



STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 3, 2022 **FILE:** 0540-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **KW'AS PARK BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION – CORTES ISLAND**

PURPOSE

To consider an amendment to the 2022-2026 financial plan and capital expenditure program that would allow construction of the Kw'as bridge construction capital project to proceed in 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Serge Narrows Bridge is one of two footbridges located in the popular Kw'as Park on Cortes Island. The bridge is nearing the end of its useful life and was identified as a safety hazard in a 2016 Risk Control Survey completed by the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC). Funding in the amount of \$67,136 to replace this bridge was approved within the 2022-2026 Financial Plan with Community Works (gas tax) funding allocated in 2023. The Serge Narrows Bridge is considered a necessary pedestrian connection for the community to ensure continued access throughout the park and to adjacent trail networks.

During the development of the Financial Plan, it was agreed that this project should proceed in 2022. However, due to an oversight this amendment was not reflected when the Financial Plan was adopted. Given that project planning is now complete and a construction tender has been prepared, it is recommended that the Financial Plan be amended to allow this project to proceed this year. Therefore, a Financial Plan amendment is requested to authorize use of \$67,136 of gas tax funding in 2022 for this project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Committee recommend that the 2022-2026 Financial Plan and Capital Expenditure Program be amended to allocate \$67,136 of gas tax funding for the Kw'as Park Bridge construction project to proceed in 2022.

Respectfully:



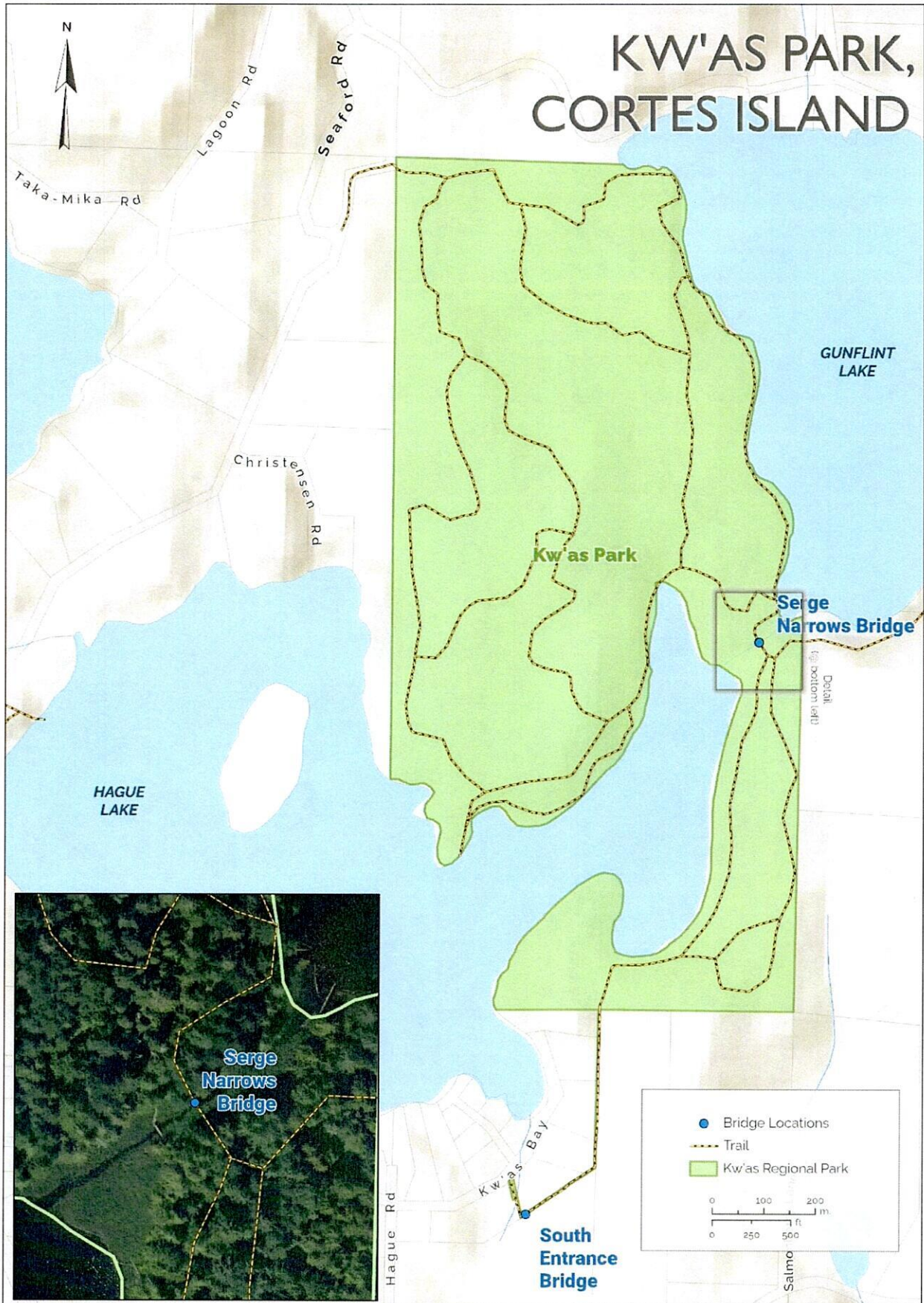
David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

Order in Council No. 2170, approved by the Province of British Columbia on October 28, 1987, expanded the Regional District’s supplementary letters patent to include the authority for the Regional District to acquire, develop, operate and maintain community parks. Under the authority granted by the letters patent, the Regional District subsequently adopted bylaws which established local service areas for community parks and established capital, future expenditure and parkland acquisition reserve funds. More specifically, Bylaw No. 2096, being the “Electoral Area “I” Community Parks Local Service Area Conversion Bylaw, 1998” established the local community parks service within Electoral Area ‘B’ (Cortes).

Kw’as Park is a 90-hectare park located on Cortes Island (Electoral Area B), where residents and visitors enjoy a selection of marine, lake and forest parks and trails, and to access recreational opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, swimming and kayaking. Kw’as park is situated next to Hague Lake and Gunflint Lake and provides a trail network that passes through a variety of ecosystems including old growth forests, open rock bluffs and wetlands. There are over 12 km of trails within Kw’as Park, as well as linkages to other trail networks outside the park boundaries. These popular hiking trails are a key component to the active transportation opportunities on Cortes Island, provide recreational opportunities, and provide an opportunity to view evidence of early settlement in the area, including a steam donkey and old skid roads used in the 1920s.

***Prepared by: M. Starkey, Manager of Planning and Parks, and
J. Blanchard, Parks & Facilities Technician***



Site Map: Serge Narrows Bridge, Kw’as Park