

DATE OF MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

AUTHORED BY JESSICA VANDERHOEF, STENO COORDINATOR

**SUBJECT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO “REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SERVICE REGIONAL PARKLAND ACQUISITION LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW NO. 1961, 2025”**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To obtain Council’s consent for the adoption of the Regional District of Nanaimo “Regional Parks and Trails Service Regional Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1961, 2025”.

### **Recommendation**

That the Council of the City of Nanaimo consents on behalf of the electors to the adoption of “Regional Parks and Trails Service Regional Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1961, 2025”, and further, that the Regional District of Nanaimo be notified accordingly.

## **BACKGROUND**

Staff received correspondence from the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) (Attachment ‘A’) advising that during a special board meeting held 2025-SEP-09, the “Regional Parks and Trails Service Regional Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1961, 2025” (Attachment ‘B’) was introduced and read three times. The bylaw proposes to authorise borrowing a sum not to exceed Twenty-One Million Two Hundred Thousand dollars (\$21,200,000), over a term of 20 years, for the purpose of acquiring land for a regional park (aka Hamilton Marsh conservation site).

As part of the approval process, the RDN requires the consent of at least 2/3 of local service participants. As a local service participant, the City of Nanaimo has been asked to consent to the adoption of the bylaw.

Further context regarding the RDN and Island Timberlands Conditional Purchase Agreement for Hamilton Marsh can be found in the RDN News Release dated 2025-SEP-02, included as Attachment ‘C’ to this report.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Council of the City of Nanaimo consents on behalf of the electors to the adoption of “Regional Parks and Trails Service Regional Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1961, 2025”, and further, that the Regional District of Nanaimo be notified accordingly.

- The advantage of this option is that consent would encourage strong partnership and strategic alliance between the RDN and the City of Nanaimo.
- The disadvantage of this option is that the RDN will rely on other local service partnerships for consent which could diminish the City's strong partnership with the RDN.
- Financial Implications: Any funds borrowed by the regional district are secured on its collective credit. In the event of default, all member municipalities and electoral areas within the district are jointly and severally liable for repayment. For residential taxpayers in the City, the estimated financial impact of the borrowing is approximately \$2.50 per \$100,000 of assessed property value, based on an interest rate of 4.8% (interest rate is subject to change at time of borrowing).

2. That Council provide alternate direction. |

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The RDN bylaw proposes to authorize borrowing for the purpose of acquiring land for a regional park.
- The RDN requires 2/3 consent of the local service participants.
- The City of Nanaimo encourages and strives to maintain a strong partnership with the RDN.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A – Correspondence from RDN 2025-SEP-12

ATTACHMENT B – "Regional Parks and Trails Service Regional Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1961, 2025

ATTACHMENT C – RDN News Release dated 2025-SEP-02 |

#### **Submitted by:**

Wendy Fulla  
Director, Finance

Darcie Osborne,  
Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture |

#### **Concurrence by:**

Laura Mercer,  
General Manager Corporate Services

Dale Lindsay,  
Chief Administrative Officer |