

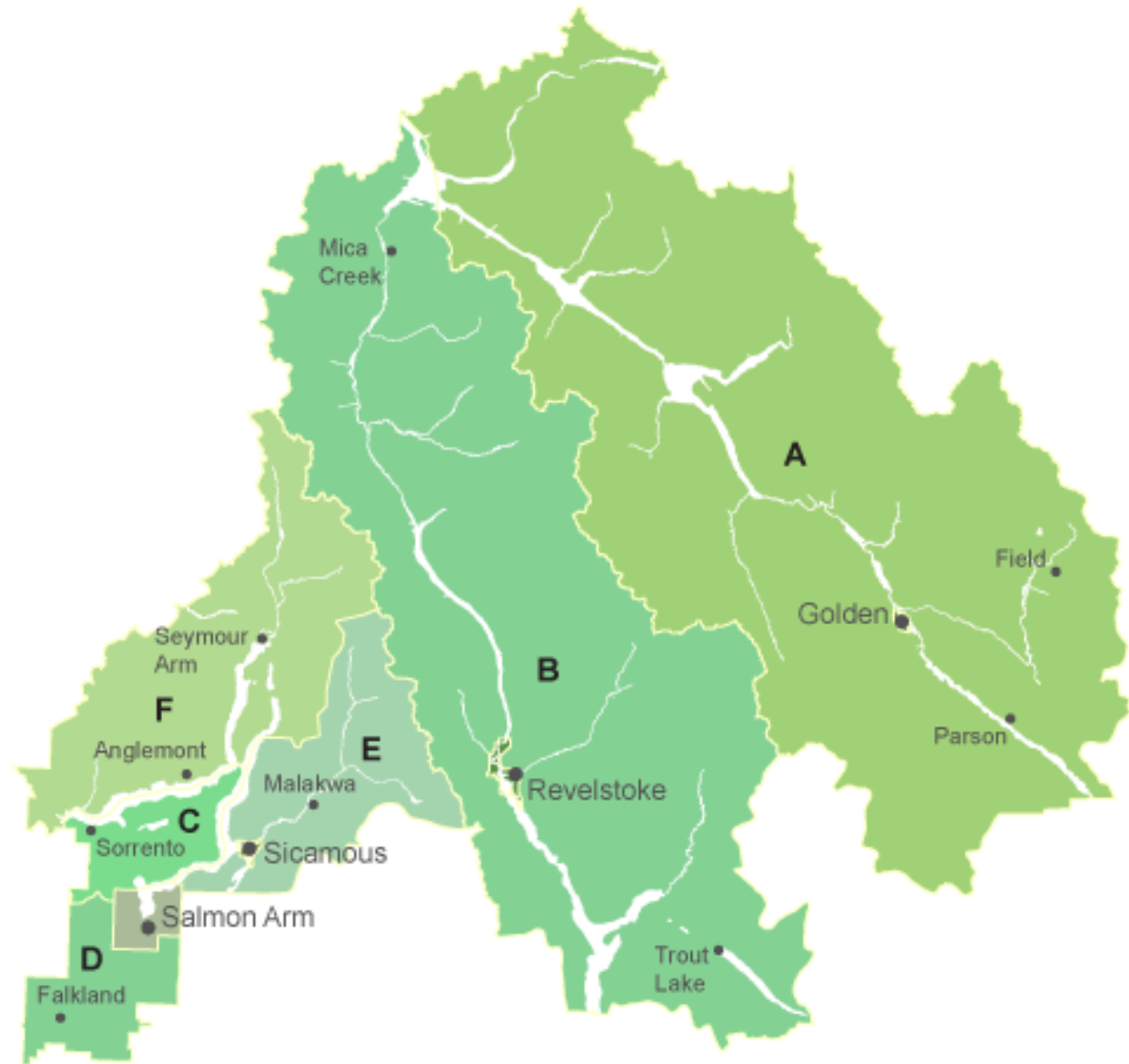


# Management Challenges in Rural Parks

By: Jared Taylor and Kristina Flackman

# Columbia Shuswap Regional District

- The Regional District covers an area of 2,979,744 hectares
- In this area we manage 53 parks
- There are 722kms of mapped trails
- Driving distances from CSRD office in Salmon Arm can range from 15 min – 4 hours



# Low Maintenance is Key

- When CSR are planning and designing a new park, we must consider the constraints/abilities in that area:
  - Contractor Constraints
  - Water Constraints
  - Light Constraints
- Good planning goes a long way, in the long run!

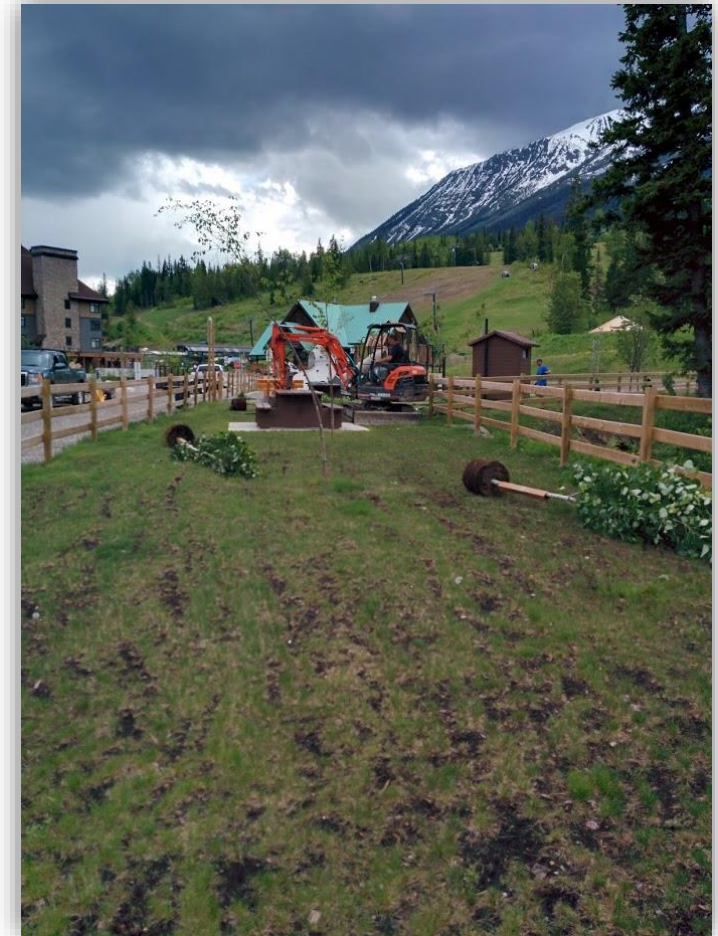


# Managing Contractors

The CSRD doesn't always have consistency with our contractors, and they often have differing levels of knowledge when it comes to proper planting/maintenance practices



- Excavator Operators to Landscaping Contractors
- Our job has been to supervise and educate
- Large travel distances can make supervision a challenge
- Direct correlation to tree survival



# The Irrigation Challenge

In most cases we don't have irrigated parks, so we use different methods for watering newly planted trees:

- Gator Bags
- Partnering with local volunteer fire departments
- Partnering with the neighbors
- Strategic timing of planting



# Construction Protection

- In many new builds we are dealing with mature trees that we try to work around, and construction protection is paramount
- Due to the proximity to the forest edge, in some cases there is damage to the root zone
- Our partnerships are not always beneficial



# Pest Management



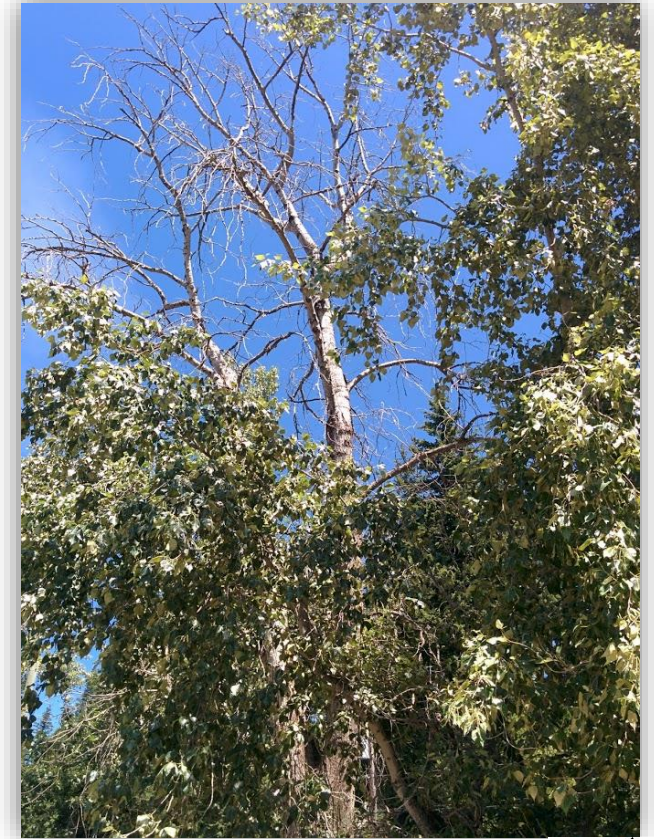
Ensuring we are able to manage our trees during a pest outbreak in the surrounding native trees has posed a problem



We end up with the same issues as a municipality in some of our more populated areas

# Managing Wild Spaces Within Parks

- Budget vs. Reality
- Risk vs. Reward





# Bureaucratic Log Jams

- Many parks are within the jurisdiction of multiple authorities, making it difficult to complete even the smallest tasks.
  - Partnership Agreements
  - Ministry of Transportation
  - Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resources
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans



# Conclusion

Overall we get to operate some of the most beautiful parks in BC

- Challenges:
  - Large distances and finding consistent contractors
  - Managing the wild spaces can be difficult
  - Many different types of ownership can complicate general maintenance
- Solutions:
  - Education and supervision is key
  - Low maintenance a main focal point in construction and design
  - Assure all permits and approvals are acquired prior to the start of work

