

Cowichan Valley ATV Club (CVATV)

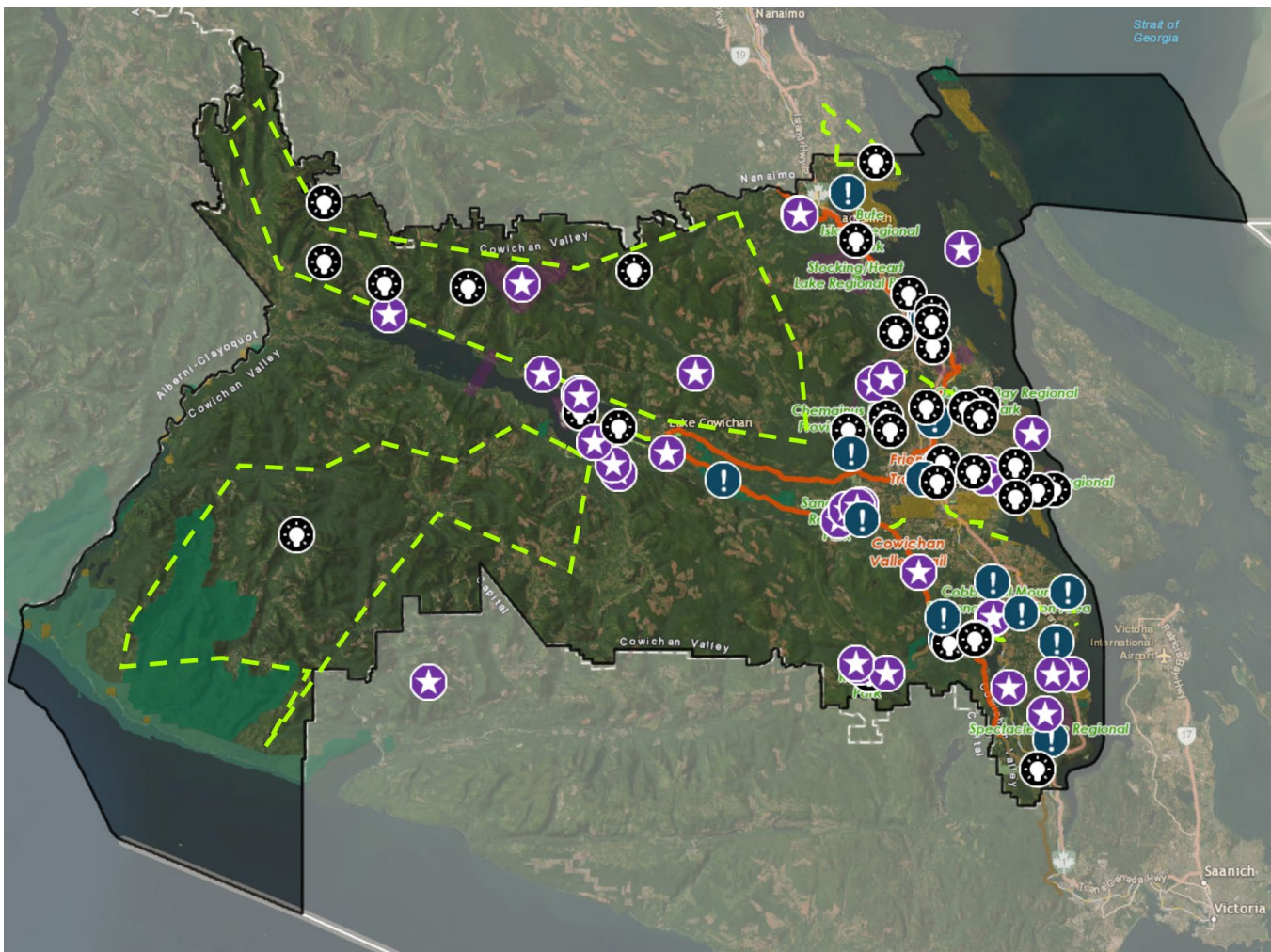
Dec 10, 2024

To: Cowichan Valley Regional District | 175 Ingram Street | Duncan, British Columbia V9L 1N8

Re: Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan 2024

The CVATV board of directors, on behalf of the Cowichan Valley ATV Association, respectfully submit our informed input and recommendations for consideration by the CVRD Board regarding the CVRD Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan engagement.

We encourage the CVRD to incorporate a park planning vision that includes strong consideration for Off-Road motorized recreational adventure and ATV tourism. As noted in the map below, the rural areas of the regional district are natural and prime locations that represent significant opportunities for the sport.



Who we are.

The Cowichan Valley ATV Association has been a registered Not-For-Profit association since 2002 and has a growing membership currently standing at 365 members. [CVATV](#) is an affiliate club of [ATV BC](#), which represents over 5000 members, and 37 affiliate clubs across British Columbia.

CVATV are dedicated advocates for respectful, safe, and sustainable All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) sport riding. Our mission is to promote ATV riding as a responsible, enjoyable, safe, and empowering recreational activity for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

We, as one of the 5 Vancouver Island ATV Clubs, are committed to advocating for structured and legal ATV access to private/restricted lands through engagement with stakeholders, private land holders and government.

Proudly, CVATV continues to partner with Mosaic Forestry Management to create a comprehensive Land Use Agreement, providing our members respectful back-country access to specific private timberlands throughout the CVRD and other areas of Vancouver Island.

We encourage the CVRD Board of Directors to get to know more about the local ATV sport:

Some interesting facts:

- All CVATV members are insured, skilled, responsible riders that practice TREAD Lightly Environmental principles
- Our members actively volunteer to 'Do Our Part' Land Stewardship, trail enhancement & trash removal
- Our club volunteers donate time and funding to local socially responsible organizations and prioritize resource protection
- CVATV members ages range from teens to riders over the age of 80 and includes family memberships.
- Through ATVBC we offer ATV and Side By Side rider safety training programs
- Eco-friendly EV technology has begun entering the ATV market

Why support off road motorized recreation?

ATV tourism is increasingly being recognized as an economic driver for communities across BC that once relied completely on the forestry industry. In the northern regions of Vancouver Island, some districts and municipalities have embraced ATV tourism by adapting planning and bylaws to remove restrictions and encourage ATV adventure tourism.

In a [2024 study performed by MNP LLP.](#), it was concluded that The Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) industry is a significant contributor to the overall Canadian economy, representing \$9B of our total GDP. While in British Columbia, OHV contributes \$2.5B in annual economic output, \$1.3B of GDP and employs over 12,000 full time workers.

The use of motorcycles and off-highway vehicles not only encourages British Columbians to enjoy the province's network of roads and trails, but to serve as a key form of transportation for daily use, generate critical tourism activity and contribute to British Columbia's overall economic output.

**Off-highway vehicles include motocross, dirt and adventure motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and side-by-sides. Source by MNP LLP.



*Representing annual economic contributions, per most available data (2022)



Here in the CVRD, last September (2024) The BC ATV Association held its annual [BCATV Jamboree](#) and Annual General Meeting at Laketown Ranch, Lake Cowichan. This highly successful 5-day event attracted over 210 riders from across BC. The volunteer run event in co-operation with Mosaic Land Management, MOTI, RCMP, and Manual Life Land Management created a fun filled, safe event of day, night and sunset ATV rides, with over 150 ATV's participating in an Ice Cream ride into Lake Cowichan. The BCATV Jamboree event was an exciting success, a financial lift to local businesses during the shoulder season, intentionally showcasing the back country beauty of our region. Visitors commented that they would definitely return for future events.

We look to the CVRD to join us in our commitment to advancing the ATV motorized sport tourism and capitalizing on the local economic opportunities by including this ATV vision in the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan and future economic development plans.

Kind Regards

Matt Cottier – President CVATV on behalf of the CVATV Board of Directors

CVATV President <cvatvpresident@gmail.com>