

DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

Five-Year Strategic Goals for 2020 – 2025

Based on the purposes of the society, the elected DCA Board chose the following seven objectives to support the realization of the Conservancy’s vision and mission statements from 2020-2025. Each objective includes a number of goals to be achieved in the next 5 years, with specific details and action items, as applicable.

Objective 1 - To preserve and protect the natural environment of the Denman Island area:

Goal	Details / Action Items
1.1 Acquire or secure private and Crown lands for conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a list of priority lands for securement based on highest conservation value using conservation science and spatial conservation planning tools. • Create a strategy for private landowners to contribute to DCA priority conservation areas. • Evaluate potential for securement of covenants on previous land steward properties. • Complete transfer of property acquisition currently in progress.
1.2 Monitor and steward lands under DCA responsibility to ensure their ongoing ecological integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete management plans/reviews for Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve, Inner Island Nature Reserve, Valens Brook, Railway Grade Marsh. • Establish property committee for each property owned or managed by DCA. • Meet ongoing commitments for monitoring and stewardship as described in covenants and existing management plans. • Evaluate pet (specifically unleashed dog) impacts on protected areas and ecosystem and initiate education program.
1.3 Establish and maintain a network of public walking trails on DCA managed land and Crown land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential sites for development of easier walking paths.
1.4 Work with relevant organizations and agencies (eg, CVRD, ITC) to ensure ongoing optimal quality and quantity of water on conservation lands.	

Objective 2 - To conduct and support research on issues related to conservation of the natural environment:

Goal	Details / Action Items
2.1 Conduct research on Denman Island that addresses natural ecosystems and their fauna and flora of local significance as well as those of regional and national significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research projects currently ongoing on Settlement Lands and Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve, Bat Program, Settlement Lands water monitoring.
2.2 Support conservation-related research activities on Denman led by other organizations.	
2.3 Work with ITC to hold a workshop on climate change impacts on protected areas to assist us in building adaptations to climate change for our managed lands.	

Objective 3 - To facilitate community education, participation and partnership in conservation activities:

Goal	Details / Action Items
<p>3.1 Continue DCA's public education program (Walks and Talks) and include presentations from experts on natural history topics of interest to Denman Islanders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage local natural history experts to lead walks, such as Botany and Bird groups of Comox Valley Nature. • Include nature education element at our outreach tables at summer market and other events.
<p>3.3 Establish an outreach and invitation process to engage the community and to increase participation in DCA related events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish phone trees and email outreach to contact members about upcoming events. • Hold workshops to address specific topics of interest to community members, such as invasive species, planting native species, attracting wildlife etc. • Hold a 30th birthday celebration for DCA.
<p>3.4 Identify and implement ways to engage youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate capacity for and ways to fund a youth worker position. • Continue collaboration with DICES and community school on nature programming for youth.
<p>3.5 Engage local natural history experts to help develop community ecological knowledge.</p>	
<p>3.6 Investigate options for DCA to engage in social media and other new communication options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter account
<p>3.7 Seek opportunities for engagement with First Nations and indigenous peoples for protected areas conservation.</p>	

Objective 4 – Respond to changing environmental conditions, including climate change:

Goal	Details / Action Items
<p>4.1 Accept and act on the reality of the climate emergency that threatens all we have worked for by confirming principles for managing conservation lands and developing and implementing strategies for outreach, education and advocacy.</p>	
<p>4.2 DCA-facilitated Denman island tree planting project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the potential for tree planting on Denman Island within the framework of restoration targets and as a way of responding to the climate emergency. • Investigate funding sources (eg. Liberal election platform promise re Climate Emergency, planting of 2 billion trees over the next 10 years). • Identify which DCA owned/managed properties would be candidates for reforestation and identify tree species appropriate for each site. • Identify best practices for protecting trees & protocol for their care in first years after planting, monitoring, record keeping. • Phase 2 – Possibly expand project to private and Crown lands and engage wider community and possibly other communities.
<p>4.3 Investigate ways to maintain and possibly increase water on our lands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult hydrologist. • Possible facilitative role in Windy Marsh Project.
<p>4.4 Consider ways to decrease DCA’s carbon footprint.</p>	
<p>4.5 During this UN Decade of Restoration, work with ITC to review all DCA-managed lands to evaluate the potential benefit of active restoration activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a scoring system to rank each DCA-managed property based on level of degradation (invasive species, prior logging/ land use, roads) and regrowth etc. to determine the level of restoration needed.

Objective 5 – Maintain and build the financial capacity of DCA:

Goal	Details / Action Items
5.1 Establish a plan and policies to secure funding in perpetuity for the management/stewardship of all DCA owned properties and associated administration obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver Foundation funds constitute endowment fund; with ongoing annual contribution.
5.2 Ensure DCA secures sufficient funding to carry out our mandate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a list of possible funding opportunities each year; assess if we have the staff and volunteers to carry out and if they address our objectives. • Develop a 5-year financial plan to support the current five-year strategic plan. • Investigate new fundraising initiatives.
5.3 Complete and implement the DCA bequest program.	
5.4 Acquire lands/property/assets for the purpose of raising funds.	

Objective 6 - Maintain and build the human capacity of DCA:

Goal	Details / Action Items
6.1 Increase (sustain) volunteer participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish phone trees and email outreach to contact members about upcoming volunteer opportunities. • Implement a rewards/appreciation program for volunteers.
6.2 Increase (sustain) membership and member engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out introduction/welcome letter to new members.
6.3 Be aware of how DCA is perceived by the public and take action to develop and maintain positive public perception.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an annual report for the Denman Island community and publish on DCA's website. • Hold 2-3 open meetings each year highlighted for public participation in addition to the monthly board meetings. • Establish DCA walking/running group (regular walks on DCA-managed and adjacent Crown lands).
6.4 Maintain the health of the board, so that board members have a rewarding and satisfying experience serving on the board, and ensure there are new potential candidates for serving on the board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a round table check-in at board meetings. • Develop an information package for new board members. • Develop a "DCA highlights" sheet to refer to during public facing activities.
6.5 Communicate and cooperate with the other conservancy organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain link with LTABC. • Engage in cooperative projects (eg bat project with Hornby, Bird-a-thon challenge, native plant gardening). • Develop personal connections with other conservancies in our region.

Objective 7 – Meet administrative obligations:

Goal	Details / Action Items
7.1 Establish and maintain records storage and management systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and maintain a database that catalogues monitoring and mapping data and all associated protocols and metadata (documents to support land management).• Establish and maintain a common electronic (cloud-based) records storage system.• Assess existing paper documents and identify those to be converted into electronic format.
7.2 Develop a system for ensuring ongoing availability of living knowledge/ oral history/organizational expertise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply for funding for this purpose.
7.3 Respond to the requirements to meet standards and practices for accreditation of land trust organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form partnership with LTABC.