

Overview to Howe Sound Community Forum

April 29, 2022

1. Context
2. What, Where, Why?
3. Questions



Context: Geopark Society

Since 2018 the geopark has been an RMOW project.

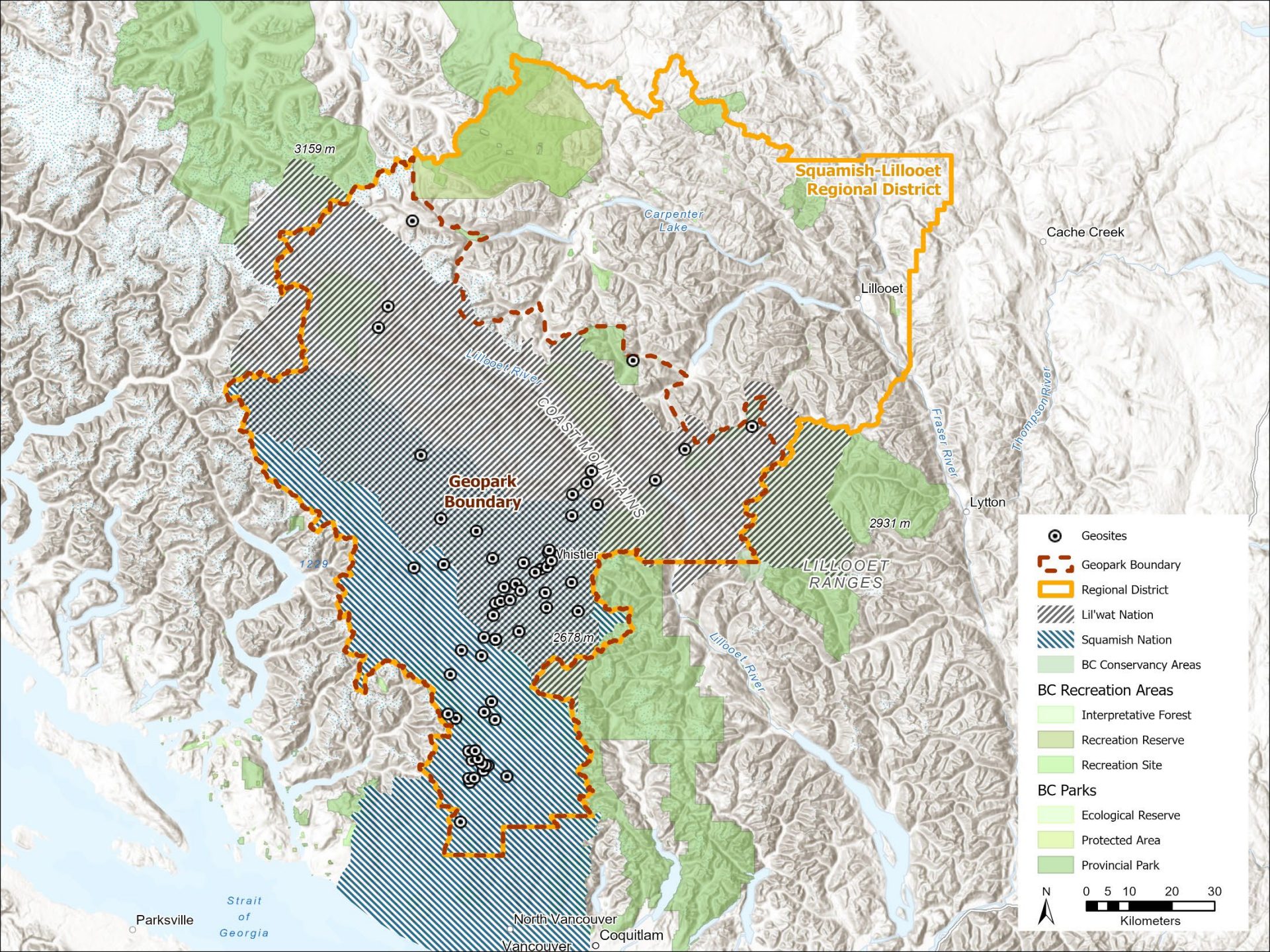
- Determined the feasibility of achieving UNESCO designation
- Explored operating models
- Developed working relationships with:
 - ✓ *The Canadian Geopark Network*
 - ✓ *Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region*

In order to receive UNESCO designation a Geopark must be a free-standing not-for-profit society.

- In February 2022 the **Sea to Sky Fire & Ice Geopark Society** became a registered BC Society.
- The Society currently includes five individuals.

What is the Geopark?

- **Thematic umbrella**
 - ✓ 9,792 km²
 - ✓ 61 geosites of international geological significance
 - ✓ Does NOT affect land use or rights & title
- Celebrates the links between geodiversity, biodiversity and human heritage.
- Will contribute to the sustainability and social well-being of communities throughout the Sea to Sky.



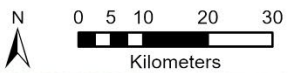
**Squamish-Lillooet
Regional District**

**Geopark
Boundary**

COAST MOUNTAINS

LILLOOET
RANGES

- Geosites
- Geopark Boundary
- Regional District
- Lil'wat Nation
- Squamish Nation
- BC Conservancy Areas
- BC Recreation Areas**
 - Interpretative Forest
 - Recreation Reserve
 - Recreation Site
- BC Parks**
 - Ecological Reserve
 - Protected Area
 - Provincial Park



Parksville

Strait
of
Georgia

North Vancouver
Vancouver
Coquitlam

Cache Creek

Lillooet

Lytton

3159 m

2931 m

2678 m

Whistler

Carpenter
Lake

Lillooet River

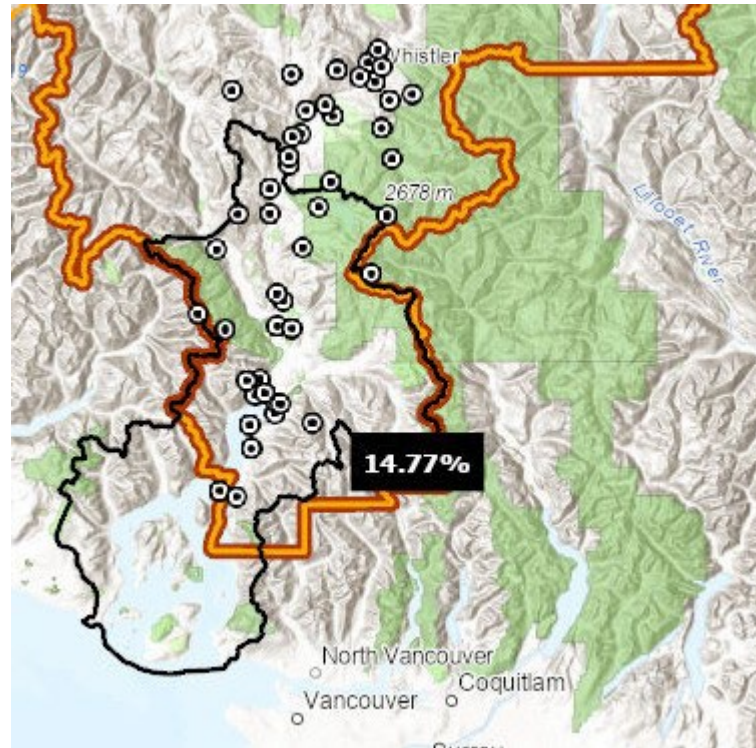
Lillooet River

Lillooet River

Fraser River

Thompson River

Overlap with Howe Sound Biosphere Region



Why a Geopark?

- 1. Regional solutions** need a compelling initiative that brings everyone together.
 - ✓ Think: *Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region*
 - ✓ Biosphere Regions are one of 3 UNESCO designations along with:
 - UNESCO World Heritage Sites
 - UNESCO Global Geoparks
- 2. Reconciliation**
 - ✓ Lead learn about and **lead with** Indigenous culture and history.
- 3. Geoheritage education**
 - ✓ Nurtures an understanding that instills a **sense of pride**.
- 4. Greater stewardship of natural assets**
 - ✓ UNESCO designation heightens interest in natural values.
- 5. Climate change and geohazards education**
 - ✓ Heightened awareness of geological hazards within the geopark.



Download the **FIRE&ICEGEOPARK** free app

