

**Regional District of Nanaimo**

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# Parks and Trails Strategy

## Round 1 Engagement Summary

LEFS  
ASSOCIATES

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Round 1 Engagement Summary

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND KEY GOALS

During the development of the Parks + Trails Strategy, the engagement of residents, park users, stakeholders, and the public was key to developing a robust and defensible strategy. The engagement was separated into two rounds with distinct objectives. The Round 1 engagement objectives included:

- Increase knowledge of the Regional District’s parks and trails system
- Understand what people think of the existing parks and trails
- Understand any barriers that people may experience to use of parks and trails
- Understand people’s vision for the future

## 1.2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

### 1.2.1 PHONE SURVEY

A total of 200 interviews were conducted by telephone with a random selection of residents, 18 years of age or over. The margin of error on the sample is +/- 6.9% at the 95% confidence level. Interviewing was conducted by Mustel Group interviewers weekday evenings and during the day on weekends from November 25th to December 4th, 2019.

Questions for the phone survey focused on regional parks issues.

### 1.2.2 ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was available on the RDN Get Involved website and gathered 439<sup>1</sup> responses from members of the public between November 25th to January 4th. This number includes 51 hard copy surveys that were completed at the workshops and open houses and were entered manually into the online survey tool by RDN staff.

Questions for the online survey included regional parks issues, mirroring the phone survey, but also included questions about community parks.

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<sup>1</sup> Although 469 surveys were logged, only 439 were considered substantially complete.

### 1.2.3 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Stakeholders identified by RDN staff and the consulting team were invited to participate in Stakeholder Workshops. Three Stakeholder Workshops were held:

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre;
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Beban Social Centre, and
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Gabriola Arts and Heritage Centre

There were 37 participants at the Qualicum Beach workshop and 25 participants at the Nanaimo workshop and 10 on Gabriola Island. The workshops included an introduction to the project followed by facilitated discussions in small groups. Each group was asked to answer several questions including:

1. Thinking of the community as a whole, what are the most important places in the park system?
2. What is valuable about the regional parks? What is valuable about the community parks?
3. What's great that the RDN could do more of?
4. What's the biggest issue/challenge for the parks and trails system?
5. Do you think all different types of people are able to enjoy parks and trails in the RDN (i.e. seniors, youth, families, those with mobility issues, new immigrants, etc)?
6. Is there anything that would encourage more people to use the parks and trails?
7. Is there anything that could help increase the physical accessibility of the parks and trails?
8. Given the size, variety, and geographic span of the parks and trails system, what should the RDN prioritize and why?
  - Improve existing parks vs. Parkland acquisition
  - Parkland for conservation vs. Parkland for recreation
  - Staff Time: Regional parks vs. Community parks
  - Community Parks: Many small parks close to home vs. Larger community parks
  - Trails from park to park vs. Trails from communities to parks and key destinations
9. Vision: Take a moment to think about 1-5 key words to describe your ideal parks and trails system.

Results were collected by facilitators at each table using flip charts. Participants also were able to add sticky notes to the open house display boards and to fill in a comment sheet about the key vision words.

## 1.2.4 OPEN HOUSES

Three Open Houses were held from December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> in locations distributed throughout the RDN:

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Qualicum Civic Centre, Qualicum Beach
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Beban Social Centre, Nanaimo
- December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Gabriola Arts and Heritage Centre

A total of 122 additional people participated in the Open Houses with 52 attending the Qualicum Beach Open House, 37 at the Nanaimo Open House and 33 attending the Gabriola Open House. In addition to the 122 participants, many who attended the stakeholder workshops stayed for the Open Houses as well.

The Open Houses were drop-in format and RDN and consulting staff were available to answer questions and discuss with the public. Display boards were placed around the room providing opportunity to provide feedback. The Gabriola Island Open House also included a short presentation introducing the project followed by a casual discussion in which questions were answered.

## 1.2.5 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Phone interviews were conducted in January 2020. A project update was provided followed by a discussion of key initiatives and policies that affect parks and trails, potential future initiatives, current relationships and communications, and opportunities for partnerships to meet multiple goals for the residents of the RDN. Those interviewed included:

- District of Lantzville
- City of Nanaimo
- Town of Qualicum Beach
- *An interview with the City of Parksville has been offered but has not yet been completed.*
- Islands Trust
- The Nature Trust of BC
- Nanaimo Area Land Trust
- Mosaic Forest Management
- Regional District of Nanaimo:
  - Current Planning
  - Long Range Planning
  - Solid Waste
  - Emergency Planning
  - Recreation
  - Drinking Water & Watershed Protection
  - Water & Wastewater

## 1.3 PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

### 1.3.1 PROJECT WEBPAGE

A project webpage was created on the RDN Get Involved platform. The webpage included an overview of the project, key dates, engagement opportunities and background documents. The online survey was promoted through social media and was available on the GetInvolved webpage. The table below provides detailed information on how participants interacted with the webpage.

GetInvolved Page Statistics	Participants
Total Visits	61
New Registrations	0
Engaged Visitors <sup>2</sup>	0
Informed Visitors <sup>3</sup>	18
Aware Visitors (visited at least one page)	46
FAQs	3 views
Background Documents:	21 downloads
Parks and Trails Strategy Information	7 downloads
Community Parks and Trails Strategic Plan	4 downloads
Regional Parks and Trails Plan 2005-2015	10 downloads

### 1.3.2 SOCIAL MEDIA

The project website and engagement events were advertised on the RDN social media platforms Facebook and Instagram on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Posts directed visitors to the project website, advertised Open House events and directed people to complete the online survey. The following table summarizes the reach of the social media campaign.

<sup>2</sup> Contributed on forums, participated in surveys, contributed to newsfeeds, participated in quick polls, posted on guestbooks, contributed to stories, asked questions, placed pins on places, contributed to ideas.

<sup>3</sup> Viewed a video, viewed a photo, downloaded a document, visited the key dates page, visited an FAQ list page, visited Instagram page, visited multiple project pages, contributed to a tool (engaged).

## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN STATISTICS

### Facebook Events

- |                               |             |                            |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Openhouse – Gabriola        | 1200 views  | 11 interested or attending |
| ▪ Openhouse – Nanaimo         | 1,000 views | 9 interested or attending  |
| ▪ Open house – Qualicum Beach | 696 views   | 2 interested or attending  |

### Facebook Posts

- |               |                                  |                                |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ November 21 | Intro to project/ survey         | 2,457 reached, 180 engagements |
| ▪ November 26 | Open houses                      | 5,707 reached, 491 engagements |
| ▪ December 3  | Nanaimo Open House               | 1,887 reached, 88 engagements  |
| ▪ December 10 | Thank you and last chance survey | 5,281 reached, 318 engagements |

### Instagram Posts

- |               |                      |          |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| ▪ November 28 | General project      | 13 likes |
| ▪ November 21 | General/ open houses | 24 likes |

### 1.3.3 EMAIL NOTICES TO STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder list was developed by the Parks Service team from existing contact information of community organizations, interest groups, internal departments, partner organizations, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. This list included **97 stakeholder organizations** and was used to provide notices about the project, links to the project webpage and online survey, and to encourage attendance at the workshops or open houses. Helping spread the word about the project and opportunities to participate was also encouraged.

In addition, **45 POSAC members and Electoral Area Directors** were sent email notices and invitations to participate in the online survey, stakeholder workshops, and open houses.

### 1.3.4 POSTERS

Posters with information on the project, project webpage, the public survey and upcoming in-person engagement events were posted at key locations around the Regional District such as regional and community parks, community and recreation centers, libraries, coffee shops, community notices boards, grocery stores, and outdoor stores.

### 1.3.5 OTHER OUTREACH

The open houses were also advertised in the November RDN Updates Ad in the Gabriola Sounder, Nanaimo News and the Parksville, Qualicum Beach News as well as a stand-alone ad in the Nanaimo News.

## 1.4 WHO WE HEARD FROM

Engagement participation was strong, with 639 people participating in the phone and online surveys and 194 people attending in-person workshops and open houses. The following table describes the phone and online participant demographics. The phone survey is a statistically valid sample of the population both demographically and geographically while the online survey was open to everyone and is not a statistically valid sample.

	Phone Survey	Online Survey
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	48%	44%
Female	52%	53%
Transgender	-	0%
Other	-	0%
Prefer not to say	-	2%
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 24	8%	0%
25 to 34	12%	9%
35 to 44	12%	16%
45 to 54	15%	12%
55 to 64	21%	30%
65 to 74	19%	23%
75 years or better	14%	8%
Prefer not to say		2%
<b>Children under 18 living at home</b>		
Yes	23%	-
No	77%	-
<b>Where do you live?</b>		
Electoral Area A	6%	5%
Electoral Area B	3%	13%
Electoral Area C	0%	3%
Electoral Area E	6%	7%
Electoral Area F	2%	5%
Electoral Area G	2%	12%
Electoral Area H	3%	4%
City of Nanaimo	57%	32%
City of Parksville	9%	5%
District of Lantzville	4%	3%
Town of Qualicum Beach	8%	8%
Other	0%	4%

## 1.5 EVALUATION METRICS

Metric	Target	Actual
# of people attending in-person events	50 per open house	Open House Attendance: 122 (average of 40 per open house)
	20 per stakeholder workshop	Workshop Attendance: 72 (average of 24 per workshop)
# of completed surveys/feedback forms	400 per online survey	Round 1 online survey: 439 <i>completed</i> (469 opened the survey, but not everyone completed it; there were about 439 answers per question)
# of completed phone survey	200 responses	Phone survey responses: 200
# of people on the email distribution list	1,200	150 stakeholders were sent email notices and direct invitations to participate in the engagement opportunities.  Note: For reference, there are only 120 people registered for updates on Get Involved Page overall.
Representativeness of participant surveyed	Participants represent the Regional District’s demographic make-up and include representatives of each electoral area and municipality	The phone survey achieved a statistically valid sample that reflected the proportion of people living across the various jurisdictions within the RDN as well as the overall demographic profile.

### 1.5.1 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Workshop participants were given the opportunity to complete evaluation. Overall the feedback was very positive with the **average rating of the event of 4.25 on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being excellent) and with 39 out of 41 saying it was worthwhile participating.** Some of the suggestions for improvement included a request for more advanced notice, a longer session to allow more time for discussions, the desire for more information and more engagement opportunities.

## 2 RESULTS

The following sections describe the key results from each engagement activity. The phone survey report, online survey report, and the full open house and workshop notes are provided in the appendices.

### 2.1 PHONE SURVEY RESULTS

Key Findings from the online survey include:

- English River Regional Park is the most popular park with over four in ten residents having visited this park in the past 12 months, followed by Benson Creek Falls with one in four having visited.
- Walking, running, jogging and hiking are the most common activities while at the parks or trails. These activities are followed by mountain biking, picnicking/relaxing, cycling and swimming.
- Being too busy (time commitments) is the most common barrier to visiting regional parks or trails more often, followed by travel distance, personal health issues, weather, and lack of interest.
- When asked what benefits of the parks and trails they value most, the opportunities to experience nature is the most common response, followed by opportunities to be active and improve their personal health.
- The majority of residents are satisfied with various aspects of the regional parks and trails, with satisfaction levels being highest with the ease of getting to the parks/trails, physical accessibility within the parks/trails, and with overall maintenance. There is slightly more criticism of the number of parks/trails than of other aspects (13% dissatisfied).
- In terms of the quantity and quality of specific features, residents are most satisfied with access to the ocean front, multi use trails, signage/maps, parking, and access to rivers (although small groups do express dissatisfaction with some of these aspects).
- Washrooms drew the most criticism, followed by parking, signage/maps, and boat launch facilities. Therefore, when asked what should be the focus of spending over the next 10 years, improvements to washrooms, signage and parking are most sought, followed by general maintenance, improved trail connections, and improved accessibility.
- In terms of new additions, a number of suggestions were made with more opportunities for outdoor recreation and gathering areas, improved washrooms/signage/parking, lake waterfront parks, and more trail connections between communities topping the list.
- When asked what proportion of resources should be focused on acquiring new lands for regional parks and trails, and what portion should be dedicated to improving existing regional parks and trails, residents tend to choose a 50%/50% distribution between acquisitions and improvements

- Word of mouth, the RDN’s website, and in park signage are the most common sources of information about the Regional District’s parks and trails.

## 2.2 ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Key Findings from the Round 1 online survey include:

- Concern for the health of the environment, ecosystems and habitat was apparent throughout the survey. Most respondents indicated that protection of natural areas and special ecosystems was important to them and there were several comments regarding concerns of over development or loss of ecosystems.
- The most popular activities in Regional Parks were hiking and walking, running, jogging.
- The top desired focus of spending was on trail connection improvements, improvements to signage, washrooms and parking, as well as mountain bike trail improvements.
- In general, respondents supported a balance of acquisition and improvement of parks and trails.

### Questions about regional parks and trails

#### Visits

Englishman River Regional Park was the most visited by survey respondents with 68% people visiting the park within the last 12 months. Top Bridge Regional Trail (47%) and Mount Benson Regional Park (43%) were also well visited by survey respondents.

#### Activities

“Hiking” was the top activity in Regional Parks according to survey respondents (76%) with “walking, running, jogging” being the second most popular activity (73%). Both activities were by far the most popular activities with “bird watching/wildlife viewing” falling far behind as the next most popular activity (40%).

#### Barriers to Visiting

Nearly half (46%) of respondents indicated that they’ve experienced no barriers to visiting Regional Parks. Being too busy (14%) and not being able to find information about Regional Parks (12%) were among other barriers identified by respondents.

#### Valued Benefits

The top three benefits valued by survey respondents were:

- “Opportunity to get outside and experience nature” (84%),
- “Protect natural areas and special ecosystems” (75%),
- “Opportunity to be active/exercise and improve personal health” (74%).

## General Satisfaction

In general, survey respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied by the RDN Regional Parks and Trails aspects identified in the survey. The number and distribution of parks had the lowest level of satisfaction among respondents, which could indicate public support for additional acquisition.

**Ease of getting to the parks/trails:** 39% Very Satisfied, 40% Somewhat Satisfied

**Overall maintenance:** 36% Very Satisfied, 45% Somewhat Satisfied

**Physical accessibility within the parks/trails:** 36% Very Satisfied, 39% Somewhat Satisfied

**Variety of recreational opportunities:** 21% Very Satisfied, 38% Somewhat Satisfied

**Distribution of parks and trails:** 18% Very Satisfied, 40% Somewhat Satisfied

**Number of parks and trails:** 17% Very Satisfied, 40% Somewhat Satisfied

## Quantity and Quality Satisfaction

Most survey respondents were either very or somewhat satisfied with:

**Multi use trails:** 43% somewhat satisfied, 19% very satisfied

**Access to ocean front:** 37% somewhat satisfied, 18% very satisfied

**Parking:** 37% somewhat satisfied, 18% very satisfied

The most dissatisfaction was on trails signage and maps with 29% of people either very dissatisfied (6%) or somewhat dissatisfied (23%). Washrooms was another source of dissatisfaction with 25% either very dissatisfied (6%) or somewhat dissatisfied (19%).

## Spending on Improvements

The most important focus for spending on Regional Parks in the next 10 years was to “Improve regional trail connections” (55%). With the second most important to “Improve washrooms, signage and parking” (33%). The third most important focus was “Improve mountain bike trails” (31%).

## Priorities for New Additions to Regional Parks

Top priority for new additions to Regional Parks was “regional trail connections between communities” (52%), second was “nature preserves (limited public access)” (37%), third priority was “mountain or alpine parks” (30%).

When asked what portion of resources should be focused on acquiring new lands for Regional Parks and Trails the top 2 choices were:

75% Acquisition, 25% Improvement (38%)

50% Acquisition, 50% Improvement (35%)

With only 5% of people supporting 100% Improvement and 9% of people supporting 100% Acquisition.

#### Priorities for New or Improved Community Parks and Trails

The top priority for survey respondents for new or improved Community Parks and Trails was “Protect the community’s biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems” (59%). The second priority was “Provide trail connections between neighbourhoods & communities” (49%) and the third priority was “Foster a connection with nature” (40%).

#### Comments:

large portion (73/352) of the open-ended comments focussed on the need to conserve/acquire/protect ecological areas and habitats. On the same token, many people commented on the need to prioritize acquisition of land in order to protect it from development and retain it for conservation or recreation purposes (45/352).

Many people commented on the need to improve access to parks (34/352), improve signage (24/352) as well as improve mountain biking infrastructure/opportunities (23/352).

Areas of note mentioned in the comments were:

- Conservation the French Creek Estuary
- Retain E & N track as cycling opportunity
- Protect/designate the “dark side” as climbing opportunity

Some example of comments on these topics are:

*“Please make the French Creek Estuary Lands into park land and protect it from development.”*

*“I think the E&N rail/trail strategy from a few years ago, focused on linking Nanoose, Parksville and Qualicum with North Nanaimo, should be revived, as it represents an opportunity to link communities (and regions) by bicycle.”*

*“I strongly support Nanaimo purchasing the “Dark Side” Climbing area on the Nanaimo River and turning that into a park that will continue to allow rock climbing.”*

## 2.3 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP RESULTS

Workshop participants indicated that they value the following:

- Enjoyment of nature
- Conservation/Ecological preservation/ Natural areas/ Wildlife corridors
- Education and signage
- Trails for walking/hiking
- Views
- Waterfront access
- Public access to wild places

With regards to Regional Parks and Trails workshops participants valued:

- Environment (trees, wildlife habitat, conservation, biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems)
- Visitor Access
- Large areas
- Remoteness
- Access to water
- Economic opportunities (Campground, tourism, etc.)

With regards to Community Parks and Trails workshop participants valued:

- Gathering spaces for social interaction
- Active transportation
- Education opportunities
- Easy to get to/walkable
- Diversity of recreational activities (playgrounds, events, etc.)
- Neighbourhood connectivity
- Governance is local, community input is possible

Issues and Challenges of the RDN Parks and Trails system identified in the workshops included:

- The need for acquisition due to the risk of loss of important natural areas to development
- Lack of understanding on shared trails or designated use trails (user conflicts eg. Horseback riding, ATV, walking, mountain biking)
- Better management of what the RDN has – proactively managing and designating areas to protect
- Lack of designated areas for some recreation user groups (ex. Horseback riding, ATV)
- Competing interests for park use
- Having a park where it is needed is important
- Size matters because only large parks can provide significant benefits in terms of wildlife, CO2 sequestration, aquifer protection

Workshop participants felt that RDN was doing well at:

- Working with volunteers for trail maintenance and stewardship
- Working with partners eg. NCC
- Providing excellent trail systems eg. Mt. Benson

Items identified by workshop participants that RDN could do more of included:

- Increase agreement with MOSAIC in terms of access for recreation
- More connecting trails between communities/areas of interest (cycle and walk)
- Equestrian facilities (eg. trailer parking, staging areas)
- Creation of a volunteer policy and guidelines
- Improve wildlife management
- Improve wayfinding and signage
- Improve responsiveness
- Improve Education and interpretation
- Improve operations

When asked about accessibility in RDN Parks and Trails workshop participants generally indicated that not all parks were accessible and accessibility could be improved for priority parks or parks that are highly visited. The need for an accessibility audit was mentioned, to measure the degree of accessibility in parks and make suggestions for improvements. Access to waterfront was also mentioned as an accessibility issue that needs to be addressed.

Suggestions from workshop participants on how to promote use of parks and trails included:

- Provide more/improved information (signage, web, education) about parks and trails
- Partner with groups (school, volunteer, etc.) for programs in parks
- Increase physical accessibility of parks and trails
- Involve the community more in care of parks
- Provide shorter, looped trails for seniors & children
- Improve transit connections
- Increase recreational programming
- Expand amenities (toilets)

Considerations unique to Gabriola Island include:

- Consider developing a Parks Master Plan that is specific to Gabriola Island
- Increase recreational programming
- Consider purchasing the golf course to increase public access to the lake and shoreline bluffs
- Conserve the saltmarsh

**Improve Existing Vs. Acquisition:** When asked whether participants felt that improving existing parks or acquisition of new parkland was more important, most people felt that although acquisition was important, a balance was necessary in order to adequately maintain existing parks while protecting land from future development with acquisition. There was a strong emphasis on acquisition from those who attended the workshop in Qualicum Beach.

**Conservation vs. Recreation:** When asked about the importance of Conservation vs. Recreation, some workshop participants felt that conservation was of the highest importance whereas others felt that recreation should be able to occur simultaneously with conservation. There was a strong emphasis on conservation from those who attended the workshop and open house in Qualicum Beach.

**Improve Regional Parks vs. Improve Community Parks:** When asked about whether improving Regional Parks or Community Parks should be a priority, workshop participants felt that this depends on the location and did not feel like they could make a general comment on the whole of RDN. Many participants wanted to see more of the undeveloped community parks improved for public access.

**More, Smaller Community parks vs. larger, fewer Community parks:** Workshop participant comments were mixed regarding the desire for more smaller parks vs. fewer larger parks. There were discussions about how numerous small parks provide easy access for people on a daily basis, but need to be connected by paths for walking or cycling to avoid the need for people to drive and to use parkland for parking lots.

**Trails from park to park vs. Trails from community to park:** The following comments were made about connectivity:

- “Parks are destinations (no need to connect them)”
- “Community trails are important”
- “Trails from park to park is ideal wherever it can happen”

### Reconciliation

“When we are talking about land & human “embeddedness” in the land, we may need to consider Indigenous perspectives”

**Diversity & accessibility:** When asked if “all different types of are able to enjoy the parks and trails in the Regional District of Nainamo,” participants indicated that improving access for those with mobility issues is an important consideration. Limited transit access and wayfinding opportunities were also considered significant accessibility barriers.

## 2.4 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

Key Findings from the Public Open Houses:

**Vision:** When asked to describe 1-5 key words to describe an ideal parks and trail system, some common themes/words that arose were:

- Connection
- Accessibility
- Conservation
- Natural
- Education
- Recreation
- Health
- Variety

Park features/parks most valued:

- Public access (convenient, easy, safe)
- Parking (horse trailer and general public)
- Picnic areas/community gathering spaces
- Conservation
- Access to waterfront/beach
- Variety (terrain, features, activities)
- Clear signage

Trail features/trails most valued:

- Connectivity
- Variety
- Safety
- Education
- Nature
- Maintained
- Cycling trails/active transportation
- Mountain biking trails (more, improved)
- Access and mapping
- Multi-use
- Loops (walking)

Conservation was a common theme throughout the comments on the Open House Boards and of particular note was French Creek Estuary, which was brought up in many of the comments from

the Open House in Qualicum Beach. Open House participants expressed concern for the protection of the estuary from development and the need to maintain it for flood mitigation.

## 3 CONCLUSIONS

Across all the engagement methods, the following values, issues, and opportunities emerged:

### Key Community Values

- Opportunities to experience and enjoy nature
- Protection of important ecological areas
- Opportunities to be active and improve personal health
- Specific features mentioned included access to waterfronts (lakes, beaches), trails for multiple activities, views, and a wide variety of recreational opportunities

### Key Issues and Opportunities

- Identify important natural areas and protect them from development through parkland acquisition
- Improve trail connection from communities to parks and between communities
- Improve accessibility of parks (getting to and within the parks)
- Improve information, wayfinding and signage for parks and trails would increase the use of parks and trails
- Improve washroom facilities
- Continued efforts to partner with other agencies, land managers, and community organization is important
- Improve access and management for a variety of trail users
- Continue to pursue large parklands because of the significant ecological benefits as well as public access to more remote, quiet, natural areas
- Specific locations mentioned were the French Creek Estuary, the E&N Railway, and the Dark Side climbing areas

### Some Key Vision Words

- Connection/Interconnected
- Accessibility
- Conservation/preservation
- Natural/ecosystems/wildlife
- Education
- Healthy and active
- Regional parks: large, accessible, multiuse, biodiverse, wildlife connectivity, more investment

- Community parks: fun, safe, close to home, accessible, small, local, minimal development, community connections, low cost

## 4 NEXT STEPS

The input gathered through the Round 1 Engagement activities is being considered along with the other project components in the development of the Draft Parks and Trails Strategy. This summary report will be made available on the webpage and the Draft Parks and Trails Strategy will be brought back to the public for their feedback in May 2020.

Information and updates on the project status and upcoming engagement events will continue to be posted on the Get Involved webpage as it becomes available:

<https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/projects/rdnparkstrails>

# APPENDIX A – PHONE SURVEY

December 2019

# Parks and Trails Strategic Plan - Community Survey



MUSTEL GROUP  
MARKET RESEARCH



## ➤ Foreword

### Background

The Regional District of Nanaimo has established a new Parks and Trails Strategic Plan that will set the direction for improvements to the regional and community parks and trails over the next 10 years. Feedback is being sought from residents to help inform the priorities for acquisitions and improvements to parks and trails in the District over the next decade. This report presents the findings from a survey administered by telephone among a random selection of residents.

### Methodology

- A total of 200 interviews were conducted by telephone with a random selection of residents, 18 years of age or over;
- The margin of error on the sample is +/-6.9% at the 95% confidence level;
- Interviewing was conducted by Mustel Group interviewers weekday evenings and during the day on weekends from November 25th to December 4th, 2019;
- Specific steps were taken to ensure the sample is representative of the community at large including:
  - sample drawn at random from an up-to-date database of published residential listings and cell numbers released in the District;
  - next birthday method employed to randomize respondent selection within the household;
  - up to 6 calls made to each household/individual to reduce potential bias due to non-response;
  - final sample weighted by gender within age to match Statistics Canada Census data.
- The survey was pretested before launching;
- The questionnaire used is appended;
- Detailed computer tabulations are provided under separate cover.

## ➤ Executive Overview

- **English River Regional Park is the most popular park** with over four-in-ten residents having visited this park in the past 12 months, followed by Benson Creek Falls with one-in-four having visited.
- One-in-five Nanaimo residents also have visited Morden Colliery Regional Trail, Nanaimo River Regional Park and Mount Benson Regional Park.
- English River is also popular among those residing in other parts of the District, but they are less inclined to visit the other above parks and more inclined to visit Top Bridge, Moorecroft, Qualicum parks and trails, along with others outside Nanaimo.
- **Walking, running, jogging and hiking are the most common activities** while at the parks or trails. These activities are followed by mountain biking, picnicking/relaxing, cycling and swimming.
- **Time commitments is the most common barrier to visiting regional parks or trails more often**, followed by travel distance, personal health issues, weather, and lack of interest.
- When asked what benefits of the parks and trails they value most, **the opportunities to experience nature** is the most common response, followed by opportunities to be active and improve their personal health.
- **The majority of residents are satisfied with various aspects of the regional parks and trails**, with satisfaction levels being highest with the ease of getting to the parks/trails, physical accessibility within the parks/trails, and with overall maintenance. There is slightly more criticism of the number of parks/trails than of other aspects (13% dissatisfied).
- In terms of the quantity and quality of specific features, residents are **most satisfied with access to the ocean front, multi-use trails, signage/maps, parking, and access to rivers** (although small groups do express dissatisfaction with some of these aspects).
- **Washrooms draw the most criticism, followed by parking, signage/maps, and boat launch facilities.** Therefore when asked what should be the focus of spending over the next 10 years, improvements to washrooms, signage and parking are most sought, followed by general maintenance, improved trail connections, and improved accessibility.
- And in terms of new additions, a number of different ones are listed with **more opportunities for outdoor recreation and gathering areas, improved washrooms/signage/parking, lake waterfront parks, and more trail connections** between communities topping the list (cited particularly by residents outside Nanaimo).
- When asked what proportion of resources should be focused on *acquiring* new lands for regional parks and trails, and what portion should be dedicated to *improving* existing regional parks and trails, **residents tend to choose a 50%/50% distribution between acquisitions and improvements.**
- **Word-of-mouth, followed by the website and in park signage are the most common sources of information** about the District's parks and trails.



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# Detailed Findings

## ➤ Regional Parks Visited in Last 12 Months (By Region)

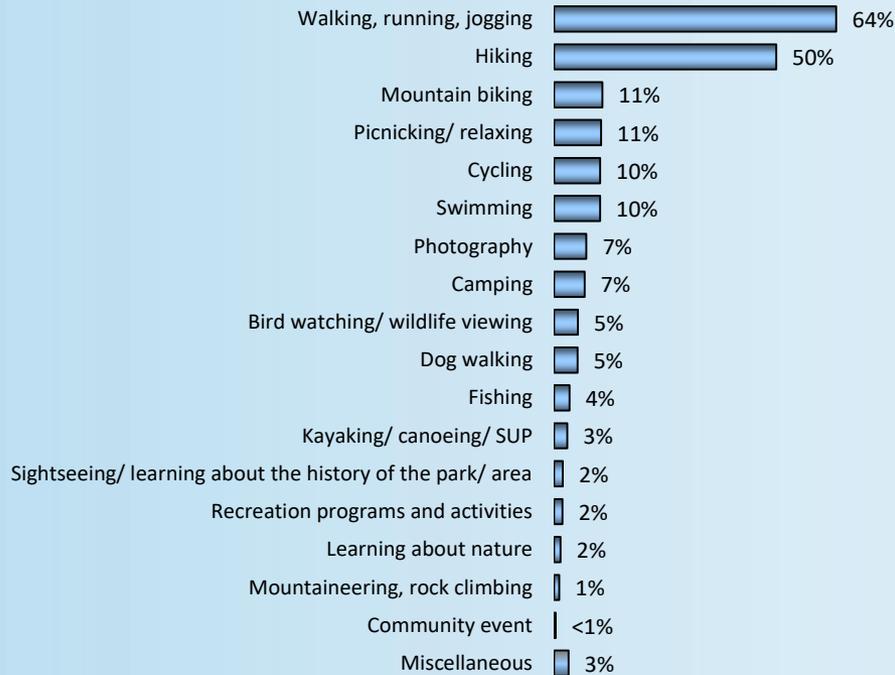
	<u>Total</u> (201) %	<u>Nanaimo</u> (146) %	<u>Other</u> (55) %
Englishman River Regional Park	44	40	49
Benson Creek Falls Regional Park	23	<b>31</b>	12
Morden Colliery Regional Trail	17	<b>22</b>	12
Nanaimo River Regional Park	17	<b>21</b>	12
Mount Benson Regional Park	16	<b>21</b>	10
Big Qualicum River Regional Trail	14	11	<b>18</b>
Parksville - Qualicum Beach Links	12	10	<b>15</b>
Top Bridge Regional Trail	12	6	<b>20</b>
Little Qualicum River Regional Park	12	9	<b>15</b>
Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area	12	8	<b>17</b>
Moorecroft Regional Park	11	3	<b>20</b>
Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail	10	14	5
Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail	9	8	10
Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail	8	6	11
Horne Lake Regional Park	8	8	8
Beachcomber Regional Park	6	6	7
The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)	5	2	10
Lighthouse Country Regional Trail	5	7	3
Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park	3	2	6
Descanso Bay Regional Park	3	2	4
Coasts Marsh Regional Park	2	1	4
None	28	31	23

Q.1) Which regional parks or trails have you visited in the last 12 months?

- The survey began by asking respondents to list the regional parks or trails visited in the past 12 months. As there are 21 parks and trails, the list was not read out to respondents unless they were having difficulty recalling those visited.
- English River Regional Park is the most popular with over four-in-ten residents having visited, followed by Benson Creek Falls with one-in-four having visited.
- One-in-five Nanaimo residents also have visited Morden Colliery Regional Trail, Nanaimo River Regional Park and Mount Benson Regional Park.
- English River is also popular among those residing in other parts of the District, but they are less inclined to visit the other above parks and more inclined to visit Top Bridge, Moorecroft, Qualicum parks and trails, along with others outside Nanaimo.



## Types of Activities Done While at Park/ Trail (Unprompted)



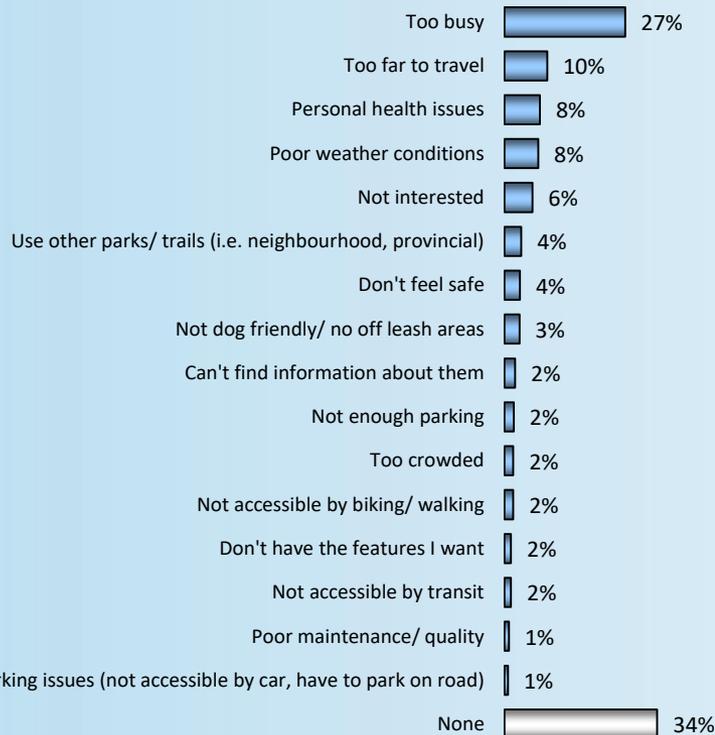
- Walking, running, jogging and hiking are the most common activities while at the parks or trails.
- These activities are followed by mountain biking, picnicking/relaxing, cycling and swimming. A variety of other activities are also listed.
- Nanaimo residents being younger than those from other communities in the District are more inclined to participate in such active sports as hiking and biking.

Base: Total visited a regional park or trail in the past 12 months (n=141)

Q.2) What activities do you do while you're there?



## Obstacles to Visiting Regional Parks and Trails More Often (Unprompted)

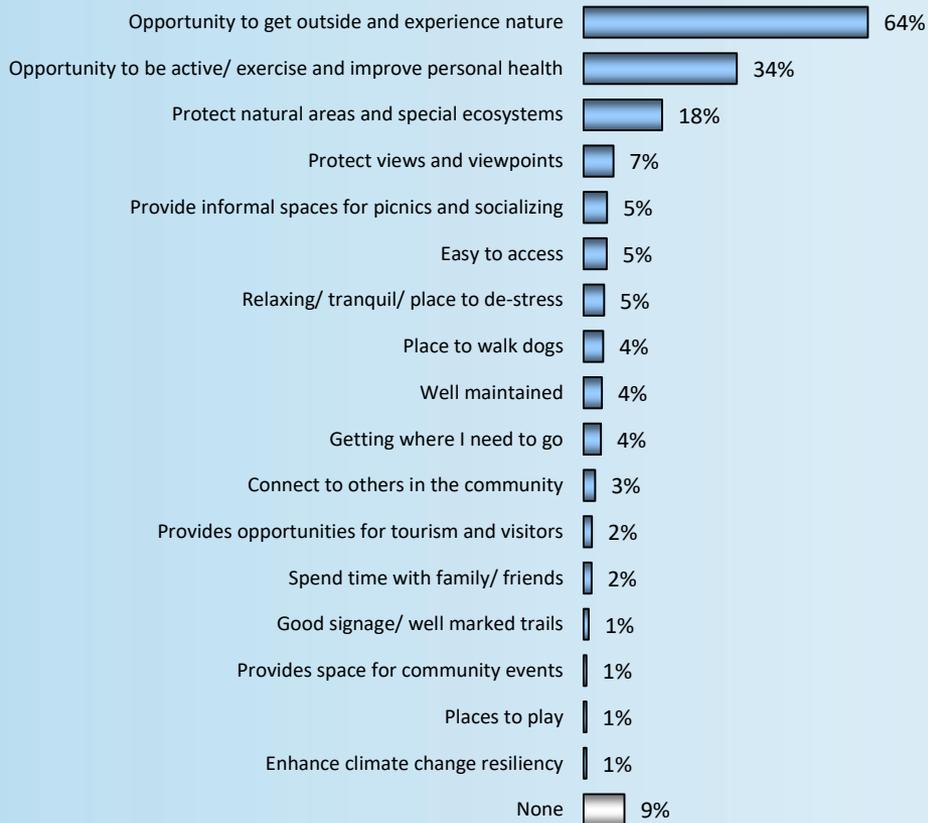


- Time commitments is the most common barrier to visiting regional parks or trails more often, followed by travel distance, personal health issues, weather, and lack of interest (lack of interest cited more so by older residents from outside Nanaimo).
- Small groups also cite safety issues, not being dog friendly (e.g., no off leash areas), insufficient information, lack of parking, and being too crowded.
- Note that one-in-three residents do not have *any* obstacles to visiting more often, this level increasing to 43% of families.

Base: Total (n=201)

Q.3) Is there anything that keeps you from visiting regional parks and trails more often?

## ➤ Benefits Value Most of Regional Parks and Trails (Unprompted)

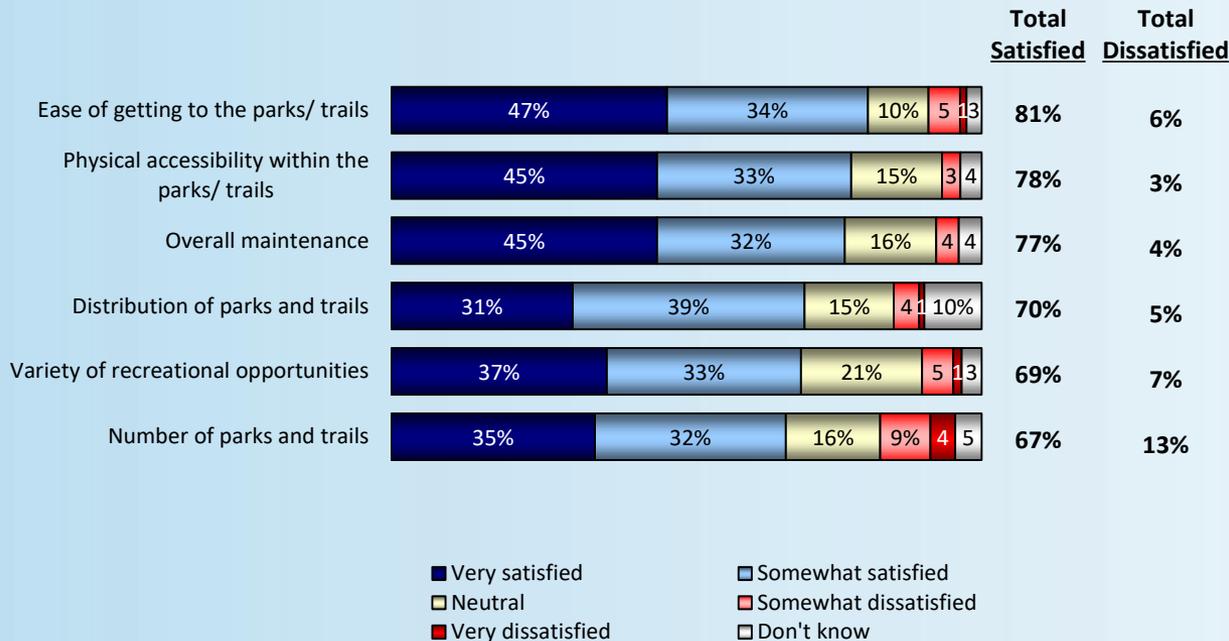


- Residents were also asked what benefits of the parks and trails they value most. The opportunities to experience nature is the most common response, followed by opportunities to be active and improve their personal health.
- A sizeable group also appreciate that the parks protect natural areas, special ecosystems and/or views.

Base: Total (n=201)

Q.4) What benefits of regional parks and trails do you value most?

## ➤ Satisfaction with Aspects of the RDN's Regional Parks and Trails

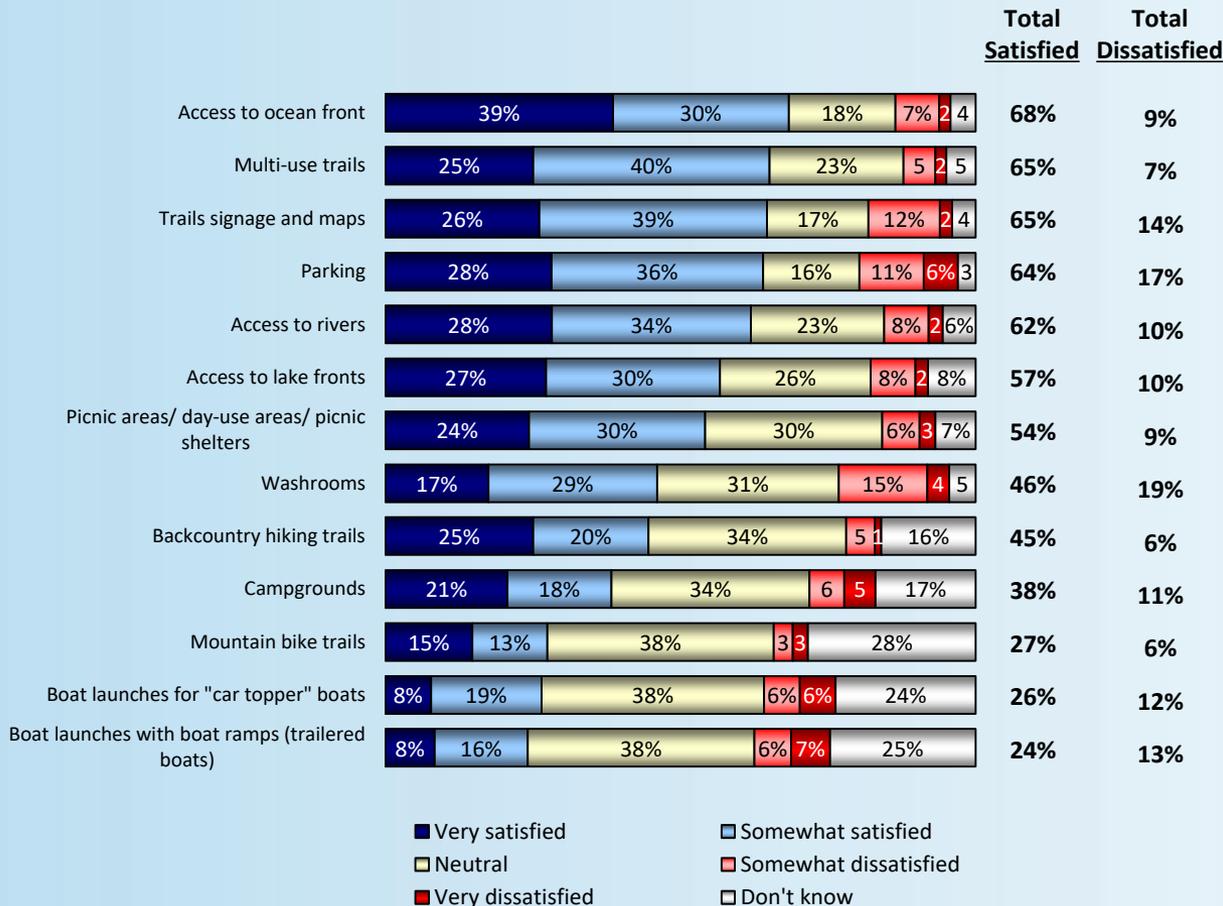


- The majority of residents are satisfied with various aspects of the regional parks and trails, with satisfaction levels being highest with the *ease of getting to the parks/trails, physical accessibility within the parks/trails, and with overall maintenance.*
- There is slightly more criticism of the *number of parks/trails* than of other aspects (13% dissatisfied).
- Views are similar by area of residence.

Base: Total (n=201)

Q.5a-f) In general, how satisfied are you with the following aspects of the RDN's regional parks and trails?

## ➤ Satisfaction with Quality/Quantity of Specific Features

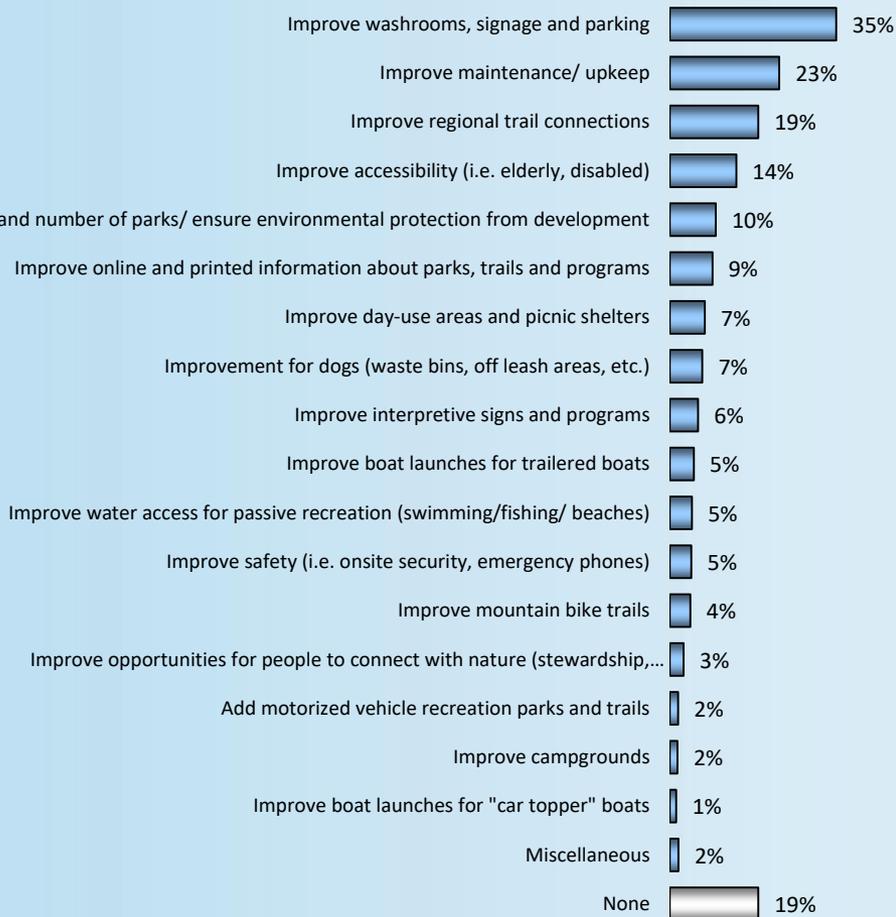


- In terms of the quantity and quality of specific features, residents are most satisfied with access to the ocean front, multi-use trails, signage/maps, parking, and access to rivers (although small groups do express dissatisfaction with some of these aspects).
- On most other features, the dissatisfaction levels are relatively low but higher percentages are neutral in their views, which could be related to lack of use or experience with that feature.
- Washrooms draw the most criticism, followed by parking, signage/maps, and boat launch facilities.
- Again, views are similar by area of residence.

Base: Total (n=201)

Q.6a-m) Thinking about the Regional District's regional parks and trails, how satisfied are you with the quantity and quality of the following features?

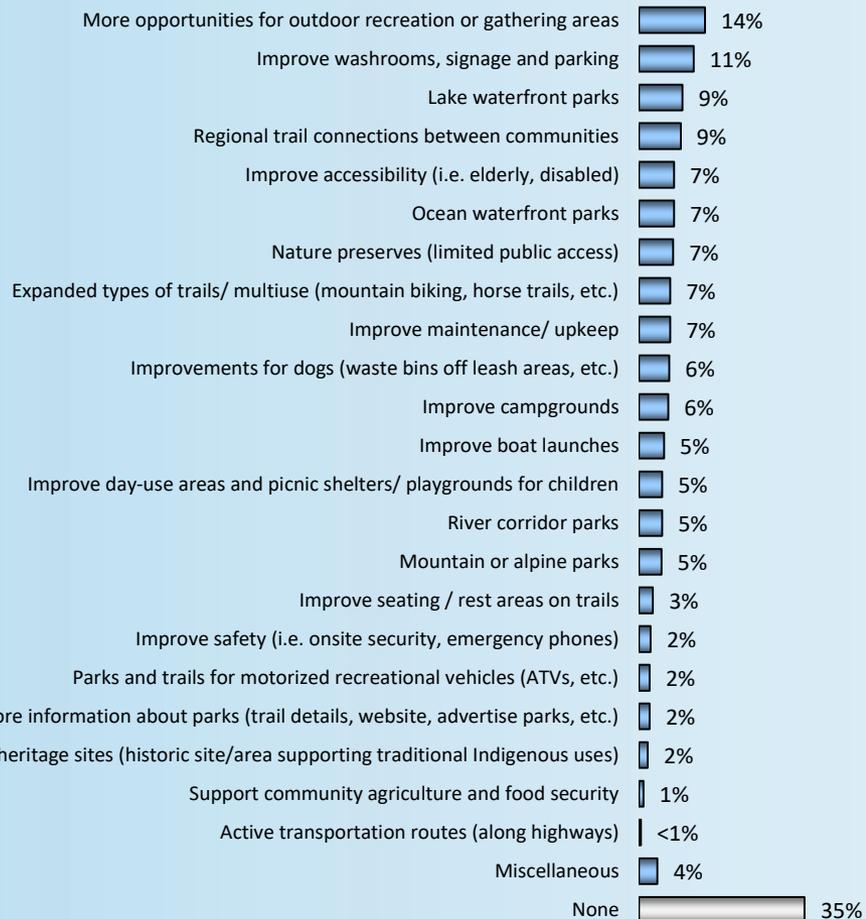
## Top 3 Areas of Focus for Spending Over Next 10 Years (Unprompted)



Base: Total (n=201)

- Respondents were asked to list (unprompted) the top three things that should be the focus of spending over the next 10 years.
- Improvements to washrooms, signage and parking are most sought (listed by 35%), followed by general maintenance, improved trail connections, and improved accessibility (mentioned by 14% to 23% with the finding similar by area of residence).
- Nanaimo residents also suggest improved online or printed information (13%).
- A number of other areas are cited by smaller groups.

## ➤ Top 3 Priorities for New Additions to Regional Parks and Trails (Unprompted)

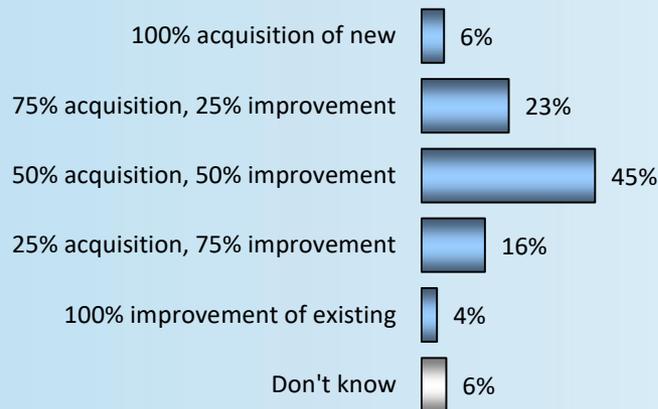


Base: Total (n=201)

- And in terms of new additions, a number of different ones are listed with the most common being more opportunities for outdoor recreation and gathering areas, improved washrooms/signage/parking, lake waterfront parks, and more trail connections between communities (cited particularly by residents outside Nanaimo).



## ➤ Proportion of Resources Focused on Acquisition vs. Improvement



- When asked what proportion of resources should be focused on *acquiring* new lands for regional parks and trails, and what portion should be dedicated to *improving* existing regional parks and trails, residents tend to choose a 50%/50% distribution.
- Among the remaining residents, opinion leans toward new acquisitions.
- Views are similar by area of residence.

Base: Total (n=201)

Q.9) Over the next 10 years, what proportion of resources should be focused on acquiring new lands for regional parks and trails and what portion should be dedicated to improving existing regional parks and trails?



## ➤ Other Comments Regarding Parks and Trails Provided By the RDN

	<u>Total</u> (201) %
Increase the usage options (off leash dog access, more camping, etc.)	7
Expand parks/ trails	5
Improve maintenance (garbage bins, trail upkeep, etc.)	5
Ensure the environmental protection of parks/ rivers	5
Provide more information (i.e. location, facilities)	3
Advertise parks/ trails	3
Improve park/ trail signage	2
Improve safety/ increase park patrols	1
Miscellaneous	17
Miscellaneous positive	12
Miscellaneous negative	5
No other comments	68
<i>Q.13) Do you have any other comments regarding parks and trails provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo?</i>	



## ➤ Information Sources for RND's Parks and Trails

	Total (201) %
Word of mouth	74
RDN website	63
Signage at parks or on trails	49
City of Nanaimo activity guide	28
Regional Park and Trails brochure	24
RDN Active Living Guide	23
Tourism office/ promotions	20
RDN's park finder map	19
RDN's social media sources	16
Through a community club or organization	12
Internet/ Apps	9
<i>Misc. trail apps</i>	5
<i>Internet (google search, misc. websites, etc.)</i>	5
<i>Misc. social media</i>	1
Physical media (guide books, newspaper, etc.)	5
Community/ senior's centre	1
Phone Regional District of Nanaimo	<1
No comment	2
<i>Q.17) Where do you go to find information about the Regional District of Nanaimo's Parks and Trails?</i>	

- Word-of-mouth, followed by the website and in park signage are the most common sources of information about the District's parks and trails.



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# Demographics



## ➤ Demographic Profile

	<u>Total</u> (201) %
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	48
Female	52
<b>Age</b>	
18 to 24	8
25 to 34	12
35 to 44	12
45 to 54	15
55 to 64	21
65 to 74	19
75 years or better	14
<b>Children under 18 living at home</b>	
Yes	23
No	77

- Minor weighting was applied to match the sample to Statistics Canada census data on the basis of age within gender, and broadly by area of residence.



## ➤ Area of Residence

	<u>Total</u> (201) %
City of Nanaimo	57
City of Parksville	9
District of Lantzville	4
Town of Qualicum Beach	8
Electoral A (Cedar, South Wellington, Yellowpoint, Cassidy)	6
Electoral B (Gabriola, Decourcy, Mudge Islands)	3
Electoral E (Nanoose Bay)	6
Electoral F (Coombs, Hilliers, Errington, Whiskey Creek, Meadwood)	2
Electoral G (French Creek, San Pareil, Little Qualicum)	2
Electoral H (Bowser, Qualicum Bay, Deep Bay)	3
<i>Q.10) Where do you live?</i>	



**MUSTEL GROUP**  
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# Questionnaire



MUSTEL GROUP  
MARKET RESEARCH

## Regional District of Nanaimo - Parks and Trails Strategy

### Telephone Version- November 21, 2019

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ of Mustel Group and we are conducting a survey about the Regional District's new Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. This plan will set the direction for improvements to the regional and community parks and trails over the next 10 years. Your feedback will help inform the priorities for acquisitions and improvements to parks and trails in the Regional District of Nanaimo over the next decade.

Please note that while some parks, trails and open spaces are also provided by municipalities and the Province, this survey is focused on parks provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo. Examples of REGIONAL Parks include Benson Creek Falls Regional Park and Englishman River Regional Park.

1. Which REGIONAL Parks or Trails have you visited in the last 12 months? [check all that apply]

- Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail
- Beachcomber Regional Park
- Benson Creek Falls Regional Park
- Big Qualicum River Regional Trail
- Coats Marsh Regional Park
- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail
- Descanso Bay Regional Park
- Englishman River Regional Park
- Horne Lake Regional Park
- Lighthouse Country Regional Trail
- Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area
- Little Qualicum River Regional Park
- Moorecroft Regional Park
- Morden Colliery Regional Trail
- Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park
- Mount Benson Regional Park
- Nanaimo River Regional Park
- Parksville - Qualicum Beach Links
- The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)
- Top Bridge Regional Trail
- Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None of these



2. What activities do you do while you're there? [Check all that apply. Read list only if necessary]

mountain biking  
walking, running, jogging  
recreation programs and activities  
mountaineering, rock climbing  
Fishing  
Camping  
kayaking/canoeing/SUP  
picnicking/relaxing  
community event  
swimming  
bird watching/wildlife viewing  
cycling  
learning about nature  
hiking  
Other (please specify)

3. Is there anything that keeps you from visiting REGIONAL Parks and Trails more often? [Check all that apply]

Too crowded  
Not interested  
Don't feel welcome  
Don't feel safe  
Don't have the features I want  
Nothing  
Not enough parking  
Poor maintenance/quality  
Can't find information about them  
Too busy  
Too far to travel  
Personal health issues  
Not accessible by biking/walking  
Not accessible by transit  
Other (please specify)

4. What benefits of REGIONAL Parks and Trails do you value most? [List not read- used for coding only]

Enhance climate change resiliency  
Provides space for community events  
Opportunity to be active/exercise and improve personal health  
Protect natural areas and special ecosystems  
Connect to others in the community  
Provide informal spaces for picnics and socializing  
Opportunity to get outside and experience nature  
Getting where I need to go  
Places to play  
Protect views and viewpoints  
Provides opportunities for tourism and visitors  
Other (please specify)



5. In general, how satisfied are you with the following aspects of the RDN's REGIONAL Parks and Trails?

**Scale: Very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neutral, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied**

- Overall maintenance
- Physical accessibility within the parks/trails
- Ease of getting to the parks/trails
- Number of parks and trails
- Variety of recreational opportunities
- Distribution of parks and trails

6. Thinking about the Regional District's REGIONAL Parks and Trails, how satisfied are you with the quantity and quality of the following features?

**Scale: Very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neutral, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, don't know**

- Multi-use trails
- Backcountry hiking trails
- Mountain bike trails
- Trails signage and maps
- Access to rivers
- Access to ocean front
- Access to lake fronts
- Washrooms
- Picnic areas/Day-use areas/Picnic shelters
- Campgrounds
- Boat launches for "car topper" boats
- Boat launches with boat ramps (for trailered boats)
- Parking

7. If you could pick three things, what should be the focus of spending on REGIONAL park and trail improvements over the next 10 years? [List not read- used for coding only]

- Improve regional trail connections
- Improve day-use areas and picnic shelters
- Improve campgrounds
- Add motorized vehicle recreation parks and trails
- Improve washrooms, signage and parking
- Improve water access for passive recreation (swimming, fishing, beaches, etc.)
- Improve boat launches for "car topper" boats
- Improve boat launches for trailered boats
- Improve interpretive signs and programs
- Improve opportunities for people to connect with nature (stewardship, volunteering, educational programs)
- Improve online and printed information about parks, trails and programs
- Improve mountain bike trails
- Other (please specify)



8. If there are new additions to the REGIONAL Parks and Trails, what would be your top three priorities? [List not read- used for coding only]

More opportunities for outdoor recreation or gathering areas  
Nature Preserves (limited public access)  
Regional trail connections between communities  
Active transportation routes (along highways)  
Ocean waterfront parks  
Lake waterfront parks  
Mountain or alpine parks  
River corridor parks  
Parks and trails for motorized recreational vehicles (ATVs, etc.)  
Cultural heritage sites (including historic sites and areas supporting traditional Indigenous uses)  
Support community agriculture and food security  
Other (please specify)

9. Over the next 10 years, what portion of resources should be focused on acquiring new lands for REGIONAL Parks and Trails and what portion should be dedicated to improving existing REGIONAL parks and trails?

100% Acquisition  
75% Acquisition, 25% Improvement  
50% Acquisition, 50% Improvement  
25% Acquisition, 75% Improvement  
100% Improvement  
Don't Know

10. Where do you live? [PICK ONLY ONE]

Electoral Area A  
Electoral Area B  
Electoral Area C  
Electoral Area E  
Electoral Area F  
Electoral Area G  
Electoral Area H  
City of Nanaimo  
City of Parksville  
District of Lantzville  
Town of Qualicum Beach  
None of these  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 13 Do you have any other comments regarding parks and trails provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo?



We have just a few more questions to ensure we are speaking to a representative group of people in the community.

14 Do you identify as:

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Other
- Prefer not to say

15 Into which of the following age categories may we place you?

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74 years
- 75 years or better
- Prefer not to say

16 Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

- Yes
- No

17 Where do you go to find information about the Regional District of Nanaimo's Parks and Trails?

- RDN website
- RDN Parks Finder Map
- Signage at parks or on trails
- Through a community club or organization
- Regional park and trails brochure
- RDN Active Living Guide
- City of Nanaimo Activity Guide
- RDN's Social Media sources
- Tourism office/promotions
- Word of mouth
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)



# APPENDIX B – ONLINE SURVEY

# Survey Report

11 November 2019 - 07 January 2020

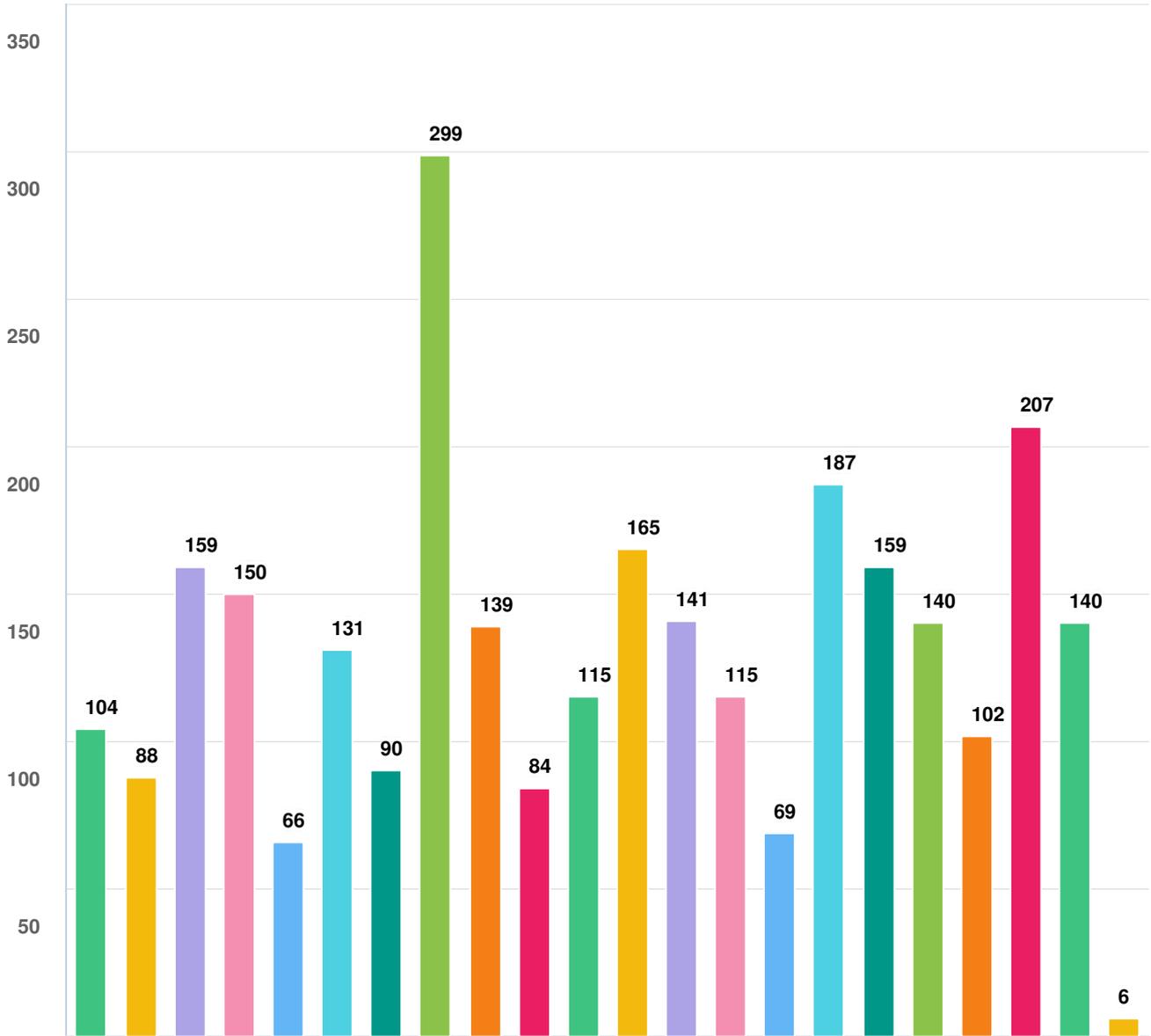
# Parks & Trails Strategy Survey #1

PROJECT: RDN Parks & Trails Strategy

**Get Involved RDN**

engagement   
by Bang the Table

**Q1** The following questions ask about regional parks and trails. Regional parks tend to be situated around a regionally signific...

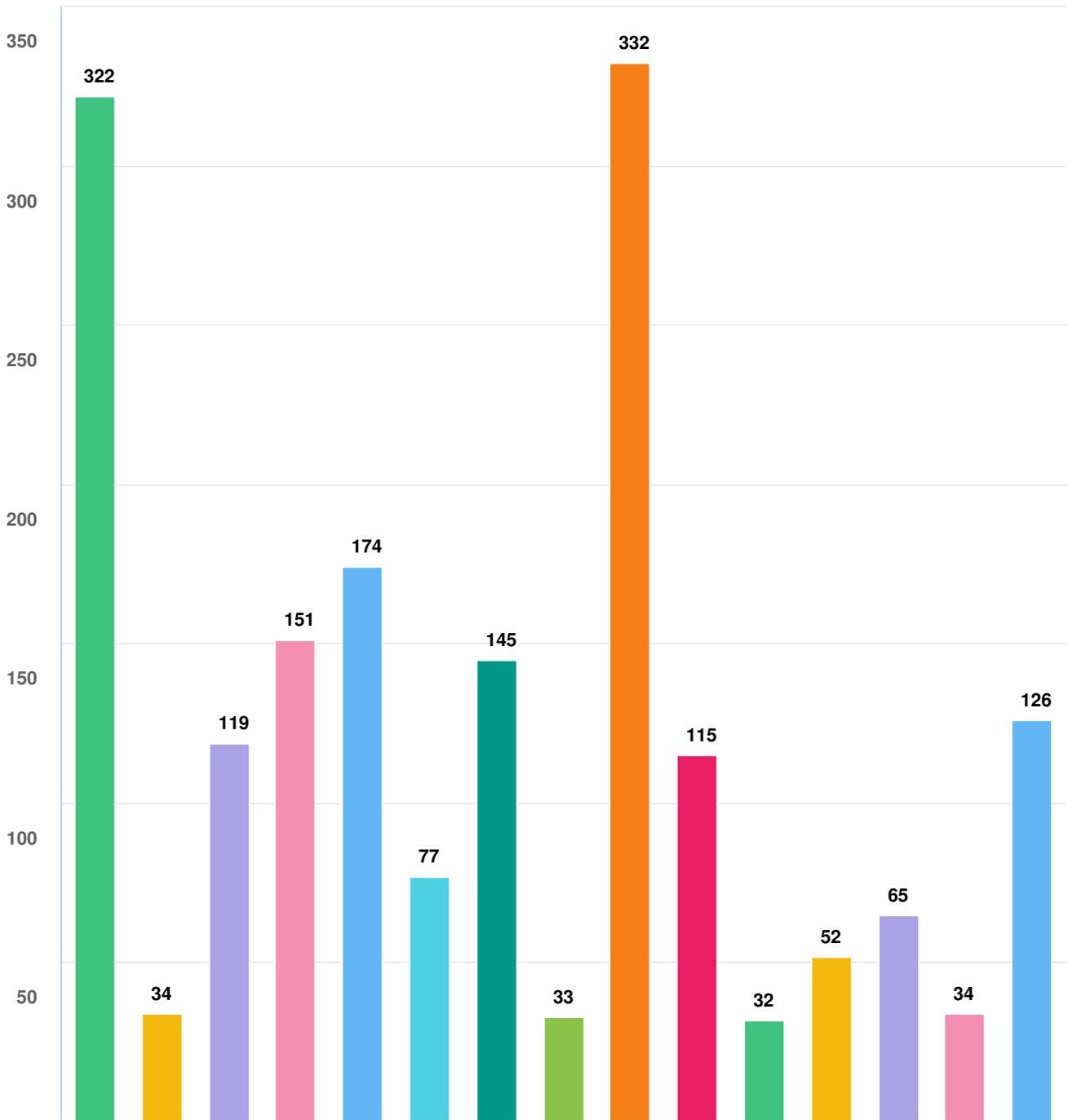


**Question options**

- Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail
- Beachcomber Regional Park
- Benson Creek Falls Regional Park
- Big Qualicum River Regional Trail
- Coats Marsh Regional Park
- Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail
- Descanso Bay Regional Park
- Englishman River Regional Park
- Horne Lake Regional Park
- Lighthouse Country Regional Trail
- Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area
- Little Qualicum River Regional Park
- Moorecroft Regional Park
- Morden Colliery Regional Trail
- Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park
- Mount Benson Regional Park
- Nanaimo River Regional Park
- Parksville - Qualicum Beach Links
- The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)
- Top Bridge Regional Trail
- Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail
- None of these

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

**Q2** What activities do you do while you're there? [Pick all that apply]

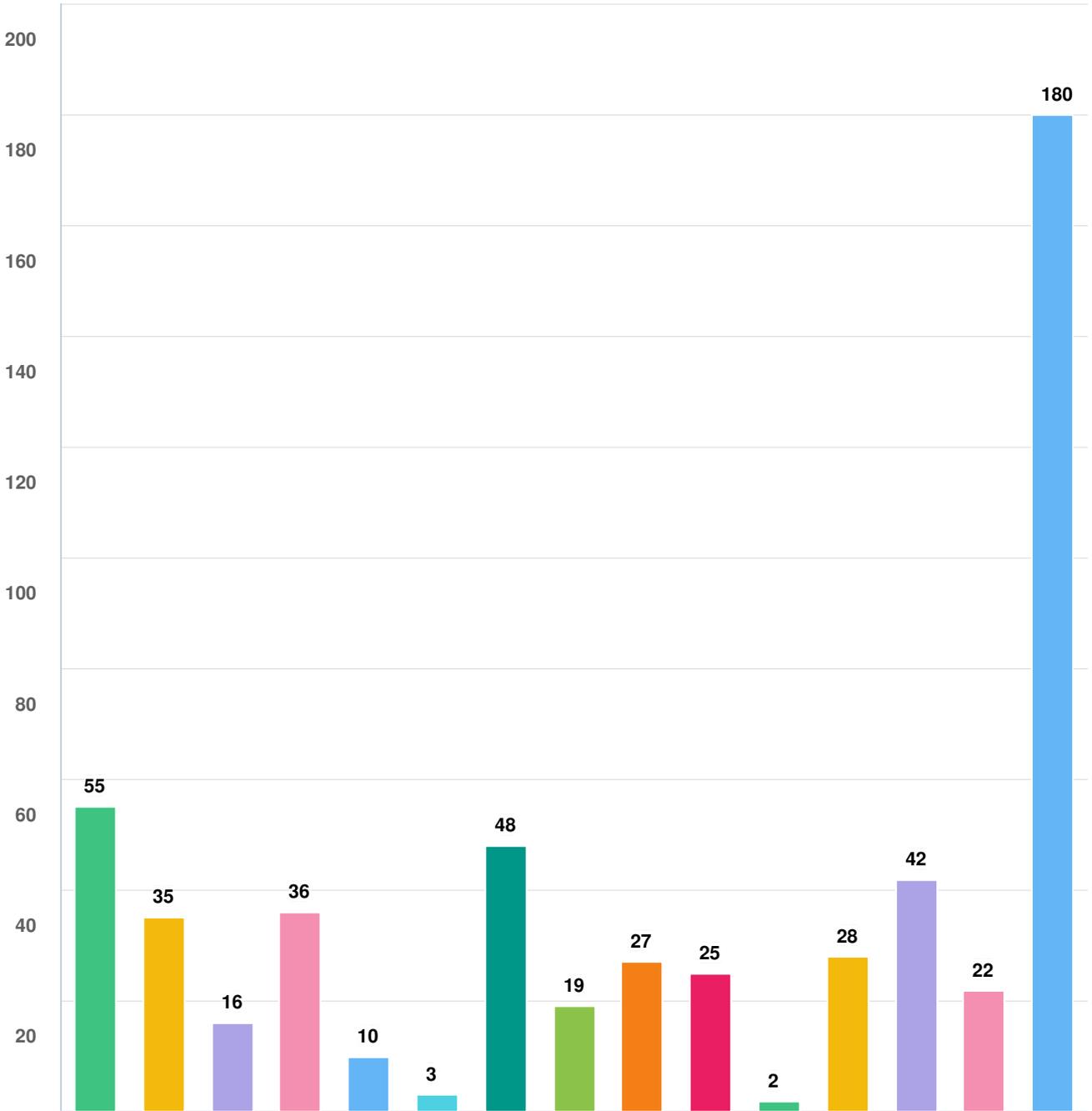


**Question options**

- walking, running, jogging
- community event
- cycling
- mountain biking
- bird watching/wildlife viewing
- kayaking/canoeing/SUP
- picnicking/relaxing
- recreation programs and activities
- hiking
- swimming
- fishing
- mountaineering, rock climbing
- camping
- other (please specify)
- learning about nature

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

**Q3** Is there anything that keeps you from visiting regional parks and trails more often?  
 [Pick all that apply]

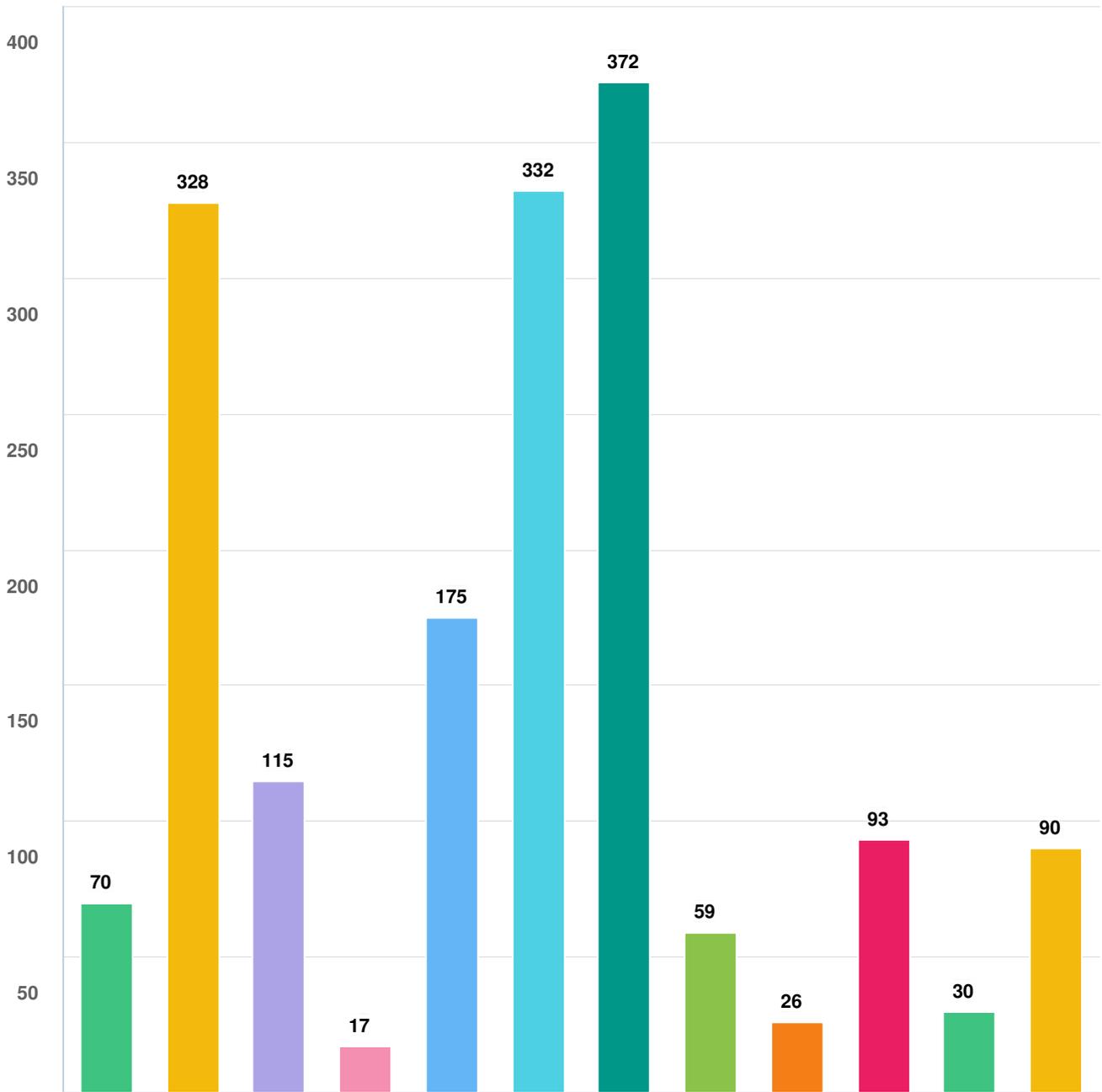


**Question options**

- too busy    
 ● too far to travel    
 ● not accessible by transit    
 ● not accessible by biking/walking    
 ● don't feel safe
- don't feel welcome    
 ● can't find information about them    
 ● personal health issues    
 ● don't have the features I want
- poor maintenance/quality    
 ● not interested    
 ● not enough parking    
 ● other (please specify)    
 ● too crowded
- nothing

*Optional question (387 responses, 82 skipped)*

**Q4** What benefits of regional parks and trails do you value most? [Pick up to 3]

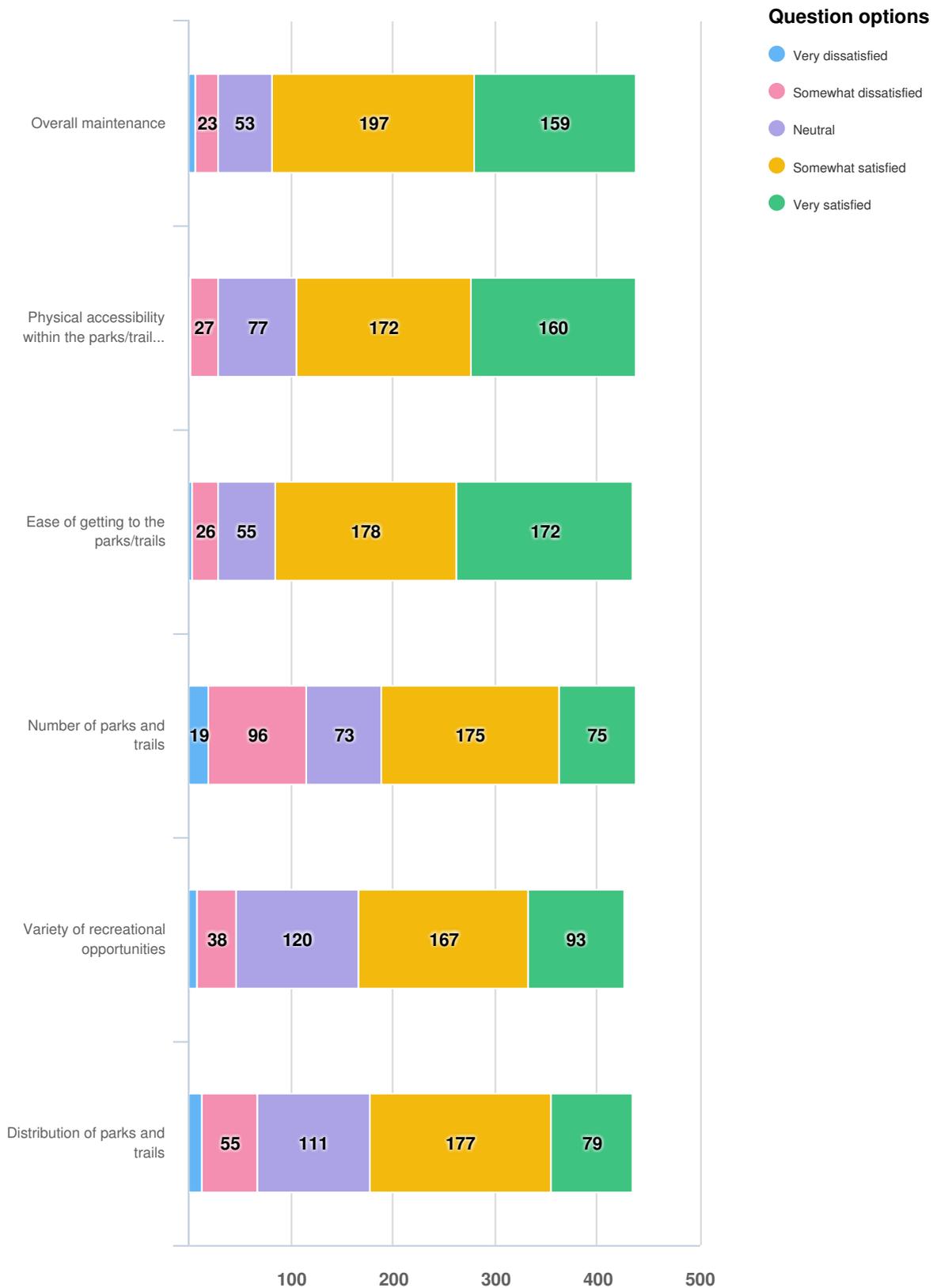


**Question options**

- Provide informal spaces for picnics and socializing
- Opportunity to be active/exercise and improve personal health
- Enhance climate change resiliency
- Other (please specify)
- Protect views and viewpoints
- Protect natural areas and special ecosystems
- Opportunity to get outside and experience nature
- Connect to others in the community
- Getting where I need to go
- Places to play
- Provides space for community events
- Provides opportunities for tourism and visitors

*Optional question (441 responses, 28 skipped)*

**Q5** In general, how satisfied are you with the following aspects of the RDN’s regional parks and trails?



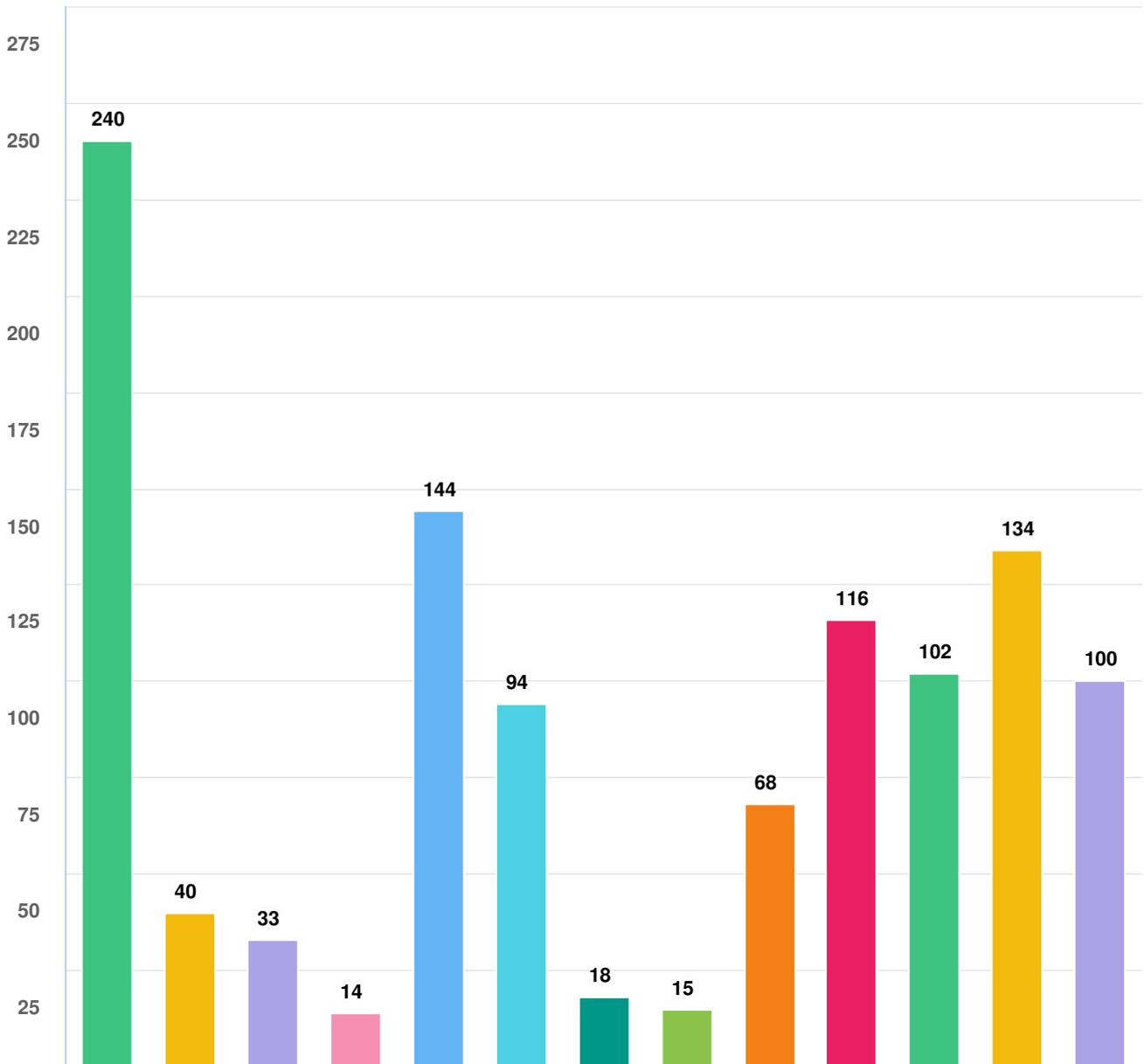
Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

**Q6** Thinking about the RDN’s regional parks and trails, how satisfied are you with the quantity and quality of the followi...



Optional question (438 responses, 31 skipped)

**Q7** What should be the focus of spending on regional park and trail improvements over the next 10 years? [Pick 3]

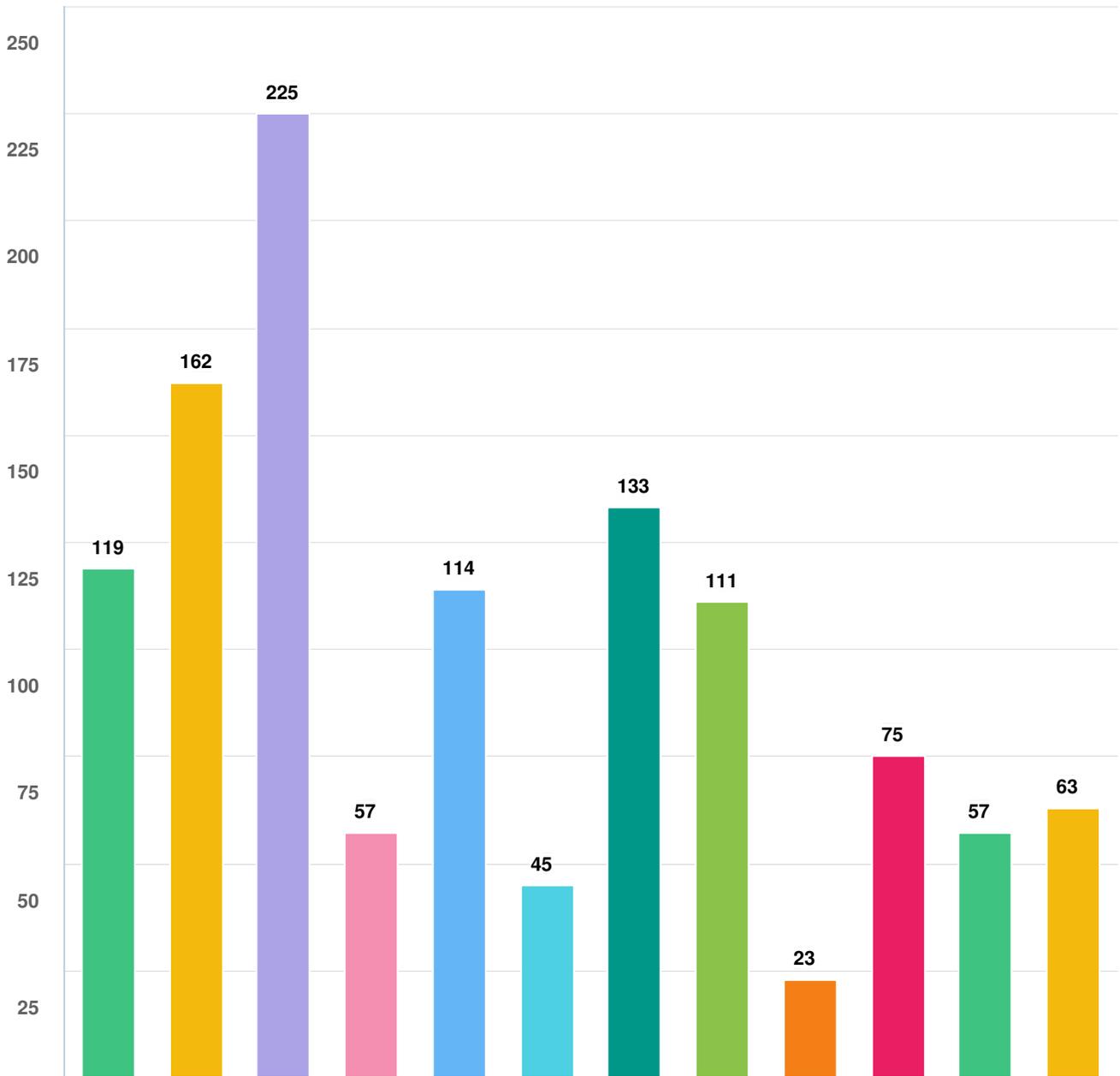


**Question options**

- Other (please specify)      ● Improve mountain bike trails
- Improve online and printed information about parks, trails and programs
- Improve opportunities for people to connect with nature (stewardship, volunteering, educational programs)
- Improve interpretive signs and programs      ● Improve boat launches for trailered boats
- Improve boat launches for "car topper" boats      ● Improve water access for passive recreation (swimming, fishing, beaches, etc.)
- Improve washrooms, signage and parking      ● Add motorized vehicle recreation parks and trails      ● Improve campgrounds
- Improve day-use areas and picnic shelters      ● Improve regional trail connections

*Optional question (436 responses, 33 skipped)*

**Q8** If there are new additions to the regional parks and trails, what do you think the priorities should be? [Pick 3]

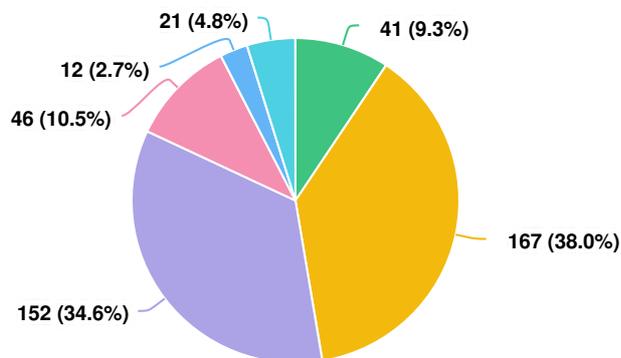


**Question options**

- Other (please specify)
 ● Support community agriculture and food security
- Cultural heritage sites (including historic sites and areas supporting traditional Indigenous uses)
- Parks and trails for motorized recreational vehicles (ATVs, etc.)
 ● River corridor parks
 ● Mountain or alpine parks
- Lake waterfront parks
 ● Ocean waterfront parks
 ● Active transportation routes (along highways)
- Regional trail connections between communities
 ● Nature preserves (limited public access)
- More opportunities for outdoor recreation or gathering areas

*Optional question (435 responses, 34 skipped)*

**Q9** Over the next 10 years, what portion of resources should be focused on acquiring new lands for regional parks and trails an...

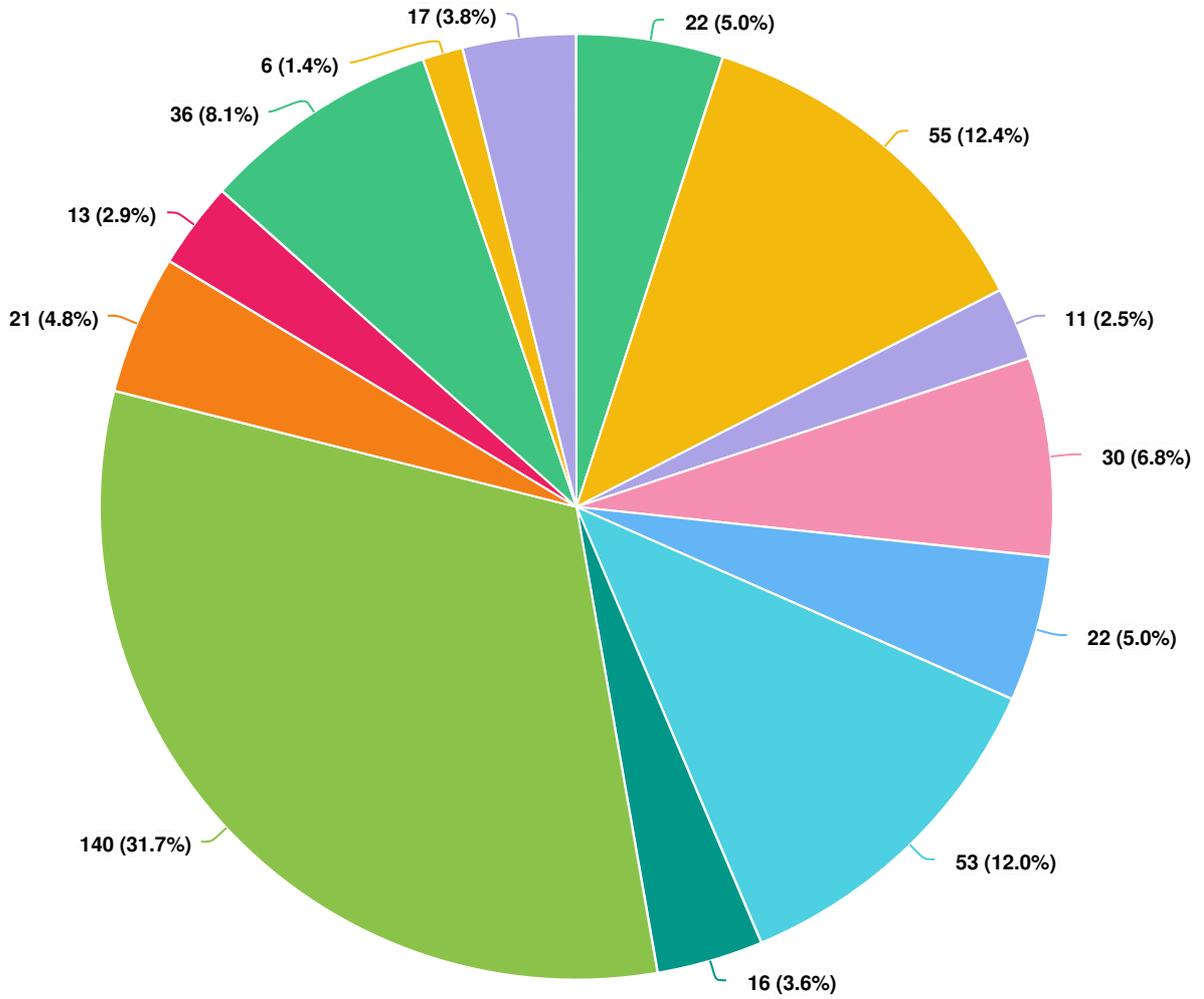


**Question options**

- Don't Know
- 100% Improvement
- 25% Acquisition, 75% Improvement
- 50% Acquisition, 50% Improvement
- 75% Acquisition, 25% Improvement
- 100% Acquisition

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

**Q10** Where do you live? &nbsp;  [Pick only one]



**Question options**

- Other (please specify)
  None of these
  Town of Qualicum Beach
  District of Lantzville
  City of Parksville
- City of Nanaimo
  Electoral Area H
  Electoral Area G
  Electoral Area F
  Electoral Area E
- Electoral Area C
  Electoral Area B
  Electoral Area A

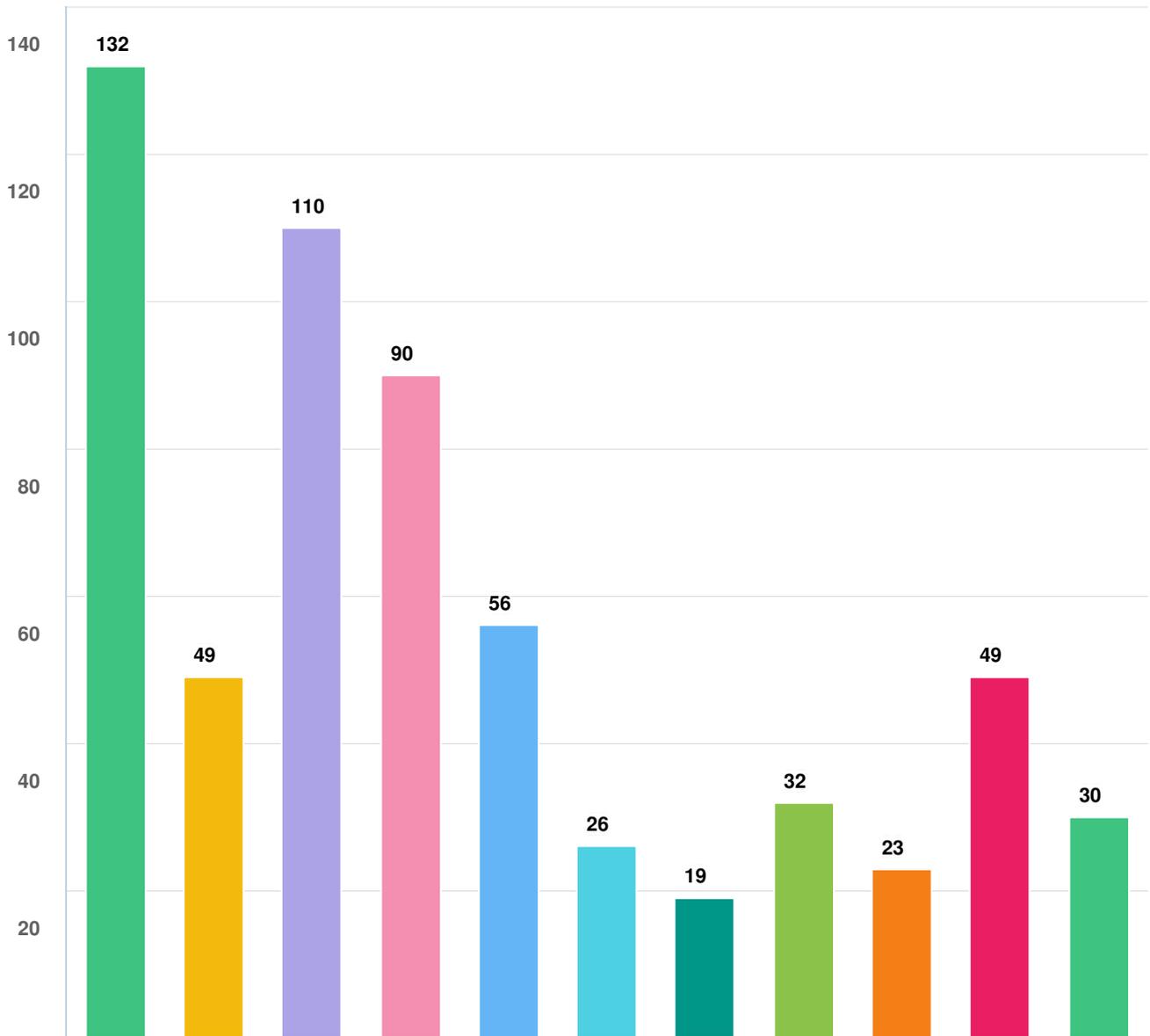
(442 responses, 27 skipped)

**Q11** The following questions ask about community parks and trails. Community parks and trails serve residents outside municipalities and are funded by each respective electoral area. These parks tend to be smaller properties and can function as playgroun...



Optional question (222 responses, 247 skipped)

**Q12** In your opinion, what are the most important priorities for new or improved community parks and trails in the Regional District of Nanaimo? [Pick up to 3]



**Question options**

- Other (please specify)    ● Help build resiliency to protect from the impacts of climate change
- Support tourism and economic development    ● Provide space for community events
- Support community agriculture and food security
- Provide opportunities to learn about the natural environment (events and volunteering opportunities)
- Protect prominent views and viewpoints    ● Foster a connection with nature
- Provide trail connections between neighbourhoods & communities
- Provide opportunities for outdoor active recreation like sports fields, courts, playgrounds
- Protect the community's biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems

*Optional question (225 responses, 244 skipped)*

**Q13 | Do you have any other comments regarding parks and trails provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo?**

Chris.c.wood  
11/25/2019 03:27 PM

Very impressed by RDN efforts to acquire and protect natural areas in Mt Benson and Witchcraft Lake parks.

Pixdiver  
11/25/2019 05:09 PM

Thank you for what we already have and keep up the good work :)

ChristineLeger  
11/25/2019 05:52 PM

I would really like to see a playground in the Cedar area. There is currently no playground in our community, and more and more young families are moving here. I would be happy to help fundraise to get things started.

DJensen  
11/25/2019 07:20 PM

Connecting Morden Mine with Hemer could go a long way toward increasing pedestrian safety in the neighbourhood. Currently, both children and adults have little option but to walk or bike along the side of busy roads which have little to no shoulder.

Barbara Smith  
11/25/2019 07:50 PM

Pay attention to nearby Crown Land with the possible view of adding it to existing corridors and parks ie. Little Mountain.

EJJ  
11/25/2019 07:51 PM

Access to all rivers and lake shores a protected by law, and yet there are places in the RDN where the District restricts this. That needs to be fixed, as by law all rivers are Crown property and can be used by all citizens. You may not cross private property to access, but can always use the area a certain distance above the high water level.

Naida  
11/25/2019 08:05 PM

no

Boo boo  
11/25/2019 08:31 PM

Washrooms are sometimes not open or not there at some parks. This makes them harder to use.

Nathanjroper  
11/25/2019 08:42 PM

Note the Rock Climbing opportunities and parks and support signage and development for future. Note Squamish and Pentictons plans, Nanaimo has very good rock climbing which would make an excellent tourist draw. Possible allowance of a few more advanced style Mountain Bike trails into park systems.

Eli-oop  
11/25/2019 09:46 PM

I like the trails I travel the way they are: somewhat wild, many opportunities to see wildlife, not too many people around. Do not make them ATV-friendly or gentrify them.

tommycle  
11/26/2019 10:19 AM

no

Mike Robert  
11/26/2019 01:29 PM

no

helenakreowska  
11/26/2019 04:24 PM

Please save all trees possible, in All parks (it mean NOT building more parking, more campsites, we have enough developed areas). Please create more parks with hiking trails, biking trails and with Nature Education, so general public understands that destroying Nature is suicidal to Humanity.

<p>Greenwave 11/26/2019 06:18 PM</p>	<p>Just an observation. The best mtb trail networks are outside regional parks. Also these areas are great for off leash dogs. Too bad regional parks don't have mtb suitable trails and off leash areas without constraints. Checkout trailforks app for nanóose and qualicum areas as examples.</p>
<p>rankspeedcycle 11/27/2019 12:04 PM</p>	<p>There is a large community of people on the Island that use motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes or atvs, and the general feeling is that they are persecuted for using their recreational vehicles in the same way as the people who go out and vandalize or dump...but they are just out there riding on the trails.</p>
<p>Barry Hansen 11/27/2019 07:46 PM</p>	<p>I love our parks! But would love to see the road access issue to Arrowsmith massif improved and improved access to other mountains in the RDN (along with parking and signage, as needed).</p>
<p>Helen1914 11/28/2019 04:58 PM</p>	<p>The focus should be on preservation of wildlife habitat. There has been an unconscionable amount of development permitted by the RDN that is destroying the very beauty of the area within the RDN. Developers seems to be controlling land use and there appears to be a complete disregard by the RDN for the necessity to preserve the natural beauty of this area and protect wildlife habitat. There is such a panic about climate change but the actions by the RDN in allowing the amount of development that has resulted in massive areas being clear cut for development is a complete disregard for the effect on the environment. It is hypocritical - political officials mouthing their concern for the climate then allowing the egregious amount of development that has occurred in the last 5 years.</p>
<p>Sylvia Noble 11/28/2019 06:26 PM</p>	<p>Other than that I am in no condition to make use of new aquisitions, I have, in the past used some of them, and continue to ply for more smaller parks, that could avoid the displacement of wildlife and destruction of trees for development.</p>
<p>Allan Winks 11/28/2019 08:50 PM</p>	<p>Cyclists are marginalized in the city and parks. The E&amp;N track right of way should be made to accommodate cycle traffic for tourism and commuting..</p>
<p>Rob &amp; Kathy Roycroft 11/29/2019 09:55 AM</p>	<p>Need dog bag poop n scoop supplied Want public access points to ocean, rivers and lakes opened for use</p>
<p>nickHQ 11/29/2019 11:28 AM</p>	<p>Management plans should be re-visited every 10 years, without exception, with opportunities for the public to provide input.</p>
<p>islandjays 11/29/2019 02:17 PM</p>	<p>As a resident of area F specifically Meadowood I would like to see more development of our Community and Regional Park. We have a significant amount of property which is not being utilized.</p>
<p>mike gilmour 11/29/2019 04:46 PM</p>	<p>Improve bike access and trails more more park Acquisition</p>
<p>Curtis 11/30/2019 04:23 PM</p>	<p>I strongly support Nanaimo purchasing the "Dark Side" Climbing area on the Nanaimo River and turning that into a park that will continue to allow rock climbing. And install stairs to make access to the climbing areas at the "Dark Side" and "Sunny Side" safe and accessible.</p>
<p>mallory 12/01/2019 08:41 AM</p>	<p>Private land owners prevent access to ocean front. There are designated areas and access points. Ocean front property owners behave as though</p>

	<p>they own these access points . We need far more access to ocean frontage. We also need publicly owned ocean boat launches. There are only 2 boat launches between Deep Bay and French creek. That is ridiculous considering we are an island.</p>
<p>wright_kelsey 12/01/2019 11:59 AM</p>	<p>Don't forget about the outskirts. We pay taxes, stay involved in our communities, and try really hard to provide great rural style lives for our families. We commute to work and don't want to drive after school and weekends. How about adding community parks, connecting trails, and great outdoor feature spaces like a bike park in an area like H. Kids will have more to do outside. Also, lets look at connecting our communities with trails. Wouldn't it be great to see trails like the lighthouse community trail connecting the whole region, giving us a space to walk our kids from strollers to grandparents with walkers. Imagine being able to ride a bike to school in Bowser without having to be on the hwy. Thanks for listening.</p>
<p>Bill Wrathall 12/01/2019 02:16 PM</p>	<p>I note recently that many of the unsightly orange tags are removed from the trees along the Englishman River Trail. Tags that remain are placed at trail junctures and on existing marker posts.This is appreciated and thank you! However, most of the tags are not numbered. The signage 'near' the trail head on Allsbrook Road may be better served if placed at the trail head where the notice boards are situated. I also encourage using sign posts with maps rather than nailing tags into the trees.</p>
<p>emily 12/01/2019 07:12 PM</p>	<p>Parks are so awesome and wonderful! lets preserve more land! We can always fix up parks but once land has been logged or houses been put all over it it is hard to get back</p>
<p>Betty Wright 12/02/2019 11:01 AM</p>	<p>I am passionate about protecting areas that need to be recognized as special habitat for wildlife. And I will certainly continue to participate in the fund raising activities to protect the French Creek Estuary.</p>
<p>HelenD 12/02/2019 11:09 AM</p>	<p>We need to preserve more natural areas, for many reasons. Every opportunity should be taken to preserve and increase parkland.</p>
<p>Tom Cameron 12/02/2019 05:34 PM</p>	<p>The RDN is investing, responsive and active in planning for the future of the parks and trails system. Thanks</p>
<p>KTMNorth 12/02/2019 06:44 PM</p>	<p>Please include shared use where possible that includes horses on trails, and also carefully consider where e-bikes will be permitted.</p>
<p>Bready 12/02/2019 07:23 PM</p>	<p>This survey was not easy to find. I went to a open house and was told to do survey online. Yes I managed but was frustrated</p>
<p>Hello 12/02/2019 08:08 PM</p>	<p>If you do not get more parkland and nature trails now there will be nothing left. Nothing. No trees, no nature reserves and no water.</p>
<p>Rossupnorth 12/02/2019 09:06 PM</p>	<p>As far as land acquisition or the creation of new regional parks, the Thames Creek and Nile Creek drainages should be given priority.</p>
<p>KDL 12/03/2019 01:23 AM</p>	<p>need more areas to view nature and wildlife</p>
<p>Tuckshok 12/03/2019 06:12 AM</p>	<p>Would love to see the RDN extend the e &amp; n rail trail throughout the district. Having an effective plan for reducing our emissions is vital and a</p>

Davm444

12/03/2019 11:31 AM

transportation plan should be linked with the parks and rec plan to create safe ways to bike, and walk through the district.

Mostly good parks. There aren't any really long walks without travelling on roadways. More alpine and connection between trails would be good.

grgids

12/03/2019 01:46 PM

Area A has no community pathways no sports courts (ball court on reserve land doesn't count as it has yet to be officially opened to the public) one playground on land it owns and one playground on land it doesn't and a skatepark on land it doesn't own. Area A needs a central community park with diverse amenities to support a wide range of outdoor recreation. Nanaimo River corridor is being sold off and the public is losing access. The tiny park the RDN gained through subdivision is completely inadequate considering the river is also the source of drinking water for the city. The RDN should be purchasing as much land along the river as possible similar to the Cowichan River Provincial Park. The Regional Park acquisition fund needs to be double or tripled annually.

nameste.anne

12/03/2019 01:47 PM

please install washrooms for all trails - le Jack Point /Biggs Park has not and that is a long hike ! Please make more SAFE PAVED Bicycle Path's for Hybrid Bicycles that many Seniors ride Not safe to ride at the Roads Edge even with High Visibility clothing

kate.s.evans

12/03/2019 02:11 PM

Even though I was looking for this project and process specifically, it was difficult to find information about this project and the open houses or engagement opportunities. It would be appreciated if the process for outreach or promotions could be reviewed for next steps. Is it possible to post what the engagement strategy and opportunities are for the whole process? Thank you for your efforts. I value regional parks!

Rob Brockley

12/03/2019 03:50 PM

Look for opportunities to connect trails, thereby creating walking loops

Jenni Gehlbach

12/03/2019 04:22 PM

I think improving accessibility for those with physical or sensory disabilities is important if it can be done without too much disruption of the "natural" state of the park. Providing railings or a ramp on sloped banks, for example.

Derrill29er

12/03/2019 04:59 PM

I appreciate the work and signage in the 707 acre park. Thank you

johnpeirce

12/03/2019 05:19 PM

Partner with local conservancies and clubs to accomplish trail maintenance and install signage.,

Wilfrid Worland

12/03/2019 06:00 PM

Ease of access (Item 5.2) could be improved with better continuity of trails. Why the association of highways with Active Transportation (Item 8)? Interesting, but unexplained association with agriculture and food (Item 8). No more rails with trails until issue rail issue is settled; the cost of such trails is exorbitant compared to reusing the rail bed; "free" gas tax money should be better spent on crossings (e.g., French Creek) if the rail is for real in order to ensure trail continuity.

Sharleneh

12/03/2019 10:14 PM

More maintenance should be done after winter wind storms to keep trails accessible. As equine riders love to ride year round. More signage about multi-use trails including horses

Kelly Bilquist

12/04/2019 06:24 AM

Educate and Encourage multi use, in our trail system to keep everyone enjoying and sharing parks/trails safely and respectfully. Especially extreme eco sensitive area. Spending more on maintaining existing trails. Or promoting more stewardship programs to encourage groups or individuals to maintain areas.

cmizar

12/04/2019 07:37 AM

I would love to see more trails open up asequine-accessible. Also, it would be great to have more good trail etiquette information posted - some mountain bikers are still a bit speedy/aggressive on shared trails.

pjwoods

12/04/2019 07:56 AM

Please continue to allow horses on trails

Bonnie Olesko

12/04/2019 08:05 AM

I love and enjoy on a weekly basis, the parks here in Qualicum/Parksville and also Mt. Benson. Areas that offer horse trail riding are in desperate need however. I guess we horse/trail riders are a small minority but more multi use (but no motorized) trails are needed. I hike regularly with my grandson and am willing to help with acquisition on the French Creek estuary. (Fundraising, community awareness, whatever!) as a naturalist I realize the extreme value of that area. The power line trails are an amazing pre existing underused system that could be enhanced. Bonnie

dherlinx

12/04/2019 08:17 AM

So far on Gabriola, we have a great park (707) where people walk, ride bikes, run, and ride horses. I would like to see that this park continues to be available for these activities. I do not want to see motorized vehicles - engines are in direct conflict with nature.

ryanguy

12/04/2019 09:09 AM

I am very impressed with the new Mount Benson parking lot. To complement that the focus should turn to trail construction. The current trails up Mount Benson are eroded paths that were never properly constructed. Hiring youth to work as trail crews in the summer would be an excellent way to upgrade the trails as well as employ youth in a meaningful and impactful activity.

Survey2020

12/04/2019 09:19 AM

You consistently leave out the equestrian community but cater to others like mountain biking

Cahen 2

12/04/2019 10:24 AM

Ensure continued usage of multi-use trails, particularly access for horses

Brian

12/04/2019 12:07 PM

The RDN should take on the Lantzville foothills park.

MS

12/04/2019 12:36 PM

I don't remember noticing invasive plants in RDN parks. But if there were any, I would not be able to go there. That is the case with Nanaimo parks - I cannot go and see where any invasives are spreading and spreading. It's disturbing and disheartening.

Save Estuary Land Society

12/04/2019 02:11 PM

The community of French Creek is located in the heart of Area G and has 14 existing community parks. Some of these unfortunately are simply not able to be accessed, including the Columbia Drive Community Park which is comprised of two approximate, 15 M wide strips of land. The people of the community would greatly benefit from a park that includes desirable features such as ocean and river views, forest and natural landscapes, and walking trails which provide opportunities to connect with nature. The Save Estuary

kkrauza

12/04/2019 03:27 PM

Land Society and community members would support the acquisition of the area known as French Creek Estuary Land as a Community Park through fundraising initiatives.

Rock climbing is among the fastest growing outdoor activities. Please consider officially sanctioning rock climbing and climbing route development within RDN parks, as well as provide opportunities for members of the community to act as stewards of established climbing areas within RDN parks. Lastly, one of the best climbing areas within RDN is on private land, recently was listed for sale, and the current owner would like to see a portion of it established as a park. The area known as "Dark Side" or "The Grotto", at the end of Riverbend Road, on the south shore of Nanaimo River and just upriver of the BC Hydro easement, should be considered for addition to the priority list for potential park land acquisition. This area is also popular with swimmers, fishermen and hikers, and sees 50-100 visitors every weekend in the summer, despite the fact it is on private land. If developed as a park, it would be very popular.

Stollerson

12/04/2019 04:57 PM

Invasive plant species must be controlled. The RDN can (1) start/support a program of educating the public about plants that must not escape yards and (2) can lobby for a similar provincial program.

Alyssa Semczyszyn

12/04/2019 05:21 PM

It would be nice to have better bike parking and access for bike to kayak on Gabriola/ near Nanaimo. In general I dont use regional parks because I get around by bike and they are spread out. A shuttle or better/clearer bus connections or something would be cool

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:00 PM

Thank you for having us a the stakeholder meeting last night. As someone who values the trails as a means of activity and getting out into nature, I'd love to see more maintenance go into existing systems as well as develop mountain bike specific trails. The Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club would be happy to partner in this specific area.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:27 PM

Sustainability needs to be a big part of planning and creation of new and existing parks. Existing infrastructure is in poor shape from a lack of planning and or resources to maintain.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:30 PM

A lot of signage and maintof existing trails could be greatly improved, particularly The Abyss/Great Trail and the hike to Mount Benson.

Renee

12/04/2019 06:32 PM

I love trail walking. I go most days. But in the summer I love to paddle and there isn't a single easy launch on Gabriola if you are solo, and the paddling is seriously world class.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 07:58 PM

Would love to see more legal mountain biking/running trails as well as climbing access. I believe acquiring land for recreation will benefit the RDN culturally and financially with eco-tourism.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 08:05 PM

There is land up for sale on the Nanaimo River. Many hikers and Climbers utilize this area and is very I unique. Climbers call it the dark side. The city should purchase and develop this land into a park. It is a very unique dried up Canyon of the Nanaimo River.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 08:10 PM

The improvements through the last couple of years has been awesome. It has really been a tremendous value to the locals. Get the word out and the resulting increase in tourism will also help the business community. Keep up

Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:24 PM	the good work. The trails at the Kipp road park are well maintained. It's appreciated.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:25 PM	Keep up the great work
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:26 PM	We need more authorized and professionally built mountain bike trails. This is just not for local riders but also to increase tourism, possibly bringing the BC bike raise to the regional district instead of being skipped over as we currently are. Mountain biking can be big business and most riders and builders are responsible stewards of our parks. It has very little environmental impact and would be good for the economy. Think Squamish and Cumberland.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:33 PM	I enjoy the hiking and biking trails. Improved signage could enhance the experience and encourage tourism. Acquisition of more land should be a priority. I would like to see the current DND ban on the trails close to Westwood lifted with the military looking to less desirable land for its work.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:37 PM	Appreciate the work of the RDN and I know you can't please everyone, but mountain bike access to Mt. Benson will be key in the coming years as the sport continues to flourish. We are a mountain town in Nanaimo and a mountain people and we need to embrace riding into the park and having riding trails in the park. Another huge long shot is getting back the DND land and designating it a regional park suitable for biking, hiking and running. But that's only assuming it is for sale in the next 10 years!
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:37 PM	Need Westwood ridges as mountain bike trails not military training ground. Public access and maintenance to be supported.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:43 PM	The forestry companies got the land for free yet we all cower to whatever they want. It's time to be assertive. The public will back you. Make these trails. Make oceanfront parks. Make the e an n rail trail. Ban off road vehicles from trails.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:48 PM	Doing awesome thank you, please increase commuting corridors for walking/bike and mountain bike facilities
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:49 PM	Westwood lake trails... would be great if DoD could move, and public could have access to the area as a regional park. Wishful thinking, but still... It would be also be great to work with Mosaic to establish and improve the Extension/Abyss area as a regional park rather than an area managed by many different groups. There is so much potential for that area, with so many people using it regularly. It should be a park, and have better directional and interpretive signage.
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:49 PM	Better trail maintenance and up keep to MTB trails! More mtb trails in Lantzville area!
Anonymous 12/04/2019 08:58 PM	I dislike sharing mountain biking trails with motorized vehicle users. Make them go somewhere else (not Doumont)
Anonymous	The RDN should make a park under the Duke Point hwy bridge in Cedar!

12/04/2019 09:07 PM

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:18 PM

Existing trails within the RDN are experiencing increased usage. Many trails have become needlessly braided and eroded to their detriment. The once beautiful trail that lead up the Englishman River from Top Bridge to the fish hatchery is a prime example of where thoughtless users are having negative impacts on the trail and surrounding ecosystem. Efforts need to be made to repair damage to these trails, and to educate users of the differences between acceptable trail etiquette and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:19 PM

Mountain biking is the fastest growing tourist destination recreational activity in the world and you need to get behind the 8 ball Cumberland and Whistler are not anomalies

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:22 PM

More access, less gates. More garbage cans. More dog friendly beaches (ocean and lakes).

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:23 PM

Would be interested in more mountain biking opportunities; recommend exploring partnership with local mountain bike clubs for trail planning, development and maintenance.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:27 PM

Thanks so much. Please work on adding more land reserves along Nanaimo River, a river trail, and sensitive ecosystems

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:28 PM

Priority should be on acquiring land for parks, as opportunity to purchase land may not be there in the future. Better signage for how to share multi use trails and shared spaces, as many people are so tuned out with their surroundings and can't seem to comprehend how to exist/share with others. The Westwood Lake area has some amazing trails and the city should be working with the DND to help find them another suitable piece of land for the range.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:31 PM

Need to conserve the biodiversity of the region and ensure resiliency from changing climate

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:33 PM

It would nice to have a bridge across the Nanaimo River to complete the Trans Canada Trail. Protect and make access to the Cameron Canyon. Limit parks that dogs can visit -- better for wild life.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:44 PM

Continue to consolidate and extend access to the public lands of the RDN to allow much greater access to non motorized transport, hiking, mountainbiking,ski/snowshoe into the backcountry areas. The potential for growth is large but lack of access, locked gates and restrictive gate opening times means that the potential to develop accessible trails and to bring visitor dollars into the area is being missed to our detriment and the benefit of other areas with much greater access and community forest access ie cumberland/squamish etc.

Anonymous

12/04/2019 10:02 PM

You should be working on making them universally accessible (wheelchair-accessible trails, bathrooms, etc.)

Anonymous

12/04/2019 10:30 PM

RDN hosts a variety of great parks. I firmly believe that augmentation and investment in the existing parks would be an excellent investment and provide better returns over the longer term. Vancouver island is known as a

	<p>mecca for mountain bike riding globally and yet Nanaimo region continues to be overlooked as we're not investing in the trail networks or infrastructure. Mount Benson and adjoining parks are ideally located and suited to this genre of development. Thanks!</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 10:35 PM</p>	<p>More mountain bike trails, better signage, less logging close to the city, less gun ranges! Close that stupid gun range!</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 10:36 PM</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 10:40 PM</p>	<p>More washrooms for females in parks. Continue to improve signage on trails and maps showing connections to other trails and pin pointing where they are within the park. Promote the ENN rail line to be a community trail system as a multi use trail. Cheers Scott.</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 10:49 PM</p>	<p>Continuing to work with the mountain bike community to increase variety, quality and access to mountain bike trails would be great. We have a passionate and dedicated group of mtb riders in the RDN, world class terrain and still struggle with fewer "legalized" trails than surrounding communities with far fewer residents and resources. Progress is being made and adding funding to those efforts would be great! Thanks</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 10:53 PM</p>	<p>We need access to the Westwood Lake DND Land for hiking and Mountain Biking</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/04/2019 11:09 PM</p>	<p>I love all the beautiful parks we have! Could we have access to Second Lake and Green Mountain? I love backcountry hiking and it is sad that we cannot access these beautiful places so close by. Also, could we have more areas for outdoor rock climbing? I love the sport and it is growing. This area has some amazing rock that could draw tourist from all over it we had good established trails to good climbing. How about we protect the Darkside and Sunnyside along the Nanaimo River?</p>
<p>ddhaight 12/04/2019 11:10 PM</p>	<p>Lets work to get the military rifle range relocated so access to the now restricted trail network and areas around Westwood Lake area can be restored.</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/05/2019 04:50 AM</p>	<p>Acquiring land and building multi use trails are super important for a fit and happy population? Places for families can BE families while enjoying our beautiful BC outdoors will enhance all areas of Nanaimo Life and will bring tourism dollars to our businesses?</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/05/2019 06:04 AM</p>	<p>I feel we need greater access to natural green spaces. Trails and access points are the most important thing. It is redundant to over-do an area to make it recreational. Nanaimo is losing its wild spaces and natural areas at an alarming rate because of development. A priority should be connecting people to green and wild spaces so they are more likely to vote and be active in protecting them.</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/05/2019 07:18 AM</p>	<p>The Westwood mountain bike trails are an amazing start but there needs to be more.</p>
<p>Anonymous 12/05/2019 07:37 AM</p>	<p>The height of those aluminum bridges ruins the aesthetic experience...looking at a scenic canyon through a chain link fence is very disappointing...and very unnecessary.....if someone wants to kill themselves they will jump off the</p>

- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 07:52 AM  
bank.....  
The RDN has a real opportunity to become a regional mountain bike hub and mountain bike tourist destination. I feel that more more trails, better maintenance and improved marketing would bring more people in.
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 07:59 AM  
They are treasures and should continue to be invested in, appreciated, and respected. I have encountered multiple deer carcasses while out running, hiking, or biking on the trails and it has been quite disturbing. My dog always seems to find them - typically beside parking areas for the trails. If there is something that can be done to minimize this (or rectify if it happens) that would be greatly appreciated.
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:22 AM  
I would like to see a walking/cycling trail that connects Parksville to Qualicum using the existing railway line starting at The Bottle Depot on the Alberni Highway and ending at Qualicum Beach Airport. We use the Coombs trail at least a couple of times a week which is great. Thank you!
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:33 AM  
With the increasing population and people's love of the outdoors it is SO important to increase the number and size of the parks we have or they will be loved to death.
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:37 AM  
Fer fuck sakes can't you dispose of the biosolids in a non recreational area? What kind of an impression do you think that gives to the many visiting cyclists who come to the Doumont trails. The excuse that it is fertilizing the trees is feeble at best. Root systems are shallow and the fiber is weak. Take a walk out there and look for yourselves.
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:40 AM  
I would love to see a few longer trails along waterfront areas/ riverfront areas. There are some absolutely gorgeous trails in the area but I find most of them are very short (only a couple km or less). A few trails that are at least 5 km would be such a welcome addition!
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:43 AM  
They are great. we just need to protect the remaining pieces of natural beauty we have here on the east coast. BUY land !! =)
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:47 AM  
It is important to get Mosaic or Island Timberlands to finally allow and finish the bridge over the Nanaimo River. This is ridiculous that they have blocked this, especially since they are now benefiting from this land in terms of real-estate development. I've come across a number of visitors to the area who want to "ride their bikes" on the Transcanada Trail but discover later (because of poor signage) that they can't make it over to Spruceton Road. The trail also become very inaccessible to various types of bikes because of poor trail maintenance. There is an element of tourism that is not being developed that other communities on the Island seem to recognize but in the Nanaimo River area is being held back. There is also a major historic significance to the region in the trails around Extension and Nanaimo River, but is being lost. Interpretive signage is badly needed, but is obviously ignored or not seen to be important. Extension Ridge trail would be a great place for even some simple signage explaining the large number of coal mines in that region that played an important part of why our region are developed and settled. Few people understand this, I feel.
- Anonymous  
12/05/2019 08:53 AM  
Doing a great job in some ways, I think that the mount Benson area needs some serious acquisition and development for mountain biking and hiking.

Anonymous 12/05/2019 08:57 AM	Gold mine of opportunity that we waste on DnD and logging. Would like to see multi use trails developed much like the Cowichan Valley Regional District has created linking communities together.
Anonymous 12/05/2019 09:04 AM	Better signage and enforcement to keep motorized vehicles away from areas they should not be.
Anonymous 12/05/2019 09:06 AM	More mountain bike trails!!!
Anonymous 12/05/2019 09:17 AM	Expand E and N Trail and other connecting trails that are dual purpose for both transportation and recreation. Also, protect the mountain bike trail areas and quit spraying sewage where people play. There are plenty of locations that are not high use recreationally where that can be done instead. It's an embarrassment when biking tourists come here.
Anonymous 12/05/2019 09:49 AM	Work with Federal Government to acquire military rifle range lands off of Nanaimo Lakes Road. The range is too close to the city and should be moved to a more remote location. This area of land has many great viewpoints and trails so it would be great to have legal access to them.
Anonymous 12/05/2019 09:50 AM	The RDN or Nanaimo city needs to acquire more land around Westwood lake. I understand a deal could be made. The National Defence Gun range needs to be moved and the RDN needs to turn it into park or give it back to first Nations.
Derek Kilbourn 12/05/2019 10:25 AM	It is great to see the RDN taking an overview strategic look at Parks and Trails within the whole RDN. It would be even better to have similar strategies completed within Electoral Area B involving stakeholders, POSAC, and users of the parks, and involving other protected area owners (like Provincial Parks, MOTI, or Islands Trust Fund) involved. Development of existing facilities needs to be a priority, and it was refreshing to hear Yann say at the Gabriola meeting that there is work being done to ensure there's funding in place to replace existing infrastructure. I really hope that this will include the portable at Rollo, as it's the only indoor community recreational space we have which is owned by the RDN, rather than the school board, a non-profit, or private business.
Anonymous 12/05/2019 10:40 AM	Please complete Huxley Community Park before starting any new projects. The skatepark should be RDN priority for Area B.
conwayp7 12/05/2019 11:20 AM	Region needs a comprehensive approach to bike lanes
Heidi 12/05/2019 11:43 AM	staging and better maps that show when your riding with traffic and not. the kinsole trestle trail( tgt )is my most absolute favourite not too strenuous beautiful area but this took time to find if it was only easier and closer to have a similar ride close here that is bikable.
Jenny 12/05/2019 11:52 AM	I hope the skatepark will be built soon. The youth of Gabriola continue to ask about a youth access space. Thank you
Scott Manson 12/05/2019 01:46 PM	The Parkway Trail is designated as a "recreational trail", and as such gets very little maintenance (repair of cracks, snow and leaf clearing, etc.). I would

jmowatt

12/05/2019 01:48 PM

like to see its status be changed to "commuter trail" (like the E&N Trail) so that it gets more frequent attention.

i think the RDN should hire a mountain biker that knows the trail network around the city and discover whats out there and how to promote the trails

Carly Dawn

12/05/2019 04:14 PM

Finish Huxley Park!

Andrews

12/05/2019 04:38 PM

Within the climbing community there has been talk of the climbing areas at the Nanaimo river being acquired by the city. As a member of the climbing community it would be greatly appreciated if this was considered. Also there is a tonne of great climbing around town that would be great to have a little more information on which areas are considered ok to climb at. Maybe some signs and information online so members of the community can avoid trespassing in areas that are currently not owned by the city. Thank you for all the hard work. The parks are wonderful in my opinion.

Support local biking trails. Paid trail builders. More signage. Bathrooms at trailheads

Meliss378

12/05/2019 05:11 PM

In this day and age... you dump biosolids in an area where people recreate... you should be ashamed of yourselves!!!

Mikefoulds

12/05/2019 06:48 PM

nicolelamb

12/05/2019 10:10 PM

I would love to see Nanaimo River (Dark Side/ Sunnyside) protected, and for aquisition of the Roberts Roost area.

ashleytjohnston

12/06/2019 12:06 AM

The Cedar by the Sea area of Area A is very underserved in terms of community parks. A playground somewhere in this area would greatly enhance the area for the many young families who are beginning to populate the area. Ideally some kind of park or playground would be put in by the beach. However, unless the property next to the boat ramp was acquired (it is for sale) there may not be sufficient room. The cedar boat ramp is also in dire of repairs. The beach in Cedar by the sea by the boat ramp is greatly underutilized and could be a crown jewel for the whole Cedar area. If a playground, sports court, or picnic shelter was not possible at the beach in Cedar there appears to be ample room at the Cable Bay trail.

Dave Saunders

12/06/2019 06:33 AM

Nanaimo is well known for its hiking and mountain bike trails, efforts should be put into maintenance and signage of existing trails and parking. Land use agreements or purchasing new park space should be a priority for our expanding city and eliminating the spraying of human waste in areas like the Doumont trail system. With climate change problems and new technologies I think as a regional district we have to move beyond this practice.

MS

12/06/2019 07:01 AM

I would like to see French Creek Estuary Land become a Park. I support the acquisition of French Creek Estuary Land as a park. I support the Environmental Law Centre at Uvic on a monthly basis. French Creek Estuary is important: it has ecological value, for diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees and water conservation. It has value to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area. I do not want land to be developed that could be protected from being paved over - forever. It can be a hit with tourism, if tourism is

K&S 12/06/2019 08:07 AM	sustainable. Helps biodiversity, for resident and migrating birds and their food sources. Please save the Estuary French Creek.
Phil Martin 12/06/2019 08:12 AM	Where's our skateboard park?
Anthony 12/06/2019 08:38 AM	please make the French Creek Estuary Lands into park land and protect it from development.
Oceanlife 12/06/2019 08:55 AM	French creek estuary is an important ecosystem that is vital to many birds fish and mammals it needs protection.
Someoneone 12/06/2019 09:25 AM	Protecting the French Creek Estuary should be a priority
Kathy Cameron 12/06/2019 09:25 AM	Please save French Creek estuary lands . Commit to protecting as much land / waterways as possible for future generations.
skdch 12/06/2019 09:52 AM	Make French Creek Estuary Lands a Park to preserve this ecosystem for all to enjoy and for the plants and animals to be sustained.
Sandy Stirling 12/06/2019 09:55 AM	As you may have noticed from my responses, my biggest concern and hope is that the French Creek Estuary is saved from development. As you know, the Save French Creek Society is very pro-active in trying to prevent the sale of this ecologically sensitive land to a developer in Surrey. They have done their homework! The acquisition of French Creek Estuary Land provides a wonderful opportunity for the RDN to protect sensitive ecosystems, support community partnerships, enhance the health and well-being of its residents, improve livability, reduce infrastructure costs, and meet the growing public desire for natural spaces. I sincerely hope that the powers that be in the RDN consider the value of helping to acquire this land and keep it as a protected, beautiful, natural, ecologically sensitive park. Thank you!
Derrick 12/06/2019 10:02 AM	I would like to see Hamilton Marsh Land become a Park (the whole 360 hectares) because of its ecological value, especially as a bird migration flyway & stop over, diversity of wildlife & habitat, mature forest and water conservation. The ecological system is comprised of both the marsh and surrounding forest land. It is valuable to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area. I would like also to see French Creek Estuary Land become a Park, because of its ecological value, diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees and water conservation. It's valuable to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area.
ejpeeters 12/06/2019 10:43 AM	Allowance and consideration for ATV/ORV access from back-country to amenities (food, fuel, accommodation). ATV staging area. (parking lot).
RuthGo 12/06/2019 10:53 AM	I strong support the acquisition of the French Creek Estuary Lands. This would certainly enhance the opportunities for citizens to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of our area. It's also such a vital resource for the wildlife,

dhaynes

12/06/2019 10:57 AM

and offers a valuable opportunity for citizens young and old to learn of the importance of our river estuaries.

Consider the French Creek preserve

Otts3009

12/06/2019 11:01 AM

\*\*\*Acquire good land mass for parks, with a view to optimal environmental preservation, mixed with sensible and limited use disallowing motorized and other damaging use. \*\*\* Proximity to populated areas is ideal to allow casual access without having to travel to the parks with motorized vehicles. \*\*\* Perhaps encourage group outings to further distance parks by providing more direct transportation.

Marlene Dunbrack

12/06/2019 11:02 AM

Overall, the RDN has done a great job of developing trails and establishing parks for residents to enjoy. I'd like to see the RDN work to establish the French Creek Estuary as a Nature Reserve. Ecosystems like this are delicate and need to be protected.

4halls

12/06/2019 11:31 AM

The RDN has amazing parks with fantastic recreational opportunities. Keep the good work!

No

12/06/2019 12:14 PM

With respect to Parks, acquire natural spaces with high wildlife and ecosystem values, with respect to Trails acquire and improve those that connect communities and facilitate non-motorized travel for residents and visitors.

Lbezoo

12/06/2019 12:39 PM

Please don't sell land for personal development (houses). Preserve green areas.

Cmpitt

12/06/2019 12:43 PM

Save french creek estuary and eagle trees

jjoeve

12/06/2019 01:40 PM

One aspect of the reason for more Regional Parks is for conservation, not just from a climate change perspective but from an ecological one. Further loss of critical ecosystems like the French Creek Estuary not only reduce the diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees and water conservation on the island but takes away from the community yet another place to connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area.

mjmkelly

12/06/2019 02:00 PM

Please save French Creek Estuary Land. This is vital importance to our wild life rivers, and oceans. We in Parksville are continuing to losing forests because of development and green space and park space is vital for all.

Sheelagh.rmt

12/06/2019 02:22 PM

We live in such a beautiful area but the stress of development is showing and if we don't preserve land for parks now it will be gone forever.

keithhorton

12/06/2019 05:32 PM

Please help us preserve and maintain the small community trail at French Creek, between Hwy 19A and the ocean. Volunteers, including myself, look after what we have, however it appears a large part of this sensitive area is to be developed very soon. Keep a meaningful amount of land in this area for community use.

Fred Collins

12/06/2019 07:05 PM

I am particularly interested in the preservation of the wooded area bounded by Highway 19A, Columbia Drive, Viking Way and French Creek. It is an area inhabited by numerous species of wildlife and would make an excellent eco-friendly park area with minimal maintenance required.

Lesleybeaulieu 12/06/2019 09:02 PM	I love to be outside in nature and I look forward to exploring some new ones in the future. There were some in this survey that I didn't know about.
BorisK 12/07/2019 12:21 AM	I recommend turning French Creek Estuary into a park to protect this area from development. The estuary is a unique natural zone for wildlife and needs to remain intact.
Mona Hagenbring 12/07/2019 05:57 AM	I would like to see the areas around the French Creek protected. Especially the estuary and surrounding land.
Tina Phillips 12/07/2019 06:00 AM	I feel we need to move quickly to protect sensitive environmental areas from the fast paced development we are seeing in the RDN. Wildlife corridors and salmon habitat are of particular significance. camping and boating facilities can be accommodated by the private sector and does not need to be a top priority.
Judyvilleneuve 12/07/2019 06:59 AM	Our parks are so important to us and are a big part of the reason why we moved to Nanaimo 11 years ago. We love mountain biking, hiking and being in nature so the more the better! Thank you!
Spatriquin 12/07/2019 07:16 AM	The RDN's development approach has little or no regard for honouring the stellar natural environment we live in. It's unconscionable!
jthorne 12/07/2019 08:47 AM	The parks i visit are always well maintained and and free of garbage usually. Benson creek falls often has garbage or random items left at the entrance. Beautifully located and functional for all recreation activities. Thank you for all the hard work you are putting into this project.
Rlynn 12/07/2019 11:18 AM	Sensitive eco system's need more protection and education of the public about them and their need for protection, for example the biodiversity and importance of an Estuary like The French Creek Estuary which is currently unprotected by encroachment/development.
Herbalist 12/07/2019 03:09 PM	Please do not allow the French Creek estuary to be developed
pstaryattelus.net 12/07/2019 03:14 PM	Combs trail has a very poor surface for cycling (loose gravel). Should be asphalt or compacted crushed fines surface. Top bridge has a very poor walking surface - impossible with bare feet (at a swimming hole!) and difficult for some dogs. Road barriers, when closed, often aren't designed to provide good access to people walking or cycling, who should be a priority.
Tim Coleman 12/07/2019 04:21 PM	The North end of the RDN seems relatively underserved in the strategic plan
Ian Gartshore 12/07/2019 08:23 PM	Add the French Creek Estuary Land as a Community Park.
evan heard 12/08/2019 07:24 AM	Purchase French Creek estuary
Alja den Boer 12/08/2019 10:29 AM	-make improvements to existing parks and trails versus acquisition of new parks and trails as a way to preserve what we already have and limit public access to delicate ecological systems
properliz	The trails that are within the Military Artillery Range should be reopened for

12/08/2019 11:34 AM

public access. It is not safe to have the artillery range within city limits and, additionally, many years and a lot of effort was put into building and maintaining those trails. The Artillery Range should be moved out of Nanaimo City Limits and those trails should be reopened

peterisnow

12/08/2019 12:23 PM

Please expand Columbia Drive Community Park by acquiring French Creek Estuary Lands. There are community groups already active ready to participate in making this a reality for French Creek and all of the RDN. Currently walkers use the rustic trails for walking, dog walking, nature viewing , bird watching and more. This area would be a great asset to the community.

Hskinner

12/08/2019 07:30 PM

There is very little RDN expenditure on trails and parks on Gabriola Island. Almost all trail maintenance and development is done through a local volunteer non-profit organization Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GalTT).

DaCat

12/08/2019 09:28 PM

Very concerned about the French Creek Estuary. So far we have photos and videos of otters, beavers, owls, geese, waterfowl, eagles and hawks. Just last night four deer were going into it from Columbia Beach. This estuary is small but a distinct ecosystem for wildlife. We find it hard to believe that also in our area is the Englishman River Estuary. This estuary does not even allow dogs off of leash. It has the same wildlife almost exactly. The fact that attempts to build townhouses instead of protecting the French Creek area are extremely concerning. We understand the Englishman River is within Parksville and French Creek is RDN but seriously this is the same type of ecosystem.

bBaker

12/08/2019 09:45 PM

Surprising number of parks & trails RDN must maintain & develop. Good effort.

cds22

12/08/2019 09:49 PM

Maintenance of existing trails should not be sacrificed in order to develop new facilities/trails. Maintain what you have first and if there is money left over then look at adding new ones.

marty

12/09/2019 09:02 AM

We need to protect the French Creek estuary from being destroyed by development. This site has much history including that it once was a salmon spawning area prior to the berms being put in. It is one of, if not the last, undeveloped estuary in the area.

denisesusan7

12/09/2019 03:55 PM

The acquisition of land on the west side of the French Creek estuary has long been desired by the residents of Area G along with widespread support from the larger community. For more than forty years people have wanted to see the land become a Community park and protected for future generations. Loss of forest, a severely stressed French Creek water supply, loss of wildlife habitat and public support for conservation and climate care are strong reasons to acquire this land. This is a special place which supports great biodiversity and deserves protection.

I love French Creek Estuary

12/09/2019 10:53 PM

Please protect French Creek Estuary - vitally needed for the wildlife that live there

ColumbiaBeachRes13

12/09/2019 11:59 PM

Please protect the French Creek Estuary and adjacent forested land from development and consider purchase of the 23 acres bordering highway 19A, Columbia Drive, Viking Way, and Admiral Tryon Blvd.

Liane Watson

12/10/2019 11:24 AM

French Creek Estuary Land be made into a reserve/park to preserve the ecological value, diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees

Virginia Ebbels  
12/10/2019 02:55 PM

and water conservation.

Develop a policy for limited, independent, small scale commercial activities in specific RDN parks, without exorbitant licensing fees. Some parks could lend themselves to a variety of activities that would be beneficial to the community - ie. Gabriola's 707 park. Self employed, qualified, experienced outdoor recreation practitioners have approached the RDN, wanting to offer mountain biking, horseback riding, and nature programs. There is interest and demand, especially in the summer. They could also help expand work opportunities for local residents.

Evelyn Lepin  
12/10/2019 04:10 PM

We need to save and educate the public on the importance of our water systems. Biodiversity is important and flourishes in water and drainage systems.

Green T  
12/10/2019 09:03 PM

I have recently moved to the area and am in awe of the number and diversity of parks to explore. Having come from North Vancouver, what I appreciate most is how you can still find quietude in the parks here and how much less trampling they get in general. I hope that one of the visions is to keep the balance of encouraging visitors and yet maintaining the wildness that exists.

Rueggeberg  
12/11/2019 07:27 AM

This survey was difficult to find online - impossible via "regional parks" links; only route was via "Get Involved" tab - not intuitive to a newcomer. Should not have to "register" as RDN site user to fill out the survey. ANYONE should be able to fill out this survey without having to fill out a form and create yet another password.

HelenMc  
12/11/2019 08:39 AM

We love walking & hiking with our dog & want to see as much of our surroundings preserved in its natural state as possible.

James Dunderdale  
12/11/2019 08:54 AM

No maintenance on mountain bike trails and no organizational structure for volunteering on maintenance projects. Specific biking areas are forgotten about and neglected leads to bikers having to illegally fix trails or ride other areas not for biking.

seanwood  
12/11/2019 10:24 AM

Mountain biking trails need to improve, and with that will come more tourism dollars.

Iyvonne  
12/11/2019 01:44 PM

The natural landscape on Vancouver Island has been raped and pillaged for far too long. Things need to change. The environment and our survival as a species need to come first.

John Gambrill  
12/11/2019 07:35 PM

Good work in 707 park on Gabriola Much appreciated.

Robertsalli  
12/12/2019 10:56 AM

I love the broad range of trails and opportunities and encourage variety. Please do not get rid of the witchcraft lake boardwalk. The value of this boardwalk as a floating interpretive space has been ignored in the focus on parking...it's not just an a to b walkway- many people spend time on the "dock". Spending money to remove features that are much loved by residents of Nanaimo seems like a poor use of funds. Please reconsider.

duane  
12/12/2019 10:59 AM

would like to see better communication about plans from municipalities like Parksville and QB and opportunity for RDN residents to comment

Linda McPhie  
12/12/2019 11:02 AM

Please add Hamilton Marsh and the French Creek estuary lands and the Englishman River estuary lands to your lists for possible acquisition.

Westcoast

12/12/2019 11:31 AM

With climate change, hotter summers and cooler winters, it is important to conserve wetlands and aquifers.

Al

12/12/2019 11:54 AM

We need more camping space (RV's) Once it's gone it's gone Acquire!

C Coupland

12/12/2019 12:11 PM

Budgets will be strained by effects of climate change and the effects of invasive and/or non-native species. I support increased funding to the Regional District in meeting these challenges because these issues move far beyond the RDN boundaries.

terry1

12/12/2019 12:16 PM

I note the gap in landscape representation - namely mountains and alpine/subalpine

Jbannatyne

12/12/2019 12:34 PM

Signage improvement showing degree of hiking or wading or trails. Accessibility signage also.

Jbannatyne

12/12/2019 12:42 PM

More promotion of RDN Parks. I didn't understand what the RDN was and how it works/which parks it looks after until tonight. A lot of people don't use these park resources, I think because it is not on their radar/they don't know about these locations and they're not promoted as places to visit. I value walking/ hiking trails, well marked with reliable signage. I highly value conservation areas with some restricted usage to trails access. Acquisition of new parkland is important to for our future.

Maple Lane

12/12/2019 01:09 PM

Portions of the trail routes in Englishman River and Little Qualicum regional parks are excessively impacted by the public. The riparian ecosystems are suffering, and there is urgent need to direct people away from important riparian fish habitat (river edge trees and shrubs). This should be accomplished with educational signage and exclusion techniques (split rail fencing, boardwalks, restoration areas, brush fences, etc).

MNowosad

12/12/2019 01:13 PM

no more intrusive trails pls, more spaces for wildlife.

Mike Kervel

12/12/2019 01:26 PM

We need more well defined bike trails in the area. A lot of tourists drop by the visitor centre in Qualicum Beach looking for bike trails close by.

SueWilsonParksville

12/12/2019 03:52 PM

I would support the acquisition of Hamilton Marsh and the area by the Little Q in Dashwood, home to the third largest Sitka Spruce in BC.

Meghan.Walker

12/12/2019 04:17 PM

Corcan-Meadowood area needs more trails around the LQR regional park - perhaps connecting the strata to the park or the park to the "village centre" to provide safe walking trails for community members so we don't always have to drive to get around the area.

Dunner

12/12/2019 04:38 PM

In Area F we would love to make use of the land that has been set aside for the Community Hall. We would love to add to this space with facilities for biking and outdoor play. This includes a pumptrack, dirt jumps and perhaps a sports field area. I live right beside this area and see the demand for an area like this based on the growth of young families in our area and the minimal areas that are available to them.

Joan mantei

Safety has become concerning. Not as comfortable as I was previous years

12/13/2019 07:59 AM

walking alone because of the change in our community with a greater number of people seeming to be homeless : jobless and perhaps drug issues, and , or mental health issues , moving through our community

jenrod41751

12/13/2019 11:03 AM

I think the French Creek Estuary and water shed area needs to be further protected for the value it brings to conservation and ecological diversity and for it's unique setting for fish and other wild life.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:07 AM

I would like to see more collaboration between motorized recreational users and management to ameliorate damage done to trails that may be adjacent to water flows/streams ect. There does not seem to be any by-law that has the means to enforce/police the substantial amount of garbage dumping that has been seen over the past 20 years, including random areas filled with shell casings - as riders, if we come across someone firing a gun, we have no agency to report the incident. These incidences are increasing in frequency over past years. Illegal garbage dumping and firearms target practice need to be addressed as has been reported now over the 20 years I have used these areas.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:16 AM

Keep it up folks, Thanks for your efforts.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:25 AM

All established rock climbing area in RDN to some degree have threatened access. We would like to see: 1) Rock climbing recognized as a sanctioned activity, especially in Mt Benson R.P. 2)Consideration be given to the acquisition of the areas of Nanaimo River know as "The Boar's Hole" (swimming, fishing, hiking, climbing) and "The Darks side" for Parks. The current owners of the "The Dark Side" are interested in selling a portion of their property as park land. Make it happen! its and amazing spot. Thanks We need much more as a % of the total land mass of the RDN

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:34 AM

kees langereis

12/13/2019 11:44 AM

None

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:50 AM

Improve access to existing parks/trails Recognize value of nature and rock climbing.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:08 PM

UN goal for protection of natural environment 12%, Canadian 17% but e. coast Van Is only 3%. Need to establish corridors rather than parks isolated from each other eg. Morrell Sanctuary to Ammonite Falls - tied in to Trans Can Trail. Concern about overuse at Mount Benson, Nanaimo River needs more protection and access as there is now for Englishman & Cowichan Rivers. Bring Wesley Ridge into RDN park system and trails in Arrowsmith area. Minas Ridge, The Saddle & Mount Copley, Mount Moriarty will take pressure off Mount Benson CPR trail also lantzville hills.

Terry Taylor

12/13/2019 12:10 PM

RDN does a good job of maintaining its parks and trails. More sites should be protected, especially those containing intact natural areas. Many environmentally sensitive sites should not have trail access.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:23 PM

provide more park info on-line. Better park maps especially. Also, links to other info sources. Website is an important planning tool. Need to interconnect across municipal boundaries. Love the concept of Morden

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Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:46 PM

Regional Trail to connect west of river.

I have been using a lot of the trails and would like to see improvements in signage. Sometimes there is a break in the trail and if I weren't with people who know I wouldn't know where to pick up the trail again. Improved conservation and preservation of spawning creeks and wildlife habitat. Better respect for other living creatures

Standard12

12/13/2019 01:56 PM

Do not commercialize the parks. Spend taxpayer dollars on maintaining the natural environment within the parks. Clean the dead logs, branches and trees up to reduce the fire hazards. Many of the parks have a lot of dead wood on the ground which creates an opportunity to fuel the potential for fires during hot and dry periods.

cviti

12/13/2019 02:39 PM

more multi use trails where horses are allowed, allowance for horse trailers in the design of parking areas.

jbeever

12/13/2019 03:25 PM

I very much appreciate the quantity of trails within the RDN. The trail system is very important to the area, and I'd like to see it protected and expanded. As a mountain biker and trail runner, I'd like to see continuous improvement of the current land, and further effort made to have an agreement for use with the DND for the land recently cutoff around Westwood lake.

RedOsier

12/13/2019 05:20 PM

Invasive non-native species need to be mechanically removed (no herbicides) especially in Moorecroft, Brickyard Cove, Beachcomber Park. Acquire the rare Sitka Spruce ecosystem in the Little Qualicum floodplain upstream from the bridge over the LQR on Highway 19A

alisont

12/13/2019 05:53 PM

Our house faces onto one of the Whalebone community parks on Gabriola and we love it just as it is - i.e. relatively natural - just grass and trees. :) However, although the grass is cut regularly, it would be good to have more regular maintenance of the trees that surround it, some of which have dropped large branches in the past year and have become potentially hazardous. When staff came to deal with the most recent of these incidents and I spoke to them about this they mentioned that there are too few of them to be able to be proactive about maintenance, yet the build up of dead branches on the ground over time has the potential to contribute to a wildfire hazard in the summer droughts. In fact we often end up collecting fallen branches from the park after a windstorm and burning them on our property in the wetter months, so as to limit their accumulation on the ground. So we would really like to see more resources being put into a more proactive approach to maintenance of these parks - i.e. employing more staff to be able to keep on top of this.

PJHB

12/13/2019 06:14 PM

I am quite concern about the conversation about Coats Marsh on Gabriola and the idea that it may become inaccessible to the public. To the best of my knowledge, those in favour of restricting access in this park are offering either ill informed or offering mistaken opinions. The marsh is a man-made water feature, which has had a varied and less than ideal history. It has, over the last decade or more, been a delightful and enjoyed attribute to the Coats Marsh area, and is in the same or better "condition" as it was in the beginning of the decade. This is against a backdrop of increased island population and trail usage. It is obvious that I am a resident of Gabriola and a frequent user

jkinos

12/13/2019 09:08 PM

of the park and its trails. I would be extremely disappointed and somewhat appalled if those, who do not use this community resource, get their way. It appears to me, that this is an excellent site for a wildlife viewing and interpretation area, in addition to the excellent trails. I do hope that my small voice will be heard and considered. This is important to me and to many. Focus should be on sensitive areas first I.e. where there is development pressure.

LonnyBarr

12/13/2019 09:32 PM

I feel very strongly about ensuring continued public access to Arrowsmith Massif via the Loon Lake Connector/Cameron mainline/ and Pass Main.

Phylsranch

12/13/2019 09:47 PM

Equestrians need to be included in park planning. Our horses need miles of trails to be kept in good health....horses are still a big part of our community and need your help. Dogs get dog parks...horses need trails and trail access. Thank you for listening.

Melvis129

12/14/2019 12:23 AM

I believe trails should be restricted to foot traffic or horse riding. I do. It support mixing foot use trails with mountain biking. Mountain bike usage often involves speeds that can be dangerous to foot users if bike come upon walkers suddenly. I also believe bike traffic is much harder on trail condition. I am completely against motorized usage of RDN trails.

Kmatt

12/14/2019 12:50 AM

I am disappointed with the waterfront accesses in our area. Some of the waterfront parks had quite a bit of damage during storms in the last couple of years or access stairs were deemed unsafe and are closed or removed altogether. Progress on repairs has been poor and the situation is unsafe in some areas. Putting up a few signs to let users know If there is access at the end of the trail would surely help. I am concerned about increased push to open up our trails and parks to motorized bikes and vehicles and large groups of mountain bikers without having taken steps to protect the parks from the damage these uses present. I dont feel safe walking the trails knowing these are allowed and I am wholeheartedly against it. The parks and trails here are stunningly beautiful and reasonably well kept. I will support a reasonable tax increase to expand our local parks and trails in a way that preserves and protects our environment if needed.

sylvia185

12/14/2019 11:15 AM

For the most part - great job! Just please be careful not to over-manage or over-develop the natural environment.

Timothy Maika

12/14/2019 01:40 PM

As I said earlier, there can be a tendency to over manage some of the parks. The 707 parkon Gabriola for example has seen an abundance of new signage and clearing on the trails, new trail development. All of this detracts from the natural setting and does damage in my view to this area that is regenerating after years of abuse/logging etc. There is enormous value to leaving the land as nature had intended it.

Trailrider

12/14/2019 02:13 PM

Would like to see horse trailer parking at Timberlands completed so it's graded and level.

Ichuntley

12/14/2019 03:20 PM

I live near Coats Marsh regional park and visit the park many times per week. I would like to see the trails improved, with some loop trails added. I would like to see controlled access to the marsh area through a limited trail system and a wildlife observation area. I would most definitely not like to see access

whaleboneguesthouse 12/14/2019 03:27 PM	to the marsh prohibited. Please only restrict motorized vehicles. Electric bikes provide access to parks for people with accessibility challenges. Repair the beach access points on Gabriola Island.
Diana 12/14/2019 04:24 PM	The more natural areas preserved, the better.
Garycroome 12/14/2019 08:00 PM	Ongoing concern for the location of the DND lands in close proximity to well used recreational areas, and residential. Is there any way the RDN can consider offering a land exchange to allow weapons training to occur away from busy trails and growing residential areas?
Woodlotguy 12/15/2019 08:02 AM	Appreciate the opportunity. Thanks for listening.
VG Dare 12/15/2019 08:53 AM	Clearcutting in the vicinity of trails should not be allowed. Maintaining forested areas adjacent to rivers should be a priority as should protecting watersheds through land acquisition. Promote "friluftsliv", the Nordic concept of outdoor living: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20171211-friluftsliv-the-nordic-concept-of-getting-outdoors">https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20171211-friluftsliv-the-nordic-concept-of-getting-outdoors</a> . Resist "improving" natural areas. Thanks for the survey.
Mary Ann 12/15/2019 09:04 AM	
limerick 12/15/2019 06:19 PM	Little Qualicum River floodplain - lots 6, 7, 8 of DL 76. This area is partly privately owned and partly crown land and located adjacent to DL 10. DL 10 is owned by the Town of Qualicum Beach supposedly for preservation and protection of clean water source. There is a rudimentary trail within these forests but not accessible for some people. This area needs protection because of its ecological value. The best use for this land is conservation instead of recreational park, particularly the lower elevation that it is a sensitive ecosystem.
cpollak 12/15/2019 08:19 PM	People should not have to get in a vehicle to be able safely to access a trail system -- including horse access in areas with equestrian activity. While the RDN should prioritize purchase of relevant properties, the onus should be increased on developers to design new residential communities with built-in multi-use green corridors, before too many communities become hopelessly isolated due to poor development of private properties and blocking of potential corridors and connectors.
rdn updates 12/15/2019 10:45 PM	Increases to educational opportunities for public to appreciate nature and get out to use existing trails and parks.
James Windram 12/15/2019 11:27 PM	Keep up the good work and when eco-sensitive areas are threatened with development support the protection of these lands.
Whitesl2 12/16/2019 08:47 AM	Provide additional information on the parks available and their access points.
Rickw 12/16/2019 09:32 AM	The beautiful parks in this area are something we should all be proud of and not take for granted. As the area grows and becomes more populated, appropriate consideration should be given to maintaining and growing our

drclough

12/16/2019 09:34 AM

parcs and recreation systems so that we don't lose the "natural" feel that attracted many of us to the area.

we are loving nature to death, no more user led opportunistic trails, protect the environment and regulate, construct trails the same way a logging road is be designed.

M Newall

12/16/2019 10:29 AM

There is lots of room at the Claudet Rd./Northwwest Bay Park for Tennis Courts and such. Upgrade Jack Bagley but don't take away the field use for Racquet sports.

Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

12/16/2019 10:30 AM

I think the E&N rail/trail strategy from a few years ago, focused on linking Nanoose, Parksville and Qualicum with North Nanaimo, should be revived, as it represents an opportunity to link communities (and regions) by bicycle - which will become more acceptable in the future with ebikes.

cath77

12/16/2019 10:33 AM

The Regional District Nanaimo needs to build a partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation to ensure the safety of trails crossings the railways in/out of communities. In Bowser, the trail is especially dangerous to cross and provides the only access to the town centre from the Jamieson subdivision. This crossing is steep, narrow and is right next to a water drain. The RDN, the electoral district and the corridor needs to work together to fund improvements to make these crossings safe.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 10:36 AM

As a relative newcomer to parksville ( Aug 2018) I am dismayed and disturbed by the large tracts of land being razed for development, with what seems to be a blatant disregard for sensitive, natural environments such as the area along the French creek estuary. This land is part of our communities designated watershed and contains mature forest essential to estuary health and the wildlife it supports. The BC government itself has recognized the global importance of coastal Douglas fir ecosystems and amended the land act to help protect CDF forests. This forest is the last remaining tract found from parksville to qualicum. As such, it has also been designated as part of parksville-qualicum beach wildlife protection area. French Creek is seen as an important fish stream and was stocked in 2018 with 100,000 chum and 35,000 Coho fry. The creek also has steelhead and sea run cutthroat trout. Which are severely depressed. If the developer goes ahead with building houses on this land everything that this area has of value will be lost. The plan includes filling in the wetlands and clear cutting the forest. Understand this, I am not against housing, but surely, one can understand the huge sacrifice the development of these particular tract of land would have on this community. I would like to see the 10 year strategy focus on land acquisition for conservation purposes to protect sensitive areas, such as French creek from development as a legacy to the generations to come.

Claytonnanoose

12/16/2019 10:36 AM

As I watch the growth of population on the island and more and more no trespassing signs and fences going up on waterfront properties, I think we need to purchase more parkland for future generations. If we don't children of middle and lower income people will have little opportunity to see the beautiful views and braces my generation have enjoyed growing up on.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:11 AM

Can't thank the RDN: Prov and Fed govts for providing us with what we have. maintenance and acquisition are the only items that can help grow; protect and improve our future. Land conservation and wild life conservation should

be a priority. Once the land is gone we can't get it back. We are losing 100's of species of wildlife/flora/fauna every year which is putting our ecosystem out of balance. Anything we can do to save these systems will be what keeps our planet breathing. French Creek Estuary and all estuary's in Canada need our protection. It is my understanding that the RDN has money to purchase land. I am asking that this area gets high priority as its up for development. I think people in the RDN can work co-operatively to acquire these by sharing the costs ( ie: Heritage Forest in Qualicum was a joint effort ) I also noticed on question #7 you'd mentioned stewardship: volunteering and education opportunities. This could be amazing. Signs/tours by streamkeepers naturalists ect. Indigenous involvement schools/girl guides/scouts. Make it into a living forest with educational signage throughout. There are Indian burial sites on the land. Point them out ect ect. The eagles nest also needs protection.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:35 AM

ICF corridor provides excellent opportunity for people to connect to nature easily, close to many homes and communities, allows/encourages walking/hiking/cycling to reduce need for cars. RDN should take position to guide ICF to move rails to trails as the option of returning train has not materialized in almost a decade and any plans for such are not financially viable based on population here.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:48 AM

You are doing okay considering the staffing/financial restraints. Acquisition is opportunistic, If a suitable site becomes available - 100% priority should go to acquisition - It can be developed later. Acquisition is urgent development is optional. Area F has 20+ community parks of which only six are usable as parks. The rest are inaccessible, mirco sized or ridiculous shapes ( dogleg) Sell these off and get real lots ( if possible)for most residents of F the functional comm. parks are too far from residences. you cannot be everything to everyone. Just have a supply of trails suited to different users. handi cap access, trail bikes, horses, ect. so everyone gets something but not everything.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:57 AM

Given the substantial increase in the area of land in parks over the past decade, it maybe worth focusing on improving/upgrading and only adding more paths on a priority basis eg. essential watersheds, (Hamilton marsh ) estuaries and access to sea waterfront. 75% enhancement, 25 % acquisition. As part of the enhancement, a more viable RDN staff presence on key trails to encourage awareness of guidelines eg. dog management would be helpful. Ecological reserves would benefit from interpretive signage explaining the rationale and the reason for protection eg Little Qualicum River Estuary.

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 12:20 PM

Protect our French creek area make it a park on the Columbia beach side. All the building of houses with no saving our creeks is ludicrous and hurting the animals and the biosphere. Greed is forcing us not to have green space and to able to enjoy watching our beautiful birds and animals. Stop the building have more parks please please please

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 12:41 PM

Use proper standard marking on all bicycle trails eg- Parksville qualicum links. routes should be well and properly marked. ATV's are anti environment I strongly oppose. Do not want motorized vehicle in parks except for electric

Islandsun

12/16/2019 12:47 PM

bikes of limited power. The region should be 1 Providing bicycle connections between all communities. 2 Bicycle trails should in general be separate from recreational walking trails. 3 Standard marking should mark bicycle trails parksville qualicum trail is very inferior and doesn't meet any standards behind wembley mall where the sidewalk was put in shows lack of planning. Just hoping that they will take into consideration the equestrian community. Who would never mind sharing with any non- motorized users! I have lived in Nanoose Bay for 35 years. Spend ALOT of time outside and on trails everywhere doing many different things. ( all non- motorized!) I am concerned since I have grown up here ( and in Nanaimo) that so many are moving here- so many new subdivisions...we will definitely be needing FAR more large, green spaces for everyone to get out in for the future. And it is so nice to have them close...not an hours drive away! Thank you so very much for the opportunity to give input on this. I wish I could have come to the meeting.

raysan

12/16/2019 12:58 PM

why do they not use the land along railway tracks that are not in use. Would be great to have a trail walking and biking from the Petro Canada in Nanoose to Nanaimo. The train system is not fulfilling its mandate so it should be taken away.

Nancy

12/16/2019 12:59 PM

Better access to trails for horse back riding. Parking for horse trailers. Bridges built strong enough to support a horse and kept in good condition.

mfherrmann

12/16/2019 01:22 PM

It is imperative that RDN needs to provide proper trail, ramp, stair access to a number of Parks scattered throughout Gabriola Island (Electoral B). Joyce Lockwood Park for example needs a proper beach access ramp/stairs. I fully understand RDN's concern is liability. What about liability if nothing is done and someone hurts themselves given the current conditions? Not acceptable! Please take this under consideration even to build a partial platform access that individuals can at least get down to the water's edge.

Claudia Brann

12/16/2019 01:49 PM

Acquiring land for protection and preservation should be a priority. As should settling first nation land claims

Marlana

12/16/2019 02:04 PM

Please include horseback riders! We are respectful trail users who desire multi use trails. Our clubs and organizations support trail construction and maintenance!

Carol-rae

12/16/2019 02:47 PM

I make frequent use of those in Gabriola when I'm there. And I've enjoyed others when off island. These parks are a treat!

m.p.mcculloch

12/16/2019 03:13 PM

Focus on working with community groups and stakeholders to develop infrastructure at the right scale and quality for their use (ie appropriate mountain bike trail development or river/lake access appropriate for angling or kayaking use). Let existing uses help to define the direction of future use (ie where people are parking, littering or loitering = parking improvements, trash cans and picnic table locations). Lets not mistake parks and parking...I will park on a safe gravel margin as a trade off for real park improvements. If I am going for a hike I can hike and additional 30 m to get to the trail head. I have noticed a barrage of signs telling me not to do many obvious activities in parks. Running out of post space does not = success for signs. No one

Maryjean

12/16/2019 03:50 PM

needs to be told to not jump off of bridges, climb up steep unstable slopes or light things on fire, really.

We need places where we can get vehicle access to drop off a kayak or canoe. Moorecroft has a great place to launch but you can't get down to it with a car and then you have to haul your kayak way up a hill to get back up to the lot. I'm afraid I'm gonna have a heart attack! It's a killer.

kjp

12/16/2019 03:50 PM

I'd love to see a connection between the two Lighthouse Community trails; a connection along the Nanaimo River; and a community park in the Rivers Edge development.

Mary-Jane Bowie

12/16/2019 04:12 PM

There needs to be trails connecting Nanoose to Parksville, that allow bikes and horses

Dyan

12/16/2019 05:21 PM

Although I appreciate the RDN parks, the one size fits all approach for planning doesn't work well on a small islanded community (Gabriola). Rather than sending staff from Nanaimo to Gabriola and incurring the additional costs, I would strongly encourage the RDN to develop a model where resources are trained and employed locally. Also many of the amenities appreciated by those who use parks in larger urban settings are not of interest to Gabriolans, with the exception of making sure all parks and trails are accessible to those of different capacities. Gabriolans tend to appreciate the more low key, rustic approach. Thanks for giving an opportunity for input. Grateful to the RDN for providing these trails.

Cheryl

12/16/2019 07:20 PM

justine

12/16/2019 07:34 PM

There are not enough parks and trails for those who wish to ride their horses and be part of the ethic of looking after our precious environment. Back country riders are being shut out of most parks and areas other than Crown land which is shrinking and even there we are the ones who do the trail maintenance and preservation and look out for the wild animals in their own environment and report poaching and illegal hunting but we often feel left out of the back country except for the TCT which is not well looked after in places and does not connect up on VI in a lot of places. EARlier this year the Backcountry Horsemen group of which I was a member, helped clear the TCT above Spruston where there were giant trees down and no access by the public. No remuneration no request for recognition but it took many many hours to do that service for the hiking community.

RandyYoung

12/16/2019 08:12 PM

Ratepayers are devastated by the increase in expenditures.

surfgirl

12/16/2019 08:22 PM

Please keep equestrian users in mind in your planning for parking, footing, trail management, signage, etc.

Benandbriar

12/16/2019 09:46 PM

I feel very blessed to live here and enjoy year-round access to world-class trails and parks. For the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, especially the many tourists who pedal through Nanaimo, I would love to see improved trail connections between our communities and maps and signage to help people navigate them.

Sunshine Goldsberry

12/16/2019 10:30 PM

Need to purchase new acquisitions as land prices cont to rise. Especially Hamilton Marsh

Estragon

12/17/2019 04:21 AM

Protection of habitat is of primary importance to me

Louskinner

12/17/2019 06:47 AM

The heavily used community park at the Malaspina galleries needs a washroom.

Louise Otto

12/17/2019 06:52 AM

If possible bike/walking lanes on some of the narrow roads for safety . If possible a street light at some corners .

Jbannatyne

12/24/2019 11:18 AM

The region should be 1. Providing bicycle connections between all communities. 2. Bicycle trails should in general be separate from recreational/walking trails 3. Standard marking should mark bicycle trails eg: the parkville/qualicum trail is very inferior and doesn't meet any standards behind wembley mall where the sidewalk was put in shows a lack of planning.

Jbannatyne

12/24/2019 12:02 PM

Protect our French Creek area make it a park on the Columbia Beach Side. All the Building of houses with no saving our creeks is ludicrous and hurting the animals and the biosphere. Greed is forcing us not to have green space and to be able to enjoy watching our beautiful birds and animals. Stop the building have more parks please please please

Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:24 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:39 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:56 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 10:02 AM

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should be a priority. Once the land is gone we can't get it back. We are losing 100's of species of wild life/flora/fauna every year which is putting our ecosystems out of balance. Anything we can do to save these systems will be what keeps our planet breathing. French Creek estuary and all estuaries in Canada need our protection. It is my understanding that the RDN has money to purchase land. I am asking that this are a gets high priority as it's up for development. I think people in the RDN can work co-operatively to acquire this by sharing the costs ( ie Heritage Forest in Qualicum was a joint effort ). I also noticed on question # 7 you'd mentioned stewardship: volunteering and education opportunities. This could be amazing. Signs/tours by stream keepers naturalists ect. Indigenous in developing schools/girl guides/scouts. make it into a living forest with educational signage throughout. There are Indian burial sites on the land. Point them out ect ect. The eagles nest also needs protection.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 10:51 AM

As a relative newcomer to Parksville ( Aug 2018 ) I am dismayed and disturbed by the large tracts of land being razed for development, with what seems to be a blatant disregard for sensitive natural environments such as the area along the French Creek Estuary. This land is part of our communities designated watershed and contains mature forest essential to Estuary health and the wildlife it supports. The BC Government itself has recognized the global importance of coastal Douglas Fri ecosystems and amended the land Act to help protect CDF forests. This forest is the last remaining tract found from parksville to Qualicum. As such, it has also been designated as part of the Unesco Mount Arrowsmith biosphere regions. one of only two in BC! As well this area is part of Parksville Qualicum Beach wildlife protection area. French Creek is seen as an important fish stream and was stocked in 2018 with 100,000 chum and 35,000 Coho fry. The Creek also has steelhead and sea run cutthroat trout. Which are severely depressed. If the developer goes ahead with building houses on this land everything that this area has of value will be lost. The plan includes filing in the wetlands and clear cutting the forest Understand this I am not against housing but surely one can understand the huge sacrifice the development of this particular tract of land would have on this community. I would like to see the 10 year strategy focus on land acquisition for conservation purposes to protect sensitive area, such as French creek from development as a legacy to the generations to come.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:07 AM

I have been using a lot of the trails and would like to see improvements in signage. Sometimes there is a break in the trail and if I weren't with people who know, I wouldn't know where to pick up the trail again. Improved conservation and preservation of spawning creeks and wildlife habitat. Better respect for other living creatures.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:12 AM

Provide more park info online. Better park maps especially. Also, links to other info sources. Website is an important planning tool. Need to interconnect across municipal boundaries. Love the concept of Morden Regional Trail to connect west of river.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:22 AM

UN goal for protection of natural environment 12% Canadian 17% but east coast Vancouver island only 3%. Need to establish corridors rather than

parks isolated from each other eg. Morrell Sanctuary to ammonite Falls tied in to trans Canada trail. Concern about over use eg. Mount Benson needs trail hardening to stop erosion. Nanaimo River needs more protection and access as there is not for Englishman River and Cowichan Rivers. Bring Wesley Ridge into RDN park system and trails in Arrowsmith area eg Minas Ridge, The Saddle and Mount Copley, Mount Moriarty will take pressure off Mount Benson, CPR trail. Also lantzville hills. Maybe even in Alberni Clayquot.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:01 PM

Improve access to existing parks/trails recognize value of nature and rock climbing.

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:21 PM

We need much more as a % of the total land mass of the RDN

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:43 PM

All established rock climbing areas in RDN to some degree have threatened access. We would like to see: Rock climbing recognized as a sanctioned activity, especially in Mt Benson RP. Consideration be given to the acquisition of the areas of Nanaimo River known as "The Boar's Hole" ( swimming, fishing, hiking, climbing) and "The Dark Side" for parks . The current owners of the "the Dark side" are interested in selling a portion of their property as park land. Make it happen! Its an amazing spot! Thanks

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:51 PM

Keep it up folks. Thanks for the efforts.

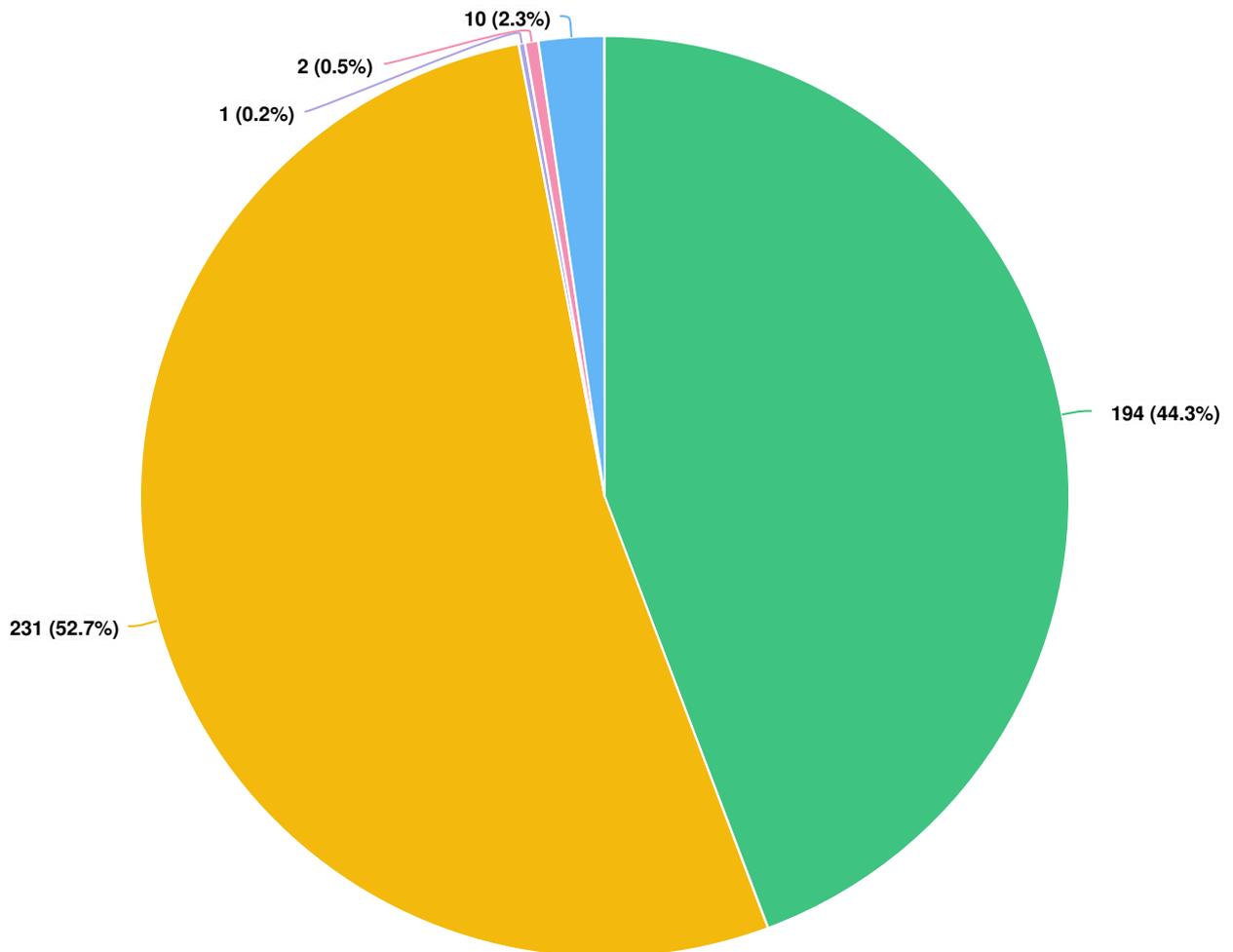
cory

1/06/2020 02:55 PM

I appreciate the trails, I just wish there were more of them and that they remain protected

**Optional question** (276 responses, 193 skipped)

**Q14** | We have just a few more questions to ensure we are speaking to a representative group of people in the community. Do you identify as:

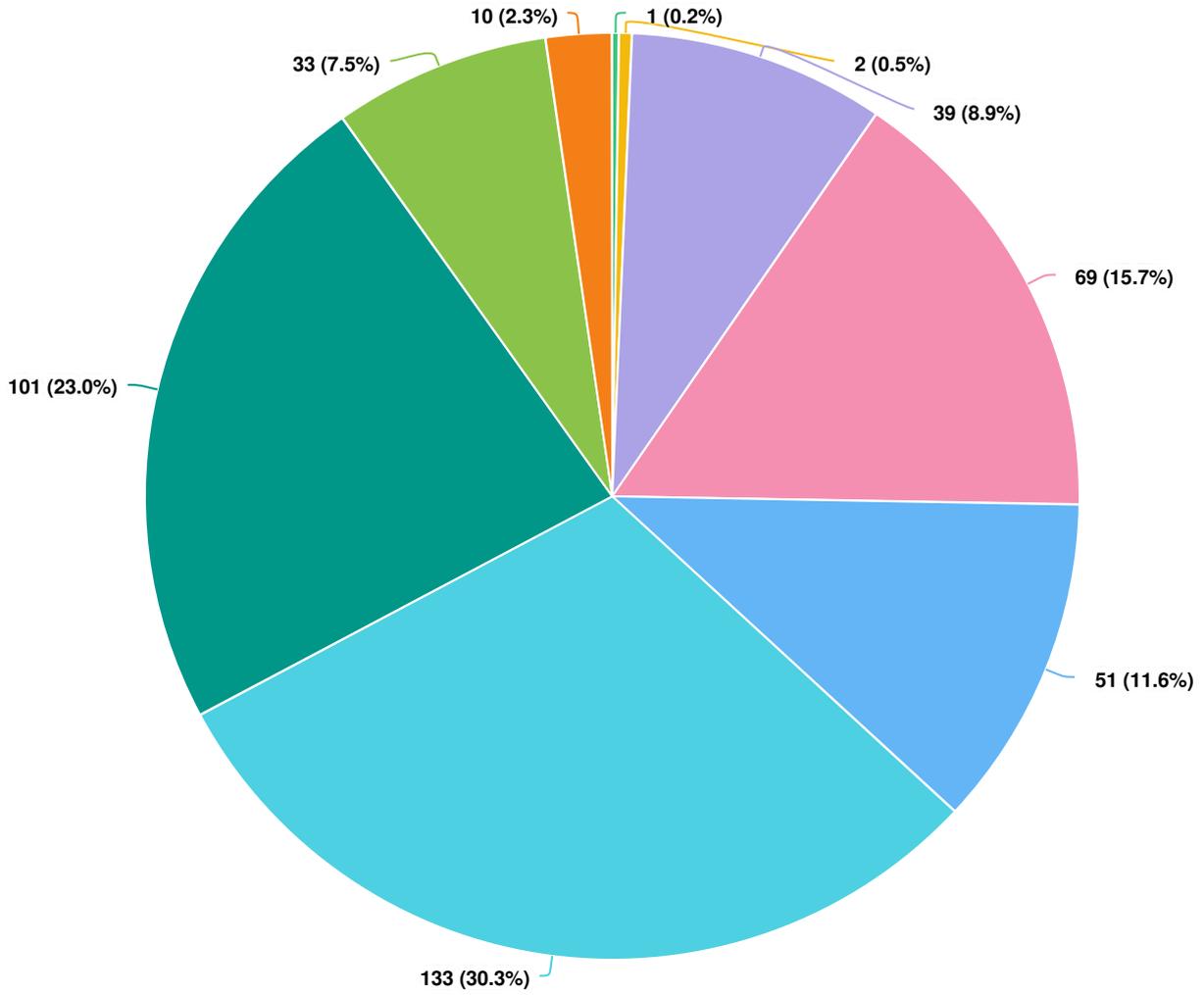


**Question options**

- Prefer not to say
- Other
- Transgender
- Female
- Male

*Optional question (438 responses, 31 skipped)*

**Q15** Into which of the following age categories may we place you?

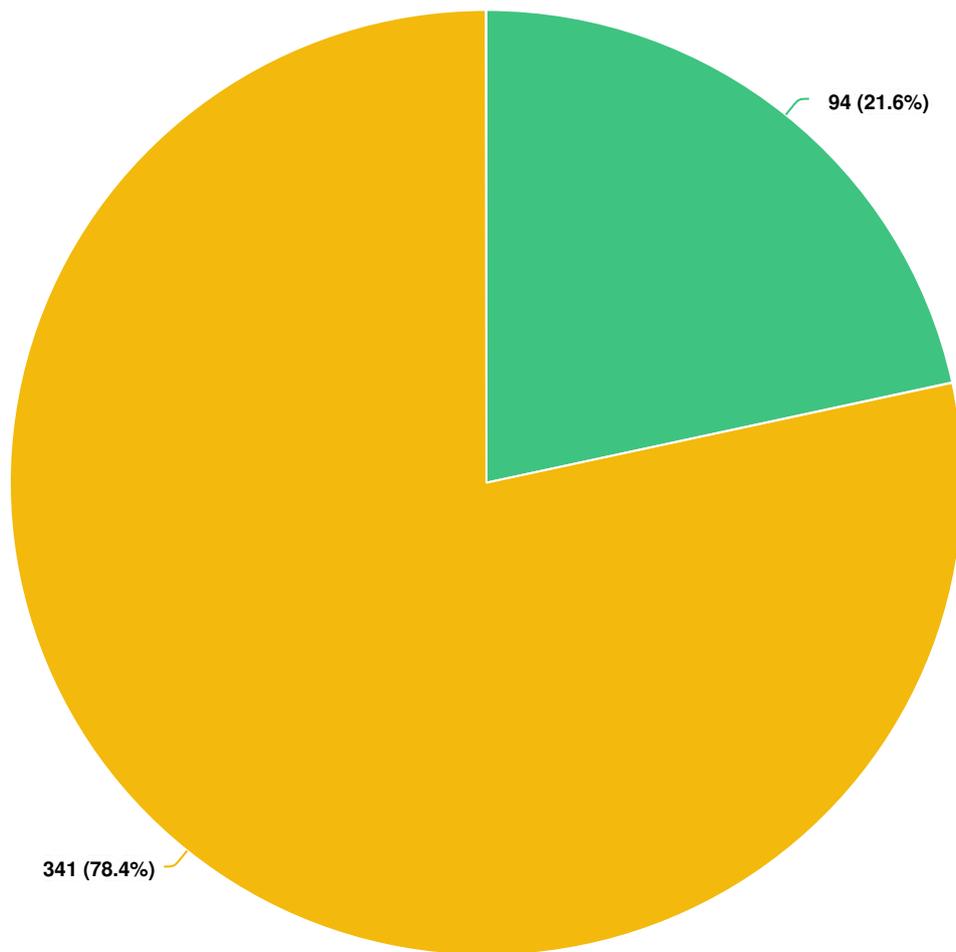


**Question options**

- Prefer not to say
- 75 years or better
- 65 to 74 years
- 55 to 64
- 45 to 54
- 35 to 44
- 25 to 34
- 18 to 24
- Under 18

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

**Q16** Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

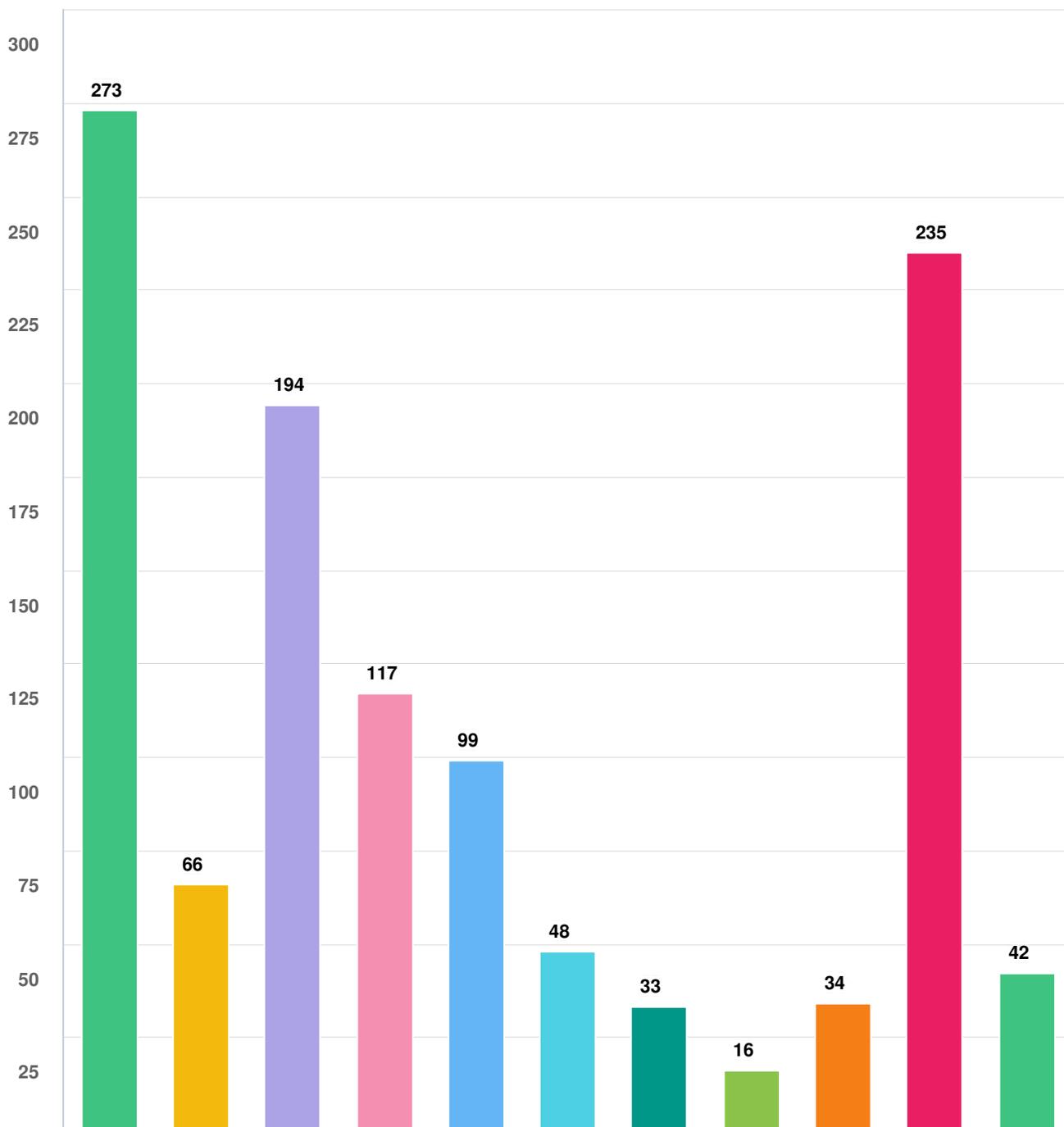


**Question options**

- No
- Yes

*Optional question (435 responses, 34 skipped)*

**Q17 Where do you go to find information about the Regional District of Nanaimo's Parks and Trails?**



**Question options**

- Other (please specify)    
 ● Word of mouth    
 ● Tourism office/promotions    
 ● RDN's Social Media sources
- City of Nanaimo Activity Guide    
 ● RDN Active Living Guide    
 ● Regional park and trails brochure
- Through a community club or organization    
 ● Signage at parks or on trails    
 ● RDN Parks Finder Map    
 ● RDN website

*Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)*

# APPENDIX C – WORKSHOP DETAILED NOTES

## ROUND #1: RDN PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN- STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP NOTES

### DISCUSSION #1

#### Important Places/Valuable Features:

- Buffer between city & rural community
  - 90 acre parcel at end of Plecas Rd (used as a park but not designated-adjacent to kipp road)
- Environmentally Sensitive
- Food Security/healthy farmland
- Visual view scopes
- Provide space for community well-being
- Climate change – trees = carbon sinks (ecological diversity eg. Animals and insects-important)
- Favourite Parks: Mt. Benson, Arrowsmith, E.R. Provincial, Moorecroft, Lighthouse Trail, Mt. Benson, L. Q. Estuary b/c its protected
- Important Places: kids play areas, beach access, climbing areas, hiking trails, biking trails, garbage/bathrooms
- Access to water
- Stewardship (formal)
- Conservation
- Education
- Enjoyment of nature
- Access to nature
- Only small % of land is protected, need to acquire
- Regional – conservation and recreation
- Community- stepping stones or small special areas, could connect, adjust access
- Walking, fitness, enjoyment of outdoors
- Getting away from cars/noise
- Need access especially for little ones
- Room for a range of access – from completely accessible to all conservation
- Regional Parks should be more accessible than Provincial Parks
- Could be more low impact uses – bird watching facilities
- Tree top walks (Eng. River Park, Haslam Creek)
- Need more parks
- Trails (hiking/biking) (2)
- Places that provide important habitat/wildlife viewing eg. Wetlands and wildlife viewing -some that are useable/interpretation/accessible
- Vistas

- Family Parks eg. Community parks
- Multi-purpose parks eg. Provides opportunities for diverse activities- active/passive
- Cultural/historical signage
- Budget should be determined by what people want (area specific)
- Open space/nature (conservation, eg. along creeks)
- Review implementation strategy from 2015 plan – archeological sites
- Need better communication with RDN staff and between POSAC groups
- Green spaces that make sense – connecting communities with non-motorized trails
- Morecroft geo/bio diversity
- Gabriola Island trails- they connect, trail maps, user friendly – volunteer groups
- Qualicum Beach Trails- great but could be enhanced
  - Lighthouse trails
  - Nanoose, Parksville, Qualicum trails
  - Errington and coombs do not have good trails
- Top Bridge
  - Connects from Rath Trevor to Errington
  - Has lots of other connections
- Area F
  - Englishman River connects two big areas
  - Limitations: private forest lands, FN land claims potential
- Hamilton Marsh – for conservation
- Dunsmuir Community park
- Rath Trevor to Parksville Community Park
- Connecting parks along creeks
- Opening informal and maintained trails
- Washrooms and garbage that is picked up, now add recycling – bear proofing
- Railway crossing in Bowser is dangerous and privately owned
- French Creek at estuary needs a trail
- Parks are essential for water sustainability – water recharge
- All ages/all abilities – trails are needed with good maintenance
- Mt. Arrowsmith – important, but not accessible, not the whole aquifer is protected
- 
- Regional Park Values
  - Enhanced quality of life for people in the region
  - Resiliency for climate – ecosystem services
  - Educational opportunities
  - Conservancy
  - Easy to get to
  - Large tracks of land
  - Sense of community with people you meet there
  - Chance to get away from everything – important its remote
  - Great cliffs
  - Physical exercise

- Most natural
- Place to connect with nature within neighbourhoods
- Sensitive ecological systems
- Interconnected trails- Parksville to Coombs trail
- Visitors access and engagement
- Bicycle access to avoid roads
- Walking distance
- Aesthetics
- Wildlife habitat (2)
- Trees (big, lots)
- Salmon habitat
- Away from traffic
- Public access
- Biodiversity
- ATV (motorized) not allowed in parks and on lakes
- Benches and picnic tables for community interaction
- Beauty and natural spaces
- Water access
- Large protected spaces
- Adequate parking
- Public facilities ie. Washrooms
- Big tracks of natural habitat
- Community Park Values
  - Important as gathering spaces
  - Not as important as green space access in a rural setting
  - Educational opportunities, play
  - Relieve pressure from environmentally sensitive areas
  - Connecting & active transportation (equestrian transportation) & for wildlife movement
  - Close to families/easy to access
  - Resiliency for climate-ecosystem services -but don't have the size, maybe don't have the money,
  - more about "recreation"
  - SUPER easy to get to – walkable
  - Sense of security
  - Events
  - Grand kids
  - Dog walking
  - Get more kids out
  - Diversity of recreation activities
  - Water access
  - Accessibility
  - Restricted parking
  - More programming ie. Playgrounds

- Organized activity
- Beauty and natural spaces and features
- More social interaction

### Issues and Challenges:

- Recognizing differences between rural and urban
- Planning needs to acquire more areas as development continues
- Yellowpoint Group (YES) – private forest loss
- Keeping up with managing land (ex. invasives)
- Better management of what RDN has – proactively managing and designating areas to protect
- Knowing the specific coming and planning for local needs
- ATV users would like a trail with access to food, fuel and accommodation
- Want more horseback riding trails- with trailer parking
- Rock climbing areas have threatened access- no guidelines for route development
- Want more back country access to crown/RDN
- Lack of designated user areas (ex. Horseback riding, ATV)
- Arrowsmith Coakley CPR trail needs improvement
- Arrowsmith Park – accessible from private land (need public corridor for public spaces)
- Mt. Benson- increase access (Westwood Ridge gun range, RDN should work with fed gvt)
- Horne Lake connector – potential to develop
- Dark Side Nanaimo River – on private land, acquisition opportunity, will benefit community, ecosystem protection and well being
- Lack of engagement with public
- People who are not members of clubs are the problem – destroying trails
- RDN has no structure for public to be involved in stewardship
- ALR land can't be developed as parks
- Challenge of whether parks are developed or not
- Undeveloped parks/maintenance challenges
- Coordination with private land owners (Great Trail- logging)
- Harewood Lake -acquisition needed, privately owned by MOSAIC
- Acquisition is a challenge
- Harewood Plains @ City of Nanaimo / Area C?
- Encourage integrated planning with other jurisdictions
- Competing interests for park use
- Leave parks undeveloped/minimum maintenance
- Make sure a regional park is big enough/able to accommodate the trailhead facilities required eg. Parking so it doesn't impact the local community
- Increase enforcement
- Transparency with the use of parcel tax
- Resolve: trail with rail
- Rail trail- want to connect
- Horne Lake craigs (?) – want to purchase
- Sharing trails hiking/biking/dogs

- Need multi-use trails and specialty trails
- Need more garbage cans/washrooms – even if increase taxes
- Clean up too much
- Undeveloped community parks – needs to serve community (tennis courts, basket ball, toboggan hill)
- Respect urban containment boundary
- Some parks should be left undeveloped – some areas don't need to be part of the trail system
- Don't over develop parks – make sure parks development suits user needs, some can be left undeveloped
- Having a park where it is needed is important
- Address the issue of acquisition of new parklands (little mountain, morrison creek) – land claims issues
- Some parks have just been cleared of trees – no other development ex. Dalmation park
- E and N rail line- connectivity opportunity -infrastructure already in place (mountain biking opp.)
- Understand budget process and priorities when considering changes to parks and trail system
- What are the “big ticket” items? Ex. Horne lake trail
- What happens to smaller projects?
- Should be an easier process to get together to decide on what happens to parks and how they are developed
- Trail agreements are needed, cant just be non-profits
- Size matters – wildlife, CO2 sequestration, aquifer protection
- Signage is needed
- Lack of crown land
- Policy to protect environmental areas ie for CO2 sequestration
- E and N railway – no longer operating

#### **What is RDN doing well...**

- Trail systems eg. Mt. Benson
- Working with partners to protect land eg. NCC
- Work with volunteers (more) and community associations – can learn about community through these groups
- Engagement events

#### **What could RDN could do more of/better...**

- Could be better at using parks and green space for economic draw...showcasing our area
- Increase signage on trails but still need more eg. User conflict safety
- Increase agreement with MOSAIC- access management
  - With organization for monitoring/maintenance
- Increase more sensitive areas
- Increase community engagement
  - Follow up with stakeholders in a more timely manner eg. Jack Bagley
  - Prioritizing acquisition – work with community on this
- Different approaches with conservation with First Nations eg. Expansion with Mt Benson

- Off leach parks designated
- Require dogs on leash on trails -might be possible if we had designated off leash areas
- Rule/bylaw enforcement
- More connecting trails between communities/areas of interest (cycle and walk)
- Equestrian facilities eg trailer parking, staging areas
- Good volunteer program for parks and trails
- solicit comments and feedback from community if there is a park being developed (smaller projects) – no funding, support volunteers
- create volunteer policy and guidelines as per 2015 parks plan
- 

## DISCUSSION #2

### Accessibility to many users?

- No, specifically to people with mobility issues
- Pretty good for families
- Infrastructure (eg. Boardwalks)
- Consider designated ATV area
- No, multiuse trails excludes ATV users and horseback riders
- Need dedicated horse trailer parking for trails in all regional parks
- Ensure more accessible access to waterfront eg. Beachcomber
- Evaluate existing parks to see if there are opportunities to increase accessibility – audit
- Consider allocating a %
- Need more volunteers to help maintain parks to higher standards – RDN needs a volunteer coordinator
- Not all trails are accessible
- Access to water – more accessible opportunities
- More short loops that are accessible
- Allow specific user groups to maintain their specific trails (signed accordingly)
- make sure they (trails) are rated (easy, med, difficult) so people know what to expect
- should be a good amount of places where everyone can go
- parking is an accessibility issue
- horses allowed on multipurpose trails (ex. Big Qualicum River has great parking)
- Topography is varied – difficult to make completely accessible
- No spaces for smaller children
- Diversity of parks will help make accessible for everyone
- No not all, but that is how natural trails are preserved
- Regional parks are most natural, least accessible, need to be preserved
- Comm. Pks are open spaces therefore not accessible but could be fairly easily made accessible
- Comm. Trails should be accessible but are they? – interconnectivity
- Regional Parks are difficult to access because of their nature
- Regional Trails – few developed trails

## How to encourage more use?

- Advertise more – Take 5 Magazine, local media & print articles
- Need to be specific about which parks we want to encourage more use
- Infrastructure (kiosks, viewpoints/towers, interpretive signage)
- Invest based on what communities want (keep dialogue open)
  - Pump tracks
  - Really cool playgrounds
  - Good trail signage/directional so people don't get lost
- Clarifying user groups (eg ATV/dirt bikes) permitted users with signage and enforcement
- Walkable, easy to get to on foot or bike
- Signage on Regional and Community trails (alpine club could help) could encourage use
- There are already a lot of users, do we need to encourage use?
- Parking is important for access
- Suspension bridges are not great for horses
- Need to research needs of user groups to better understand
- Keep neighbouring people happy
- Could foster more use- interpretive signs, wildlife viewing, rest areas
- Washrooms
- Fairy houses, scavenger/treasure hunt, things for kids
- Pamphlets with activity ideas/info about nature (laminated, on site, digital?)
- Exercise stations, loop trail, options
- Better info about parks and trails
- Location data should be lat/long
- No vehicle access to more remote parks
- More trails
- Lookout on the ridge, road access to fire watch
- Citizen science programs and volunteer engagement
- Issue is familiarity, so more events and programs, tours passport,
- Opportunities for people who are not comfortable with outdoors/wilderness
- Better marketing
  - Work with trail forks
  - Market specific user experiences eg. Where are all the accessible trails?
- Education- park interpretation
  - Future partnership agreements
  -
- Increase physical accessibility
- Special opportunities for accessible use without user conflict
- More user friendly website
- Communicate
- Promote geocaching – in appropriate areas
- Education
- Stamp system
- Better signage – trail markers

- Weekly newspaper article
- Photography challenges
- Tourism – promotion
- Brochures
- Work with outdoor schools/partners to get kids/groups involved
- Parks purpose is to benefit community not to bring more people
- Development for developments sake?
- Make people aware of their role in parks development – maybe theres an over regulation issue
- Trails going through beautiful scenery is desirable
- Washrooms
- School trails
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Walking groups (ex. sole sisters)
- Lighthouse Cemetery Regional Trail – accessible, one of the only places for wheelchairs
  - Links to community centre
  - Washroom at end
  - 30 minutes out and back
  - Also connects further out to harder trails
  - Connect N/S lighthouse trails
- Connectivity
- Active transportation is needed
- Parksville-Coombs trail- good transportation corridor, but could connect further
- More interpretive/educational signage
- Access to safe trail and to a park without getting in a car
- Springwood park
- Shelly Creek
- Value volunteers, build a unified direction
  - Compilation of volunteer groups and what they do
  - Example – tree planting, invasive species removal
- Friends of French Creek has signed an MOU with private land owner for bridge across the creek (footbridge) – can RDN assist? Ex Buttertubs partnership
- Value natural heritage, want to walk in natural areas
- To involve community in care of parks (community) fundraising, invasive species
- Problem when you have sensitive area used by motorbikes
- Different parks, different uses
- Dogs- run area at trail heads and back on leash for trail/park
- Smaller parks for linking corridors

### DISCUSSION #3

- You have to keep going with what you have
- Money is a barrier
- Focus on acquisition

- Address the little improvements
- Don't want to pass up important acquisition priorities – set priority list
- Be flexible
- Plan ahead
- Prioritize conservation in special environmental areas, limit to low impact
- Same issue Regional Vs. Community parks just different scale
- Playgrounds are well used
- Preserve historic/heritage/petroglyphs and other cultural sites
- More programs
- More staff for parks – operations/maintenance
- Need good parkland at subdivision
- Need to tackle stratas and lack of parks and trails – don't have to dedicate parkland?
- Walkable community parks
- Better connections
- Vacant community parkland is not working
- Trails connecting communities

#### Improve Existing Vs. Acquisition

- Improve access to what we already have!
- Could sell useless community parkland for more valuable land?
- What costs more?
- Use volunteers to help with improvements to save money
- Community parks need improvement
- Best practices around % of budget for maintenance
- Focus on staff time 50 % regional/ 50 % community
- Want the opportunity to have community advocacy for regional parks
- Volunteers coordination focus on regional parks and coordinate with volunteer coordinator in community parks
- How can community parks contribute to the larger picture of CMs/eco services/resilience eg. Watershed view
- Can the RDN work with prov/feds in creating an acquisition strategy – formal communications
- Buy parks that lots of ppl can use
- Balance but need to be able to buy land when it becomes available – needs to \$\$ in the bank
- Should stop acquiring because parks need improvement
- Conservation comes first, then if you can do something with it (recreation comes second)
- This is area specific and budget driven
- Can do both if planned properly
- Need a balance of improvement and acquisition
- Acquisition is important to protect lands before they get developed – costly
- If you don't acquire they will be lost
- Acquisition – Sensitive areas, old growth, conservation, future generations, land expires (for sale), population increasing, get it while you can, climate change, connectivity, preserves lifestyle and health well being, DCC charges PAID

- Overall Integration Important
- Parkland Acquisition Important
  - Strategic: Ensure parkland now before development takes all green space (ecological sensitivity of other areas, good planning)
  - For future planning
  - Climate change
- Adequate land and parks for all but CP, CT, RP, RT are unique and varied
- Buy what we can now, balance acquisition with development
- 

### Conservation vs. Recreation

- What is meant by “recreation”? skate park or hiking trail? Depends...
- These two are not in opposition, they are consistent with each other
- Acquisition is conservation
- Develop for recreation in a managed way, need to preserve conservation
- Responsible recreation development
- Need balance
- Keep as natural as possible – don’t need to put things in parks
- Frisbee golf
- Can go well together
- Priority is conservation
- Recreation consistent with conservation values
- Depends on area – if already disturbed, recreation could occur
- Conservation is #1 – 100%
- Focus recreation close to hubs, piggy back on schools
- Conservation- Wildlife, biodiversity, watersheds, fish, aquifers, soil preservation, prevent erosion, protect land from development
- Recreation is needed, too, play, benches, picnic areas
- Improve education on what is available
- Conservation- Sensitive Recreation parks (both)
- We want more parks and don’t want to have to choose between these options
  - Use your community members more to manage parks so you can put more \$ into acquisition (capital)
  -

### Improve Regional Parks vs. Improve Community Parks

- Improving regional parks is more important
- Arrowsmith Coakley currently managed by ACRD, could it be managed by RDN?
- Balance
- Depends per area
- Need balance – needs to be community driven
- Maybe more to offer in regional parks
- Need community level to get input

- Case by case basis
- Youth=more staff time

#### **More, Smaller Community parks vs. larger, fewer Community parks**

- Smaller and scattered could affect more people
- Depends on specific community
- Larger community parks are preferred
- Larger parks- fewer for larger natural parks instead of smaller park that could be trashed

#### **Trails from park to park vs. Trails from community to park**

- Parks are destinations (no need to connect them)
- Horse trail network- look at Maple Ridge as example
- Trails should be community to parks
- More looping trails
- Community trails are important
- Horseback riders want trails too- more access to trails, staging areas
- Lots of agreements with IT
- Haslam going to accommodate horses (?)
- Crystal Lake to McKay Lake bermed to keep ATVs out
- Original Great Trail section is very poor
- Better ID for remote locations (Mt. Benson Trail)
- Eg. Rails to trails b/c of changes lifestyles/habits
- Trails from park to park is ideal wherever it can happen
- Both!

#### **Types of parks should reflect local community needs**

- Perhaps regional plan does not match community need
- Consult with communities which vary across RDN
- Trail system needs to be diverse to encourage getting to parks & connection between green space
- Park budget should be higher
- Ecosystem protection is important function of parks

#### **Reconciliation**

- When we are talking about land & human “embeddedness” in the land, we may need to consider indigenous perspectives

# **RDN Parks & Trails Strategic Plan**

## **Round 1 - Community Engagement**

### **Gabriola Workshop Notes**

Workshop Date: January 22, 2019

RDN Staff present: Yann Gagnon, Manager Parks Services  
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

Workshop Attendees: total: 10

#### **ROUND #1: RDN PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN - STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP NOTES**

##### **DISCUSSION #1**

##### **Important Places/Valuable Features:**

- Clear access points to parks & trails (e.g. 707 CP)
- Waterfront parks including access to water
- Trails
- Natural areas
- Community parks
- The fact that parks are *public* - access to wild places is more & more important as landowners limit historical access
- Wildplaces/conservation - we need to balance the desire for access with the need for wild places to remain wild.
- Older forest, wetlands, saltmarsh are valuable features to conserve as parks
- The saltmarsh on Gabriola - many people want this preserved even though it's on private land
- Continuous wildlife corridors

##### **What is valuable about regional parks?**

- Regional campground brings people to the Island, tourism, economy (x2)
- Regional Parks provide an ecosystem service, conservation
- Provide access to the waterfront
- Are larger properties so can provide more of a conservation purpose

##### **What is valuable about community parks?**

- Access to the waterfront
- Connectivity between neighbourhoods and within neighbourhoods e.g. Whalebone park/trail system on Gabriola
- Governance is local, community input is possible (x2)

##### **What is great that the RDN could do more of?**

- Conservation

- Control of use to decrease user conflict & damage to the land
- Wildlife control
- Education & interpretation
- Parkland with conservation approach
- Responsiveness
- Operations
- More park and trail signage including entrance signs and wayfinding.

**Issues and Challenges for the parks & trails system:**

Are all different types of people able to enjoy the parks & trails in the RDN?

- Conflicting use & over-use (e.g. trails)
- Addressing multi-use of park
- Accessibility of parks “mobility” (x 2)
- More information on parks is needed
- Improvements to wayfinding
- Climate change, deer management strategy
- Modeling of ecosystems
- Wildfire
- Balance human vs. conservation
- The volume of work on the work plan, managing priorities
- The changing priorities of the outgoing/incoming RDN Board and local area directors and the effect this has on the workplan
- Volunteer fatigue, need to work with volunteers more & in a strategic way e.g. using volunteer organizers to organize the on-the-ground volunteers
- More focus on active transportation

**DISCUSSION #2**

**Are all different types of people able to enjoy the parks & trails in the RDN?**

- Need to improve access to those with mobility issues (x2)
- Beach accesses are difficult to access for those with mobility issues improvements are needed
- Wayfinding is often difficult making it difficult for new users to feel confident to use the parks and trails
- People without cars have a difficult time accessing parks
- Families have a difficult time using Cox CP trails from River Place - needs to be upgraded.

**How to encourage more people to use RDN parks and trails?**

- Improve trails e.g. surfacing, railings, wheelchair access (x2)
- Provide shorter, looped trails for seniors & children
- Increase community engagement e.g. web app, GPS
- More info on parks location & features
- Develop an EA B Parks Master Plan ‘Made on Gabriola’
- Ensure there are transit connection to parks/trails & ensure transit schedules are clear for new residents and visitors to use
- Recreation programming needs more facilities

- Toilet facilities at 707 CP (e.g. at the Ricki Rd entrance)
- Create a mapping product that shows the connections between parks.

### **What would help increase the physical accessibility of the parks and trails?**

- Promote parks that are accessible for people with mobility issues
- Refer to GaLTT's accessibility survey and list of potential accessibility improvement list.
- Remove the berm barriers at Jeanette entrance to 707 CP

### **DISCUSSION #3**

#### **What should the RDN prioritize and why?**

- Manage expectations
- Acquisition - because land will get increasingly expensive with time
- Ecosystems
- Awareness
- Acquisition (there is enough recreation already)
- Connectivity not necessarily size
- Conservation - requires larger parcels
- Gabriola - should prioritize improving what we already have & complete the existing plans
- Conservation acquisitions
- Buy the Gabriola golf course so the public can have access to the lake and shoreline bluffs which have social & historic importance
- Work with GaLTT to help put in place the missing trail connections
- Purchase the salt marsh for conservation purposes
- Purchase property for a recreation facility (in central location e.g. near school)
- Ensure acquisition is strategic

**Improve existing parks vs. Parkland acquisition:** Most participants felt that a balance between acquisition and improvements is necessary.

**Parkland for conservation vs. parkland for recreation:** Workshop participants felt strongly that new acquisitions should be focused on conservation objectives, however there was also an expressed desire to provide formal, centralized recreation facilities in which may require the purchase of parkland.

**Focus of staff time: regional vs. community:** Workshop participants did not express strong options on this topic but generally felt that staff time should be evenly split between the regional and community park system.

**Community parks: many small parks close to home vs. larger community parks:** Workshop participants expressed a desire to explore the possibility of purchasing properties for community parks in areas of the island not already well-served by parks.

**Trails from park to park vs. trails from community to parks and key destinations:** Workshop participants

felt that trails from park to park are an integral way to achieve GaLTT's vision of establishing a continuous system of public trails from one end of the island to the other - Descanso to Drumbeg trail system.

#### **DISCUSSION 4**

##### **Vision:**

*Question: Think of 1-5 words that best describe your ideal parks and trails system. Are they different for Regional parks vs. community parks?*

# of comments	Key vision words
7	Connectivity, Connected, Connected, Connect, connected, connected, Connectivity within parks (i.e. loops) and between parks
7	Accessibility, accessible (entry, all seasons), accessible, Access, Access, balancing accessibility & wild places, shared
3	People, People, Parks are for people
3	Conservation, Conserve, variety of untouched areas
2	Protection, Parks require protection for future people
2	Diversity, diverse
2	Wayfinding, navigable
2	Planned, Parks need controlled & planned development to be properly protected
1 of each word	adventure, informative, inclusive, views, ecology, trees, wild, expansive, maintenance, cooperative, inaccessible, nature, solitude, expansive

# APPENDIX D – OPEN HOUSE DETAILED NOTES

## ROUND #1: RDN PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN- OPEN HOUSE NOTES

### VISIONING EXERCISE

Think of 1 – 5 words that best describe your ideal parks and trail system. Are they different for regional parks vs. community parks?

#### OPEN HOUSE: DEC 02 2019-QUALICUM BEACH

##### Responses

- **Connection**
- Connecting trails between communities - 3
- Network of connections / links -3
- Connectivity of people and communities
- Connected by green corridors
  
- **Accessibility**
- Accessible – 3
- Community parks – more accessible
- Numerous
- Multiuse
  
- **Conservation**
- Conservation - 2
- Conversion of undeveloped land
- Conservation based recreation in generous amounts -2
- Conservation of ecologically sensitive land
- Regional Parks – Conservation
- Preserve remaining forest land, parklands conservation is number one priority, because once it's gone to development, it's gone – 2
- Preservation
- Preserve as much land as possible
- Protect watersheds, estuaries
- Water sustainability
- Climate change requires us to act fast
- Regional Parks - Protects indigenous plants & wildlife
  
- **Natural**

- Natural – trees
- Natural areas where citizens can connect with nature
- **Education**
- Educational
- Educational opportunities for learning about nature
- Community parks – fun, safe, close to home, accessible
- Community parks serve individual areas
- Community parks – small, local, minimal development, single use or keep undeveloped, lower cost
- Community driven to maintain nature and quality of life for residents
- Community parks support community buildings in neighbourhood hubs
- Form community associations responsible for planning and fundraising
- Planned with corporation of developer
- Research what has happened elsewhere
- Safe
- Regional parks – large, accessible, multiuse, biodiverse, more spending
- Acquire land
- Green spaces
- Wildlife corridors
- Wildlife protect species and habitat
- Better signage, maps, interpretive signage
- Do not know where all the regional parks are located

## OPEN HOUSE: DEC 03 2019-BEBAN SOCIAL CENTRE

### Responses

- **Conservation**
- Conservation - 2
- Ecosystem protective
- Nature Conservation
- Trail access for the least invasion
- Ecological services – climate change, watersheds (generally – not just drinking water)
- Preserve the environment while making the park suitable for all works
- Preservation of natural values (applicable to reg. parks rather than community ones)
- Wilderness conservation
- Community parks relieve pressure on sensitive ecosystems
- Eco friendly
- Co-exist with local wildlife
- Sustainable trails free of erosion
- **Accessibility**

- Accessible / Access - 6
- Access & Awareness
- More parks in future
- Natural - 3
  
- Variety
- Robust
- Maintained
- Expanding
- Well-distributed geographically
- Wilderness
- Public engagement and ownership
- Use from different groups / ages
- Tree-ed
- Prevalent
- Valued
- Connections – Natural corridors / habitat connection
- Knowledge / education / understanding (recreation, outdoors and indirectly ecological services)
- Large natural connective places for quiet enjoyment
- More regional parks 12% - 17% of RDN well maintained
- Interconnected
- Safe
- Dynamic
- Community parks can be managed by volunteers in the community, they are different from regional parks
- Habitat
- Sanctioned forms of recreation
- Regional parks significant trail networks (hikes, bikes etc)
- Harmony among all trail users
- Better collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Ability to have access and know “designated house trailer parking “ is available at all regional parks and trails
- Inclusion
- Stewardship
- Climbing
- Used – Community parks
- True multiuse – Regional parks
- Public corridors to public spaces
- Signage
- Mountains
- Rock climbing
- Parks & trails systems should meet the needs of diverse groups, and right now there are gaps
- RDN parks vs. community parks – These would need to be defined to understand issues

- Best ideal parks & Trail systems

## OPEN HOUSE BOARD COMMENTS

### DEC 02 2019-QUALICUM BEACH

#### Priorities

- Preserve the French Creek Estuary

#### AREA H

- Please make the Nile Creek area a regional park (at least the portion between the 2 highways and Thames Creeek!)

#### Vision

- Start to design and equip for young families
- Get community associations started and have them fund raise
- Preserve forest lands
  - French Creek Estuary
  - Implement and preserve greenspaces within and around communities, major wildlife habitat preservation, encourage natural moisture retention
- Save French Creek 23 acre estuary land and wildlife
- Preserve the French Creek Estuary; under a lot of pressure flooding issues
- Save French Creek Estuary lands – 23 acres of estuary that is irreplaceable and is home to 50 plus wildlife species
- Preserve all estuary land e.g. French Creek Estuary
- Watershed is large and there's a big risk of log jams followed by flooding
- No more development in flood-prone areas
- No development or flood land
- Work with timber companies to acquire more land
- Preserve marsh land e.g. Hamilton Marsh
- Acquisition and preservation
- Outdoor physical activity: Participation!
- Cycling trails, walking trails and as many loops as possible
- Community bike and walking trails
- Tree Bylaw for private land
- Preserve conservation land

#### Value Most Parks

- Picnic area
- Canada Day festivals
- Access to waterfront & beaches, views, etc – so much is privately owned and “no trespassing”
- Conservation
- Maintenance & improvements to existing park land
- Public access to outdoor recreation in our beautiful country – side valleys, mountains, ocean-shore, marshes

### **Value Most Trails**

- Variety – some flat, some steep, some groomed, some raw (roots/rocks/paddles), all ecosystems
- Safe dog walking / out of traffic
- Educational opportunities
- Nature experiences

### **Regional**

- Improve cycling along top bridge
- Regional trail to top bridge
- Suspension bridge

### **Area G1**

- Save as much of French Creek Estuary, Creekside and watershed as possible
- A better walking/cycling route between Qualicum and Parksville would be the RR line including the trestle, no hills
- Please post maps online
- It is important to save trees and habitat for dozens of wildlife species
- The French Creek Estuary lands must not be used for building and roads
- Attention needed for the watershed area of French Creek Estuary
- The whole area needs to be preserved including the 23 acre parcel area saved as a wild park
- More attention needed for Eagle Tree Preservation in French Creek Estuary & Columbia Beach in general
- Save French Creek Estuary lands
- Greed! – stop building, we need parks!
- Save French Creek Estuary land!
- Save our Eagles Habitat
- Quit building – Need more water build reservoirs
- Development is happening too fast for water supply – aquifers, creek levels (especially in summer)
- Also road infrastructure is not keeping up

### **G2**

- Preserve wildlife in estuary

- No off-lease dogs at end of admired Tryon – Empty lot
- Parks should face onto streets and not be “buried” with access by panhandles
- Can the RDN parks & trails and the VIC/QB Qualicum commons group work together to share info and planning ideas?
- Build a community trail between Dashwood Fire hall and Qualicum Beach – encourage people to get out of care and onto their bikes and walk
- Please Save French Creek Estuary
- Save French Creek Estuary Lands
- Save the French Creek Estuary
- Save the French Creek Estuary, please!
- It is Wetlands providing habitat for scores of wildlife species
- As a new resident of Columbia Beach (Aug 2018) one of the things that attracted us to the area, is the abundance of wildlife and natural areas. We have become increasingly alarmed at the large tracks of habitat being decimated all in the name of development
- To acquire one small, ecologically sensitive areas (the 23 acre parcel) at the French Creek area. So much land is being lost, we need to save at least one significant tract as a safe haven for wildlife

### Regional PKS

- Connect Top Bridge to Englishman River PP
- Having access to untouched areas with wildlife and camping
- Water / washing at Horne Lake Park – needs better water supply and drainage
- Access to swimming across on Nanaimo River – look at opportunities for acquisitions
- More Cycle trails that are easy to cycle, and that are protected and through forest land
- Can we plant more food forests? – more food producing trees
- Bridge to cross the Nanaimo River on the Great trails (suspension?)
- Use E/N or a linear trail from Victoria to Courtenay – think of the tourism potential
- Access to Nanaimo River / Protection of Nanaimo River & creation of more parkland along Nanaimo River
- Parksville – Coombs + Parksville – Qualicum Beach cycling link is great. Need more safe, easy, off-vehicle road bike trails
- Love having better access to (nt?) Benson
- Parking lot upgrades will serve purpose for many years
- Protection of mountain bike trails at South Benson from forestry
- Access & parking at the Nanaimo River at the Hydro lines for hiking, climbing, swimming, fishing
- On both sides of the river (Sunny side & Dark Side)
- Protection of Nanaimo River – swimming holes (needs improvement)
- Nanaimo River protecting and developing the area – swimming, hiking, camping, climbing

### Elect. Area A

- Improve Trans Canada trail south of Nanaimo need to be accessible to all users
- Harewood Mines to extension to NN River – degree of difficulty signage on trails

- Trail bridge over Nanaimo River would provide regional benefit
- Ditto on trail bridge over Nanaimo River
- Want to see that bridge over Nanaimo River (Trans Canada Trail)
- Would also like to see volunteer trail building opportunities
- Upgrade pipeline trail or other similar route (awesome opportunity for inter-regional biking)
- Develop Old road to connect Westwood Lake to Witchcraft to Ammonite
- Absorb existing mountain bike trails from Doumont network, traversing to Westwood Lake area (protect, sign, etc)
- Need more boat launch camps (ocean)
- Completion / development of Morden Regional trail
- Morden Regional Trail – great, need more
- Better trail access to the ocean – at the end of Leasle (?) Road

#### **Elect. Area B**

- Cohesive, connected route from Nanaimo via bike, hike or horse? What is the best / most scenic / safer route? Would be nice alternative to riding on the highway
- Dodds Narrows – sea lion viewing

#### **Elect Area C**

- Love the big new parking lot & bathrooms at Witchcraft Lake

### **DEC 03 2019-BEBAN SOCIAL CENTRE**

What do you value most?

#### **Parks**

- Easy access to our beautiful wild lands
- Having access to untouched regional parks – Parks that provide recreational activities like camping, hiking and fishing
- Ability for community to gather (outside)
- Facilities for gathering
- Designated parking areas
- Keeping areas safe from housing development into recreational land
- Green space – opportunity for healthy lifestyles
- Beauty and conservation
- Conserved ecosystems and wildlife
- Preservation of natural state, not to exclude access, but to stop development
- Varied activities and economic benefits
- Variety
- Variety of terrain
- Multi-use nature of trails
- Quiet, away from noise, highway roads, etc.
- Clear signage – needs improvement

- Clearly marked signage
- Highlight history of region
- Off-leash environmental area re: Moorecroft Park

## Trails

- Maintaining nature but keeping trails soft and open
- More biking trails
- Being able to bike the trail eg. Parksville to Coombs
- Hiking and cycling
- Access and mapping
- Provide access to explore
- Access to nature
- Relatively close access to forests, greenspace, hiking and other activities
- Essential for communities to have opportunities for healthy lifestyles
- Promotes physical activity and connection to nature
- Easy (even if tough) recreation opportunity i.e. “let’s hike Benson” or “let’s climb @ sunnyside”
- Easy access for people to access wild areas
- Access to wild areas and nature
- Keep safety in mind for women

## Vision

- Keep the wild, wild but improve access and keep from falling into private ownership
- More trail access
- More untouched land
- Health
- Recreation
- Conservation
- Preserving natural spaces for people to use to keep healthy and respect nature
- Participation and an ease of use
- Accessibility, signage at various points, eg. Moorecroft – easy to light, Highbridge – light to med, Ammonite – Med – difficult, Benson for experienced hikers
- Preserve old logging road and rail right-of-way as linear trails
- Provide a platform to highlight the beauty and history of the region
- Plan land acquisition and park development well ahead of time, to avoid loss of essential green space in a growing area of urbanization
- Trailheads require adequate parking and toilets
- Lots of signage required on trails
- Beauty
- Health
- Wellness
- Connection

- Conservation
- Positive experience
- Variety
- New discoveries
- Fresh air
- Exercise
- Peace
- Interconnected with other municipal, provincial, national and regional parks and public spaces / hubs, transportation corridors

## DEC 04 2019-GABRIOLA ISLAND

### Area B

- Paisley CP trail needs to be built on the appropriate property (wanders off now)
- A portion of Coats Marsh RP should have ecological zoning
- Traditional Snuneymuxw names + acknowledgement where possible – parks are all on unceded territory
- Water access
- Facilities – Finish Huxley, replace Rollo portable
- How about better year round access to the water in Community Park
- Signage is important particularly on multi-use trails eg. who has right of way
- Built community skate park
- Encouraging more education on multi-use trail
- Having group and individuals help maintain trails
- Accessible trail loops required somewhere that makes sense please, i.e. Whalebone with views
- Make Brickyard Beach into a community Park, and provide and maintain outhouse
- Making as many parks and beach accesses handicap accessible as possible
- Coats Marsh make a view point access to avoid people messing up all around
- Need ramp for kayak access at Spring Beach (solo ramp + stairs), need kayak launch flat top islands
- Stairs at Joyce Lockwood Park
- 707 parking including parking for horse trailers, please
- Horse trailer parking near 707 Park
- Create a park and trails to access Millstone reserve – beautiful and historically interesting
- Encourage and facilitate multi-use trails
- Make acquisition of marsh adjacent to Sandwell Provincial Park – a high acquisition priority
- Malaspina galleries desperately needs a maintained pit toilet (like Joyce Lockwood) and more frequent garage pickup
- Create a Whalebone area waterfront community parks connector or loop trail system through the existing undeveloped community parks and crown land

- The existing RDN strategic parks plan does not clearly identify “beach accesses” – Gabriola has over 100 beach accesses, some developed, some under developed – there should be a goal to develop more
- Continuing to create (link?) Drumbeg Provincial Park to Descanso Regional Park regional trail

### Regional Parks

- Boat launch ramps are missing
- Traditional indigenous names and acknowledgement of the unceded territory these parks are on
- Better communication between province, RDN and community (WRT adjacent parks)
- Coats Marsh continued multi-use trails
- Horse friendly bridges Morden Park to Nanaimo River Park, please
- Cross Gabriola Island trail – Descanso campground to Drumbeg for walkers & cyclist, signed and maintained

### Value Parks

- Access to natural environment
- Water access to beautiful salt and fresh water for recreation and for conservation
- The ability to walk, hike and ride in the parks
- Preservation and access to natural spaces
- Corporation with GLTT

### Value Trails

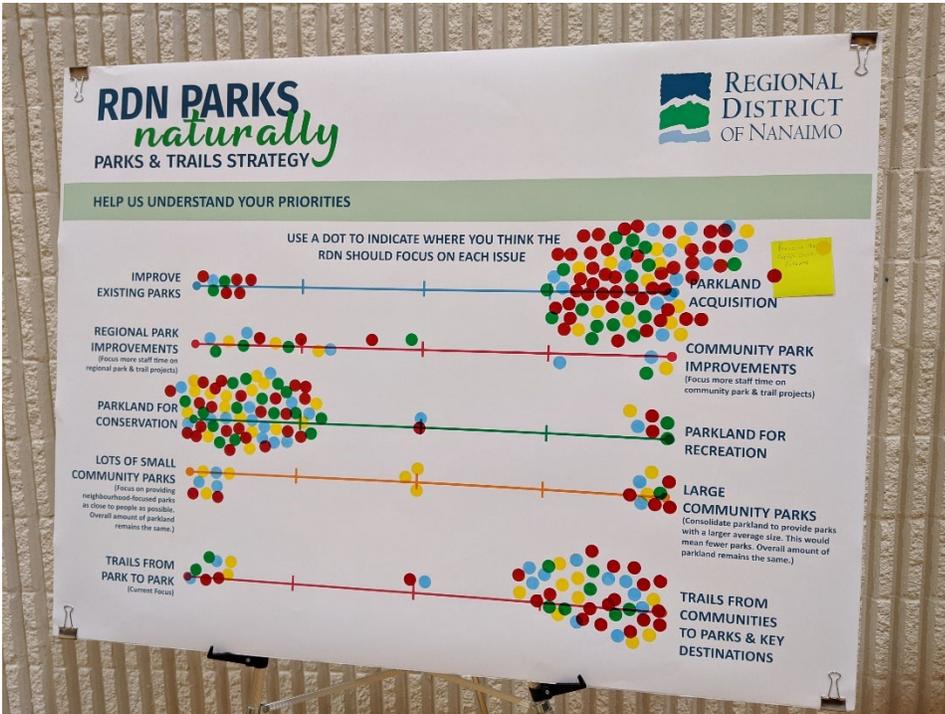
- Recognition that trails can be ecologically damaging
- More Parking and accessibility for horse trailers and riders
- Horse bridge over Nanaimo River (trail 3) missing!
- Accessibility for all
- Always maintain some log free access to the water at DBRP
- An improved active transportation route through Cox Community Park
- Develop a “trail stewardship code” that encourages all trail users to do their bid to maintain and improve trails
- Mapping and accessibility
- Convenient access
- Well-marked to follow them safely
- Maintained to a standard appropriate to its usage/purpose
- Access to environment features
- Lots of walking loop opportunities
- Shared uses are most common on RDN trails here , lots of horse access in other places
- Maintain biking trails
- Encourage fat bikes as they reduce trail damage relative to traditional mountain bikes (evidence?)
- A full spectrum of trail types including fully accessible for wheelchairs

- Vision – Parks and trails are part of the sustainability plan for carbon reduction approach for climate change
- Connectivity
- Multi-use trails are very important but need appropriate signage
  
- Easy access for kayaks
- Ramps for solo paddlers
- A regional park in Gabriola dedicated to conservation (no public access)
- Access to education enjoyment opportunities for outdoor recreation exploration and conservation
- Accessibility for all trail users
- To improve access to natural lands for everyone and encourage multi-use trail networks so everyone has a place to recreate outdoors
- Public access to beautiful places
- Would like to see more horse access and trailer parking
- Trails shared by all users – hikers, cyclists horseback riders
- Gabriola very much needs a decent boat launch ramp
- Keep waterside public access
- Water access
- Challenging trails for horse riders specifically – developed by and maintained perhaps by interested groups
  
- Better signage on trail; reference emergency entrances – signage at Cox (707) campground
- Signage re: (ensuring) emergency accesses aren't blocked
- Coats Marsh weir – water for fire, emergency overflow

# APPENDIX E – ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS AND PHOTOS

Qualicum Beach Workshop and Open House – December 2, 2019

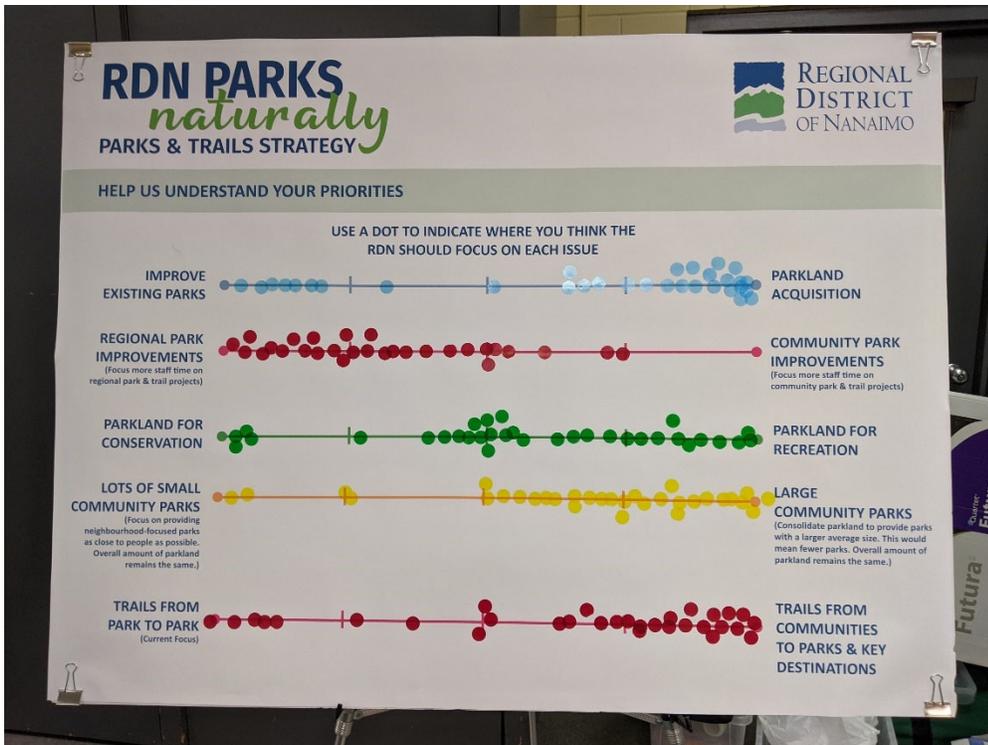


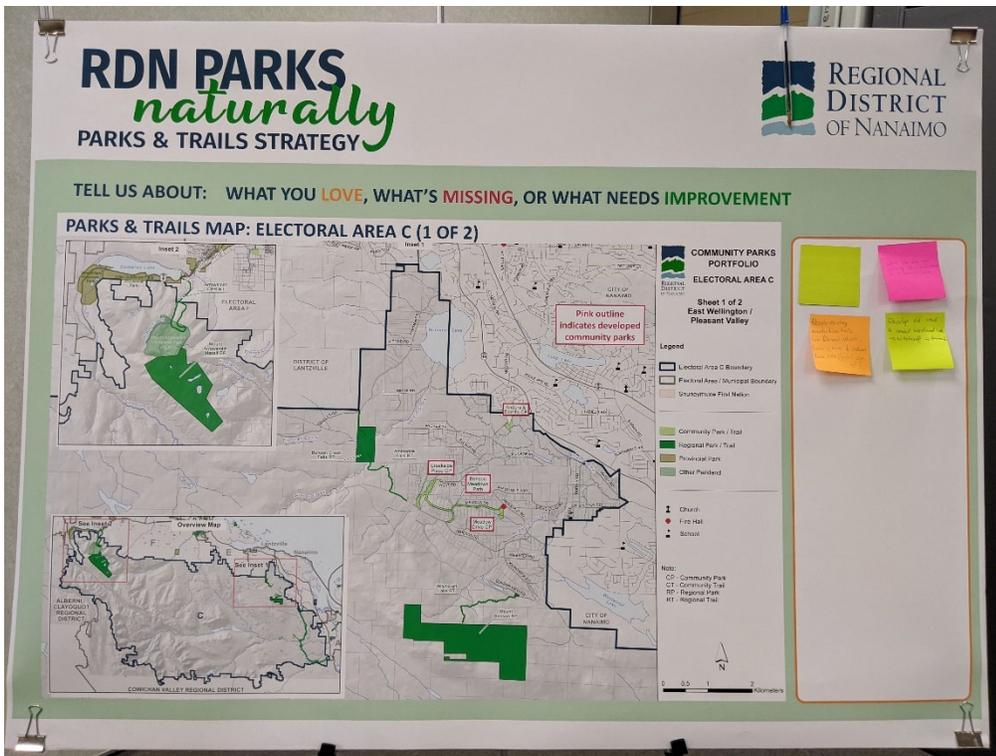
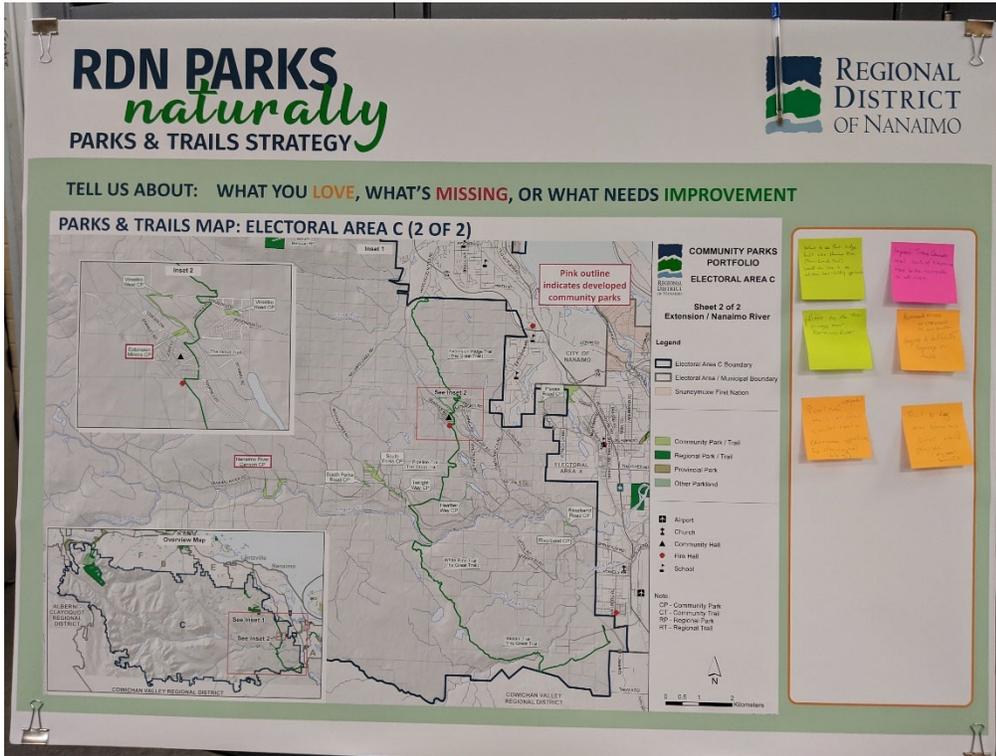




Beban Social Centre Workshop and Open House – December 3, 2019







Gabriola Island Open House – December 4, 2019





