

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board  
From: David Urban, Manager of Outdoor Recreation Planning  
and Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks Operations

Date: 2018-12-19

File No: 6120-31-018

**Subject: 2018 Job Creation Partnership Program Summary for Experience the Fraser and Regional Parks**

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### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Regional Board of information pertaining to the successfully completed Job Creation Partnership Program. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

### PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism

Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation

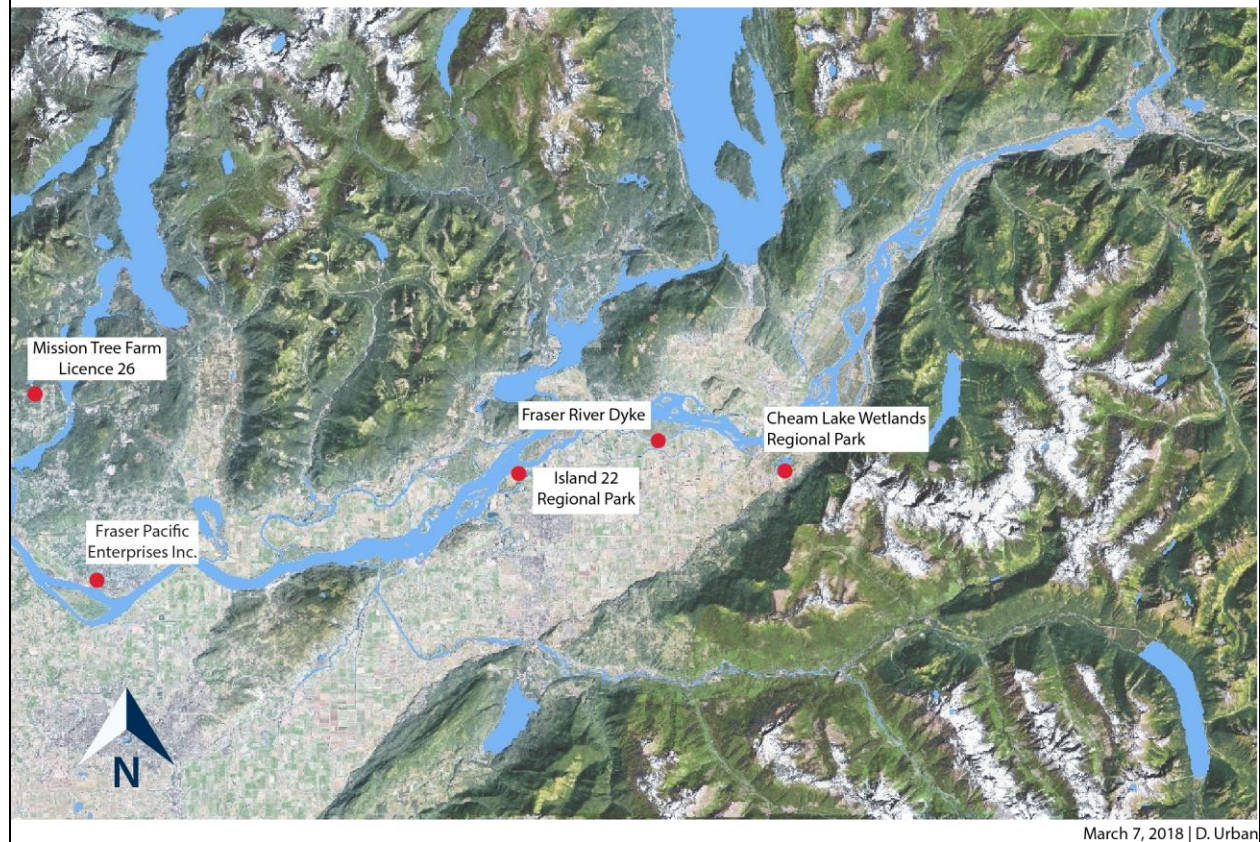
### BACKGROUND

In 2015 and 2016, Ecoworks Landscape Services Inc. (Ecoworks) in partnership with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) was successful in receiving grants for \$321,000 and \$335,000 through the Job Creation Partnership (JCP) program to build out Experience the Fraser (ETF) and Regional Park amenities. This year \$482,942.82 was received to continue this work. A key aspect of this program was to provide employment and job skills training for unemployed workers.

### DISCUSSION

News of another successfully JCP grant came in March. Ecoworks provided the work experience for five eligible participants to start in early April and end in October. Participants received work experience in trail construction, carpentry and landscaping as well as exposure to and safe handling of heavy equipment operation. This skill building was acquired through the expansion of the ETF Canyon to Coast Trail and amenities related to ETF in Fraser Valley, see map below.

## Job Creation Partnership: Experience the Fraser, Fraser Valley



### Map: Project Locations

This year's program was quite collaborative in nature. The Regional Parks Department, Island 22 Equestrian Park Society, and Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC all contributed funds to this program for capital improvements.

Earlier this month an overview presentation was given to the Regional & Corporate Services Committee which lead to the request that this information be shared with the FVRD Board, see attached presentation.

### **COST**

No costs.

### **CONCLUSION**

The FVRD in partnership with Ecoworks has now secured over \$1,100,000 in funding through the JCP program. From both a human, and infrastructure perspective, this program has been positive for both partners and again this year program was successful. As a result, the sentiment amongst the project

partners is there is interest in applying next year to continue to build out Experience the Fraser and associated amenities in our Regional Parks.

**COMMENTS BY:**

**Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

Reviewed and supported. As funding is provided via grant, the only direct cost to FVRD is in kind support of the program which are costs already included in the financial plan.

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported