Community Parks and Trails Strategy
Electoral Area E

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY #2:
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 and two public Open Houses with corresponding online surveys. The following provides a summary of the second Open House and survey.

Executive Summary
The summary is based on the survey results, input received at the Open Houses, staff insight and discussion with the Advisory Committee and the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee in Electoral Area E (POSAC).

The following Vision statement was developed after incorporating suggestions from the public process:

“A vibrant community where residents can easily access community parks, natural areas and beaches through a system of inter-connected trails that provides for recreation, social interaction, nature appreciation and protection”.

There was a high level of agreement that the supply of parkland for active recreation was adequate at this time except for a gap in the provision of Neighbourhood Park in the Beachcomber area.

A number of survey and Open House respondents expressed a desire for more water access paths and signage that clearly shows where public access is allowed. Improvements to the specific water access site in the survey in Nanoose Harbour received strong support.

The proposed community trail network was well supported, however, trail connections to Red Gap from Fairwinds, Kicking Horse and Madrona were also seen as highly desirable. Pedestrian safety along existing roads with narrow shoulders, such as Dolphin drive and Power Point, was a major concern in the survey and Open House sessions.

Short term priorities identified focused on expanding trails and water access sites either through the land development process and/or in partnership with the province. Some residents are prepared to play an active role in implementation by adopting a water access site or by initiating a playground in the Beachcomber area.

Overview of Input Received
Both the Survey and Open House addressed similar content. Input was sought on: the draft Vision statement; adequacy of the Neighborhood Parks supply and distribution; completeness of the proposed Community Trail network; and priorities for future action.

(20) people attended the second Open House, held on May 13th from 5:00 – 7:30pm at Nanoose Place Hall.
(22) people completed the online survey, which was available from May 13 to May 27th 2013 on the RDN website. It was also available in hard copy at the Workshop. The majority of respondents were from Nanoose Bay (50%) followed by Beachcomber (28%) and Fairwinds (22%). There were no survey respondents from the Red Gap and Madrona neighbourhoods.

**Vision**

The proposed draft Vision statement was developed using key words chosen by residents in Survey #1. There was very good acceptance of the draft Vision statement however some residents want to see more emphasis on conservation and protection of natural resources.

*To what extent are you satisfied that the vision reflects your values and the kind of parks and trails system you hope will be created in your community?*

![Graph showing satisfaction with vision statement]

**Adequacy of existing Neighbourhood Parks supply**

The majority of respondents (76%) agreed there is an adequate supply of park land for active recreation. Some residents expressed that the Regional parks in Electoral Area E also provide park opportunities for their recreation needs.

*Do you feel the number and distribution of Neighborhood Parks is adequate?*

![Graph showing adequacy of neighborhood parks]

![Graph showing adequacy of neighborhood parks]
**Water Access sites**

Improvements to the specific water access site in Nanoose Harbour received strong support (75%). A number of respondents also expressed a desire for more water access paths and signage that clearly shows where public access is allowed. Improvements to these sites can be modest in order to be functional. Some residents have the impression that the water access sites are under the jurisdiction of the RDN as opposed to the Province.

**Do you support some development of this Water Access?**

![Bar chart showing support for water access development](chart.png)

**Completeness of the proposed Community Trail system**

Seventy six percent (76%) of respondents were completely or somewhat satisfied with the proposed Community Trail network as shown, however, some suggestions were provided. A community trail connection from Red Gap to Fairwinds along Powder Point/Fairwinds drive was suggested by a number of residents. A trail connection from Red Gap to Rocking Horse and beyond to Madrona was also suggested.

Pedestrian safety along existing roads was a major concern in the survey and Open House session. Powder Point and Dolphin Drive were singled out as the top concerns owing to narrow shoulders and the desire to move through the neighbourhoods on foot or bike.

**Does this proposed trail system reflect the vision for an inter-connected community?**

![Bar chart showing satisfaction with community trail completeness](chart2.png)
**Short, Medium and Long-Term Priorities**

Short term priorities identified focused on trails and water access. Trail expansion through linear parks and/or in partnership with the province received high levels of support. Simple improvements to some water access sites through clearing and signage is also seen as a short term opportunity with great benefits. Improving existing parks and acquiring more natural park land as opportunities arise is also a consistent theme. Some residents are prepared to play an active role in implementation by adopting a water access site or by initiating a playground in the Beachcomber area.

*In terms of priority how would you rate the following strategies?*