



Mount Benson Regional Park

2010-2020 Management Plan

Appendices



December 2009

Prepared for:

**Regional District of Nanaimo
Recreation and Parks Dept.**



and

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust



Prepared by:

HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd.



APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION LIST

The following agencies were contacted in regards to Mount Benson Regional Park. Initial contact was made in March 2009. A second contact was made October 2009.

Government & Advisory Committees

City of Parksville, Mayor and Council
Town of Qualicum Beach, Mayor and Council
District of Lantzville, Mayor and Council
City of Nanaimo, Mayor and Council
City of Nanaimo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Area 'A' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Area 'C' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Area 'E' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Area 'F' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Area 'G' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Area 'H' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Forests and Range
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
Department of National Defense
Snuneymuxw First Nation

Adjacent Landowners & Tenure Holders

BC Integrated Land Management Bureau
Cercomm Electronics Ltd.
Island Timberlands Ltd.
TimberWest Ltd.
Vancouver Island University

Tourism & Education

VIU - Recreation and Tourism, Resource Management Officer
Technology, and Forest Resources Technology Programs
School District 68
School District 69
Tourism Nanaimo
Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce

Community Interest Groups

Runners of Compassion-Nanaimo Chapter
Tuesday Hikers
Thursday Hikers
Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club
Mid-Island ATV Club
Sidewinders Nanaimo 4x4 Club
Mid-Island Sno-Blazers
Cedar Horse Club
Hang Glide Vancouver Island
Nanaimo Climber's Association
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Membership & Donors

Emergency Services

East Wellington Volunteer Fire Department
Mid-Island Fire Zone
Nanaimo Search and Rescue
Coastal Fire Centre, Ministry of Forests and Range

Interviews

Discussions in person or by phone were conducted with the following organizations:

Island Timberlands: Steven Henderson, Senior Land Manager, Real Estate
TimberWest/Couverdon: Frank Limshue, Director of Planning and Zoning
Cercomm Electronics: Sulo Poystila, President
Integrated Land Management Bureau: Bonita Wallace, Natural Resources Officer
Mid-Island Fire Zone: Ron Templeman, Forest Protection Officer
Nanaimo Search and Rescue: Kevin McNeill
Coastal Fire Centre: Brent Anderson, Senior Protection Officer, Operations
Coastal Fire Centre: Brian McIntosh, Fuels Management Specialist
City of Nanaimo: Richard Harding, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
VIU, Forest Resources: Barry Ostrand, Professor, Woodlot Manager
Province of BC, Mineral Titles Branch: Chris Kositsin, Manager, Mineral Titles Branch

**APPENDIX B:
PUBLIC SESSION #1 (APRIL 2009)
RESULTS**

Mount Benson Regional Park: Public Session #1
What's Your Vision: Sticker Count

Trails	56
Conservation	41
Recreation	41
Habitat	20
Access	17
Sustainable	16
Aesthetics	14
Biodiversity	13
Stewardship	10
Eco-tourism	7
Views	6
Education	6
History	4
Health	4
Community	3
Character	3
Interpretation	1
Resources	1

Other Comments

Mountain bike trails *****
Mountain biking: even 1 amazing trail would draw riders to Nanaimo
Mt. Bike / hiking *
Horseback riding
Leave it as undeveloped as possible
The future I envision is publically accessible trails, signs, garbage cans, educational uses. No commercial development. No roads. No gondolas. Let's leave it for us, the people not the timber companies or resorts or even VIU. It's our mountain. Let's show it our respect!
Access to the summit for paragliding
Lift to the top *
Accessible to disabled
Driveway blocked *
Washroom facilities*
Solar washrooms
Garbage disposal
Lighting to deter sex trade and drug use *
Parking **

Mount Benson Regional Park: Public Session #1
Community Map: Comments

Parking 2910 Benson View driveway blocked
Cannot pull trailer, boat out of driveway (Benson View Road)
Trail at west end by Witchcraft Lake is on private property.
Illegal nighttime activity (Benson View Road @ Kilpatrick)
Washroom facilities? (Witchcraft Lake trailhead)
Garbage Disposal (Witchcraft Lake Trailhead)
First mountain summit hiked with father
The plan should work towards mapping a publically accessible trail from Witchcraft as well as from Doumont areas.
You guys should work with VIU about their woodlot because the timber companies will be far less flexible on trailing
Launch for Island Soaring Society (hanggliding and paragliding) just east of summit off Te'tuxw'tun
Viewpoint at intersection of Rafe's Way and Gordie's Trail
No gas recreational vehicles - Keep park with natural nature sounds.

Mount Benson Regional Park: Public Session #1
Issues & Opportunities: Sticker Count

Trail Use Conflicts	51
Park Access	43
Damage to Ecologically Sensitive Areas	42
Degraded Trail Conditions	27
Litter and Vandalism	24
Limited Parking	22
Potential Commercial Development	21
Road Access to Summit	12
Campfires	9
Mineral Claims	5
Public Safety	2
Camping and Overnight Use	0

Other Comments:

No commercial development*
Leave it alone.
Allow horseback riding
Snowmobile access in winter months. Mid-Island Snowblazers has historically used this area for over 40 years and has helped out in several rescues and recovery scenarios over the past 40 years. Contact Rob Hanna (rob@bcsnowmobile.com)
I think the plan should incorporate ideas such as well-developed trails (i.e. Parkway, Westwood, Seawall) as well as bike trails or ATV trails
No ATV Use!
The park needs to have designated areas for different recreation uses.
A few more trail markers may help newcomers
Lighting to deter sex trade and drug use.
Parking at Witchcraft Lake would be very helpful
Free access. No fees.
Hunting and fishing issues

Mount Benson Regional Park: Public Session #1

Presentation #1: Questions and Comments

- question about future of parking area at Witchcraft Lake
- question about planning process: is this a typical process for management planning of regional parks
- gondola from Nanaimo to summit of Mt. Benson would be good for everyone (kids to seniors) and would help to eliminate dumping and vandalism from road access
- hanggliding launch ramp
- comment against gondolas
- Question about gazetted roads to property-there are none. Only access if via private forestry roads
- For any other development would need to have dedicated road access
- Seems ridiculous that we have a park without access
- Access is major issue. All different types of use
- Will management plan address future expansion of the park and additional acquisitions?
- Access! Physically challenged and elderly
- Access-increased vandalism. What would be response for additional "eyes on the park"?
- Question about use policies during summer months (i.e. as related to fire conditions)

Presentation #2: Questions and Comments

- horseback riding in the park. Feel like getting shut out of all areas they traditionally ride
- question about planning process
- Snowmobile use. Have used for last 40 years and have also gone on site for search & rescue operations. Feel like they are losing lands to recreate in. Aren't in contact with the ground - limited damage. Motorized vehicle use in park. Are first to be called in an emergency as can get to site quickly.
- parking
- need for safety shelter
- access for physically challenged and elderly. Gondola would help with this. Cruise ships and tourist use
- Recommission road to top
- Logging by VIU in woodlot
- question about trail thru VIU woodlot - easement or something to protect long-term

ALTERNATIVES BOARD Sticker Count

What images reflect the future character that you would like to see for Mount Benson Regional Park? Use your **GREEN** stickers to mark the three images you find **MOST** appealing. Use your **RED** stickers to mark the three images you find **LEAST** appealing.

Most Desired / Most Green stickers



40 - GREEN
0 - RED



36 - GREEN
0 - RED



31 - GREEN
4 - RED



26 - GREEN
0 - RED



22 - GREEN
0 - RED



17 - GREEN
0 - RED



17 - GREEN
0 - RED



9 - GREEN
0 - RED



8 - GREEN
1 - RED

Split Votes



12 - GREEN
25 - RED



15 - GREEN
20 - RED



18 - GREEN
22 - RED

Least Desired / Most red stickers



2 - GREEN
9 - RED



0 - GREEN
20 - RED



3 - GREEN
49 - RED



0 - GREEN
52 - RED

Fewest Total Votes/ Neutral responses



5 - GREEN
0 - RED



4 - GREEN
1 - RED



4 - GREEN
6 - RED



3 - GREEN
1 - RED



3 - GREEN
0 - RED



1 - GREEN
2 - RED



1 - GREEN
3 - RED



1 - GREEN
4 - RED

OTHER COMMENTS

- Take a look at Mount Prevost in Duncan. Car access makes it possible for everyone to enjoy the mountain. Not just for hikers. Lots of more elderly, tourists, mountain bikers, x-country skiers, paragliders, hanggliders.
- I think we need to steer away from ideas of roads, gondolas and commercial development. The focus should be on bike trails, ATV trails, public accessible trails, lookouts, rest stops and educational land uses
- Monitored ATV, UTV, motorcycle trail system
- Small tea house at summit
- Picnic tables at summit

**APPENDIX C:
PARK SURVEY (APRIL-JUNE 2009)
RESULTS SUMMARY**

MT. BENSON REGIONAL PARK: SUMMARY OF PARK SURVEY RESULTS

1. WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE DO YOU SEEK FROM THE PARK? (select your top three)

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Pleasure/Fun	62.9%	231
Wilderness Experience	61.9%	227
Mental/Physical Health Benefits	59.9%	220
Nature Appreciation/Study	42.0%	154
Scenic Backdrop to Nanaimo	41.1%	151
Being with Friends or Family	31.9%	117
Solitude	25.3%	93
Photography	22.3%	82
Other (please describe)	15.0%	55
<i>answered question</i>		367
<i>skipped question</i>		6

COMMENTS

- **Non-motorized:** Strong interest in mountain biking as well as para-gliding indicated; importance of trails to climbing crags
- **Motorized:** Snowmobiling, ATViing – would like to see a riding area for their community
- **Other:** Comments on preservation of wilderness character
-

2. IS THERE ANYTHING LIMITING YOUR USE OF THE PARK?

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
No	49.6%	174
Yes	50.4%	177
<i>answered question</i>		351
<i>skipped question</i>		22

3. IF YOU SELECTED YES, IN QUESTION 2, PLEASE TELL US WHAT LIMITS YOUR USE OF THE PARK. (select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
I don't know how to access the trails	43.3%	84
I can't find my way around within the park	29.9%	58
The trails are too steep/difficult	25.3%	49
Lack of facilities (benches/toilets, etc.)	17.5%	34
There isn't enough parking	12.4%	24
I don't feel safe at the park	3.6%	7
Other (please describe)	33.0%	64
<i>answered question</i>		194
<i>skipped question</i>		179

COMMENTS

- **Trails:** Erosion, poor design
- **Access:** Gates, easier access to summit
- **Signage:** Strong desire for better directional signage and trailhead information
- **Parking** needed

4. HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT THE PARK?

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
More than once a week	3.1%	11
Once a week	3.9%	14
Once or twice a month	13.9%	50
A few times a year	41.4%	149
Once a year or less	22.5%	81
Never	15.3%	55
<i>answered question</i>		360
<i>skipped question</i>		13

5. HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT TRAILS BELOW THE PARK?

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
More than once a week	5.9%	21
Once a week	7.1%	25
Once or twice a month	24.6%	87
A few times a year	40.8%	144
Once a year or less	11.3%	40
Never	10.2%	36
<i>answered question</i>		353
<i>skipped question</i>		20

6. WHAT SEASONS DO YOU VISIT THE PARK? (select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Summer, Fall or Spring	97.3%	321
Winter (snow conditions)	30.0%	99
<i>answered question</i>		330
<i>skipped question</i>		43

7. HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY ACCESS THE PARK?

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Benson View Road, trail from Witchcraft Lake	57.9%	184
Westwood Lake Municipal Park	56.0%	178
Other (please describe)	23.9%	76
<i>answered question</i>		318
<i>skipped question</i>		55

COMMENTS

- **Nanaimo Lakes Road:** Numerous responses
- **Jameson Road**
- **From Morrell Nature Sanctuary**
- Numerous other smaller routes indicated, most of these likely join with other major routes
- Also comments that don't go as they don't know how to get there.

8. WHAT DO YOU TYPICALLY DO AT THE PARK? (select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Walk/Hike	83.0%	269
Nature Study	19.4%	63
Mountain Bike	18.5%	60
ATV/4x4	15.4%	50
Run	12.3%	40
Snowshoe	9.9%	32
Horseback Ride	4.9%	16
X-Country Ski	1.9%	6
Other (please describe)	16.7%	54
<i>answered question</i>		324
<i>skipped question</i>		49

COMMENTS

- **Snowmobiling** was mentioned by numerous respondents
- **Importance of multi-use nature for the park**
- **Paragliders** indicated interest in using the summit as a launch site
- Split on whether should be motorized access
- Comments for camping were included in other survey questions

9. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE TRAILS IN THE PARK

Answer Options	Dissatisfied		Neutral		Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
I am	13	39	103	60	65	3.45	280
Comments							106
<i>answered question</i>							280
<i>skipped question</i>							93

COMMENTS

- Comments that like **as-is**; rustic character
- **Steepness** indicated as key challenge and need for stairs or switchbacks in places; other comments on general improvement of trails
- Numerous comments on need for directional signage as well as better information at trailheads
- Comments against any commercial development at park; comments against gondola

10. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE NATURAL AND/OR HISTORIC INTERPRETATION?

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Yes	63.1%	198
No	36.9%	116
Comments		95
<i>answered question</i>		314
<i>skipped question</i>		59

COMMENTS

- Numerous respondents would like to keep park character as rustic as possible with minimal signage.
- Was interest in some simple signage on historic events; previous logging activities; ecology
- Any signage should be simple and rustic
- Would like to see more maps and more wayfinding signage
- Would like more guided tours

11. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE PARK?

COMMENTS

- Strong focus on either no change or keeping the park as natural as possible with an emphasis on conservation
- Would like to see trail improvements to existing trails with improved directional signage
- Better trailhead information and improving access routes
- Importance of legalizing access routes to park
- Comments for and against road to mountain were relatively balanced although was lots of interest in an easier route to summit
- Comments for more trails of varying difficulty and for different uses.
- Improved parking
- Strong interest indicated in multi-use nature of the park – lots of interest in hiking and mountain biking trails
- Feedback relatively split on motorized vs. non-motorized uses
- Other Recreational Use: Para-gliders would like launch area at one of the summits; x-country skiing; wilderness camping mentioned
- Interest in seeing additional areas added to the park
- Comments both for and against gondola were relatively split
- More information wanted on park – interpretive signage; tours and guided hikes
- Other facilities: benches, pit toilets, safety shelter, lookouts, campsites mentioned
- Garbage mentioned as issue – either for garbage cans or more signage on “pack in, pack out”
- Need for reforestation
- Need for improved park security and regulation

15. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

COMMENTS

- Keep it Natural / “As-is”
- Improve Access – comments for accessibility by all; historical use of road to summit
- Recreational use: comments from climbers and mountain bikers on preserving their access to the park; paragliders comments on launch site; indicated that look at Mt. Prevost as precedent; strong interest in snowmobiling
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Importance of stewardship for park maintenance – trails, garbage, etc.
- Need for some type of safety shelter

**APPENDIX D:
PUBLIC SESSION #2 (OCTOBER 2009)
RESULTS**

PUBLIC SESSION #2: RECORDED COMMENTS

Plan Section	Public Comments
VISION	
<p>Mount Benson Regional Park is a wilderness park with inherent ecological, recreational and historical values. As part of the wildlife corridor in the Central Vancouver Island mountain range, the Park's natural habitats and sensitive ecosystems have been preserved and enhanced. At the same time, the Park provides outstanding, ecologically-sensitive recreation opportunities to area residents and visitors. Mount Benson Regional Park is part of the Nanaimo's dramatic mountain backdrop and remains a natural landmark in the Regional District.</p>	

MANAGEMENT GOALS	
<p>To protect and restore natural habitats found within Mount Benson Regional Park and as a component of a larger wildlife corridor in the Central Vancouver Island mountain range.</p>	
<p>To provide recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with the ecological values of Mount Benson Regional Park and its sensitive habitats; and, to take a long-term view in increasing accessibility to the park.</p>	
<p>To work together with the larger community including the Snuneymuxw First Nation, educational institutions, community organizations, neighbouring landowners and tenure holders, government agencies, volunteers and the public in the short-term management and long-term stewardship of the park lands.</p>	
<p>To maintain a natural, green backdrop for area residents and visitors and to ensure that management decisions and actions in Mount Benson Regional Park do not adversely impact the Nanaimo and area's view of the mountain.</p>	
<p>To provide park users with safe, enjoyable visits within a wilderness context and to work with neighbouring landowners and managers to minimize natural and human-induced risks both within the Park and on the surrounding lands.</p>	

Plan Section	Public Comments
MANAGEMENT POLICIES	
<p>Policy 1: Park use zones will be established to effectively manage Mount Benson Regional Park for both conservation and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must maintain Ecological Values as #1; Recreation is #2.
<p>Policy 2: The RDN and NALT will work with partners to inventory, monitor and restore the natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats found within Mount Benson Regional Park.</p>	
<p>Policy 3: In general, forest management in the Park will be guided by the report “Mount Benson Regional Park – Review of Natural Values – Forestry”, attached to this Plan.</p>	
<p>Policy 4: Other than hazard tree management and fire protection as needed, no active management activities will be pursued in the existing forested areas.</p>	
<p>Policy 5: The RDN will work to ensure no mineral claims are held on regional park property.</p>	
<p>Policy 6: The RDN will work with neighbouring landowners to clarify and formalize main access routes to the Park, for public use as well as for park maintenance and emergency access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking is really important at Witchcraft Lake entrance with a signage map. • Improved and formal access is essential for the long-term. • Access for public use is necessary, particularly for handicapped and those unable to walk far and hike to the top.
<p>Policy 7: Public road access to Mount Benson Regional Park will not be actively pursued by the RDN during the term of this management plan. However, the RDN may consider proposals from private interests for road, gondola or other forms of access into the Park, subject to rigorous and extensive assessment of: impacts on the environmental and visual integrity of the Park; socio-economic impacts in the surrounding area; and full business-case scenario planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No roads. No gondolas. • Is it feasible or possible to provide a parking area near Witchcraft Lake trail? • Gondola! • Gondola, would be good for disabled people and those that don't enjoy walking, but want to check out the view. All monies earned should be kept to Mt. Benson only. • Access must be regulated to protect neighbouring homeowners. Ex. Cannot access our own property with care parked there. • A shortening of the walk to 1 – 2 hours would be supported. • All the public are paying through taxes, therefore all the public should have access. No off-road vehicle trails to protect the environment. • Need public sitting area at top – covered.

Plan Section	Public Comments
	<p>Also, telescope to take in view. Need to stop being so closed to public – ex. Check out Mount Pilatus in Switzerland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide road access to top “like Duncan does with Mount Prevost.” • Gondola to top. Many people are unable to access. This would also create a popular tourist attraction.
<p>Policy 8: Management of the Park will focus on supporting a non-motorized multi-use trail network while protecting sensitive habitats and minimizing user conflicts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree with non-motorized use of trails. Motorized vehicles are noisy and destructive. • Please no motorized vehicles. • Wilderness and ecological values must supercede any recreational development. • Horses, bikes and hikers to more damage than a snowmobiler. Snowmobiles should not be classed the same as ATV, etc. • NO to motorized: motorized and non-motorized do not mix, indeed creates major conflict. Separate hiking from ‘bike and horse’ trails or expect conflict. • Agree with Policy 8. • Snowmobiles only access an area when most others can’t.
<p>Policy 9: Any future trail development and re-alignment will seek to avoid alteration or damage to any sensitive ecosystems, or to minimize such impacts where avoidance is not possible.</p>	
<p>Policy 10: New trails and trail upgrades within the Park will be designed and constructed to standards appropriate to the type and level of use of each trail and that ensure public safety and environmental protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My major desire is for a more user-friendly trail system. • Snowmobile access even if limited to BCSF members.
<p>Policy 11: Pets must be under human-control when using the trails in the Park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please define “under human control”! In my experience most are not. • Not an on-leash area. • Not on-leash for sure, for certain.
<p>Policy 12: The RDN and NALT will collaborate on the development of a comprehensive sign system within the Park that includes informational, regulatory and directional signs at key locations along the trail network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage is critical: there are maze of trails in the forest and easy to get lost. • Signs are a must.
<p>Policy 13: The RDN and NALT will collaborate on communications about the Park on their respective websites and any written materials that are made available to the general public.</p>	

Plan Section	Public Comments
<p>Policy 14: Mount Benson Regional Park will be equipped with <u>day-use</u> facilities that are in keeping with its wilderness character and that can be readily maintained by RDN staff, contractors or volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be overnight cabins for skiers, those in distress.
<p>Policy 15: Commercial guiding and interpretive activities will be permitted in Mount Benson Regional Park subject to the provisions of a permit issued under the Park Use Regulation Bylaw. No fixed commercial facilities within the Park will be supported at this time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restaurants or gift shops within the park area.
<p>Policy 16: The RDN and NALT will develop an interpretive program that provides information about the natural and/or historical features of the park and aids public understanding of the park goals and management policies.</p>	
<p>Policy 17: The RDN and NALT will initiate discussions with VIU forestry and/or resource officer technology programs to explore possible ways to integrate program curriculums with inventory, monitoring, restoration and general management of the Park.</p>	
<p>Policy 18: The RDN and NALT will continue to work together, as well as seek assistance from other partners and the community, on the long-term stewardship of the Park.</p>	
<p>Policy 19: The RDN and NALT will collaborate in finding funding and resources to establish a volunteer stewardship program for Mount Benson Regional Park that could act as the pilot for a system-wide program.</p>	
<p>Policy 20: The RDN and NALT will respect the archaeological and cultural heritage values of the Park and the Mountain, and continue to collaborate with First Nations on park acquisition and development proposals.</p>	
<p>Policy 21: The RDN and NALT will seek innovative revenue-generating opportunities that are in keeping with and support the park management goals.</p>	
<p>Policy 22: The RDN will use measures identified in the RDN's Park Inspection Policy to implement risk management in the Park.</p>	
<p>Policy 23: The RDN and NALT will work to reduce the risk of natural and human-caused fires at Mount Benson Regional Park.</p>	
<p>Policy 24: The RDN will coordinate emergency responses effectively with local and provincial agencies.</p>	

Plan Section	Public Comments
Policy 25: The RDN will consider strategic acquisitions that enhance the recreational components, including access, and aesthetic qualities of Mount Benson Regional Park.	

**APPENDIX E:
DRAFT PLAN SURVEY (OCT-NOV 2009)
RESULTS SUMMARY**

Mount Benson Regional Park Management Plan Draft Review

1. Draft Vision							
	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with the vision statement?	78.2% (43)	7.3% (4)	7.3% (4)	3.6% (2)	3.6% (2)	0.00	55
Comments?							12
<i>answered question</i>							55
<i>skipped question</i>							3

2. MANAGEMENT GOAL #1: ENVIRONMENT To protect and restore natural habitats found within Mount Benson Regional Park and as a component of a larger wildlife corridor in the Central Vancouver Island mountain range.							
	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with this Management Goal?	81.1% (43)	7.5% (4)	5.7% (3)	3.8% (2)	1.9% (1)	0.00	53
Comments							6
<i>answered question</i>							53
<i>skipped question</i>							5

3. MANAGEMENT GOAL #2: RECREATION AND EDUCATION To provide recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with the ecological values of Mount Benson Regional Park and its sensitive habitats; and, to take a long-term view in increasing accessibility to the park.							
	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with this management goal?	75.5% (40)	13.2% (7)	7.5% (4)	0.0% (0)	3.8% (2)	0.00	53
Comments							12
<i>answered question</i>							53
<i>skipped question</i>							5

4. MANAGEMENT GOAL #3: MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP To work together with the larger community including the Snuneymuxw First Nation, educational institutions, community organizations, neighbouring landowners and tenure holders, government agencies, volunteers and the public in the short-term management and long-term stewardship of the park lands.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with this management goal?	82.7% (43)	11.5% (6)	1.9% (1)	0.0% (0)	3.8% (2)	0.00	52
	Comments						8
	<i>answered question</i>						52
	<i>skipped question</i>						6

5. MANAGEMENT GOAL #4: VISUAL INTEGRITY To maintain a natural, green backdrop for area residents and visitors and to ensure that management decisions and actions in Mount Benson Regional Park do not adversely impact the Nanaimo and area's view of the mountain.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with this management goal?	86.5% (45)	7.7% (4)	5.8% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	52
	Comments						6
	<i>answered question</i>						52
	<i>skipped question</i>						6

6. MANAGEMENT GOAL #5: PUBLIC SAFETY To provide park users with safe, enjoyable visits within a wilderness context and to work with neighbouring landowners and managers to minimize natural and human-induced risks both within the Park and on the surrounding lands.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with this management goal?	73.1% (38)	9.6% (5)	7.7% (4)	5.8% (3)	3.8% (2)	0.00	52
	Comments						15
	<i>answered question</i>						52
	<i>skipped question</i>						6

7. ISSUE: BALANCING CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (See pages 31-32) Policy #1: Park use zones will be established to effectively manage Mount Benson Regional Park for both conservation and recreation.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #1?	76.6% (36)	19.1% (9)	2.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.1% (1)	0.00	47
Comments							9
<i>answered question</i>							47
<i>skipped question</i>							11

8. ISSUE: PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES: (See pages 33-36) Policy #2: The RDN and NALT will work with partners to inventory, monitor and restore the natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats found within Mount Benson Regional Park.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #2?	77.1% (37)	10.4% (5)	6.3% (3)	2.1% (1)	4.2% (2)	0.00	48
Comments							6
<i>answered question</i>							48
<i>skipped question</i>							10

9. ISSUE: FORESTRY RESOURCES (See pages 36-37) Policy #3: In general, forest management in the Park will be guided by the report “Mount Benson Regional Park – Review of Natural Values – Forestry”, attached to this Plan. Policy #4: Other than hazard tree management and fire protection as needed, no active management activities will be pursued in the existing forested areas.

	Agree		Neutral		Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #3?	71.7% (33)	6.5% (3)	13.0% (6)	2.2% (1)	6.5% (3)	0.00	46
Do you agree with Management Policy #4?	73.8% (31)	11.9% (5)	9.5% (4)	4.8% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.00	42
Comments							8
<i>answered question</i>							49
<i>skipped question</i>							9

10. ISSUE: MINERAL RESOURCES (See page 37) Policy #5: The RDN will work to ensure no mineral claims are held on regional park property.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #5?	84.0% (42)	4.0% (2)	12.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	50
Comments							3
<i>answered question</i>							50
<i>skipped question</i>							8

11. ISSUE: PARK ACCESSES (See pages 38-39) Policy #6: The RDN will work with neighbouring landowners to clarify and formalize main access routes to the Park, for public use as well as for park maintenance and emergency access.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #6?	91.8% (45)	6.1% (3)	2.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	49
Comments							12
<i>answered question</i>							49
<i>skipped question</i>							9

12. ISSUE: PARK ACCESSIBILITY (See pages 39-41) Policy #7: Public road access to Mount Benson Regional Park will not be actively pursued by the RDN during the term of this management plan. However, the RDN may consider proposals from private interests for road, gondola or other forms of access into the Park, subject to rigorous and extensive assessment of: impacts on the environmental and visual integrity of the Park; socio-economic impacts in the surrounding area; and full business-case scenario planning.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #7?	54.2% (26)	8.3% (4)	6.3% (3)	0.0% (0)	31.3% (15)	0.00	48
Comments							23
<i>answered question</i>							48
<i>skipped question</i>							10

13. ISSUE: TRAILS USE AND MANAGEMENT: (See pages 41-45) Policy #8: Management of the Park will focus on supporting a non-motorized multi-use trail network while protecting sensitive habitats and minimizing user conflicts. Policy #9: Any future trail development and re-alignment will seek to avoid alteration or damage to any sensitive ecosystems, or to minimize such impacts where avoidance is not possible. Policy #10: New trails and trail upgrades within the Park will be designed and constructed to standards appropriate to the type and level of use of each trail and that ensure public safety and environmental protection. Policy #11: Pets must be under human-control when using the trails in the Park.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #8?	80.0% (40)	8.0% (4)	6.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	6.0% (3)	0.00	50
Do you agree with Management Policy #9?	94.0% (47)	2.0% (1)	4.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	50
Do you agree with Management Policy #10?	85.4% (41)	6.3% (3)	4.2% (2)	2.1% (1)	2.1% (1)	0.00	48
Do you agree with Management Policy #11?	76.0% (38)	12.0% (6)	4.0% (2)	2.0% (1)	6.0% (3)	0.00	50
						Comments	22
						answered question	50
						skipped question	8

14. ISSUE: PARK INFORMATION AND SIGNAGE: (See pages 45-47) Policy #12: The RDN and NALT will collaborate on the development of a comprehensive sign system within the Park that includes informational, regulatory and directional signs at key locations along the trail network. Policy #13: The RDN and NALT will collaborate on communications about the Park on their respective websites and any written materials that are made available to the general public.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #12?	85.7% (42)	0.0% (0)	12.2% (6)	2.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.00	49
Do you agree with Management Policy #13?	93.9% (46)	4.1% (2)	2.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	49
						Comments	9
						answered question	49
						skipped question	9

15. ISSUE: VISITOR FACILITIES (See pages 47-49) Policy #14: Mount Benson Regional Park will be equipped with day-use facilities that are in keeping with its wilderness character and that can be readily maintained by RDN staff, contractors or volunteers.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #14?	81.6% (40)	2.0% (1)	8.2% (4)	2.0% (1)	6.1% (3)	0.00	49
Comments							17
<i>answered question</i>							49
<i>skipped question</i>							9

16. ISSUE: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: (See pages 49-50) Policy #15: Commercial guiding and interpretive activities will be permitted in Mount Benson Regional Park subject to the provisions of a permit issued under the Park Use Regulation Bylaw. No fixed commercial facilities within the Park will be supported at this time.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #15?	74.0% (37)	6.0% (3)	10.0% (5)	2.0% (1)	8.0% (4)	0.00	50
Comments							9
<i>answered question</i>							50
<i>skipped question</i>							8

17. ISSUE: EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION: (See pages 50-52) Policy #16: The RDN and NALT will develop an interpretive program that provides information about the natural and/or historical features of the park and aids public understanding of the park goals and management policies. Policy #17: The RDN and NALT will initiate discussions with VIU forestry and/or resource officer technology programs to explore possible ways to integrate program curriculums with inventory, monitoring, restoration and general management of the Park.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #16?	84.0% (42)	8.0% (4)	4.0% (2)	4.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.00	50
Do you agree with Management Policy #17?	83.3% (40)	10.4% (5)	4.2% (2)	2.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.00	48
Comments							6
<i>answered question</i>							50
<i>skipped question</i>							8

18. ISSUE: PARK STEWARDSHIP AND OPERATIONS (See pages 52-54) Policy #18: The RDN and NALT will continue to work together, as well as seek assistance from other partners and the community, on the long-term stewardship of the Park. Policy #19: The RDN and NALT will collaborate in finding funding and resources to establish a volunteer program for Mount Benson Regional Park that could act as the ‘pilot’ for a system-wide program. Policy #20: The RDN and NALT will respect the archaeological and cultural heritage values of the Park and the Mountain, and continue to collaborate with First Nations on park acquisition and development proposals. Policy #21: The RDN and NALT will seek innovative revenue-generating opportunities that are in keeping with and support the park management goals. Policy #22: The RDN will use measures identified in the RDN’s Park Inspection Policy to implement risk management in the Park.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #18?	91.3% (42)	4.3% (2)	2.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.2% (1)	0.00	46
Do you agree with Management Policy #19?	91.3% (42)	4.3% (2)	4.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	46
Do you agree with Management Policy #20?	89.1% (41)	4.3% (2)	2.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	4.3% (2)	0.00	46
Do you agree with Management Policy #21?	71.1% (32)	17.8% (8)	6.7% (3)	0.0% (0)	4.4% (2)	0.00	45
Do you agree with Management Policy #22?	70.5% (31)	9.1% (4)	15.9% (7)	2.3% (1)	2.3% (1)	0.00	44
						Comments	9
						<i>answered question</i>	46
						<i>skipped question</i>	12

19. ISSUE: FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING: (See pages 54-56) Policy #23: The RDN and NALT will work to reduce the risk of natural and human-caused fires at Mount Benson Regional Park. Policy #24: The RDN will coordinate emergency responses effectively with local agencies.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #23?	91.5% (43)	6.4% (3)	0.0% (0)	2.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.00	47
Do you agree with Management Policy #24?	91.3% (42)	6.5% (3)	2.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.00	46
Comments							8
<i>answered question</i>							47
<i>skipped question</i>							11

20. ISSUE: FUTURE ACQUISITIONS (See pages 56-57) Policy #25: The RDN will consider strategic acquisitions that enhance the recreational components, including access, and aesthetic qualities of Mount Benson Regional Park.

	Agree		Neutral		Don't Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Do you agree with Management Policy #25?	81.3% (39)	10.4% (5)	6.3% (3)	2.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.00	48
Comments							8
<i>answered question</i>							48
<i>skipped question</i>							10

21. Do you have any additional comments?

	Response Count
	22
<i>answered question</i>	22
<i>skipped question</i>	36