Community Parks and Trails Strategy
Electoral Area G

ENGAGEMENT #1 SUMMARY:
Survey and Open House

Introduction
Public engagement is integral to the development of the Community Parks and Trails Strategy (CPTS). Overall, the process consists of an Advisory Committee of community representatives, two public Open Houses with corresponding online surveys. The following provides a summary of the first Open House and survey.

Executive Summary
There is support for improved Water Access in Dashwood, SanPareil and French Creek. Providing access close to Dashwood Community Park is particularly challenging but there are options off Kinkade road.

Residents are satisfied with the amount of Community Park land so there is no support for additional Neighbourhood Park land at this point in time.

There is a strong desire for the expansion of trail systems from Dashwood to Qualicum Beach; improved access to Crown trails; & construction of a Community trail system in the Rivers Edge community.

Overview of Input Received
Both the Survey and Open House addressed similar content. Input was sought on: existing and potential parks and trails use and improvements, activities, safety, and key words representing the long-term vision.

Twenty one (21) people attended the first Open House, held on March 11th from 5:30 – 7:30pm at Oceanside Place.

Nineteen (19) people completed the online survey, which was available from March 8 to April 2, 2013 on the RDN website. It was also available in hard copy at the Workshop. The majority of respondents were from Dashwood (63%) followed by French Creek (19%) and San Pareil (13%). This results in a skewing of the data in favor of the Dashwood community. Two respondents live outside of the Electoral Area, one respondent in each of Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

With regards to respondents’ household age groups more than half are over 50 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 19 years</td>
<td>8 (17%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 50</td>
<td>12 (26%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 50</td>
<td>26 (56%)</td>
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Existing Parks Use:
The most used parks are highlighted in the table below. Other community parks used that are not listed in the table include Hawthorne Rise and Little Qualicum River Estuary.

With regards to why people are using the parks, trail use easily ranks the highest. The Center road park facilities are popular with some of the respondents.

Existing Community and Regional Trail Use
Top Bridge regional trail is the most frequently used trail for respondents followed by other regional trail segments listed in the table below. Other trails mentioned include Qualicum Beach and the trails near the Little Qualicum River.
**Potential Parks and Water Access Use**

There is a high level of interest in the proposed Water Accesses #1 to #4 in the San Pareil area and #5 and #6 Southeast of French Creek harbour. There was no expressed support for a potential park site near Neden Way Community Park. Another desired Water Access that was mentioned in the survey and at the Open House was off Wallace Way.

![Bar chart showing potential parks and water accesses](chart1.jpg)

**Potential Trails**

There is a high level of interest in the E & N regional trail proposal. Respondents from Dashwood expressed a strong desire for other trail connections to the town of Qualicum Beach including a separated trail along Highway 19a. A trail extension along the Ganske road Right of Way was well supported but one respondent was concerned about disruption from increased parking and traffic.

![Bar chart showing potential trails](chart2.jpg)

**Park Activities**

Respondents recognize parks as an opportunity for walking and wildlife viewing. Responses also recognize the importance of parks as social venues for activities such as picnicking and social gathering.

![Bar chart showing desired park activities](chart3.jpg)
Why use parks and trails
Trails are mainly used for nature appreciation and exercise/stress release. Two thirds of the respondents use trails for walking their dog.

Park Improvements
The most common request for park improvements overall is signage and trails. There are many suggestions for improvements to the Center road Community Park including playground, benches/picnic tables, grass area and possibly adding fitness stations. Some respondents also requested upgrades to the Little Qualicum River Hall.

Satisfaction Levels
A majority of respondents are reasonably satisfied with the provision of Community Parks but are not entirely satisfied with the existing facilities. Most respondents were reasonably satisfied with Water Accesses however there was an expressed need in the Dashwood area at the Open House and in the survey. Most respondents would like to see access to public trails improved.
Safety
Most respondents (over 95%) feel safe using parks and trails however 25% of respondents expressed concern with using road shoulders, especially on Highway 19a.

Vision:
The Figure below demonstrates the most popular words to consider when developing the vision for the CPTS as indicated through the online survey. Emphasis is on trails/linkage, natural and convenient. There is also some recognition of parks as social/active venues in the community.