



SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST ("SCCF")

HIDDEN GROVE POLICY

The Sechelt Heritage Hidden Groves area is part of the Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF) tenure area and is located within the District of Sechelt legal boundary. It is also registered under a Recreation Sites and Trails BC Partnership agreement dated February 24, 2014. The Agreement Holder is recognized as the Sechelt Groves Society. Because of the high recreational values of the Groves area, the SCCF commits to participate in the management of the area with the members of the Partnership Agreement for the life of the Community Forest tenure. This management will include working with the local community and the members of the Partnership Agreement to:

- Improve public access to the area
- Provide educational opportunities on all aspects of the forest
- Develop adjacent areas as a demonstration forest

SCCF shall recognize and comply with the requirements and goals set out in the Partnership Agreement undertakings including the following declaration:

The Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Site shall:

1. Be an area fully protected with prohibitions against all logging or harvesting activities with the exception of:
 - a) The removal of hazard trees for the safety of visitors and workers;
 - b) Non-commercial picking of mushrooms, berries or ground plants where such picking is only done in such a manner as to not disturb the appearance or viability of the area where the picking is done;
 - c) The removal of limited specimens of native plants for botanical research or propagation purposes by those parties publically qualified for such;
 - d) The removal of invasive plants.
2. Be restricted beyond the designated parking areas to walking only with the exception of mobility assistance wheeled transport (wheelchairs, both manual and motorized, infant carts and similar), and required maintenance equipment utilized by the Agreement Holder or their designee.
3. Protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas, providing educational opportunities to understand their values, while balancing the accommodation of public access.

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4. Provide a trail system that will be a desirable attraction for locals and tourists, in terms of location, character, quality and support infrastructure with particular attention to designing and layout of trails to provide as much as possible an experience of seclusion and privacy - the better to enjoy the natural surroundings.

The full Recreation Sites and Trails BC Partnership agreement can be viewed at www.sccf.ca/publications/policies.

END OF POLICY

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