

park builder

Richard Hankin b. 1939

In his first job as a regional planner Richard helped propose 40 new parks in the 1966 Lower Mainland Regional Parks Plan. He implemented this plan for the next 35 years, creating 25 new parks and greenways in the Greater Vancouver Regional District. His ingenuity and skillful negotiations helped build a world-class system of parks that enrich the Vancouver area with outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and interpretation programs. Balancing vision with pragmatism Richard established the Park Partnership Program to ensure citizen involvement in regional park decisions and opportunities for community action. Under his direction the role of regional parks shifted toward ecological site protection and greenways.



Career:

UBC - MA in Community Regional Planning
GVRD Parks - manager 1978 - 2003
The Land Conservancy - director 2004 - present
Pacific Parkland Foundation - director 2003 - present

Awards + Recognitions:

Public Servant Award - BC Society of Landscape Architects 2003
Bill Mitchell Award - Institute of Public Administration 2002
BC Nature - Community Service Award

Regional Parks:

Thwaytes Landing
Crippen
Capilano River
Lynn Headwaters
Pacific Spirit
Burnaby Lake
Colony Farm
Belcarra
Minnekhada
Widgeon Marsh
Grant Narrows
Codd Wetlands
Blaney Bog
Kanaka Creek
Matsqui Trail
Glen Valley
Brae Island
Derby Reach
Deas Island
Iona Island
Campbell Valley
Surrey Bend
Douglas Island

Greenways:

Brunette-Fraser
Pitt River

Above: Richard outside his home in 2008
(Photo: Ali Lake)

Background image: Belcarra Regional Park
(Photo: Metro Vancouver Parks)

Above: To designate parks in an area like Metropolitan Vancouver takes a convincing plan and strong leadership. Parks are nestled amongst other types of land-use areas, and face challenges special to a city milieu.
(Photo: Metro Vancouver Parks)