

Thetis Lake Regional Park

Pistol Range Remediation Project

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The Capital Regional District's Parks and Environmental Services Department is remediating a former firing range known as the pistol range at Thetis Lake Regional Park. Our goal is to clean up the site and retain it as parkland.

Site Remediation

Site remediation is now underway at the site. It will ensure there are no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment associated with historic uses of this site.

The CRD has hired SNC-Lavalin through a competitive process to coordinate the remediation phase of the project. The project began in August 2013, but due to unseasonably intense and early rain storms, the project was put on hold and is now expected to be completed during August and September 2014.

The work to complete the site remediation involves excavating shallow surface soils, dismantling the soil berms and removing contaminated soil from the site. Shallow soil contamination was found in the top layer of soil and in the berms.

The activities for this phase include:

- excavating and on-site stockpiling of contaminated soil;
- sampling soil to confirm the level of contamination prior to disposal;

- removing contaminated soils to approved soil receiving facilities; and
- developing a risk assessment which will aid in determining future park use for the site.

Work on site is primarily excavation and stockpiling soil. Dust generated from the excavation work will be suppressed with water. Off site removal of soil will happen mid to late September. Most of the soil removal will be concentrated to a few days at the end of September.

No site restoration activities will take place during this time, but soil erosion control measures will be left in place at the end of the remediation phase.

CAUTION

The former pistol range is an active work site and a contaminated site; only authorized personnel are permitted. Please use caution around trucks and heavy equipment travelling through the area.

Site Restoration

The next phase of the project involves site restoration. The former pistol range land will be retained as regional park and the final park use will be determined by the CRD Board.

Remediation Costs

Since 2003, CRD has set aside funds, now totalling \$712,610, for the remediation. CRD also received a provincial grant of \$74,720 for the project.

Visit crd.bc.ca/parks for updates.

History of the Site

For over 100 years, various police forces, security companies and gun clubs used this area as a firing range. Ownership and management of the site were transferred to the CRD in 1994 as part of Thetis Lake Regional Park. All pistol and gun club activities ceased in 1999. The area contaminated by the activities of the pistol range is 0.75 hectares.

The area has since been identified as a contaminated site under provincial legislation and requires remediation due to contamination by metals from bullets and casings.

