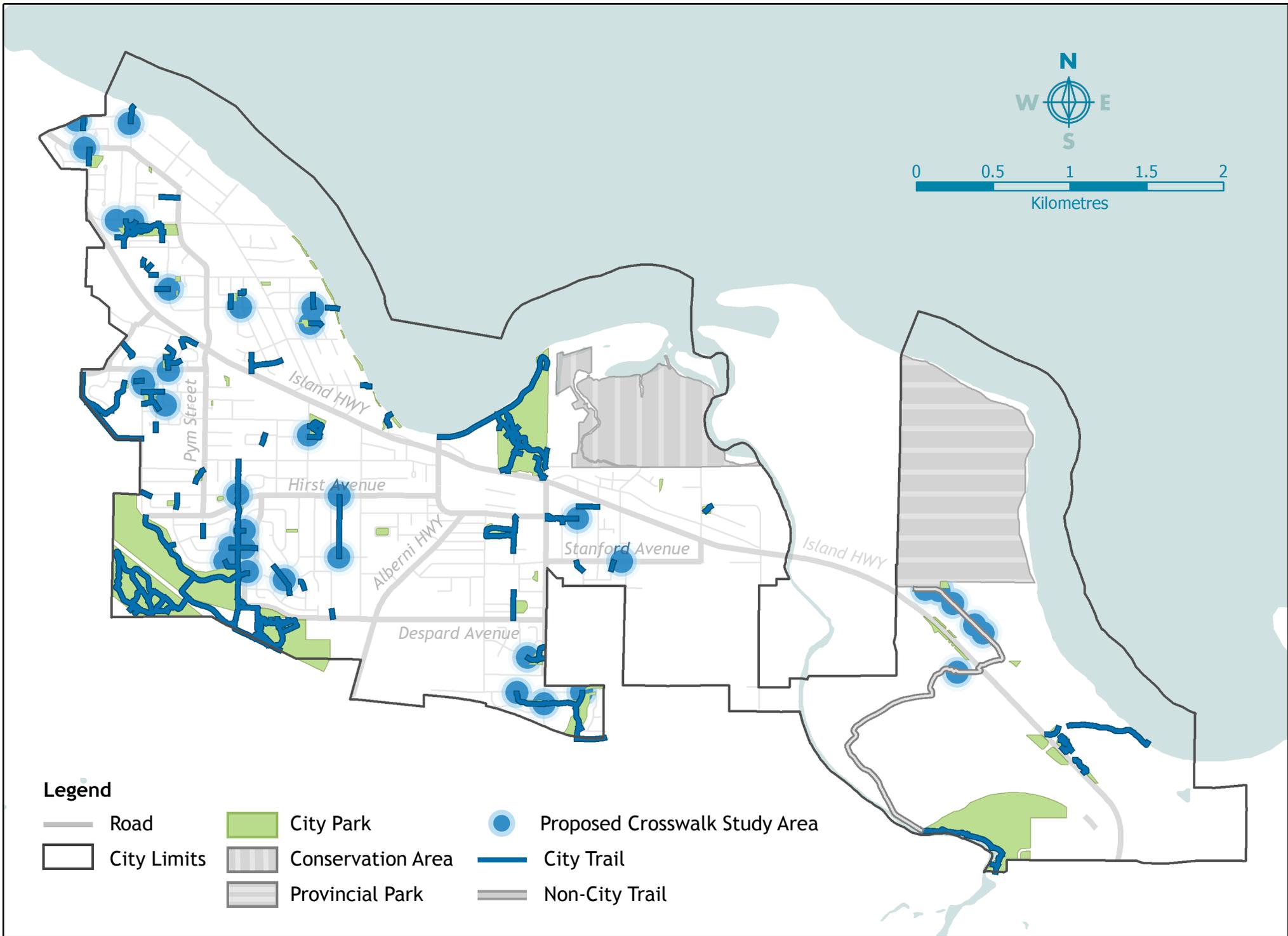
Map 7: Parks department amenities and maintenance areas. Note: Amenities includes amenities like picnic tables and garbage cans. Maintenance points includes planters and benches, etc. Maintenance areas include areas requiring mowing, weeding, etc.



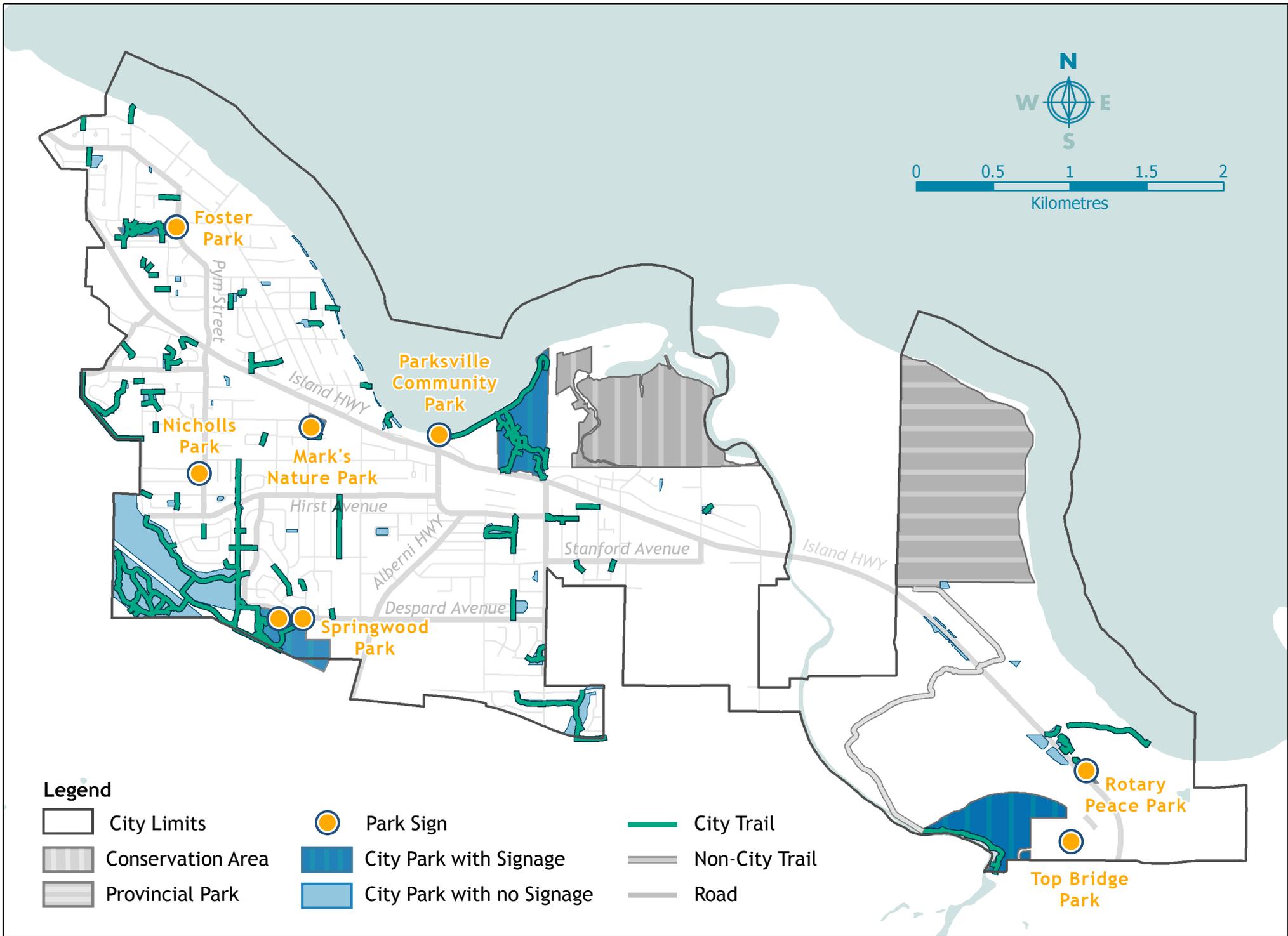
Map 8: Recommended playground areas.



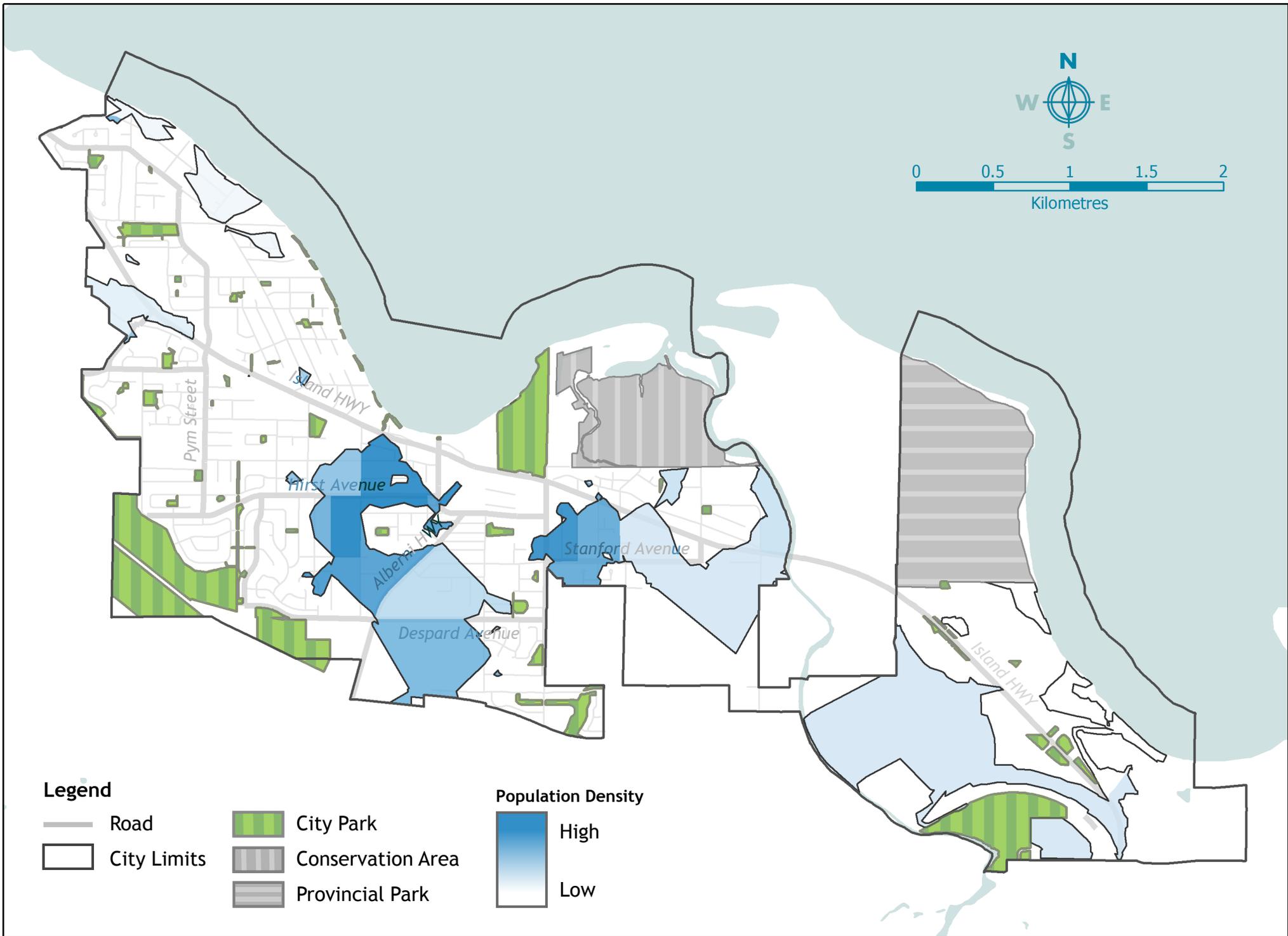
Map 9: Future connector trails.



Map 10: Proposed crosswalk study areas.



Map 11: Parks and trails lacking signage.



Map 12: High population density areas underserved by parks.